

# The Visible Hand of God

- KCBS 2023 •  
Monday

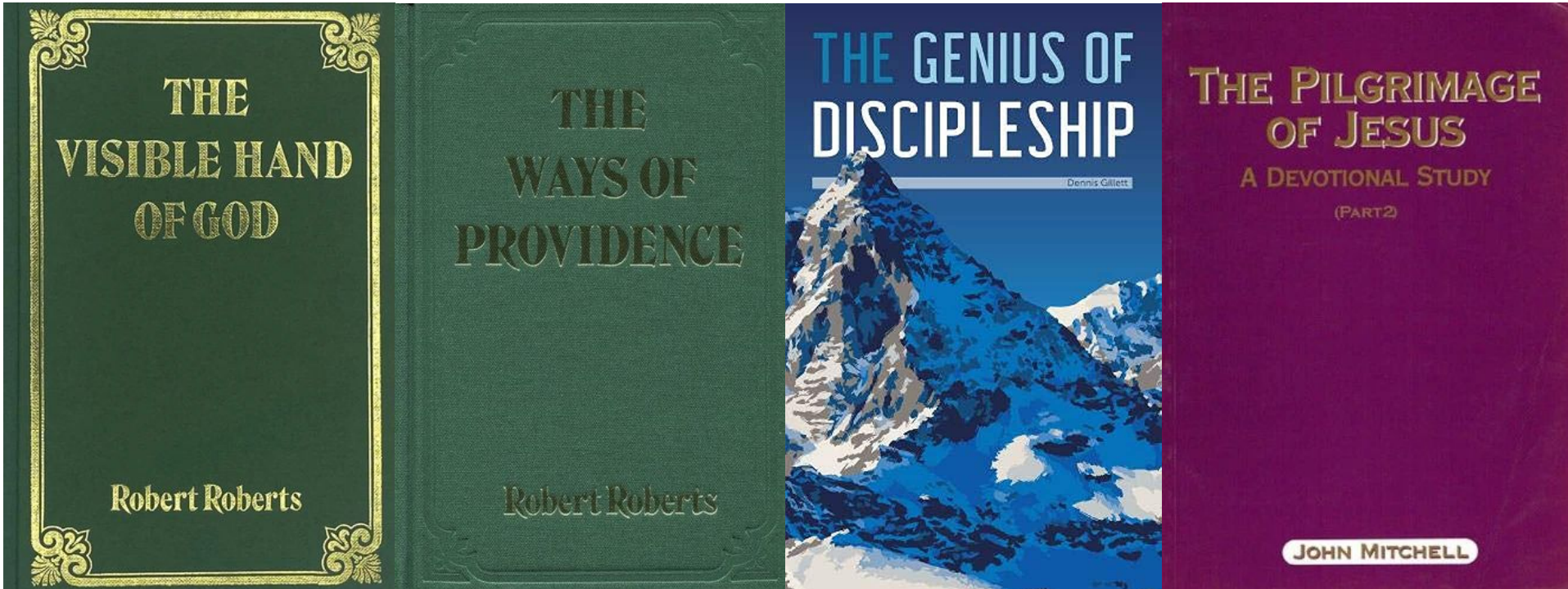


## Objectives:

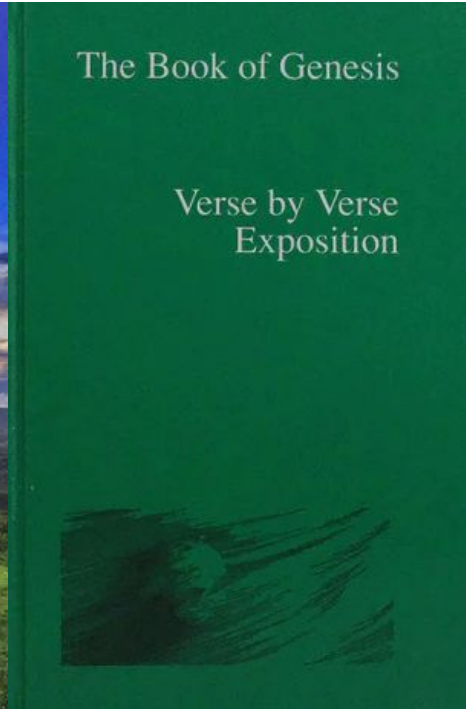
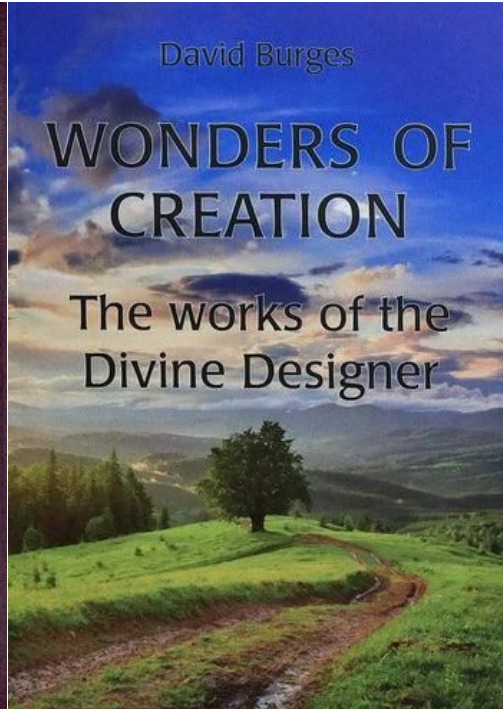
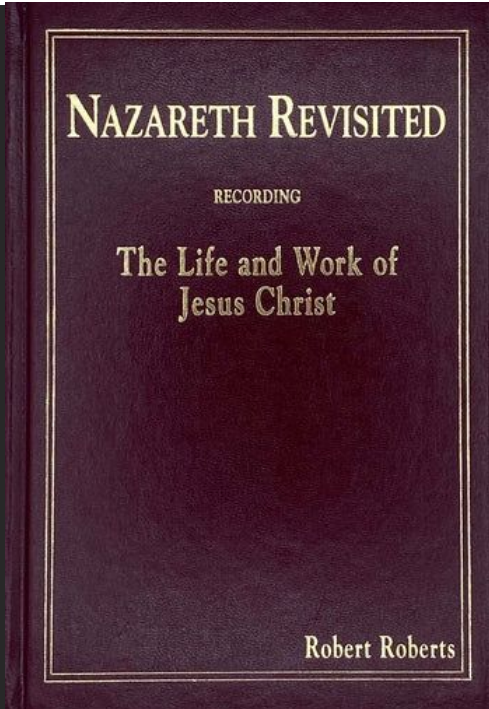
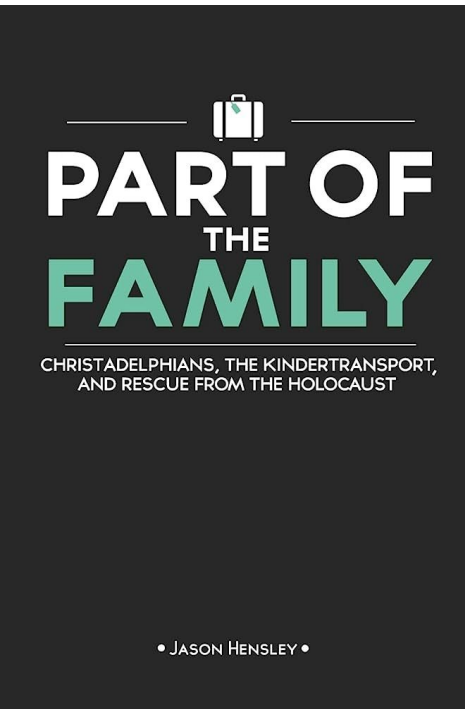
- 1) To investigate the reasons that we believe.
- 2) To solidify our faith by a recognition of the hand of God in the present.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Biblical Case Study</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Why we believe, exploring doubt	Help thou my unbelief
<b>Tuesday</b>	Our 'privileged' planet	Angels in the hills
<b>Wednesday</b>	Fearfully & Wonderfully made	Is anything too hard?
<b>Thursday</b>	Witness to the defense: Israel	Blind Witnesses
<b>Friday</b>	Our hope in the resurrection	Blessed are those that...

