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#### Title

The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict

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#### **Affiliation**

None specified

# **Keywords**

Bible, Evidences, Authority, Apologetics, Christianity, Historical Reliability, Jesus Christ, Resurrection, Archaeology

#### Urls

Github: None

# Summary

- The research background of this article is the challenge faced by Christians in defending their faith in the 21st century. It aims to provide evidence supporting the historical reliability and divine inspiration of the Bible.
- Past methods included traditional apologetic arguments and historical analysis. Problems with these methods were often related to subjective interpretations and lack of comprehensive evidence. The approach is well motivated as it seeks to address misconceptions about Christianity and provide a factual basis for faith.
- The research methodology proposed in this paper includes a detailed examination of the historical reliability of both the Old and New Testaments, archaeological evidence, and the fulfillment of prophecies by Jesus Christ.
- The tasks include validating the historical accuracy of biblical texts and demonstrating the deity of Jesus Christ through fulfilled prophecies and resurrection evidence. The performance achieved supports their goals by providing substantial documentation and logical arguments.

## Methods

- Examination of the uniqueness and historical qualifications of the Bible;
- Analysis of how the Bible was compiled, including discussions on the Apocrypha and other books;
- Application of bibliographical, internal evidence, and archaeological tests to determine the reliability of the Old and New Testaments;
- Documentation of extrabiblical historical references to Jesus of Nazareth;

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- Evaluation of Jesus' claims to deity and the logical implications if those claims are true;
- Statistical analysis of the probabilities of Old Testament prophecies being fulfilled in one person;
- Detailed refutation of theories against the resurrection of Jesus Christ;
- Presentation of the impact of Jesus Christ on history and culture over two thousand years.

#### **Conclusion:**

- The significance of this piece of work lies in its comprehensive defense of the Christian faith using historical and logical evidence.
- Innovation point: The integration of extensive historical documentation and logical argumentation to support Christian beliefs;
- Performance: The book provides a robust defense that addresses common criticisms and misconceptions about Christianity;
- Workload: The compilation and analysis of vast amounts of historical data and scholarly references.

# Questions you may be interested in:

- What are the unique qualifications of the Bible that set it apart from other historical texts?
- How does the New Testament compare to other ancient literature in terms of historical reliability?
- What evidence supports the claim that Jesus Christ fulfilled Old Testament prophecies?

## **Section 1: Introduction to the Documentary Hypothesis**

- Definition of the documentary hypothesis and JEDP documents.
- Explanation of biblical criticism and its different critical schools.

### **Section 2: Introduction to Biblical Criticism**

- Definition of biblical criticism and explanation of different critical schools.
- Importance and purpose of the first five biblical books (Pentateuch).

## **Section 3: Development of the Documentary Hypothesis**

• Description of various documentary theories and their modern revisions.

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# **Section 4: Ground Rules**

• Principles from the ancient oriental environment applied to the Old Testament.

# **Section 5: Documentary Presuppositions**

- Investigation of four basic documentary assumptions.
- Priority of source analysis over archaeology.
- Natural view of Israel's religion and history.
- Theory of no writing in Israel at Moses' time.
- Legendary view of patriarchal narratives.

# **Section 6: Consequences of Radical Higher Criticism**

Discussion on viewing Israel's history as unhistorical, fraudulent, and naturalistic.

# **Section 7: Evidence for Mosaic Authorship**

• Internal and external testimony supporting Moses' authorship of the Pentateuch.

## **Section 8: The Phenomenon of Divine Names**

• Various uses of divine names like Elohim, Yahweh, and others.

# **Section 9: The Repetition of Accounts and Alleged Contradictions**

Stories in the Pentateuch said to be repeated and alleged contradictory details.

# **Section 10: Incongruities**

• Factors like writing in the third person and record of Moses' death considered incongruous with Mosaic authorship.

# **Section 11: Internal Diversity**

• Discussion on assumed differences in subject matter, style, and diction.

