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# Discovery

*Scripture & Science for Kids*



# SCIENCE and the INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

ERIC LYONS

**THE BIBLE IS NOT A SCIENCE TEXTBOOK. IT IS NOT A BOOK OF BIOLOGY, GEOLOGY, OR ASTRONOMY.** (The Bible is about God and salvation through Jesus Christ.) That said, wherever God's Word talks about scientific matters, what it says must be true and reliable. If the Bible was really given "by inspiration of God" (2 Timothy 3:16-17), everything that God had His inspired penmen write down must be accurate, including all statements about scientific matters. Such is exactly what we find when we open God's Word.

## BIOGENESIS IN GENESIS

Everyone who has observed God's living creation (including vegetation, animals, and human beings) knows that all living things reproduce after their own kind. Apple trees do not produce oranges with sunflower seeds inside of them. **Apple** trees produce **apples** in which **apple seeds** can be found. This truth is a recognized law of science called the Law of Biogenesis. Dogs have puppies and cats have kittens—but dogs never have kittens and cats never have puppies. This scientific truth directly **contradicts** the General Theory of Evolution, which says that worms evolved into fish, which evolved into amphibians, which evolved into reptiles, which evolved into mammals, which evolved into humans. The Law of Biogenesis, however, **is in perfect harmony** with what Moses wrote 3,500 years ago in Genesis 1: "The earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed **according to its kind**, and the tree that yields fruit, **whose seed is in itself according to its kind**" (vs. 12). Indeed, what we read, even in the first chapter of the Bible, is in complete agreement with true science—which is exactly what one would expect if the Bible is inspired.



## SICKNESS, SCRIPTURE, AND SCIENTIFIC FOREKNOWLEDGE

Thousands of years ago, people did not know what caused diseases. Some thought that "disease demons" caused severe sickness. Others thought that their gods were punishing them for some unknown reason. It was not until about 165 years ago that people began to learn that such things as viruses, bacteria, and parasites cause diseases.

God has always known the causes and remedies of diseases. In the Old Testament, we can read that God gave the Israelites many laws that they were expected to obey. Some of these laws helped prevent people from getting sick and dying prematurely. Yet, **mankind in general did not understand how scientifically beneficial (and advanced!) these laws were until thousands of years later.** For

example, some of the laws dealt with sanitation (like the burial of human waste). Humanity did not appreciate the medical value of such laws until it was discovered in the middle 1800s that human waste can carry disease. God, however, foreknew all of these causes of diseases, which no doubt is why He gave the Israelites advanced laws regarding the disposal of human waste. (Read Deuteronomy 23:12-13 and Exodus 15:26.)

Similarly, until about 150 years ago, mankind did not understand that killer germs and deadly bacteria can be spread by the handling of dead bodies and the lack of personal hygiene (such as the washing of hands and clothes). Yet, about 3,500 years ago, Moses wrote in detail about these matters in Numbers 19. If the people in the past had used the kind of cleansing regulations that Moses required in their day-to-day activities, millions of lives around the world would have been saved.

But just how is it that Moses had such advanced medical knowledge? Did he learn it during his 40 years in Egypt, where they taught such disgusting things as, "You should put donkey dung and worm blood on a sore where there is a splinter"? Impossible! Then where did Moses get such advanced scientific knowledge? From God, of course. Like the other prophets of both the Old and New Testaments, Moses was not the originator of such information, "for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21).





## HUMANS HAVE BEEN WRITING BOOKS FOR A LONG TIME. IN FACT, BILLIONS OF BOOKS HAVE BEEN WRITTEN, PRINTED, AND PUBLISHED. BUT THERE IS ONE BOOK THAT IS THE MOST FAMOUS AND IMPORTANT BOOK

of all time—the Bible. The Bible is such a wonderful book because it is inspired by God. Holy men of God wrote down exactly what He wanted them to say (2 Peter 1:20-21). One way we can know that God inspired the Bible is that the Bible is always right when it talks about the past or the future. Not one factual mistake has ever been found in the Bible. That makes the Bible very different from books written by humans. In 2003, a man by the name of Dan Brown wrote a book titled *The Da Vinci Code*. He claimed that the book was filled with true, factual ideas. But when his book was compared to history and the facts, it turned out that much of his material was wrong. His book was filled with errors. That is what we would expect from books written by humans, since humans do not know everything and they make mistakes. But God knows everything and He does not make mistakes. Since the Bible does not contain factual errors, and has several other amazing qualities, we know that it must have come from God.

