

# Apologetics

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# Apologetics

- ▶ ἀπολογία = Gr. *apologia* = **DEFENSE**
- ▶ **Apologetics** is the religious discipline of defending religious doctrines through systematic argumentation and discourse
- ▶ Nothing to do with “Sorry” or “Apology”
- ▶ Acts 22:1 Brothers and fathers, **listen now to my defense.**”
- ▶ Acts 26:1 So Paul motioned with his hand and began his **defense**
- ▶ Php 1:7 whether I am in chains or **defending** and **confirming the gospel,**

# Gaps to fill in...

- ▶ The Bible is **old** > trustworthiness and transmission questions.
- ▶ The Bible was written in a **non-technological/pre-scientific** age.
- ▶ Cultures in Biblical times were **patriarchal**.
- ▶ Biblical **moral standards** are very different to community norms today (at least in the West).
- ▶ People today are less skilled and experienced in **processing text**.
- ▶ **Individualism** - “my rights”
- ▶ **Emotion** and volume easily trumps logical discourse (Twitter!).
- ▶ Religious institutions becoming increasingly **marginalised and distrusted**.  
Child abuse revelations.

From cultural dominance...



To cultural impotence..



# Our Task

- ▶ (1 Pet 3:15) *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.*
- ▶ *Be Prepared*
- ▶ *Be Gentle*
- ▶ *Be Respectful*
- ▶ *Say or do nothing you would regret*

# Best Defence - Good News

- ▶ “Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. **We are bringing you good news**, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. (Acts 14:13 Paul in Lystra)

# Using the Scriptures

- ▶ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. (Acts 8:35 - Philip and the Eunuch)
- ▶ Works best if the person has a regard for the Bible.
- ▶ However, many people have limited exposure and limited trust in the Bible. Additional evidences may be required to build trust in the Scriptures first.

# God's other testimony

- ▶ <sup>15</sup> “Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. <sup>16</sup> In the past, he let all nations go their own way. <sup>17</sup> **Yet he has not left himself without testimony:** He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.” (Acts 14:15-17)
- ▶ The **heavens declare the glory of God;**  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
<sup>2</sup> Day after day they **pour forth speech;**  
night after night **they reveal knowledge.**  
<sup>3</sup> They have no speech, they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them.  
<sup>4</sup> **Yet their voice<sup>[b]</sup> goes out into all the earth,**  
their words to the ends of the world. (Ps 19:1-4)
- ▶ Appealing to common experience and God's **general revelation in nature.**

# You are bringing strange ideas to our ears (Acts 17:20)

- ▶ Understand where people are coming from.
- ▶ Find the **common ground** and **be creative**.
- ▶ Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. - (Acts 17:22-23)
- ▶ This worked because their culture liked to discuss ideas. Paul used that and **presented the gospel in a creative way**.

# Spiritual Receptivity - John 9

- ▶ <sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.
- ▶ <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, <sup>[a]</sup> “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”
- ▶ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?” Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.
- ▶ The man was **eager to listen** and came to faith. But even though the Pharisees had the evidence they **refused to accept** it. No amount of apologetics would work here.

# Spiritual Receptivity - Matt 12

- ▶ Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and **Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see.** <sup>23</sup> All the people were astonished and said, “Could this be the Son of David?”
- ▶ <sup>24</sup> But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons. (Mt 12:33-34)
- ▶ Attributing a miracle of God to Satan > there is no pathway to faith from here.
- ▶ Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from you.”<sup>39</sup> He answered, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah (Mt 12:38-39)
- ▶ Sign-seeking is not a good thing. Instead, seek God! (Mt 6:33)
- ▶ After this episode, Jesus’ approach changed > Use of parables. (Mt 13:10-15)

# Signs of a seeking heart

- ▶ Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." (Jn 9:36 - the man born blind).
- ▶ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. <sup>31</sup> "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. (Acts 8 - Ethiopian Eunuch)
  1. Open to explanation.
  2. Makes time available
- ▶ The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, **what must I do to be saved?**" <sup>31</sup> They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." <sup>32</sup> Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. (Acts 16:29-32 Philipian jailer)
  - ▶ Asking good questions
  - ▶ Willingness to be taught - even at inconvenient times.
- ▶ Examining the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. (Acts 17:11 - Bereans)