Pages - 11 -- 20

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## **Section 1: General Format Explanation**

- Footnotes are formatted with the last name of the source author, first initials of the main words in the title, and page number(s).
- Bibliography at the end provides standard bibliographic information.
- Material not in quotes is from the work cited but not in the author's exact words.
- Outlining method used for easy reference in printed notes.
- Indexes provided for author and subject references.
- Biographical sketches of authors included at the back of the book.

# **Section 2: Acknowledgments**

- Robert Mounce emphasizes dedication and vision in scholarship.
- Acknowledges individuals involved in the research and revision of the book.
- Lists original research teams for Evidence I and II.
- Mentions contributors to the New Evidence revision.
- Appreciation for the team of over 50 dedicated individuals involved in the project.

# Section 3: Introduction - Josh McDowell's Quest for Meaning

- Quote from Thomas Aguinas on the thirst for happiness and meaning.
- McDowell's search for answers to life's fundamental questions.
- Initial exploration of religion and disappointment in church experience.
- Disillusionment with education as a source of truth and meaning.
- Pursuit of prestige and leadership roles in university settings.

# **Section 4: Encounter with Conviction and Love**

- McDowell's observation of a group displaying conviction and love.
- Desire to be around people with deep convictions.
- Intrigued by the group's dynamic and involvement in loving others.
- Decision to make friends with the group despite initial skepticism.
- Conversation about God leading to unexpected mention of Jesus Christ.

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## Section 5: Intellectual Challenge and Skepticism

- McDowell's initial skepticism towards Christianity.
- Reaction to the challenge to examine intellectually the claim that Jesus Christ is God's Son.
- Decision to write a book to disprove Christianity.
- Inner conflict and realization of accumulating evidence supporting Christ's claims.
- Personal struggle with intellectual honesty and conflicting will.

## Section 6: Transformation and Decision to Follow Christ

- McDowell's internal struggle and realization of Christ's truth.
- Revelation of Christ's personal challenge in Revelation 3:20.
- Resolution of inner conflict through a decision to follow Christ.
- Description of the moment McDowell became a Christian.
- Emphasis on the role of God's love and forgiveness in the transformation.

# **Section 7: Changes in Perspective and Behavior**

- Shift from self-centered to other-centered perspective.
- Transformation in handling anger and temper issues.
- Impact of newfound faith on relationships and interactions with others.
- Reflection on changes in goals and aspirations post-conversion.
- Notable change in attitude towards serving others instead of using them.

## **Section 8: Healing of Hatred and Bitterness**

- McDowell's upbringing filled with hatred, particularly towards his father.
- Childhood experiences of witnessing domestic violence and harboring intense hatred.
- Transformation of hatred into love through God's intervention.
- Emotional reconciliation with his father and expression of love.
- Father's own transformation and acceptance of Christ before passing away.

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## **Section 9: Testimony of Changed Lives**

- McDowell's personal transformation within six to eighteen months.
- Remarkable change observed in his father's life after accepting Christ.
- Impact on the community with over a hundred conversions due to his father's transformation.
- Assertion of Christianity's efficacy in changing lives.
- Encouragement for individual choice in accepting or rejecting Christ.

# **Section 10: Concluding Thoughts and Prayer**

- McDowell's reflection on the transformative power of Christ.
- Encouragement for personal reflection and decision-making regarding faith.
- Shared prayer for those considering a relationship with Christ.
- Acknowledgment of individual autonomy in spiritual beliefs.
- Invitation to consider the impact of accepting Christ on attitudes and actions.

Pages - 21 -- 30

# Title of section 1A: To Everyone a Reason

- Apologetics means giving a defense of one's beliefs, not apologizing.
- The word "defense" (apologia) indicates a verbal defense or speech in defense.
- Christianity is either everything for mankind or nothing, requiring an intelligent and stable faith.

# Title of section 2B: Christianity is a FACTual Faith

- Christianity appeals to historical facts accessible to everyone.
- Luke, the first-century Christian historian, provides orderly and accurate historical narratives.
- The objective of apologetics is to present logical evidence for the Christian gospel.

## Title of section 3B: The Best Defense Is a Good Offense

- The best defense of Christianity is a clear presentation of Christ's claims.
- God saves, but apologetics can help clear obstacles to faith.
- Faith is grounded in evidence and conviction.