One branch of study that helps us learn about the factual accuracy of the Bible is archaeology. The term “archaeology” [ar-key-AWL-uh-jee] means the study of physical artifacts from the lives of people in the past. Archaeologists are scientists who study archaeology. They study things such as stone tablets, ancient houses, and historic cities that have been buried for many years. When we look at discoveries from the field of archaeology, we see ancient artifacts that prove that the Bible is right.

## THE CYRUS CYLINDER

Cyrus, king of the Medo-Persian Empire, was among the most important foreign rulers of the Israelite nation. In fact, many Old Testament prophecies talk about him. The prophet Isaiah said that the Babylonian Empire would fall to the Medes and the Persians who were led by Cyrus. Isaiah also predicted that Cyrus would act as the Lord’s “shepherd.” In fact, Isaiah recorded these words of the Lord concerning Cyrus: “And he shall perform all My pleasure, even saying to Jerusalem, ‘You shall be built,’ and to the temple, ‘Your foundation shall be laid’” (Isaiah 44:28).

In 1879, Hormoz Rasam found a small clay cylinder (about nine inches long) in the ancient city of Babylon. The cylinder had been produced by King Cyrus. He wrote about his victory over the city of Babylon. He also wrote about his policy toward the nations he had captured, as well as his policy toward their various gods and religions. Cyrus explained that



HORMOZ RASAM

he rebuilt the temples of the gods that the Babylonians had destroyed. He also said that he allowed the people that had been captured and taken to Babylon to return to their own cities.

Cyrus’ policy written on the clay cylinder fits perfectly with the biblical account of the ruler’s actions, in which Cyrus said that the temple in Jerusalem would be rebuilt, and that all the exiled Israelites who wished to return home had his permission and blessing to do so (Ezra 1:1-11). The little nine-inch-long clay cylinder stands as impressive testimony to the historical accuracy of the Bible.



CYRUS CYLINDER

Top: Front of cylinder  
Left: Close-up of cylinder  
Bottom: Back of cylinder



## THE GALLIO INSCRIPTION

In Acts chapter 18 we read about a man named Gallio who was the proconsul of Achaia. Is that true? Was there really ever a man named Gallio who was the proconsul of Achaia? Around the year 1900, several fragments of a letter were discovered in the Greek city of Delphi. These were put together and found to be a letter from the Roman Emperor Claudius who lived in the first century A.D. when the book of Acts was written. Guess who the letter was written to? It was written to Gallio, the proconsul of Achaia. The Bible had been right all along.

Only a book divinely inspired by God could write about thousands of people, places, and events and be correct all the time. Truly, “all Scripture is given by the inspiration of God.”



Above: A fragment similar to the Gallio Inscription found in the City of Delphi

Top Right: Ruins of the Delphi Amphitheater

Right: Ruins of the Apollo Temple in Delphi, Greece



# ACTIVITY PAGES



## ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER

1. In one sentence, write down what you believe to be the main theme of the Bible.
2. Write one paragraph about why you believe the Bible is God's Word.

## MATCHING

1. \_\_\_ Discusses cleansing regulations for the Israelites who had touched the dead
2. \_\_\_ The proconsul of Achaia
3. \_\_\_ Where the phrase "all Scripture is given by the inspiration of God" is found
4. \_\_\_ King of the Medo-Persian Empire
5. \_\_\_ Says that over many millions of years of time some worms eventually changed into humans
6. \_\_\_ The study of physical artifacts from the lives of people in the past
7. \_\_\_ Roman Emperor
8. \_\_\_ All living things reproduce after their own kind

- A. The General Theory of Evolution
- B. Law of Biogenesis
- C. 2 Timothy 3:16
- D. Cyrus
- E. Claudius
- F. Numbers 19
- G. Archaeology
- H. Gallio



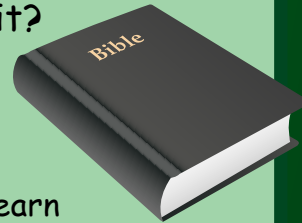
## TRUE OR FALSE

1. \_\_\_ The Bible is mainly about math and science.
2. \_\_\_ Wherever God's Word talks about scientific matters, what it says must be reliable (if it really is given "by inspiration of God").
3. \_\_\_ The Cyrus clay cylinder testifies to the accuracy of the Bible.
4. \_\_\_ A Bible writer invented the person of Gallio of Achaia 2,000 years ago.
5. \_\_\_ Archaeologists are scientists who study the weather.
6. \_\_\_ The Bible writers showed knowledge of the past, present, and future.
7. \_\_\_ You would never expect a book that truly is from God to claim that it is from God.
8. \_\_\_ God's Word reveals to us "all things that pertain to life and godliness."
9. \_\_\_ People have always known about germs and viruses.
10. \_\_\_ The scientific Law of Biogenesis and the Bible contradict each other.