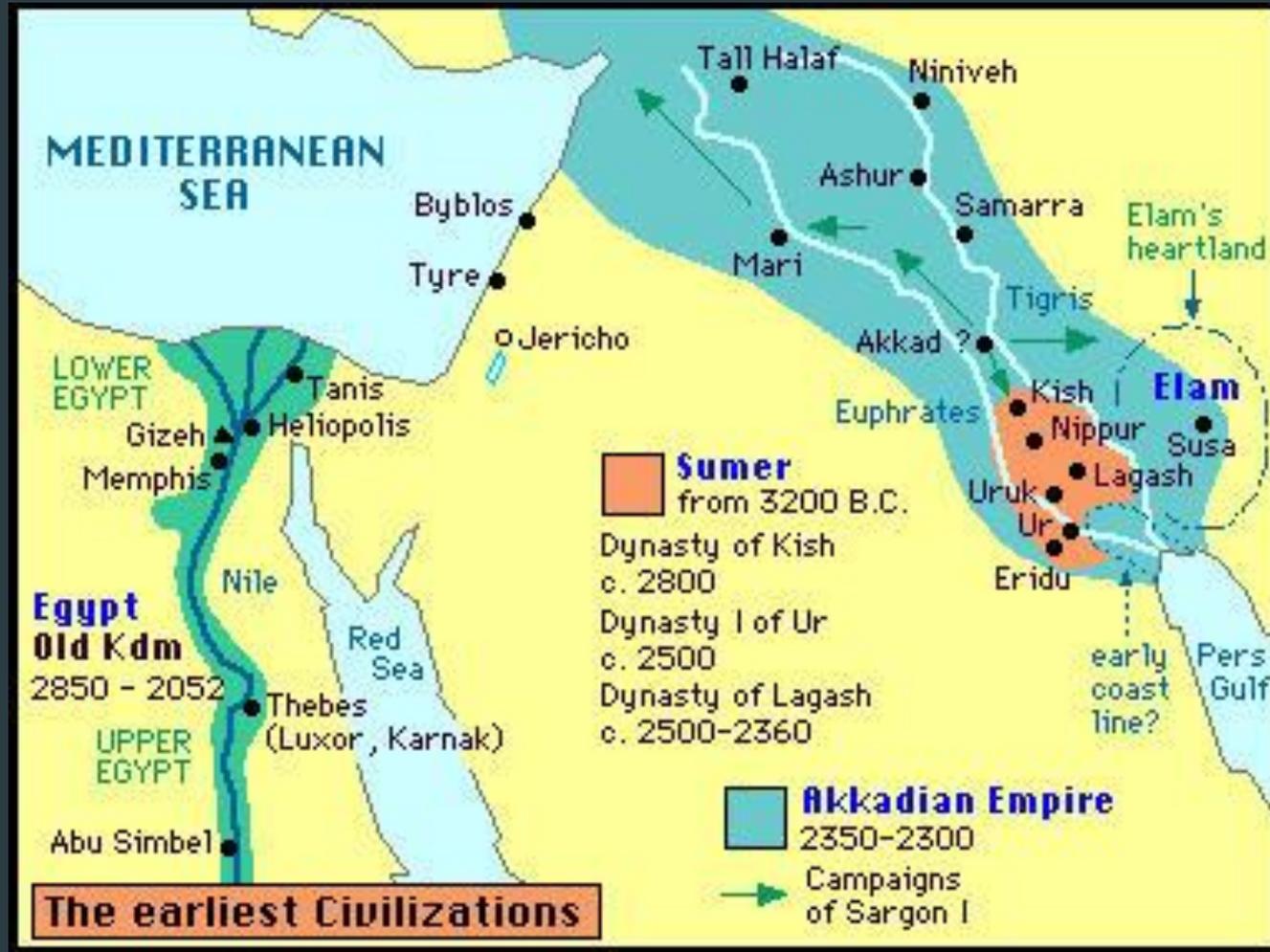
# Genesis 1-11

# Genesis 1-11 Recap

Chapters	Content
1-2	Creation
3	Fall
4	Cain and Abel
5	Genealogy : Adam to Noah
6-9	Noah and the Flood
10	Table of Nations
11	Tower of Babel

- Gen 1-11 - Pre-history
- Gen 12-50 ~ 2000BC -1250 BC
- Original Audience : Hebrews in the time of Moses. Clean and unclean animals - Gen 7.

