

## Interviews with God

•**I ASK:** *'Can Any Good Come Out of Trouble?'*

•**THUS SAITH THE LORD:**

'All things work together for good to them that love God.' Rom., 8:2.

'Behold, I have refined thee ... I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.' Isaiah 48:10.

'Now no chastening for the present seemeth joyous, but grievous: nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.' Heb. 12:11.

'In their affliction they will seek Me early.' Hos. 5:15.

•**TO WHICH I RESPOND:**

'Loving Father, grant me grace to realise that affliction is not an evidence of Thy wrath, but rather a mark of Thy concern for my welfare. Let me learn from my own experience that the chamber of suffering may be the birthplace of precious blessings. I do not pray for trouble, but when it does come, I pray that I may profit by the lessons of this stern teacher, and then be more faithful to Thee because of the term which I have spent in this hard but blessed school. Amen.'

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## The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want (Psalm 23:1)

You can be in the wilderness and still be in the centre of God's will. **'(He) made His own people to go forth like sheep, (under His protecting leadership), and guided them in the wilderness like a flock, (Ps. 77, 21). V. 53. And He led them on safely, so that they feared not, but the sea overwhelmed their enemies,'** (Psalm 78:52-53).

In the wilderness you get to know God in a way you never knew Him before. So, what else did Israel need to survive in the wilderness? Food! Someone calculated it would have taken about twenty-six wagonloads of food to feed that many Israelites every day. The problem is there were no trains and no tracks! But they had something much better—God!

**The Lord,** (Jehovah, the God of grace and faithfulness, the Redeemer of mankind, not only God the Father, Gen. 48, 15; 49, 24, but also God the Son, Jesus Christ in particular), **is my Shepherd,** (to whom every believer stands in the relation of the most intimate fellowship, by whom and in whom he lives, through whose mighty power the life of his soul is sustained); **I shall not want,** (being supplied with all gifts and blessings for this world and for the world to come).

For forty years He delivered manna, 'the perfect food', to the doors of their tents. The supply was according to each family's individual need—and God never missed a day. So if the economy has you feeling anxious and wondering whether or not God can take care of you—this is the word for you today! If the enemies of Christ fill you with fear in their attempts to destroy the Church, remember, **'...but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.'**

God may not give you everything you want, but He will give you everything you need. The God we serve doesn't suffer from lack or limitation! The Psalmist said (Psalm 37:25): **'I have been young and now am old,** (the psalmist has the experience of a lifetime to draw from); **yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken,** (abandoned past the point of help), **nor his seed**

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**begging bread,**' (suffering permanent want. Temporary abandonment and privation there may be, but the righteous are never really forsaken by Jehovah).

Think of it: for forty years Israel never missed a meal or went without. And their God is your God, so put your trust in Him today and stop worrying!

## **THE BIBLE: A NEVER-FAILING SOURCE OF COMFORT AND INSTRUCTION.**

When in sorrow, read John 14.

When men fail you, read Psalm 27.

When you have sinned, read Psalm 51.

When you feel inclined to worry, read Matthew 6, 19-34.

Before Church service, read Psalm 84.

When you are in danger, read Psalm 91.

When you feel downhearted and depressed, read Psalm 34.

When God seems far away, read Psalm 139.

When you are discouraged, read Isaiah 40.

If you want to be fruitful, read John 15.

When doubts come upon you, try John 7, 17.

When you are lonely or afraid, read Psalm 23.

When you forget how God has blessed you, read Psalm 103.

When your faith needs stirring, read Hebrews 11.

When you feel down and out, read Romans, 8, 31-39.

When you want courage for your task, read Joshua 1.

When the world seems bigger than God, read Psalm 90.

When you want rest and peace, read Matthew 11, 25-30.

When you want Christian assurance, read Romans 8, 1-30.

When you leave home for labour or travel. read Psalm 121.

When you grow bitter and critical, read 1 Corinthians 13.

When your prayers grow narrow or selfish, read Psalm 67.

When you think of investments and returns, read Mark 10, 17-31.

Read what Jesus says: Of the conduct of a true Christian, Matthew 5; **\.N LUTHERAN'**.

Of true prayer, Matthew 6, 5-15; Luke 11, 1-18.

For James' description of pure religion, read James 1, 19-27.

For Paul's secret of happiness, read Colossians 3, 12-17.