## COMPLETE THE BIBLE VERSES (NKJV)

1. [M]y heart stands in \_\_\_\_\_ of Your \_\_\_\_\_. I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure" (Psalm 119:161b-162).
2. "For prophecy never came by the will of \_\_\_\_\_, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the \_\_\_\_\_" (2 Peter 1:21).
3. "The earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its \_\_\_\_\_, and the tree that yields fruit, whose \_\_\_\_\_ is in itself according to its kind" (Genesis 1:12).

Dear Digger Doug,  
I was reading an issue of *Discovery* when I saw "Complete the Bible Verses." When I looked up the first verse, it wasn't quite the same verse. Should I get a different Bible or ask for some help wording it?  
—Faith, Griswold, IA



Dear Faith,  
Your question can help us learn a lot about the Bible. As you may know, the Bible was not originally written in English. It was written in two primary languages: Hebrew for the Old Testament and Greek for the New Testament. Since the available manuscripts of the New Testament are in Greek, the message of the Bible must be translated from Greek to English in order for those of us who speak English to understand it. A "version" is a translation of the Bible from the original language. There are lots of different versions (some are much better than others): the King James Version, the New King James Version, the American Standard Version, the English Standard Version, and many more. Each one is worded a little differently, because there is more than one word that matches the word to be translated. For instance, one person might say, "he tossed a ball," another might say, "he threw a ball," and another might say, "he passed a ball." All three words, "tossed", "threw", and "passed" might be translating the same Greek word *ballo*. In *Discovery*, we use the New King James Version. There are other good versions available, but we have chosen the NKJV. Therefore, if you want to get the verses just like the ones we put on the activities page, you will need to use the New King James Version.  
Thanks, Faith, for the great question.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# IF the **BIBLE** IS **INSPIRED...**

DAVE MILLER

**HAVE YOU EVER ASKED YOURSELF THIS QUESTION: IF GOD EXISTS AND HE WANTED TO SPEAK TO US IN WRITING,** what would that writing be like? You would expect that you could tell God's writing apart from man's writings. Even if God used men to write His Word to us, those men would be guided and protected from making mistakes. And you would expect their writings to stand out from writings that are not from God. You would expect that God's Book would have traits that prove it to be divine—from Him.

What characteristics do you suppose a book from God would possess? First, you would expect it to **claim** to be God's Word. The Bible makes that claim. You would expect it to contain a **high purpose**. The Bible

presents the highest purpose humans could have: eternal salvation.

You would expect a divine book to be **all-sufficient**, meeting all human needs. The Bible does that, since it provides "all things that pertain to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3).

You would expect a book from God to be **absolutely accurate**, with no errors or contradictions. And so the Bible is—without error in its statements about history, geography, science (like medicine and astronomy), and all other areas.

You would expect such a book to show **unity** in theme, structure, purpose, and doctrine. The Bible does just that.

You would expect a book from God to discuss the **deepest subjects** humans can imagine. The Bible tells us about the one true God, how and why He created us, the spiritual realm, and what happens when we die.

You would expect a divine book to show knowledge of the **past, present, and future**. The Bible does.

You would expect a book from God to offer a standard of ethics and morals that surpass human ideas. Again, the Bible is unsurpassed in this standard.

The Bible possesses the precise properties you would expect a book from God to possess. Indeed, the Bible is the Word of God! "[M]y heart stands in awe of Your word. I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure" (Psalm 119:161-162).



## ANSWERS

**COMPLETE THE BIBLE VERSES:** 1. awe, word; 2. man, Holy Spirit; 3. kind, seed.  
 7. E (Claudius); 8. B (Law of Biogenesis); 9. C (2 Timothy 3:16); 4. D (Cyrus); 5. A (The General Theory of Evolution); 6. G (Archaeology);  
**MATCHING:** 1. F (Numbers 19); 2. H (Galileo); 3. C (2 Timothy 3:16); 4. D (Cyrus); 5. A (The General Theory of Evolution); 6. G (Archaeology);  
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