# Genesis 1-11 Setting



- Ancient Near East - Mesopotamia

# Reading Genesis 1-11 - Two keys

## ▶ Understand the GENRE

- ▶ Important for any text, but especially with the Bible
- ▶ What is the literary genre of Gen 1-11 then?
- ▶ Not Literal History, Scientific text, proverbs, prophecy or poetry.
- ▶ Allow for literary devices and arrangements e.g. Sets of Generations - Gen: Adam to Noah 1- generations, Mt 1:17 - three sets of 14 generations.
- ▶ Are we comfortable with the idea of use of metaphor and imagery in Scripture?  
“*It’s raining cats and dogs.*” Isa 55:12 trees clapping, Ps 50:10 cattle on a thousand hills, Ps 91:4 God has feathers. “seed”, “armour” etc. Almost 30% of the Bible is poetic.
- ▶ Anthropomorphisms - God walking in the garden (Gen 3:8), going down to scatter (Gen 11)
- ▶ Jesus’ Parables? > show powerful truths but are not at all historical.

# Reading Genesis 1-11 - Two keys

## ▶ Remember the GOSPEL

- ▶ Consequences of sin - Shame, death, separation.
- ▶ God's plan Gen 3:15 fulfilled in Jesus.
- ▶ Walking faithfully with God - Enoch, Noah. Heb 11
- ▶ Flood and Ark - judgement and salvation from sin linked to the resurrection 1 Pet 3:18-21
- ▶ Seek God and his city with foundations (Heb 11) rather than making a name for yourself (Gen 11)
- ▶ Jesus was there at day one! Jn 1:1-18, Col 1:15-18. See also Prov 8:22-31

# Purpose of Gen 1-11

- ▶ Introduction to God, his nature, his power, his grace, his eternal existence, his ordering of things.
- ▶ Provides us with an understanding of **our** origins.
- ▶ Critique on poly-theism.
- ▶ Imagine these chapters were not in the Bible.
- ▶ Explanation of our fallen world and the effects of sin.
- ▶ Back story of Israel's enemies : Canaan, Amorites, Sidon, Amelikites
- ▶ Marriage lessons Gen 2:24.
- ▶ Dignity of man - created in God's image.

# Twelve Themes

1. God
2. Worship
3. Order
4. Sin and Guilt
5. Sacrifice
6. Grace
7. Provision
8. Marriage and Family
9. Work
10. Justice
11. Seed
12. Covenant

# Bible and Science

- ▶ The Bible and Science are friends, not enemies.
- ▶ *The Holy Spirit intended to teach us in the Bible how to go to heaven, not how the heavens go* - Galileo.
- ▶ The order in the created universe underpinned the birth of scientific research and discovery. Early (16<sup>th</sup> C) Scientists were believers in God.
- ▶ Today, there are loud atheistic voices from the Scientific community (eg. Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens).
- ▶ Where the Bible touches on Science, it checks out well:
  - ▶ Dimensions of the ark 30x5x3 v contemporary pagan story of 30x30x30
  - ▶ Water cycle



# Bible and Science

- ▶ Not reasonable to expect scientific explanations of how the universe and life came into being and developed.
  - ▶ Original audience would have had no idea.
  - ▶ Most of us wouldn't either!
  - ▶ Scientific thought changes through time. When would it be in agreement? (e.g. Steady-state theory
    - ▶ **The Big Bang] is an irrational process that cannot be described in scientific terms ... [nor] challenged by an appeal to observation.**  
–*Hoyle (1950)*
    - ▶ Penzias and Wilson Background radiation discovery killed the steady state theory In mid 1960s and the Big Bang became the prevailing theory.
- ▶ Not all areas of truth are in the scientific realm anyway. Eg. Love, Justice, History.