For Paul's willingness to serve Christ read 11 Corinthians 5, 14, 15.

For Paul's admonition to all Christians that they serve one another, read 1 Corinthians 12.

For Paul's rules on how to get along with men Romans 12.

For the prophet's picture of worship that counts Isaiah 58, 1-12.

For the prophet's description of true religion Isaiah 1, 10-18; Micah 6, 6-8.

Why not follow Psalm 119, 11, and hide some of these In your memory? -Adapted.

## **2016: The Year Truth Was Irrelevant**

*(Based on an article by Avery Foley of Answers in Genesis,  
<https://answersingenesis.org/culture/2016-year-truth-was-irrelevant/>)*

According to *Answers in Genesis* author, Avery Foley, Oxford Dictionaries chooses a word or expression to 'reflect the passing year in language.' For the Word of the Year 2016, they chose **post-truth**. This is defined as:

Relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief.

**So in a post-truth world, truth is irrelevant.**

## My Beliefs, My Opinions, My Truth

What exactly is a post-truth culture? It's a culture where truth is no longer an objective reality. It has become subjective.—*It's what's true for me*—my beliefs, my opinions, determine my truth. Dr. Al Mohler, president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, [sums it up](#) as the mindset that

All truth is relative, all truth claims are relativized, and all statements of what might be called traditional or conservative moral judgment are just very well disguised efforts at oppression.

He provides an example of how this works. When a Bible-believing Christian says, 'Homosexuality is wrong,' our post-truth culture hears, 'I don't like gays.' Since objective truth doesn't exist in their minds, 'Homosexuality is wrong' isn't an objective truth claim. It's personal belief, opinion, or truth—and an intolerant, oppressive one in their view—that's based on emotion. So it translates in their minds to 'I hate gays.'

## What Happens When Man Determines Truth?

So in our post-truth culture, man determines truth. Man makes himself the ultimate authority (as in Genesis 3, when the devil tempted Adam and Eve to judge God's Word). This starting point, which rejects God's Word and the idea of moral absolutes, makes truth subjective. Does this work?

Let's think about this. If my truth is different from your truth, then you can't tell me what to do any more than I can tell you what to do. If I believe homosexuality is wrong, who are you to tell me it isn't? I have my opinion, and you have yours. For that matter, if stealing your wallet is right for me, you can't tell me it's wrong. Because, in this view, it's not wrong; **it's just not right for you**. Such a concept of moral truth simply cannot work in any society. Someone ends up deciding truth, and usually it's those with the most power or money. As the adage goes in such a situation, 'Might makes right.'

## Christians and Objective Truth

The Christian's worldview should be completely opposed to this post-truth mindset. **Christianity is grounded in objective truth (God's Word sets the standard of truth)**. 'If ye continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.' ([John 8:32](#)).

**Objective truth exists because we have God's Word.** In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, 'Sanctify them through Thy truth; thy Word is truth.' ([John 17:17](#)), and Paul and James describe the Bible as 'the Word of Truth' ([2 Timothy 2:15](#); [James 1:18](#)). The Psalmist says, '**Thy Word is true from the beginning**,' ([Psalm 119:160](#)).

Jesus Himself said, '**To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth hearth voice**.' ([John 18:37](#)).

When Jesus said, '**I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me**,' ([John 14:6](#)), He wasn't expressing His personal belief or opinion. He was speaking the truth, a fundamental reality that doesn't change from person to person. It doesn't matter if our culture thinks all roads lead to God. The truth of the matter is 'no one comes to the Father but by [Jesus].'

It doesn't matter if our culture has embraced homosexuality. The truth is that God created marriage to be between a man and a woman ([Genesis 2:22, 24](#)) and homosexual behaviour is sinful ([1 Corinthians 6:9](#)). We don't believe that homosexuality is wrong because we don't like people who exhibit homosexual behaviour. Homosexuality is wrong whether or not *anyone* says it is because it's an objective truth from God's Word.

As Christians, our starting point is God's Word, not man's opinion. We have an unchanging foundation on which to ground our truth claims. We can say things are objectively right and wrong because the Word of the Creator of the universe says so. In this view, man isn't the authority—God is.