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## Title of section 2A: Clearing the Fog

- Many approach Christianity with misconceptions that obscure their understanding.
- Misconception #1: Accusation of blind faith; Christianity requires intelligent faith.
- Investigating evidence led to a decision to follow Christ.

# Title of section 2B: Misconception #2: Just Be Sincere

- Saving faith in Christianity establishes a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- The value of Christian faith lies in the object of belief, not the believer's faith level.
- The Christian gospel centers on the person of Jesus Christ.

# Title of section 3B: Misconception #3: The Bible Is Full of Myths

- Critics claim biblical events are myths inserted to elevate Jesus to divine status.
- New Testament writers were eyewitnesses or recorded firsthand accounts of events.
- The New Testament writers knew the difference between myth and reality.

# Title of section 4B: Misconception #4: The Jesus of History Is Unknowable

- Historical skepticism often denies the possibility of miracles like the resurrection.
- Historical investigation should be based on empirical method, not rationalistic assumptions.
- The historic revelation of Jesus of Nazareth is crucial for genuine Christian faith.

## Title of section 1: Introduction to Different Views of God

- Some believe God is the Ultimate, while others reject the supernatural aspects.
- Different perspectives on the Bible as a personal self-revelation of God.
- Various reasons why people may reject the Bible as divine revelation.

## Title of section 2: Definition of History

- History defined as knowledge of the past based on testimony.
- Importance of determining the trustworthiness of witnesses.
- Misconceptions about history and testimonies.

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# Title of section 3: Misconception #5 - Tolerance of Religious Views

- Definition of tolerance and its evolving meaning.
- Criticisms of Christianity's exclusivity.
- The concept of truth being exclusive rather than inclusive.

# Title of section 4: Misconception #6 - Intellectual Problems

- Rejection of Christ often stems from the will rather than the mind.
- Examples of intellectual excuses versus intellectual problems.
- Motives behind disbelief in Christianity.

## Title of section 5: Postmodern Worldview

- Overview of postmodernism and its rejection of absolute truth.
- Challenges posed by postmodern thinking.
- Implications of relativism on truth and beliefs.

# Title of section 6: Eastern Mystical World

- Explanation of mysticism and direct knowledge of ultimate reality.
- Zen Buddhism's approach to attaining enlightenment.
- Logical challenges with Eastern mystical beliefs.

# Title of section 7: Logical Problems with Mysticism

- Examination of logical inconsistencies in mysticism.
- The importance of the law of non-contradiction.
- Testimonies illustrating the dilemmas of adopting Eastern mysticism.

# Title of section 8: Application of Logic in Daily Life

- The necessity of logic in practical situations.
- Illustrative stories highlighting the importance of logical reasoning.
- Consequences of denying logical dualism.

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## Title of section 9: Pantheistic Beliefs and Practicality

- Challenges of living out pantheistic beliefs consistently.
- Dilemmas faced by individuals adhering to pantheism.
- Questions raised about the viability of pantheistic views.

# Title of section 10: Denial of Logical Dualism

- Story illustrating the implications of denying logical dualism.
- The intrinsic difference between cruelty and non-cruelty.
- Practical examples showcasing the importance of logical reasoning.

#### Title of section 1: Introduction to Atheism

- Definition of atheism as the belief that there is no God.
- Difficulty in defending atheism due to the claim of omniscience required for accuracy.
- Importance of considering evidence for a new life based on Jesus' claims.

# Title of section 2: Dostoyevsky's Perspective on God

- Dostoyevsky's portrayal of culture without God in "The Brothers Karamazov."
- Concerns about morality and purpose without belief in God.
- Reflections on the idea of God and the impact on human behavior.

# Title of section 3: Agnosticism

- Definition of agnosticism as uncertainty about the existence of God.
- Different interpretations of agnosticism by philosophers and individuals.
- Critique of Kant's hard agnostic position and its self-defeating nature.

## Title of section 4: Science and Evidence for God

- Increasing evidence from the scientific world supporting the existence of God.
- Challenges to Darwinian evolution and discoveries in biochemistry.
- Concepts of intelligent design and the implications for biology.

