

Camels and the Accuracy of the Bible

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Archaeologists recently announced that they had confirmed that the Bible was historically inaccurate. They found camel bones which dated to the 9th century BC. According to the Bible.....(Pharaoh) treated Abram well for her sake. He had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female servants, female donkeys, and camels. (Genesis 12:16). "Academics" are saying that since Abram lived around 1800BC, and their bones date to 900BC, the story of Abram is false.

Why does the accuracy of the Bible in questions like this matter? To many, it does not. According to the Pew Research Center (Apr 2013) 78% of mainline Protestants say humans have evolved, and a majority of Catholics (68%) also believe in evolution. However, it does matter. The accuracy of the Bible is a matter of witness credibility.

What is Witness Credibility? If a witness lies on one part of their oath, their testimony is invalid. In this case, Moses wrote Genesis. If Moses lied or was wrong on one part of his book, his testimony is invalid. Regarding the testimony of Moses, Jesus said "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me." (John 5:46).

Even more so, this speaks to the credibility of God. Scriptures make the claim to be authored by God (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21). If God erred in writing these things, can we believe in God? Certainly not as God. Paul said that if we cannot believe, then we are of all men most pitiable. Why does this matter? The Bible requires for us to believe All or Nothing. If one part is not true, none of it is true.



So is this finding legitimate? Let us make an experiment; if everyone reached in their pocket and pulled out quarters, they would find various dates. Most would be relatively recent. Let us say that the oldest quarter present was only made in 1998. Does that offer definitive proof that there were no quarters before this? Obviously not. Yet this is precisely the same case being made by this recent study.

To be clear, there is evidence that camels have been in the middle east and Egypt for 5000 years. Models of camels are found in the tombs of Egypt, and carvings of camels are located throughout the middle east. This is simply bad archeology and bad reporting. Negative evidence does not mean positive proof. Specifically: dated evidence cannot preclude potential older evidences.

'This anachronism is direct proof that the [Bible's] text was compiled well after the events it describes.'

- American Friends of Tel Aviv University

So now the question is: Why? Because the Bible states that "academics" (those vested with worldly knowledge) will always been enemies of the truth of God. Paul stated as much in I Corinthians 1:19-27. He debated with the men of Mars Hill, who mocked him when he spoke of the resurrection (Acts 17:19-21;32). Jesus met this rejection in the scribes, lawyers and Pharisees (Luke 7:30).

We are reminded of Jesus' rejection of these Scholars in Matthew 23:24 "*Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!*". Yes, a camel has certainly been swallowed.

Christians need to be prepared for an academic assault. Academia presents itself as open minded and fair; however, it is anything but that. To be ready, a believer needs to know what you believe and why. Finally, always ask where the purpose and intent of an attack on the Bible is rooted.