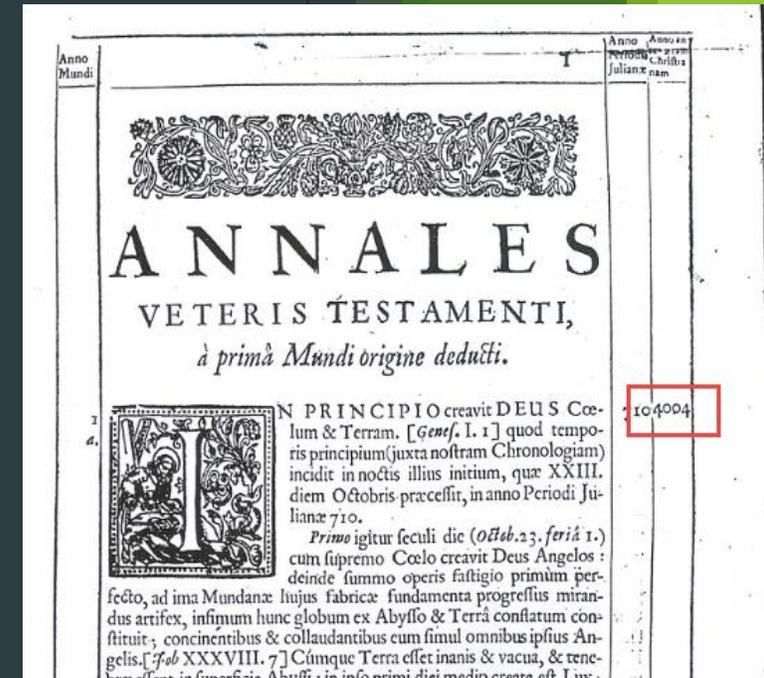
# Bible and Science

- ▶ Distinction between the *how* and the *why*.
- ▶ Scripture typically speaks of **ultimate reasons** — the *why*.
- ▶ Science specializes in **proximate reasons** — the *how*.
- ▶ Physicist John Polkinghorne:
  - ▶ A kettle is boiling because burning gas raises the water temperature (how) -- but also because someone wants a cup of tea (why). The "scientific" explanation isn't at odds with the personal one. In fact, together they provide a more comprehensive understanding of what is going on.



# Beware of straw man arguments

- ▶ Straw man argument - intentionally misrepresents a proposition set up because it is easier to defeat than an opponents real argument.
- ▶ E.g. The Bible cannot be trusted because it says the earth was created in 4004 BC. (Oct 23) and we know from science the earth is much older (4.5 billion years).
- ▶ Archbishop Ussher's calculation from genealogies, published in 1650. Complete with marginal notes.
- ▶ Spot the flaw in the argument?



# Six days?

- ▶ **Multiple Theories:**
  - ▶ 6 literal 24-hours days. (Typically young-earth creationist view)
  - ▶ Day-age theory.
  - ▶ Gap theory - recreation between Gen 1:1 and 1:2
  - ▶ Revelatory days theory.
  - ▶ Functional creation (John Walton). Pre-existing creation made functional.
  - ▶ Literary framework theory. Highly structured text.
  
- ▶ **Do your research and weigh them up!**

# The Long Ages

- ▶ Noah 950, Methuselah 969 etc.
- ▶ <https://www.douglasjacoby.com/wp-content/uploads/Numbers%20in%20Genesis.pdf>
- ▶ Two concepts worth considering:
  - ▶ Idealised/sacred ages having meaning.
  - ▶ Base 60 numbering system - used by ancient Mesopotamians
- ▶ *The sacred numbers used by the Mesopotamians gave a type of religious dignity or respect to important persons or to a literary text ... [and] fit into [their] world view of symmetry and harmony.*
- ▶ From Adam to Noah, all of the ages end in 0, 5, 7, 2 ( $5 + 7 = 12$ ), or 9 ( $5 + 7 + 7 = 19$ ) —a chance probability of one in a billion!
- ▶ Numbers often have meaning in the Bible : 1,2,3,4,7,10,12,666, 144000