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## Title of section 5: Fine-Tuning of the Universe

- Scientific evidence pointing towards a finely tuned universe supporting life.
- Anthropic Principle and the idea of the universe tailored for human existence.
- Astronomical observations indicating design and purpose in the cosmos.

Pages - 51 -- 60

# Title of section 1: The Uniqueness of Hebrew Language

- Hebrew language described as pictorial, painting past events verbally.
- Common Hebraic expressions illustrate the pictorial strength of the language.
- Aramaic, a common language in the Near East until Alexander the Great's time, closely related to Hebrew.

## Title of section 2: Aramaic Language and its Characteristics

- Aramaic is linguistically close to Hebrew with a larger vocabulary and variety of connectives.
- Aramaic texts in the Bible written in the same script as Hebrew.
- Aramaic considered less euphonious but superior for exact expression.

# Title of section 3: Influence of Greek Language in the New Testament

- Greek language comprises almost all of the New Testament.
- Greek language evolved from classic to koine, becoming more cosmopolitan.
- Apostle Paul wrote his letter to Christians in Rome in Greek rather than Latin.

# Title of section 4: Literary Styles and Subjects Addressed in the Bible

- Bible written in various literary styles including poetry, historical narrative, prophecy, etc.
- Addresses controversial subjects with harmony from Genesis to Revelation.
- Presents a single unfolding story of God's redemption of human beings.

# Title of section 5: Christocentric Nature of the Bible

- Leading character throughout the Bible is the one, true, living God revealed through Jesus Christ.
- Old Testament and New Testament focus on different aspects of Christ.
- Bible is Christocentric from cover to cover.

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#### Title of section 6: Circulation and Translation of the Bible

- Billions of copies of the Bible sold, surpassing any other book in history.
- Bible translated into over 2,200 languages, representing over 90% of the world's population.
- Bible's survival through time, persecution, and criticism highlighted.

# Title of section 7: Unique Teachings of the Bible

- Bible contains predictive prophecy unmatched by other religious texts.
- Historical accuracy and frank portrayal of characters' flaws.
- Influence of the Bible on literature and its enduring impact on Western thought.

#### Title of section 1: Influence of the Bible on Literature

- The Bible has influenced writers throughout history, providing symbols, ideas, and ways of perceiving reality.
- Writers from the Middle Ages to modern times have been inspired by biblical themes and characters.
- Northrop Frye noted that Western literature has been greatly influenced by the Bible.

## Title of section 2: Uniqueness of the Bible in Civilization

- The Bible has had a significant impact on civilization, shaping Western worldviews and intellectual processes.
- It presents high moral and spiritual ideals that have molded civilization.
- French philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau praised the simplicity and sublimity of the Scriptures.

## Title of section 3: Impact of the Bible on Humanity

- Jesus of Nazareth's influence surpassed that of historical figures like Alexander, Caesar, and Napoleon.
- The Bible has inspired countless works across various fields such as theology, philosophy, and art.
- The uniqueness of the Bible is evident in its enduring influence on individuals and societies.

## Title of section 4: Importance of Knowing the Bible

- Understanding the Bible is crucial for comprehending English literature and cultural references.
- A student of English literature who lacks knowledge of the Bible may misconstrue meanings and implications.
- Theodore Roosevelt emphasized the value of a thorough knowledge of the Bible over a college education.

# Title of section 5: Materials Used for Writing the Bible

- Papyrus was the primary writing material used for ancient manuscripts due to its availability and durability.
- Parchment and vellum were also utilized for their durability and quality.
- Various other materials like ostraca, stones, clay tablets, and wax tablets were used for writing.

#### **Title of section 6: Forms of Ancient Books**

- Ancient books were written on scrolls made of glued papyrus sheets or in codex form for easier reading.
- Scrolls were limited in size due to practicality, while codices allowed for more efficient organization.
- The spread of Christianity led to the development of the codex-book form for convenience.

# Title of section 7: Types of Writing

- Uncial writing was a formal style characterized by deliberate and carefully executed letters.
- Minuscule writing featured smaller connected letters for book production.
- Greek manuscripts lacked breaks between words, while Hebrew texts added vowels later for clarity.