# Sources of Information:



# Sources of Information:



# Monday

- Why we Believe

Slides - scan QR code

KCBS 2023



# **Questions for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Believer:**

Why did you come to bible school?

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# Questions for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Believer:

Why did you get baptized?

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# Questions for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Believer:

What values are important to you  
as a believer?

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# America Pulls Back From Values That Once Defined It, WSJ-NORC Poll Finds

Patriotism, religion and hard work hold less importance

By [Aaron Zitner](#)

March 27, 2023 5:30 am ET

## American values

Percent who say these values are 'very important' to them

● 1998 ● 2019 ● 2023

Patriotism



Religion



Having children



Community involvement



Money



# **Questions for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Believer:**

Have you ever had doubts about  
your faith?

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# Other WSJ/WORC poll questions:

[https://s.wsj.net/public/resources/documents/WSJ\\_NORC\\_ToplevelMarc\\_2023.pdf](https://s.wsj.net/public/resources/documents/WSJ_NORC_ToplevelMarc_2023.pdf)

To what extent do you consider yourself a religious person? Are you...

	WSJ/NORC 03/01-13/2023
<b>Very/moderately religious NET</b>	<b>47</b>
Very religious	17
Moderately religious	31
<b>Not religious at all/slightly religious NET</b>	<b>52</b>
Slightly religious	23
Not religious at all	29
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	*

N=1,019

Which statement comes closest to expressing what you believe about God?

	WSJ/NORC 03/01-13/2023
I don't believe in God.	9
I don't know whether there is a God, and I don't believe there is any way to find out.	12
I don't believe in a personal God, but I do believe in a Higher Power of some kind.	12
I find myself believing in God some of the time, but not at others.	5
While I have doubts, I feel that I do believe in God.	13
<b>I know God really exists and I have no doubts about it.</b>	<b>49</b>
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	*

N=

1,019

# Other WSJ/WORC poll questions:

## How often do you attend religious services?

	WSJ/NORC 03/01-13/2023
Never	32
Less than once a year	19
About once or twice a year	9
Several times a year	8
About once a month	3
2-3 times a month	5
Nearly every week	5
Every week	13
Several times a week	6
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

N= 994

## Religion?

	WSJ/NORC 03/01-13/2023
Protestant	26
Roman Catholic	21
Mormon	1
Orthodox	*
Jewish	2
Muslim	1
Buddhist	2
Hindu	*
Atheist	4
Agnostic	8
Nothing in particular	12
Just Christian	20
Unitarian	1
Something else	2
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-

N= 994

# Trust = Foundational

“Every day in every way we exercise trust. Life would be impossible without it.”

- Dennis Gillett, Genius of Discipleship, pg 19

**Count how many things you are trusting at this very moment!**



**Intelligent Trust = Faith**

**Heb 11:1** – Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.



“We require the visible hand to give us faith in the invisible. God does not ask us to trust the one without showing us the other. It is the visible hand of God in the past that has laid the foundation of faith in the invisible one in the present.”

Bro. Robert Roberts, Visible Hand of God

# 1st Century Pillars of Proof

Prophecy



Miracle





# John 1:35-42

"What an honor for these two young men (Andrew and John): Christ's guests under Christ's own roof (even if only a hired one), for one night! What would we not give for such an opportunity now?"

**Robert Roberts, Nazareth Revisited**

“A great experience often brings an almost painful longing to share it with those we love.”

