

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

Volume 10

January 24, 2021

Number 4

IS THE BIBLE TRULY GOD’S WORD? #4

John Edwards

EVIDENCE TO SUSTAIN SUCH A CLAIM: ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

The events recorded in the Bible are set at a definite time and place in history. For example, Luke 3 begins:

“Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene” (v. 1).

Archaeologists have found remains confirming the Biblical record of people, places, and events.

KING SARGON. *“In the year that Tartan came unto Ashdod, (when Sargon the king of Assyria sent him,) and fought against Ashdod, and took it” (Is. 20:1).* In 1842-1845, the royal palace of Sargon was uncovered and an account of the siege of Ashdod mentioned in Isaiah.

GRAPES IN EGYPT. In the interpretation of the dream of Pharaoh’s butler, grapes are mentioned (Gen. 40:9-11). The ancient historian Herodotus

declared that the Egyptians grew no vines and some critics cited this as a Biblical mistake. Paintings, however, discovered on ancient Egyptian tombs show the pruning of vines, the extracting of juice from grapes and scenes of drunkenness.

Archaeological discoveries verify the historical reliability of the Old and New Testaments. The spade is a friend of the Bible.

THE GOODNESS AND SEVERITY OF GOD

John Edwards

Romans 11:22, *“Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.”*

THE GOODNESS OF GOD:

God created man in His own image. *“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them” (Gen. 1:27).*

God announced His intentions of sending the Savior, when man fell. *“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between*

thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”

God gave His Son. *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (Jn. 3:16).*

God gave the gospel to all. *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mk. 16:15).*

God extended His grace to all. *“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men” (Titus 2:11).*

God desires all to be saved. *“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:3-4).*

THE SEVERITY OF GOD:

God drove Adam and Eve out of Eden. *“So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life” (Gen. 3:24).*

God sent flood waters to destroy all flesh. *“And, behold,*

I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die (Gen. 6:17).

God rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah.

“Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven” (Gen. 19:24).

God struck Ananias and Sapphira dead on the spot.

“And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost... Then fell she [Sapphira] down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost...” (Acts 5:5, 10).

God will cast those not found written in the book of life into the lake of fire. *“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire”* (Rev. 20:15).

**EVERY MEMBER
EVERY SERVICE**

THREE THINGS ABOUT REDEMPTION

John Edwards

Concerning Christ Paul said, *“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace”* (Eph. 1:7). Three points about redemption from the text:

REDEMPTION IS IN CHRIST. *“In Christ”* refers to that spiritual relationship in which all the saved consist. 2 Corinthians 5:17 records, *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature...”* Whether or not we are in Christ is dependent on our choice. How do we get into Christ, where redemption is found? The Bible says, *“...baptized into Christ...”* (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27).

REDEMPTION IS THROUGH THE BLOOD OF CHRIST. The purchase price paid for sinful man’s salvation was the precious blood of Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 1:18-19). By His death on the cross, the ransom was paid for *“...the remission of sins”* (Mt. 26:28). The blood of Christ accomplished what the

blood of animals sacrificed under the law of Moses could not (Heb. 10:4).

REDEMPTION IS BY HIS GRACE. *“Grace”* is His undeserved favor toward sinners. Ephesians 2:8 states, *“For by grace are ye saved through faith...”* Titus 2:11 reads, *“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.”*

Will you respond to His grace by entering Christ through baptism so that you can be redeemed through His blood?

PRAY FOR ALL IN AUTHORITY

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.”

—1 TIMOTHY 2:1-2

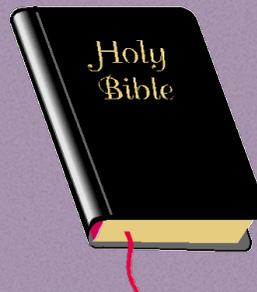
The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

Assembling At:

4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.



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