# Title of section 8: Divisions in the Bible

- The Old Testament was divided into sedarim and parashiyyoth for reading cycles.
- Chapter divisions in the New Testament originated around A.D. 350 and evolved over time.
- Verse markings were standardized in the Old Testament around A.D. 900 and in the New Testament in the sixteenth century.

#### Title of section 9: Canonization of the Bible

- The term "canon" refers to an officially accepted list of inspired books recognized by the church.
- Five principles guided the recognition of canonical books, including authorship by prophets, confirmation by acts of God, and acceptance by believers.
- The church did not determine the canon but recognized books inspired by God.

# Title of section 10: Development of the New Testament Canon

- Athanasius of Alexandria provided an early list of New Testament books in A.D. 367.
- Jerome and Augustine further defined the New Testament canon of twenty-seven books.
- Early church fathers like Polycarp, Justin Martyr, and Irenaeus referenced and acknowledged the authority of New Testament Scripture.

# Title of section 1: Introduction to the Tests for the Reliability of Ancient Literature

- Establishing historical reliability of Scripture through historiography criteria.
- Three basic principles of historiography: bibliographical test, internal evidence test, external evidence test.

# Title of section 2: The Bibliographical Test for the Reliability of the New Testament

- Examination of textual transmission to determine reliability of copies.
- Focused on number of manuscripts and time interval between original and extant copies.

# Title of section 3: Number of Manuscripts and Their Closeness to the Original

- New Testament is most frequently copied and widely circulated books of antiquity.
- Over 5,686 Greek manuscripts, 10,000+ Latin Vulgate, and 9,300+ other early versions.
- Total of close to or more than 25,000 manuscript copies of portions of the New Testament exist today.

# Title of section 4: Breakdown of Surviving Manuscripts for the New Testament

- Extant Greek Manuscripts: Uncials 307, Minuscules 2,860, Lectionaries 2,410, Papyri 109.
- Manuscripts in Other Languages: Latin Vulgate 10,000+, Ethiopic 2,000+, Slavic 4,101, Armenian 2,587, etc.
- Total of over 24,970 manuscripts for the New Testament.

## Title of section 5: Significance of Manuscript Evidence

- New Testament has significantly more manuscript evidence compared to other ancient texts like Homer's Iliad.
- High number of manuscripts provides strong attestation and preservation of the New Testament text

## Title of section 6: Comparison with Other Ancient Texts

- New Testament has far more manuscript evidence than any other ancient document.
- Homer's Iliad, for example, has only 643 surviving manuscripts.

## **Title of section 7: Manuscript Categories**

- Extant Greek Manuscripts categorized into Uncials, Minuscules, Lectionaries, and Papyri.
- Manuscripts in Other Languages include Latin Vulgate, Ethiopic, Slavic, Armenian, etc.

#### Title of section 8: Sources of Information

- Information gathered from various sources including Michael Welte, Kurt Aland, and journals.
- Detailed breakdown of manuscript numbers provided for Greek and other language manuscripts.

## Title of section 9: Importance of Manuscript Evidence

- Manuscript evidence crucial for establishing the reliability and accuracy of the New Testament.
- Large number of manuscripts ensures consistency and preservation of the text over time.

# Title of section 10: Conclusion on Manuscript Evidence

- Manuscript evidence for the New Testament is extensive and unparalleled in comparison to other ancient texts.
- Strong manuscript tradition supports the historical reliability of the New Testament.

Pages - 81 -- 90

# Title of section 1: Importance of Manuscript Copies

- No known extant original manuscripts of the Bible.
- Abundance of manuscript copies allows for accurate reconstruction of the original text.
- New Testament manuscripts date closer to original composition compared to classical authors.

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#### Title of section 2: Testimonials from Scholars

- John Warwick Montgomery emphasizes the reliability of the New Testament text.
- Sir Frederic G. Kenyon highlights the short interval between original composition and earliest extant manuscripts.
- Dockery, Mathews, and Sloan affirm the accuracy and integrity of the New Testament text.

# Title of section 3: Quantity of Manuscripts

- Over 5,600 Greek manuscripts of the New Testament.
- Manuscripts dating back to the second century A.D.
- Comparison with other ancient literature shows the wealth of manuscript attestation for the New Testament.