Bro. Melva Purkis, Life of Jesus



# APOSTOLIC FAITH - CHRIST'S 1ST ADVENT

Message of  
John the  
Baptist

+

OT  
Prophecies



Faith

“Repent ye”  
“Behold the  
lamb of  
God”

Deut 18:18  
Isaiah 11  
Isaiah 42  
Malachi 3

“We have  
found  
him...”  
(John 1:45)

# A Prophet Like Moses - The Promised Messiah

- resurrected
- would bring in a new covenant
- forsaken and pierced, but vindicated
- the rejected cornerstone
- would do life-affirming redemptive deeds
- born of a virgin
- would come according to a timetable
- The Suffering Servant
- would not remain dead, but see his seed, prolong his days and be exalted
- a prophet like Moses
- pierced
- preceded by Elijah the prophet
- would come riding on a donkey
- called out of Egypt
- called God's Son
- betrayed for thirty pieces of silver
- the Son of Man
- a willing sacrifice
- the Passover lamb
- the star coming out of Jacob
- born in Bethlehem
- greater than David
- a descendant of David
- is spoken of throughout the Hebrew Bible
- the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace
- preceded by a messenger
- the coming one to whom the scepter belongs
- acclaimed
- the seed of the woman
- the descendant of Abraham through whom all nations would be blessed
- lifted up
- the righteous sufferer
- the great light
- would perform signs of healing
- preceded by a forerunner
- a light for the nations of the world
- the object of a murderous plot, but hope lies ahead

# PROPHECIES IN MATTHEW'S GOSPEL

Matthew	Old Testament	Prophecies
1:23	Isaiah 7:14	Born of a virgin
2:5–6	Micah 5:2	Born in Bethlehem
2:14–15	Hosea 11:1	Come out of Egypt
2:16–18	Jeremiah 31:15	Birth would cause grief and the death of children
3:3	Isaiah 40:3	Announced by a forerunner
4:15–16	Isaiah 9:1–2	Minister in Galilee
8:17	Isaiah 53:4	Bring healing
11:10	Malachi 3:1	Announced by a forerunner
12:18–21	Isaiah 42:1–4	Bring hope to the Gentiles
13:14–15	Isaiah 6:9–10	Many would not understand His teaching
13:34–35	Psalms 78:2	Speak in parables
15:7–9	Isaiah 29:13	Opposed by hypocrites
21:4–5	Zechariah 9:9	Arrive riding a donkey
21:42	Psalms 118:22–23	Rejected by some to their own undoing
22:44	Psalms 110:1	Recognized by David as Lord
26:31	Zechariah 13:7	Followers would scatter at His death
27:9–10	Zechariah 11:13	Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver
27:35	Psalms 22:18	Lots cast to divide His clothes

...We have found him,  
of whom Moses in  
the law, and the  
prophets, did write,  
Jesus of Nazareth,  
the son of Joseph.

John 1:45





I will raise them up a **Prophet** from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

Deu 18:18-19

## Things to Look For:

1. Among their brethren (relative)
2. Like you
3. Words of God in his mouth
4. Speaks the commandments of God
5. Should be listened to

# MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

“For Jesus himself, the Hebrew Scriptures were the key by which he understood his vocation.”

JEW  
FOR  
JESUS®

## The Prophecies

### 1) The Messiah would be resurrected

**Hebrew Scriptures reference:** Psalm 16:8–11

**New Testament citations:** Acts 13:35–37

**Commentary:** King David may have seen ahead to his own resurrection—but David’s resurrection was only possible because of the resurrection of his descendant, the Messiah.

# LAW, PROPHETS, PSALMS

**Luke 24:44** - And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the **law** of Moses, and in the **prophets**, and in the **psalms**, concerning me.

**Act 3:18** - But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his **prophets**, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

There are **283 direct quotations** from the Old Testament in the New Testament.

Easton's Bible Dictionary

Mat 1:23	Isa 7:14
Mat 2:6	2 Sam 5:2
Mat 2:6	Micah 5:2
Mat 2:15	Hosea 11:1
Mat 2:18	Jer 31:15
Mat 2:23	Judg 13:5
Mat 2:23	Isa 11:1
Mat 3:3	Isa 40:3
Mat 3:17	Gen 22:2
Mat 3:17	Psa 2:7
Mat 3:17	Isa 42:1
Mat 4:4	Deu 8:3
Mat 4:6	Psa 91:11
Mat 4:6	Psa 91:12
Mat 4:7	Deu 6:16
Mat 4:10	Deu 6:13
Mat 4:15	Isa 9:1
Mat 4:16	Isa 9:2
Mat 5:5	Psa 37:11
Mat 5:21	Exo 20:13
Mat 5:21	Deu 5:17
Mat 5:27	Exo 20:14

# APOSTOLIC FAITH - CHRIST'S 1ST ADVENT

## 8 Signs of John

Changing water into wine at Cana - 2:1-11

Healing the royal official's son in Capernaum - 4:46-54

Healing the paralytic at Bethesda - 5:1-15

Feeding the 5000 - 6:5-14

Jesus walking on water - 6:16-24

Healing the man blind from birth - 9:1-7

The raising of Lazarus - 11:1-45



# Faith

“This, the first of his signs,  
Jesus did at Cana in Galilee,  
and manifested his glory.”

(John 2:11)

“And his  
disciples  
believed in  
him.”

(John 2:11)

# APOSTOLIC FAITH - CHRIST'S 1ST ADVENT

## 8 Signs of John

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The raising of Lazarus - 11:1-45



Faith

This was now the second sign  
that Jesus did when he had  
come from Judea to Galilee.