## Should Emotions Be Our Guide?

Being guided by our emotions is foolish. The Bible tells us, '**The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, who can know it?**' ([Jeremiah 17:9](#))

In Biblical terminology the *heart* is the seat of the emotions. We should not trust something that is deceitful and wicked. Instead, we need to be guided by and live in the truth: '**My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth.**' ([1 John 3:18](#)). '**God is a spirit; and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.**' ([John 4:24](#)). '**For I rejoiced greatly when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in the truth.**' ([3 John 3-4](#)). '**For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us and shall be with us forever.**' ([2 John 2](#)). The church should be so characterized by truth that we are actually called '**the pillar and ground of the truth**' ([1 Timothy 3:15](#)).

Rather than letting emotions determine what we believe, we need to embrace and live out the truth.

## Renew Your Mind in Truth

As always, a Biblical worldview stands in sharp contrast to our culture's thinking. **Don't get caught in post-truth thinking.** Daily renew your mind by immersing yourself in truth through reading, memorizing, and meditating on God's Word.

**Lead me in Thy truth, and teach me; for Thou art the God of my salvation, on Thee do I wait all the day,** (looking to Him alone for guidance). ([Psalm 25:5](#))

## DEFENDING YOUR FAITH

(Brisbane, October, 2016)

**Mat. 10:32,33:** <sup>32</sup> *Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.* <sup>33</sup> *But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.'*

**Heb.10:23,** '*Let us (constantly) hold fast the profession (confession) of our faith without wavering, (for he is faithful that promised).*'

**1 Pet 3:15.** *but sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer (a verbal defence) to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear;*

### PREPARATION

- a) Know your Bible and Catechism.
- b) Always be kind and friendly, but be firm in your faith.
- c) Don't be afraid to speak.
- d) Have a strategy.
- e) Practise Biblical responses to past questions.

### APPROACH

- 1) [1] **Clarify**, if necessary, what is the **chief reason** why they have asked the question:
    - (a) Are they asking because they are **curious**? This may require a simple brief answer.
    - (b) Do they have some **church background** or **sincerely** want to know more? This may involve a more lengthy discussion.
    - (c) Are they being **nasty, sarcastic and asking simply to poke fun at the Christian faith**? This may require a response:
      - (i) where you firmly but plainly state your faith and indicate that if ever they genuinely want to know more you are happy to tell them. But you don't want to get into an argument nor do you want what is precious to you to be discussed in a disrespectful manner.
      - (ii) where you discuss with them first, 'Just why are they so upset or annoyed about this question?' Then give them a plain and firm answer and leave it at that unless they are prepared to discuss matters in a more kindly manner.
  - 2) **Gain more information** as to what they want to know so you can deal specifically with the main point n question.
  - 3) Try where possible to discuss matters on a **person to person private** basis until you have the experience in discussing matters with a large group. You can control the discussion better and you often have more time to reflect on your answer in a person to person private discussion
  - 4) [4] While they are talking, **think** of what either the Bible says or your catechism says about the matter.
  - 5) When ready, **reply in a simple manner**, always referring to: 'Here is what I believe from the Bible' Or: 'This is what I believe because Jesus teaches this.'
  - 6) After giving an answer, where possible **use a short Bible text to back up** what you have said.
  - 7) If it is a **difficult question**, or you are **unsure of your answer**, or you **need more time to reply**, don't be afraid to direct these questions back at them:
    - (a) 'Before I give you my answer, it would help me to understand what you think about this question?'
    - (b) 'Why do you believe that' Or 'What are your reasons for saying that?'
    - (c) 'I would be very interested to know, what proof you have for saying that?'
    - (d) **Then you can say: 'Since this is a very important question, I would like to think about it more. Would it suit you if I gave you my answer tomorrow?'**
  - 8) **Don't let them get you into an argument.** Explain your faith. Use Scripture to affirm what you believe. Answer objections where possible. Then either use the broken record technique or say: 'We have discussed this enough for now. Let us leave the matter rest. Please think about what I have said. If there are new points you would like to ask in the future we can talk about it then.' Then either: suggest they talk to your parents or pastor; or: change the subject; or: politely move away.
  - 9) Where possible relate the matter to their salvation or the importance of their reading the Bible.
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## PRACTICAL EXAMPLE

### (Summary of Responses Resulting From Discussion)

Why doesn't God give people like the children in Africa a chance to learn about God? (i.e. places where missionaries don't go)

#### Suggested Response

- a) The only way we can truly know everything we need about God is from His Word. Would you like to hear what His Word says about this question?
- b) Romans 1:18ff teaches that all men have a natural knowledge of God in their hearts, therefore each person will be judged by God on the basis on their own works, whether good or bad.