## **Title of section 4: Manuscript Discoveries**

- John Rylands's MS (A.D. 130) contains a fragment of the Gospel of John.
- Bodmer Papyrus II (A.D. 150-200) includes most of John's Gospel.
- Codex Vaticanus (A.D. 325-350) and Codex Sinaiticus (A.D. 350) are significant manuscripts.

# **Title of section 5: Accuracy Supported by Versions**

- Syriac versions like Old Syriac and Syriac Peshitta date back to A.D. 150-250.
- Latin versions such as Old Latin and Latin Vulgate were produced in the third to fourth centuries.
- Coptic versions like Sahidic and Bohairic originated in the third to fifth centuries.

## Title of section 6: Lectionaries and Their Role

- Lectionaries provide secondary support for the New Testament text.
- Byzantine, Alexandrian, and Caesarean readings found in lectionaries.
- Influence of lectionaries on specific passages like John 7:53—8:11 and Mark 16:9-20.

# **Title of section 7: Early Church Fathers' Citations**

- Patristic citations offer secondary evidence for the New Testament text.
- Extensive quotations from early Church Fathers corroborate the readings from other sources.
- The New Testament could be reconstructed from patristic writings alone.

## **Title of section 8: Notable Early Church Fathers**

- Clement of Rome, Ignatius, Polycarp, and others quoted extensively from the New Testament.
- Contributions of Tertullian, Origen, and Justin Martyr to New Testament citations.
- Total of 32,000 New Testament citations prior to the Council of Nicea (325).

# **Title of section 9: Scholarly Views on Patristic Quotations**

- Patristic citations reflect substantial content of the original text.
- Early Church Fathers' writings serve as important secondary witnesses to the New Testament text.
- David Dalrymple's investigation confirms the abundance of Scripture in early Christian writings.

# Title of section 10: Conclusion on Manuscript Evidence

- Manuscript copies, versions, lectionaries, and early Church Fathers' citations collectively establish the historical reliability of the New Testament.
- Extensive textual evidence supports the authenticity and integrity of the New Testament text.
- Combined testimony from various sources affirms the accuracy and preservation of the New Testament over time.

# Title of section 1: Citations of the New Testament by Early Writers

- Over 36,000 citations of the New Testament are found in writings by Eusebius and other early writers.
- Various church fathers like Augustine, Ambrose, and Cyril of Alexandria also referenced the New Testament extensively.
- Dean Burgon's index of New Testament citations by church fathers contains 86,489 quotations.

## Title of section 2A: Internal Evidence Test for the Reliability of the New Testament

- Literary critics follow Aristotle's dictum to give the benefit of the doubt to the document itself.
- Difficulties in the text do not necessarily constitute errors or objections to the Bible.
- Understanding passages correctly and seeking further knowledge is crucial before claiming errors.

#### Title of section 2B: Document Free of Known Contradictions

- Dr. Gleason Archer, a biblical scholar, emphasizes the internal consistency of the Bible.
- Examples like the death of Judas Iscariot show how apparent contradictions can be resolved through contextual understanding.
- Principles for interpreting difficult passages include considering context, using clear passages for interpretation, and not basing teachings on obscure texts.

## Title of section 3A: External Evidence Test - Supporting Evidence from Early Christian Writers

- Early Christian writers like Papias, Irenaeus, Clement of Rome, Ignatius, Polycarp, and Tatian provide external confirmation of New Testament events.
- These writers were disciples of apostles or had direct connections to eyewitnesses of Jesus' ministry.
- Their testimonies affirm the trustworthiness and accuracy of the Scriptures.

# Title of section 3B: External Evidence Test - Early Non-Christian Confirmation of New Testament History

- Negative claims about the reliability of the New Testament due to its authors being close to the
  events are refuted.
- Survivors of historical events like the Jewish holocaust or military conflicts are considered reliable witnesses.
- The proximity of New Testament witnesses to the events they describe enhances their credibility rather than disqualifying them.