(John 4:54)

And he himself  
believed, and all  
his household

(John 4:53)

# APOSTOLIC FAITH - CHRIST'S 1ST ADVENT

## 8 Signs of John

Changing water into wine at Cana - 2:1-11

Healing the royal official's son in Capernaum - 4:46-54

Healing the paralytic at Bethesda - 5:1-15

Feeding the 5000 - 6:5-14

Jesus walking on water - 6:16-24

Healing the man blind from birth - 9:1-7

The raising of Lazarus - 11:1-45



Faith

and for your sake I am glad  
that I was not there, so that  
you may believe.

(John 11:15)

Many of the Jews  
therefore, who...  
had seen what he  
did, believed in him

(John 11:45)

## APOSTOLIC FAITH - CHRIST'S 1ST ADVENT

Resurrection  
from the Dead



Faith

Then went in also that other disciple, which came first  
to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

(John 20:8)



**Acts 2:16-22** - But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel... (17) I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh... shall prophesy... shall see visions... (18) and they shall prophesy... (19) wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath... (20) before that great and notable day of the Lord come... (22) Jesus of Nazareth, a man **approved** of God among you **by miracles and wonders and signs**, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

“Approved” = G584

Ἀποδείκνυμι - apodeiknumi

to show off, that is, exhibit;  
figuratively to demonstrate, that  
is, accredit: - (ap-) **prove**, set  
forth, shew.

**Other References:**

Acts 25:7 they could not **prove**

1Cor 4:9 God hath **set forth** us

2 Thes 2:4 **shewing** himself

# MIRACLES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

Miracles	Where	Recorded In
Peter heals a lame man	Jerusalem	3:1-11
Ananias and Sapphira struck dead	Jerusalem	5:1-10
Apostles perform many wonders	Jerusalem	5:12-16
Peter and John communicate the Holy Spirit	Samaria	8:14-17
Peter heals Aeneas of a palsy	Lydda	9:33, 34
Peter raises Tabitha, or Dorcas, to life	Joppa	9:36-41
Peter delivered out of prison by an angel	Jerusalem	12:7-17
God smites Herod, so that he dies	Jerusalem	12:21-23
Elymas, the sorcerer, smitten with blindness	Paphos	13:6-11
Paul converted	Road to Damascus	9:1-9
Paul heals a cripple	Lystra	14:8-10
Paul casts out a spirit of divination	Philippi	16:16-18
Paul and Silas's prison doors opened by an earthquake	Philippi	16:25, 26
Paul communicates the Holy Spirit	Corinth	19:1-6
Paul heals multitudes	Corinth	19:11, 12
Paul restores Eutychus to life	Troas	20:9-12
Paul shakes off a viper	Malta	28:3-6
Paul heals the father of Publius and others	Malta	28:7-9

**What are the pillars of proof  
in the 21st Century?**

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# Modern Pillars of Proof

**Prophecy**



**Archaeology**



**Consistency**



**2 Peter 1:19** – We have also **a more sure word of prophecy**; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

# FULFILLED PROPHECIES - DANIEL

The Final Superpower

The Dreaming King and the Slave

## The Great Image in Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

The great image that God revealed to Nebuchadnezzar in a dream was interpreted by the prophet Daniel. Each section represents a world-ruling superpower. Each succeeding metal is less valuable, but each succeeding metal is stronger, as each empire was more powerful than the last.

### Gold—Head

This section represented the empire of Babylon, of which Nebuchadnezzar was king.

### Silver—Chest and Arms

The silver chest with two arms signified the empire of the Medes and Persians, which conquered and supplanted Babylon.

### Bronze—Belly and Thighs

This section represented the Greco-Macedonian Empire of Alexander the Great, which swallowed up Persia.

### Iron—Legs

The two legs of iron represented the Roman Empire. After Alexander's death, his Hellenistic empire continued in a divided form until its divisions were taken over by Rome. The two legs apparently signified the east-west division that characterized the Late Roman Empire.

### Iron & Clay—Feet and Toes

Extending from the legs are feet and toes of iron mixed with clay—a brittle and unstable mixture because it would not bond well. These represent the final phase of the Roman Empire, which will be made up of ten kings, some strong and some weak.



# FULFILLED PROPHECIES - REVELATION

## THE UNVEILING OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

*The things which thou hast seen:* (1:19) Chapter

VISION – THE MULTITUDINOUS CHRIST – 1

*The things which are:*

LETTERS TO THE 7 ECCLESIAS – 2,3

*The things which shall be hereafter:*

VISION – A THRONE IN HEAVEN – 4,5

7 SEALS (7th seal – Chapter 8) – 6

VISION – 144,000 – BEFORE THE THRONE – 7

7 TRUMPETS (7th trumpet – Chapter 11) – 8,9

VISION – THE RAINBOWED ANGEL – 10

2 WITNESSES – GREAT EARTHQUAKE – 11

### DEVELOPMENT OF THE APOSTASY & BEAST SYSTEMS

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. GREAT RED DRAGON | 3. BEAST OF THE EARTH |
| 2. BEAST OF THE SEA | 4. IMAGE OF THE BEAST |