Romans 1:18: **For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who hold the truth in unrighteousness,**  
v.19. **because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them.**

For example: A man had cancer. He did not know about a cure. Why did he die? He died because he had cancer, not because he didn't get the cure. Not getting the cure simply sealed his fate.

Luke 12: Christ's summary: V. 47. **And that servant which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.**

V. 48. **But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much, required; and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.**

(c). The Bible says that God is kind and good. It also says that **'The Lord knoweth them that are His.'** (2 Timothy 2:19). God knows who will believe on Jesus through faith, and He sees to it that the Word is brought to them so that they can repent and be saved.

(d) Jesus Himself was asked this question, and in answering it He cuts to the very heart of the issue.

Luke 13:

V. 23. **Then said one unto Him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And He said unto them,**  
v. 24. **Strive to enter in at the strait gate; for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.**

(i). So, if talking to an unbeliever, the question to ask is this:

'The Bible teaches that God is holy and all-knowing. The question to ask is not, 'Why are some saved and not others.' The question to ask is, 'You now have a chance to hear the Gospel message. Will you take this opportunity to believe in Jesus and be saved, or will you scorn this opportunity, reject God's grace, and be lost forever?'

(ii). If talking to a Christian, the question to ask is:

'Do you truly value the undeserved grace and mercy shown to you by God in bringing you to faith in Christ? Do you plan to daily confess your sins to God, believe in faith that Christ has

washed your sins away, and out of love to Him to daily grow in faith? As Jesus above replied, do you ‘strive to enter in by the strait gate?’

I also hope that this brief list

## [CAN WE PROVE THE BIBLE IS TRUE?](#) [SEVEN COMPELLING EVIDENCES CONFIRM THE BIBLE IS TRUE](#)

This article was Adapted from <https://answersingenesis.org/is-the-bible-true/seven-compelling-evidences-confirm-bible-is-true>. It is a continuation of the series titled: ‘[Seven Compelling Evidences Confirm the Bible Is True](#)’

## 6. Archaeological Finds Seven Compelling Evidences

by Scott Lanser on March 20, 2011

Archaeologists once boasted that the Bible was full of errors because no independent, historic evidence had been found to confirm the Bible’s claims. But many astounding discoveries has put a damper on their boasting.

Archaeology provides us with fascinating and amazing affirmations of Scripture’s accuracy and trustworthiness. Indeed, it is one of the most effective ways to open a conversation with your friends about the Bible.

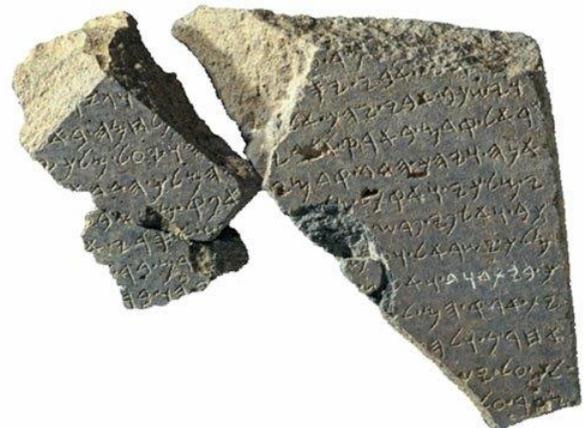
After two hundred years of archaeological excavation and discovery, we have a powerful arsenal of important finds that will leave the most adamant sceptics of the Bible pondering! As you talk to people about these discoveries, help them to clear away their doubts and the lies they have heard—and maybe even come to believe—about the Bible.

Here are a series of astounding discoveries that you can share with those who question the Bible’s truth. This list covers approximately one thousand years of biblical history from the time of King

David down to the time of Jesus. As you read this list, note how the accounts of so many key events and people of the Bible are confirmed by these amazing archaeological finds. It would be well worth your time to study and memorize these important findings.

### **The Tel Dan Stele (900–850 BC)**

A stele is an upright stone that is inscribed and used as a monument of an important event or achievement. Rulers and peoples from Egypt, Israel, and across Mesopotamia used these steles to commemorate great victories and accomplishments. This particular stele is extraordinary because carved on its stone face is the expression, ‘House of David.’ This stele affirms that the United Monarchy under King David existed in history and flatly contradicts the long-held opinions of sceptics who denied that David ever existed.



