

Archeological Evidence – NT mentions pool of Bethesda which could not be found. Must remember Jerusalem is a city that has been captured and raised many times then rebuilt on top of the rubble. Excavations dig to the buried parts of the city. In 1888, the discovered evidence for the Pool of Bethesda near the NE corner of the old city.

Sir William Ramsey was not a supporter of the accuracy of the NT. He set out to make a map of Asia Minor and reports that Luke's detail given in the book of Acts was so helpful that it overturned his view of the accuracy of the Bible.

Prophecy – messianic and non-messianic

Messianic (300) – born in Bethlehem; riding on colt – Zechariah 9:9-12; 12:10; Mal. 3:1-5) no bones broken - Is. 53

Non-messianic - succession of world kingdoms in Dan. 2 – Persian, Grecian, and Roman)

McDowell p. 193 -- Statistical probability of one man fulfilling 8 of messianic prophecies is 1 in 10 to the 17th power. (1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000) It would be like filling the state of Texas knee deep (2ft.) in silver dollars one of which is marked with a red "x". You are put in the middle of the state and are told to find it. Oh yeah, you are also blindfolded and only have one chance to pick the right one.

P9 – Analogy of Scripture

P10 – final authority = HS speaking in the scripture.

Chapter 2 – God and the Trinity

P1 – God in His attributes

- Is God immutable? (i.e., How can God forgive someone? If He is angry and ready to reveal His wrath upon a law-breaker, how can He then cast His love upon them? Is this a change in God's character?)

P2 – God in relation to His creation

- Self-sufficient meaning he needs nothing outside himself.

Exodus 3:14 - God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "

P3 – God in relation to Himself

- Equal yet distinct. One God consisting in 3 persons.

Genesis 1:26 - Then God said, "Let **us** make man in our image, after our likeness..."

Psalms 51:11 - Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Matthew 28:19 - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

- 2 errors

Modalism = 3 roles played by 1 person

Tritheism = 3 gods in a cluster

APP→ requires us to give attention and worship to all 3 persons of the godhead.

Westminster Confession of Faith – Chapters 1-2
www.pcaac.org (left side “confession of faith”)

Chapter 1 – Holy Scripture

P1 – Divine revelation and the Necessity of Scripture

What are the 2 kinds of revelation?

- General Revelation → Creation (Ps.19; Rom.1:18-20). Conscience (Rom 2:14-15)
- Special Revelation → Scriptures. Jesus (Heb 1:2)

ILL → Suppose a neighbor says “I experience a genuine sense of awe and wonder at the power and beauty of God in nature when I am outdoors. This is how I know God and worship him. I don’t really need to read the Bible.” How would you respond?

- Is God’s revelation through nature sufficient for man to believe and be saved? NO.
Rom. 1:16-17; 2 Cor. 5:19-20

P2-3 – inspiration and canon (means “rule” or “standard”)

- When we say that the Bible is inspired by God what does that mean (point to Scripture in answering)? 2 Tim.3:16; 2 Pet.1:21; 3:16.

P4 – Self-authentication

- Internal evidence –
- External evidence –

P5 – evidences and internal testimony of Holy Spirit

- How is one fully convinced that the Bible is the Word of God?

P6 – Sufficiency

P7 – Perspicuity – not all things are equally clear, but is understandable with due use of means.

P8 – original text, transmission, and translation. “Authentic” = authoritative

- Suppose someone says to you, “The Bible has errors. It is written by man. Even if it didn’t have errors, how do you know the Bible you have today is actually what Jesus said?”
- What does the term inerrancy mean?

Case Study: Reliability of Bible (M.A.P.)

Manuscript Evidence

Bibliographical Test: seeks to determine whether or not we can reconstruct the original manuscripts from the extant copies. 2 Questions: How close in date to original? How many copies?

Internal Test: trust the author unless he disqualifies himself as a fraud, incompetent, or in error.

External Test: corroborating evidence from other historical documents and literature.

Josephus, a Jewish historian loyal to Rome, and Tacitus, a Roman historian, both record the life and crucifixion of Jesus. Suetonius was chief secretary to Emperor Hadrian (117-138AD). He confirms the report in Acts 18:2 that Claudius commanded all Jews (including Priscilla and Aquila) to leave Rome in AD49.