Chapters 12 and 13

666

VISION – LAMB ON MT. ZION – 144,000 – 14

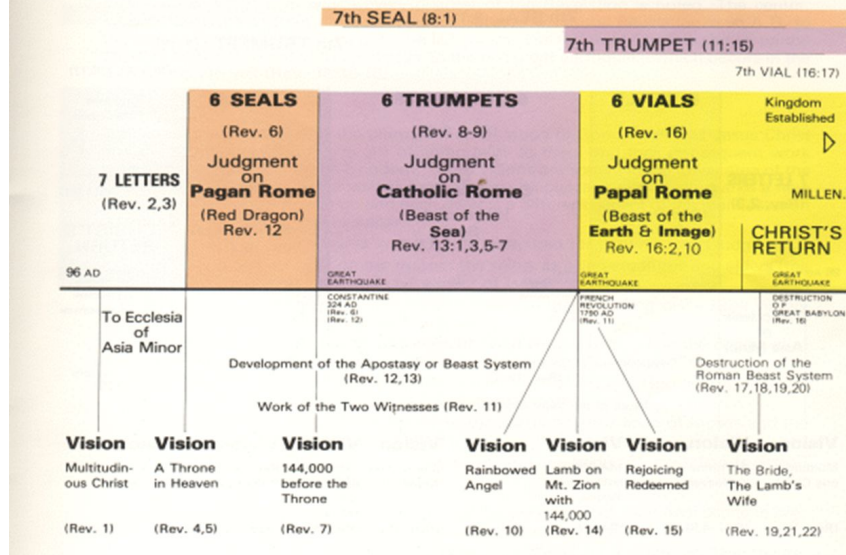
VISION – THE REJOICING REDEEMED – 15

7 VIALS – 16

JUDGMENT OF THE WHORE & THE BEAST – 17-20

VISION – THE BRIDE, THE LAMB'S WIFE – 21,22

## THE HISTORICAL PLAN OF THE APOCALYPSE





**Examples:** conditional vs unconditional, short vs long term, fulfilled/unfulfilled

***Potential Problems: differences in interpretation***

# SOURCES OF HISTORICAL DATA

**Inscriptional** - cuneiform tablets, scrolls, king lists, chronicles, royal deeds (battles won, gods appeased, trade records, ancient receipts)

***Potential Problems:*** state of materials, provenance, multiple copies, political slant, translation errors



# SOURCES OF HISTORICAL DATA

**Classical Historians - Berossus,  
Canon of Ptolemy, Josephus, etc.**

***Potential Problems: state of materials,  
political slant***

Ptolemy's Canon of kings				
N°	Name (Ptolemy)	Name (modern)	Regnal years	Dates
1	Nabonassaros	Nabū-Nasir	14	747-734
2	Nadios	Nabū-naḍin-zer	2	733-732
3	Chînzer and Peros	Tiglath-Pileser III	5	731-727
4	Ilouaios	Salmaneser V	5	726-722
5	Mardokempados	Marduk-apla-iddina II (Merodach-baladan)	12	721-710
6	Arkeanos	Sargon II	6	709-704
7	Marduk-zakir-šumi	Marduk-zakir-šumi	2	704-703
8	Bilbos	Bē-īpni	3	702-700
9	Aparanadios	Aššur-naḍin-šummi	6	699-694
10	Rhegebelos	Nergal-ušeizib	1	693
11	Mesimordakos	Mušezib-Marduk	4	692-689
12	Sennacherib	Sennacherib	8	688-681
13	Asaradinos	Esarhaddon	13	680-668
14	Saoudouchinos	Samaš-šuma-ukin	20	667-648
15	Kinladasos	Kandalanu	22	647-626
16	Nabopolassaros	Nabopolassar	21	625-605
17	Nabokolassaros	Nebuchadnezzar II	43	604-562
18	Ilhoaroudamos	Amel-Marduk	2	561-560
19	Nerigassolassaros	Neriglissar	4	559-556
20	Nabonadios	Nabonidus	17	555-539
21	Kyros	Cyrus the Great	9	538-530
22	Kambysos	Cambyses II	8	529-522
23	Dareios the First	Darius I the Great	36	521-486
24	Xerxes	Xerxes I	21	485-465
25	Artaxerxes the First	Artaxerxes I Makrocheir	41	464-424
26	Dareios the Second	Darius II Nothus	19	423-405
27	Artaxerxes the Second	Artaxerxes II Mnemon	46	404-359
28	Ochos	Artaxerxes III Ochus	21	358-338
29	Arogos	Artaxerxes IV Arses	2	337-336
30	Dareios the Third	Darius III Codomannus	4	335-332
31	Alexandros	Alexander the Great	8	331-324
32	Philippos	Philip III Arridaeus	7	323-317
33	The other Alexandros	Alexander IV	12	316-305
34	Ptolemaios, son of Lagos	Ptolemy I Soter	20	304-285
35	Philadelphos	Ptolemy II Philadelphus	38	284-247
36	Euergetes	Ptolemy III Euergetes	25	246-222
37	Philopator	Ptolemy IV Philopator	17	221-205
38	Epiphaneos	Ptolemy V Epiphanes	24	204-181
39	Philometor	Ptolemy VI Philometor	35	180-146
40	Euergetes the Second	Ptolemy VIII Euergetes	29	145-117
41	Soter	Ptolemy IX Soter	36	116-81
42	Dionysos Neos	Ptolemy XII Auletes	29	80-52
43	Cleopatra Filopator Nea Thea	Cleopatra	22	51-30
44	Caius Iulius Caesar Augustus	Augustus	43	27 a.C. 14 d.C.

# SOURCES OF HISTORICAL DATA

## Scientific:

- **Astronomical** - Venus Tablet of Ammisaduqa, solar eclipses
- **Dendrochronology**
- **Magnetic Anomalies**
- **Radiocarbon Dating**

*Potential Problems: state of materials*



# SOURCES OF HISTORICAL DATA

SEALS OF ISAIAH AND  
KING HEZEKIAH DISCOVERED  
התגלו החותמות של ישעיהו והמלך חזקיהו