Carol A. Hill

## Article

*Making Sense of the Numbers of Genesis*

1	21	32	57	74
14	36	44	63	81
3	29	47	60	90

## Making Sense of the Numbers of Genesis

Carol A. Hill

*Among the greatest stumbling blocks to faith in the Bible are the incredibly long ages of the patriarchs and the chronologies of Genesis 5 and 11 that seem to place the age of the Earth at about 6,000 years ago. The key to understanding the numbers in Genesis is that, in the Mesopotamian world view, numbers could have both real (numerical) and sacred (numerological or symbolic) meaning. The Mesopotamians used a sexagesimal (base 60) system of numbers, and the patriarchal ages in Genesis revolve around the sacred numbers 60 and 7. In addition to Mesopotamian sacred numbers, the preferred numbers 3, 7, 12, and 40 are used in both the Old and New Testaments. To take numbers figuratively does not mean that the Bible is not to be taken literally. It just means that the biblical writer was trying to impart a spiritual or historical truth to the text — one that surpassed the meaning of purely rational numbers.*



Carol A. Hill

**O**ne of the greatest stumbling blocks to faith in the Bible has been, and is, the numbers found in Genesis—both the incredibly long ages of the patriarchs and the chronologies of Genesis 5 and 11 that seem to place the age of the Earth at about 6,000 years before present. As stated by Hugh Ross in the *Genesis Question*: “When readers encounter the long life spans in Genesis, they become convinced that the book is fictional, or legendary at best, whether in part or in whole.”<sup>1</sup>

divided by twelve (1 year = 1 month), then Adam would have fathered Seth at age eleven and Enoch would have been only five when he fathered Methuselah.<sup>3</sup> Enoch’s age (65; Gen. 5:21) divided by four (1 year = 1 season) would result in an age of sixteen, which is biologically possible. But if the same number four is divided into 500—Noah’s age when his first son(s) were born (Gen. 5:32)—then the age of “begetting” would have been 125 years old, another unlikely possibility.

*Numbers [in Genesis] could have both real (numerical) and sacred*

# The Long Ages

**TABLE 2. Ages of Patriarchs and Corresponding Sexagesimal and Preferred Numbers**

Patriarch	Age (yrs) when first son born	Sexagesimal and Preferred Numbers	Re- main- ing years of life	Sexagesimal and Preferred Numbers	Total years	Sexagesimal and Preferred Numbers
Adam	130	60x2yrs + 60x2mos	800	60x10x10mos + 60x60mos	930	60x3x5yrs(60mos) + 6x5yrs(60mos)
Seth	105	60x10x2mos + 60mos	807	60x10x10mos + 60x60mos + 7yrs	912	60x3x5yrs(60mos) + 5yrs(60mos) + 7yrs
Enosh	90	(6+6+6) x 60mos	815	60x10x10mos + 60x60mos + 60x3mos	905	60x3x5yrs(60mos) + 5yrs(60mos)
Kenan	70	7x2x5yrs(60mos)	840	60x10x10mos + 60x60mos + 60x8mos	910	60x3x5yrs(60mos) + 2x5yrs(60mos)
Mahalalel	65	60yrs + 5yrs(60mos)	830	60x10x10mos + 60x60mos + 60x6mos	895	60x3x5yrs(60mos) – 5yrs(60mos)
Jared	162	60x6x5mos + 5yrs(60mos) + 7yrs	800	60x10x10mos + 60x60mos	962	(60+60+60+6+6)x60mos – 5yrs(60mos) + 7yrs
Enoch	65	60yrs + 5yrs(60mos)	300	60x5yrs(60mos)	365	60x6yrs + 5yrs(60mos) = 1 solar year
Methuselah	187	60x3yrs + 7yrs	782	60x10x10mos + 60x60mos – 6x3yrs	969	(60+60+60+6+6)x60mos – 5yrs(60mos) + 7yrs + 7yrs
Lamech	182	60x7x5mos + 7yrs	595	60x10yrs – 5yrs(60mos)	777	7x10x10 + 7x10 +7yrs
Noah	500	60x10x10mos	450	40x2x5yrs(60mos) + 10x5yrs(60mos)	950	60x3x5yrs(60mos) + 10x5yrs(60mos)

Flood

# Violence in the Bible

# Examples

- ▶ Murder
- ▶ Rape
- ▶ Lots of war
- ▶ Eye for an eye
- ▶ Flogging
- ▶ Crucifixion
- ▶ Slavery
  
- ▶ Question: Why is there so much violence in the Bible?