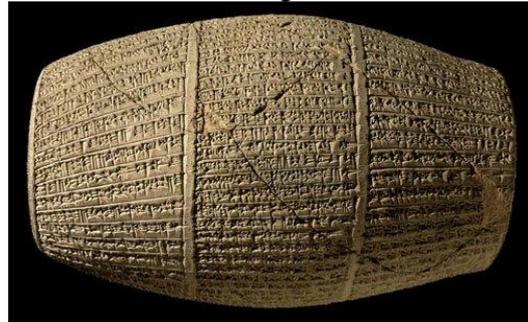
## The Meesha Stele (846 BC)

Popularly known as the Moabite Stone, it records the revolt of Meesha, King of Moab, against Israel. This incredible stele mentions Omri, King of Israel, and David of the United Monarchy. It even refers to Yahweh (Jehovah), the unique name of the God of Israel! Together with the testimony from the Tel Dan Stele, we have a powerful external witness that the Bible records the true history of the kings of Israel and their interactions with foreign kings.



meaning of Daniel 5:16 more precisely where it says, ***'Now, if thou canst read the writing and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet and have a chain of gold about thy neck and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom,'*** (italics added for emphasis).

This text now makes perfect sense because Nabonidus was in a coregency with his son Belshazzar, who was the crown prince of Babylon. So that would make Daniel the 'third ruler in the kingdom.'



## Caiaphas Ossuary

An ossuary was a box constructed to hold the bones of the dead after decomposition. In 1990 a startling discovery was made that shook biblical scholars and archaeologists alike. In the Peace Forest section of Jerusalem was discovered a burial cave containing twelve ossuaries, one of them being none other than that of Caiaphas, the high priest who presided at the trial of Jesus. This amazing discovery provides us with a powerful historical connection to the events described in the Gospels.

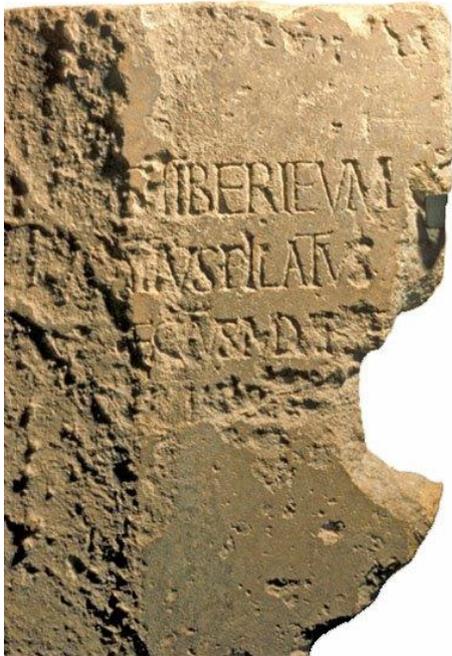
## The Nabonidus Cylinder (550 BC)

King Nabonidus of Babylonia left a magnificent cuneiform cylinder (wedge-shaped letters inscribed on a clay cylinder) mentioning his elder son, Belshazzar by name. Critics of the Bible had claimed for many years that the account in the book of Daniel was wrong; they said Belshazzar was never a king in Babylon and that Nabonidus was not his father. The discovery of this cylinder clearly showed that these scholars were dead wrong. Indeed, we can now understand the



## Pilate Dedication Stone

In June 1961 an inscription on a limestone block, found at a Roman amphitheater in Caesarea Maritima, rocked the scholarly world. The block, which was once used as a dedication stone of a nearby temple and now reused for seating at the local amphitheater, had an extraordinary inscription. It read: 'Tiberieum, (Pon)tius Pilatus, (Praef)ectus Iuda(eae).' Those scholars who questioned Pilate's existence (and the gospel accounts generally) were silenced with this amazing discovery!



Many more archaeological discoveries wait to be uncovered and shared with your friends. If someone raises a question about some biblical claim that has not been independently verified, you can share some of these examples to show that 'silence' is not evidence against Scripture.

I also hope that this brief list will inspire you to dig deeper and use archaeology as a powerful tool in contending for the Word of God and the faith that has been entrusted to us!

*Pictorial Record of  
Long Weekend –  
29 April – 1 May  
2017*

Life Size Board Game