**Belonging to Hezekiah**

*lhz[q]yhw*

**[son of] Ahaz**

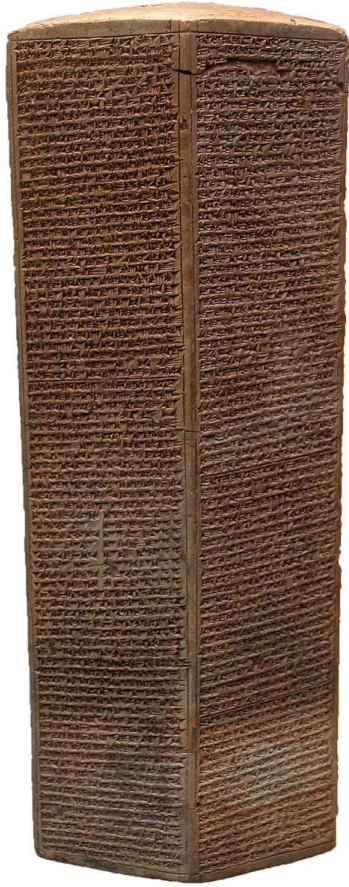
*'[h]z*

**King**

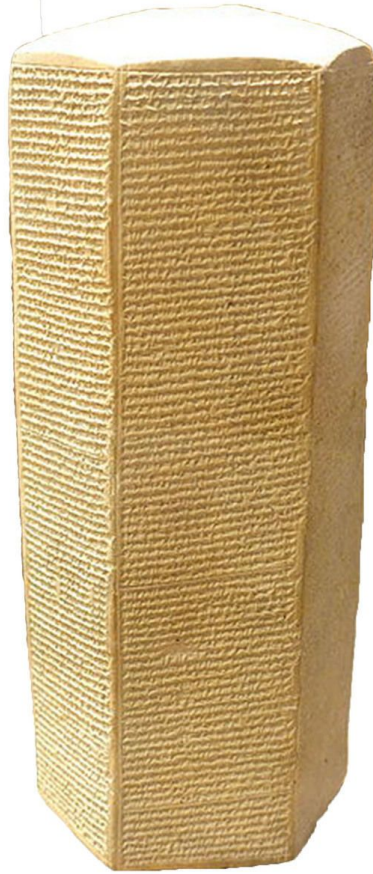
*mlk*

**of Judah**

*yhd[h]*



**Taylor Prism**



**Oriental Institute Prism**



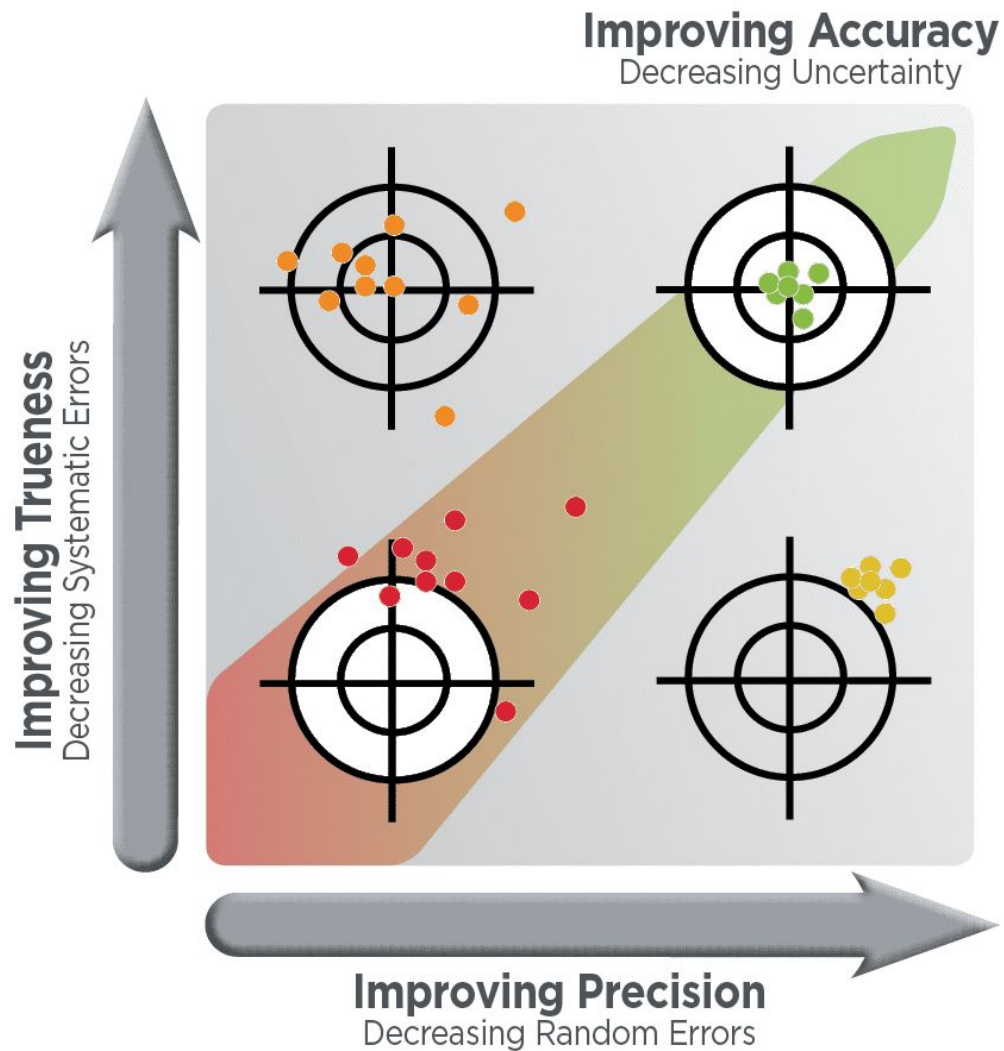
**Jerusalem Prism**

# The Babylonian Chronicles

In the twenty-first year the king of Akkad[Nabopolassar] stayed in his own land, Nebuchadnezzar his eldest son, the crown-prince, mustered the Babylonian army and took command of his troops; **he marched to Karchemish which is on the bank of the Euphrates, and crossed the river to go against the Egyptian army which lay in Karchemish. They fought with each other and the Egyptian army withdrew before him. He accomplished their defeat and beat them to non-existence.** As for the rest of the Egyptian army which had escaped from the defeat so quickly that no weapon had reached them, in the district of Hamath the Babylonian troops overtook and defeated them so that not a single man escaped to his own country. At that time Nebuchadnezzar conquered the whole area of Hamath.