# Joshua's Conquest

- ▶ However, in the cities of the nations the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, **do not leave alive anything that breathes.**<sup>17</sup> **Completely destroy<sup>[a]</sup> them**—the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—as the LORD your God has commanded you.
- ▶ <sup>18</sup> Otherwise, they will teach you to follow all the detestable things they do in worshiping their gods, and you will sin against the LORD your God. (Deut 20:16-18)
- ▶ Canaanite culture was so thoroughly corrupt that it needed to be totally eradicated.
- ▶ Canaan was the father of Sidon his firstborn,<sup>[g]</sup> and of the **Hittites**, <sup>16</sup> **Jebusites**, **Amorites**, Gergashites, <sup>17</sup> **Hivites**, Arkites, Sinites, <sup>18</sup> Arvadites, Zemarites and Hamathites. Later the Canaanite clans scattered <sup>19</sup> and the borders of Canaan reached from Sidon toward Gerar as far as Gaza, and then toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboyim, as far as Lasha. (Gen 10:15-17)

# Joshua's Conquest

- ▶ 3 cities destroyed: Jericho (Joshua 6:24), Ai (8:19, 28), and Hazor (11:11).
- ▶ ... The city and everyone in it he put to the sword (Josh 10:28, 10:30, 10:32, 8:24)
- ▶ Redemptive History involved Israel inhabiting a physical land as a nation - the promised land. Before that - Abraham a wanderer. After that we too are aliens and exiles. (1 Pet 2:11)
- ▶ In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure." (Gen 15:16) = lots of time to repent.
- ▶ Do not say in your heart after the Lord your God has thrust them out before you, "It is because of my righteousness that the Lord has brought me in to possess this land," whereas it is because of the wickedness of these nations the Lord your God is driving them out from before you, and that he may confirm the word which he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob (Deut 9:4-5)

# Church History

- ▶ Early Medieval Christendom:
  - ▶ Legislating morality
  - ▶ Persecuted becomes persecutor. “No wild beasts are such enemies to mankind as are the majority of Christians in their deadly hatred of one another.”- Ammianus (4<sup>th</sup> C.)
  - ▶ State church: mandatory christening; clergy employed by government; churches exempt from taxes;
  - ▶ Magistrates enforce church decrees & doctrine;
  - ▶ Non-conformity (heresy) = sedition (political); militarism;
  - ▶ Civic duty and Christian duty coalesce.

# Church History

- ▶ Later Christendom:
  - ▶ Forced baptism
  - ▶ Crusades
  - ▶ Inquisition
  - ▶ Armed bishops (personal armies)
- ▶ Reformation & dissent:
  - ▶ Mainstream Reformation vs. the Radical Reformation (Anabaptists)
- ▶ Pacifist reaction:
  - ▶ Quakers, Amish, Mennonites, Brethren, Churches of Christ (until 1917/1918)

# Imprecatory Psalms - understand the vantage point

- ▶ Happy is the one who seizes your infants and dashes them against the rocks. (Ps 137:9)
- ▶ How to process this?
- ▶ Startling at first.. Is this really how God feels about such a thing?
- ▶ Answer: No.
- ▶ Read the whole Psalm: The Psalmist is pouring out grief and despair after the traumatic events of the destruction of Jerusalem and exile in Babylon.
- ▶ This particular activity is what ancient armies did do when over-running a city.

# 8 Possible Responses

# #1. Recording violence and advocating violence are two different things.

- ▶ Many acts of violence in the Bible are Historical events.
- ▶ Often there is explicit commentary or implicit lessons to be drawn from the text.
- ▶ *But this word of the LORD came to me: ‘You have shed much blood and have fought many wars. You are not to build a house for my Name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in my sight. (1 Chron 22:8 about King David)*

## #2. The Bible is not a G-rated movie

- ▶ While the Bible is a source of inspiration and comfort, it is NOT simply a collection of nice sayings and inspirational stories.
- ▶ We live in a sinful, fallen world and the Bible engages squarely with the effects of this. The world is not G-rated, the Bible isn't either.

# #3. The Bible covers a span of thousands of years - a lot can happen

- Abraham ~2000 BC to Jesus and early church ~100 AD.
- Compare wars for the last 100 years alone.