Accuracy  
vs.  
Precision



# veracity

noun

ve·rac·i·ty *və-'ra-sə-tē*

1: conformity with truth or fact : ACCURACY

2: devotion to the truth : TRUTHFULNESS

3: power of conveying or perceiving truth

4: something true



# STATEMENT OF FAITH

31. That the Scriptures, composing the book currently known as the Bible, are the only source now extant of knowledge concerning God and His purposes, and that they were given wholly by the unerring inspiration of God in the writers, and that such errors as have since crept in are due to transcription or translation. (Neh.9:30; John 10:35; 1 Cor. 2:13; 14:37; 2 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 1:1; 2 Peter 1:22)

All Scripture is **breathed out  
by God** and profitable for  
teaching, for reproof, for  
correction, and for training  
in righteousness,

**2 Tim. 3:16 ESV**

# SUGGESTED CLASS

CCBS 2016 - Answering Challenges to Our Faith

Lesson 1: *How Can We Trust the Bible, a book full of Myths, Errors, Mistakes, and Contradictions?*

**Bro. Richard Farrar**  
- Scan/Click here for class #1



On October 30, 1967, a London newspaper, the Daily Telegraph, reported that Mrs. Margaret Fennel had twin sons in Birmingham Maternity Hospital the previous day. They were born in the small hours of the morning. The first was born at 1:55 am, the second at 1:05 am.

**HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?**

# APPARENT CONTRADICTIONS

**Need to know all the facts and circumstances.**

**Need to read between the lines/context.**

## **“Contradictions” in the Bible:**

Translation Errors

Differences between Gospels

Point of View and New Discoveries

# HOW OLD WAS AHAZIAH?

## 2 Kings 8:26

*Two and twenty years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign; and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah, the daughter of Omri king of Israel.*

## 2 Chronicles 22:2

*Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri.*



# translations - Beware

2 Chr. 22:2 (NIV) - Ahaziah was **twenty-two** years old when he became king...

2 Chr. 22:2 (NASB) - Ahaziah *was* **twenty-two** years old when he became king...

- Syriac, Arabic, & Septuagint read 22 yrs rather than 42

Ahaziah could not have been 42 w/out being 2 yrs older than his own father!

See **2 Chr 21:20**

# TRANSLATOR ERRORS - FEW & RARE

It is very probable that the Hebrew text read so originally; for when numbers were expressed by single letters, it was easy to mistake מ mem, Forty, for כ caph, Twenty. And if this book was written by a scribe who used the ancient Hebrew letters, now called the Samaritan, the mistake was still more easy and probable, as the difference between caph and mem is very small, and can in many instances be discerned only by an accustomed eye.

**- Adam Clarke's Commentary on the Bible**

# DISCREPANCIES IN THE GOSPELS

- **Why** should Matthew who was present, and Peter (writing through Mark), omit the stirring scene of the **resurrection of Lazarus**, which they both saw, and only John recorded?
- **Why** are the miracles of the earthquake, opened graves and resurrection of some, together with the darkening of the sun for 3 hours, all omitted by John?
- **Why** is Luke the only one to record the **promise to the dying thief** on the cross?
- **Why** should the mighty miracle of the instantaneous **healing of the ten lepers** (seen by Matthew and John) be omitted by them, and only recorded by Luke?
- **Why** did God **choose a Gentile convert** to record the gospel, when there were plenty of other eye-witnesses available?

# DISCREPANCIES IN THE GOSPELS

"The alleged discrepancies of the four gospels demonstrate their divine inspiration, exhibiting superhuman guidance in the omissions, and additions, instead of an evidence of human fallibility."

"Each Gospel writer presents the life and words of Christ from the viewpoint which it pleased God to present through them..."

F. Bilton, Apocalyptical Considerations of the Four Gospels



# consistency

noun

con·sis·ten·cy kən-'si-stən(t)-sē



**1a:** agreement or harmony of parts or features to one another or a whole

*specifically* : ability to be asserted together without contradiction

**b:** harmony of conduct or practice with **profession**

**3a:** firmness of constitution or character : **PERSISTENCY**

**b:** condition of adhering together : firmness of material substance

## Various Authors - Different Places - Different Times

- When did this happen?
- Who made the critical decisions?
- Why should we think they got it right?
- At what point in history do we see OT/NT books collected into a functioning body? What forces or individuals influenced that process?
- Do we have a reason to think these are the right books?
- Can we even know whether we have the right books?

Leo Percer illustrates, “The process of canonization was lengthy, asking questions such as:

1. Was the book tied to an apostle?
2. Did it come from Paul or Peter?
3. Did the church generally accept it?
4. Was it orthodox in its teaching about Jesus?
5. And was it divinely inspired?”