## The Major Wars and Conflicts of the 20th Century

- 1918–1921 [Russian Civil War](#)
- 1919–1921 Irish War of Independence
- 1927–1937 Chinese Civil War
- 1933–1945 [Holocaust](#)
- 1935–1936 Second Italo-Abyssinian War (also known as the Second Italo-Ethiopian War or the Abyssinian War)
- 1936–1939 Spanish Civil War
- 1939–1945 [World War II](#)
- 1945–1990 Cold War
- 1946–1949 Chinese Civil War resumes
- 1946–1954 First Indochina War (also known as the French Indochina War)
- 1948 Israel War of Independence (also known as the Arab-Israeli War)
- 1950–1953 Korean War
- 1954–1962 French-Algerian War
- 1955–1972 First Sudanese Civil War
- 1956 Suez Crisis
- 1959 [Cuban Revolution](#)
- 1959–1975 [Vietnam War](#)
- 1967 Six-Day War
- 1979–1989 Soviet-Afghan War
- 1980–1988 Iran-Iraq War
- 1990–1991 Persian Gulf War
- 1991–1995 Third Balkan War
- 1994 [Rwandan Genocide](#)



## #4. Much of the OT covers Israel as a Nation

- ▶ The sphere of operation of a **State** is very different to the sphere of **personal life**.
- ▶ States have laws and a justice system and can mete out punishment in a way that individuals should not.
- ▶ States have relationships - friendly and unfriendly with other states. They will have armies and fight battles. Particularly true in ancient times and still not unusual today.
- ▶ The Old Testament shows God working and revealing himself through the history of his people - the Hebrews, which became the nation of Israel (and Judah). They had a legal system with penalties and they had enemies and fought wars.
- ▶ How would you feel if your country had no military or police force?

## #5. Violence is the result of sin. Recoil at both.

- ▶ If you are horrified at the violent outcomes caused by sin, are you equally horrified by sin in your life?
- ▶ The record of violence should be teaching us just how dreadful sin is.

## #6. Jesus also suffered violently at the hands of men

- ▶ Jesus - flogged, pierced, beaten, crucified at the hands of men.
- ▶ He bore it so that our sins could be forgiven - Gospel message and the cross.
- ▶ Jesus set the example for disciples in how to bear persecution and violence.

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup> “He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”<sup>[e]</sup>

<sup>23</sup> When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” (1 Pet 2:21-25)

# God's people suffer a lot in the Bible

- ▶ Prophets routinely persecuted - Elijah, Jeremiah, Daniel. *Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.* (Mt 5:12)
- ▶ Jesus - flogged and crucified.
- ▶ John the Baptist beheaded.
- ▶ Stephen stoned.
- ▶ Peter, John, Paul flogged, imprisoned, beaten
- ▶ Church persecuted by Saul Acts 8:1, 1 Cor 15:9, Gal 1:13
- ▶ They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, **persecuted** and mistreated— Heb 11:37
- ▶ In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be **persecuted**, (1 Tim 3:12)

# #7. NT teaches radical love of enemies

- ▶ *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you (Mt 5:10-11)*
- ▶ Persecution has not gone away, but our **response** is clear.
- ▶ <sup>38</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ <sup>[h]</sup><sup>39</sup> But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. <sup>40</sup> And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. <sup>41</sup> If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. <sup>42</sup> Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. (Mt 5:38-42)