long ago,

many communities through many centuries

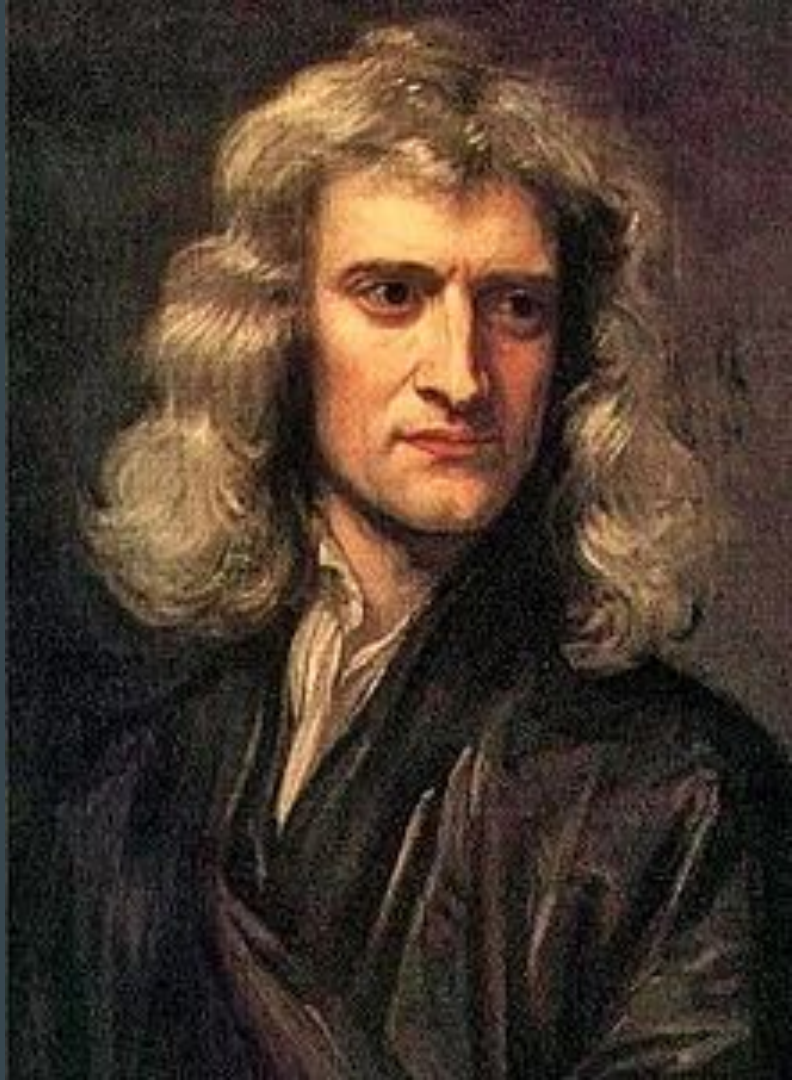


produced the Bibles  
we have today



"I find more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history whatsoever."

- Isaac Newton



# Case Study

“Help my unbelief”

Mark 9:14-29

And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!”

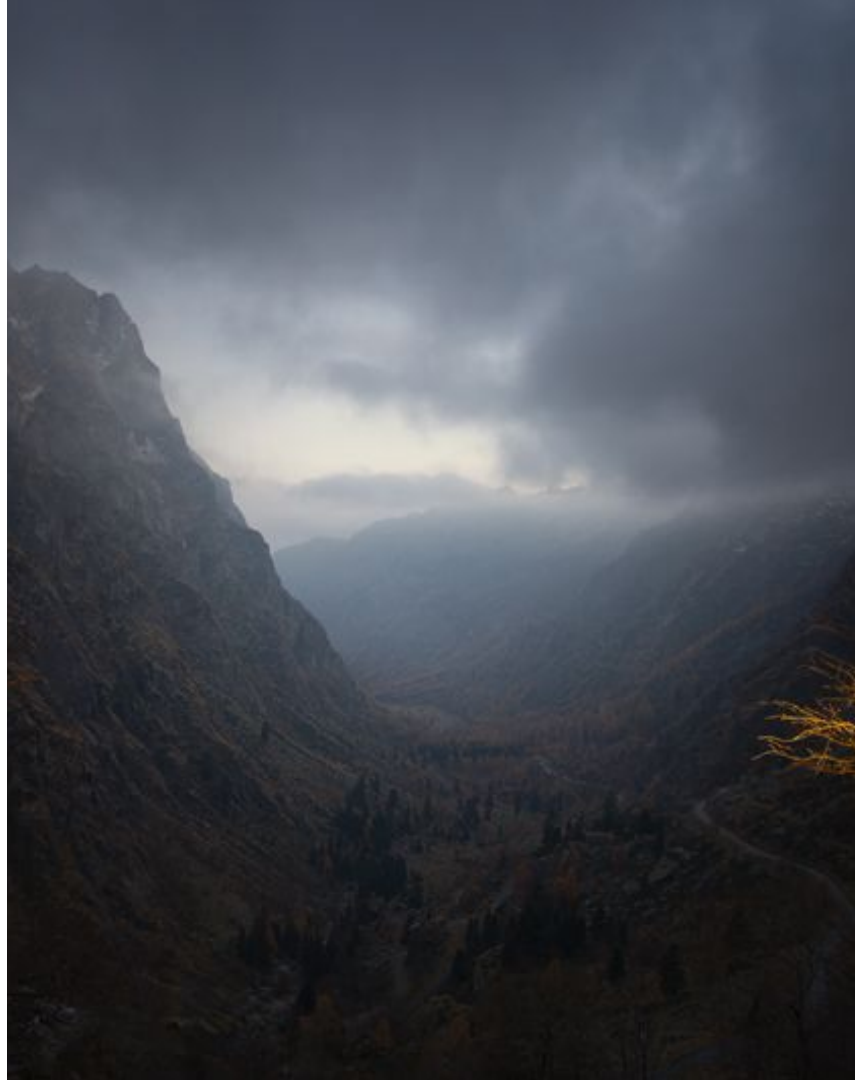
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## Case Study - “Help my unbelief”

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“It is easy to have faith on the sunny uplands, when we feel that God is in His heaven and all’s well with our world. But when we stand in the cold valley of the shadow, fighting a lone battle with our fears, then do we realise how pitiably small is our faith.”

John Marshall, [The Pilgrimage of Jesus](#)



## Case Study - “Help my unbelief”

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# Faith requires Prayer

This kind can come forth by nothing,  
but by prayer and fasting.

- **Mark 9:29**

And the prayer of faith shall save the  
sick, and the Lord shall raise him up;

- **James 5:15**

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of  
him, because we keep his  
commandments, and do those things  
that are pleasing in his sight.

- **1 John 3:22**

...men ought always to pray,  
and not to faint;

- **Luke 18:1**

“A great experience often brings an almost painful longing to share it with those we love.”

Bro. Melva Purkis, Life of Jesus