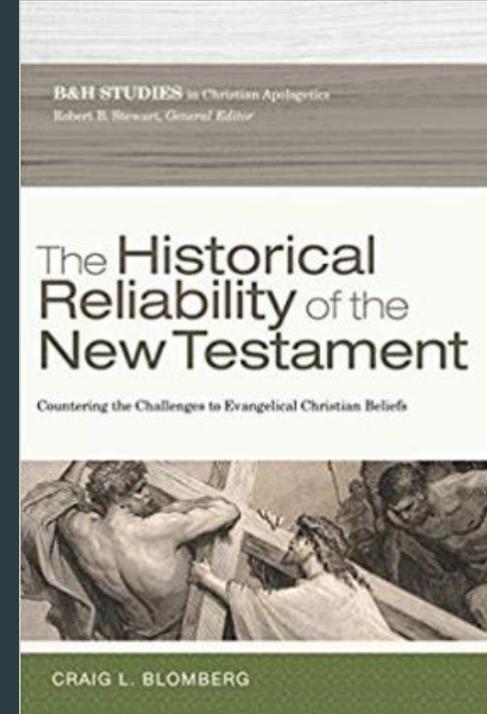
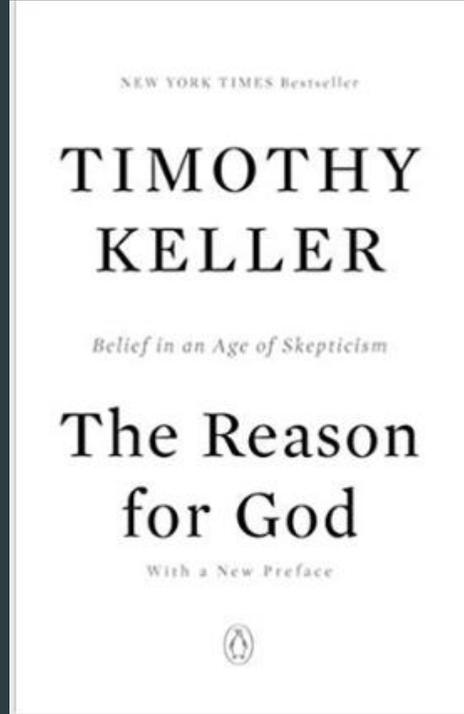
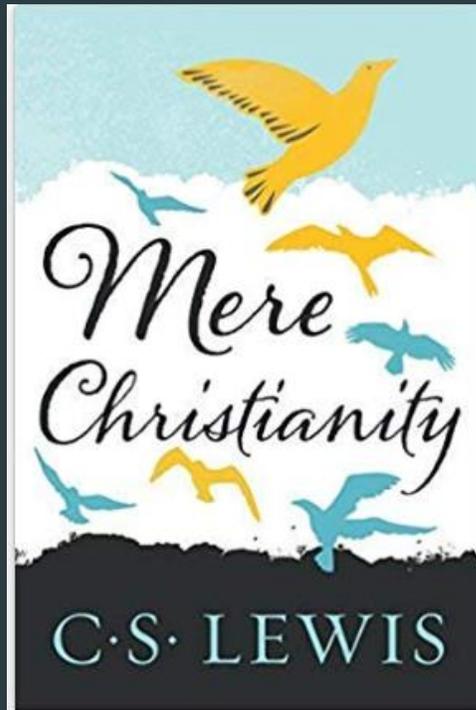
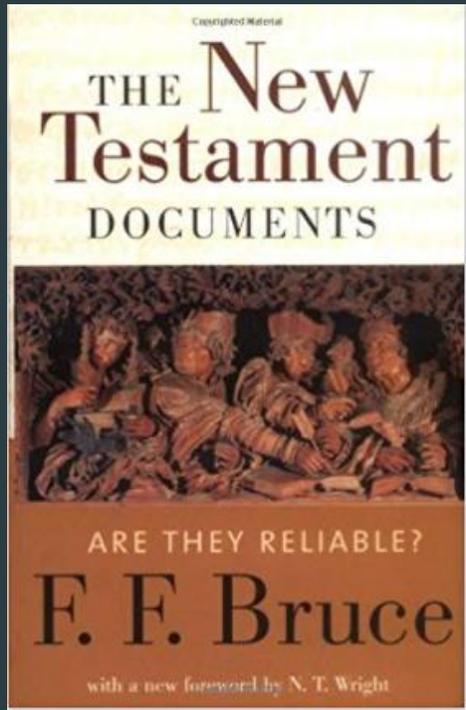
# #7. NT teaches radical love of enemies

- ▶ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.<sup>[c]</sup> Do not be conceited.
- ▶ <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay,"<sup>[d]</sup> says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> On the contrary:
- ▶ "If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.  
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."<sup>[e]</sup>
- ▶ <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
- ▶ Rom 12:14-21

# Resources

- ▶ <http://vimeo.com/81639585>
- ▶ **Jesus Christ: Prince of Peace or God of War? - Douglas Jacoby**
- ▶ **The Oxford Handbook of Religion and Violence (2013)**

# Resources



# Resources