# Section 1: Introduction to the Reliability of the New Testament

- Geisler emphasizes the importance of focusing on the eyewitness and contemporary testimonies in the New Testament.
- Non-Christian secular sources provide confirming evidence for Jesus outside the New Testament.
- References from Tacitus, Suetonius, Josephus, and other sources are discussed to support the historical reliability of the New Testament.

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## Section 2: Tacitus, Suetonius, and Josephus

- Tacitus mentions the persecution of Christians under Nero, likely referring to the resurrection of Jesus as a "mischievous superstition."
- Suetonius confirms events related to Claudius expelling Jews from Rome and punishment inflicted on Christians after the great fire at Rome.
- Josephus supports the Protestant view of the Old Testament canon and provides testimony about figures like James, John the Baptist, and Jesus.

# Section 3: Thallus, Pliny the Younger, Emperor Trajan, Talmud, Lucian, Mara Bar-Serapion

- Thallus' mention of darkness during the crucifixion of Christ is cited by Julius Africanus.
- Pliny the Younger describes early Christian worship practices and ethical standards.
- Emperor Trajan's guidelines for punishing Christians are outlined.
- The Talmudic passage regarding Jesus' crucifixion is discussed.
- Lucian's sarcastic critique of Christianity is highlighted.
- Mara Bar-Serapion's letter references the execution of a wise king, possibly alluding to Jesus.

## Section 4: The Gospel of Truth and Acts of Pontius Pilate

- The Gospel of Truth confirms Jesus as a historical figure and his teachings.
- The Acts of Pontius Pilate, though not extant, is referenced by Justin Martyr and Tertullian for details about Jesus' crucifixion and miracles.

# **Section 5: Archaeological Evidence Supporting the Bible**

- Archaeology has provided confirmation of the Bible's accuracy, with no discovery contradicting biblical references.
- Eminent archaeologists like Nelson Glueck and W. F. Albright affirm the historical reliability of the Bible based on archaeological findings.
- Archaeological discoveries have supported the accuracy of Luke's accounts in the New Testament.

## Section 6: The Incredible Accuracy of Luke

- Sir William Ramsay praises Luke as a historian of the first rank, emphasizing the trustworthiness of his accounts.
- Archaeological discoveries have validated various historical references made by Luke, such as locations and individuals mentioned in the Book of Acts.
- Luke's attention to detail and accuracy in historical facts are commended by scholars and archaeologists.

# Section 7: Journeys of a Skeptical Archaeologist

- Sir William Ramsay, initially skeptical of the Book of Acts, later reversed his beliefs due to overwhelming archaeological evidence supporting Luke's historical accuracy.
- Ramsay's research in Asia Minor led him to conclude that Luke's narrative showed remarkable truth and historical reliability.
- Ramsay's experience highlights the significance of archaeological evidence in confirming the historical accuracy of biblical accounts.

Pages - 111 -- 120

## Title of section 1: Textual Transmission: How Accurate Was the Copying Process?

- Hebrew copyists showed astonishing accuracy in copying scriptures compared to other ancient literature.
- The Dead Sea Scrolls manuscripts, dating from the third century B.C. to the first century A.D., were word for word identical with the standard Hebrew Bible in over 95% of the text.
- Minor variations in the Dead Sea Scrolls mainly consisted of spelling errors and did not affect the message of revelation.

## Title of section 2: Quantity of Manuscripts

- Various collections of Hebrew manuscripts exist worldwide, including the Cairo Geniza, Leningrad Firkowitch Collection, British Museum, and Oxford University.
- The Cairo Geniza contained about 200,000 manuscripts and fragments, with approximately 10,000 being biblical texts.
- Significant Hebrew Old Testament manuscripts date from the third century B.C. to the fourteenth century A.D., with notable examples like the Aleppo Codex and the Codex Babylonicus Petropolitanus.

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## Title of section 3: History of the Old Testament Text

- Jewish scholars like the Sopherim, Zugoth, Tannaim, and Talmudists played crucial roles in standardizing and preserving the biblical text.
- The Talmudists developed intricate regulations for transcribing synagogue scrolls, ensuring meticulous accuracy in copying.
- The Talmudists believed that when a new copy was made, it had equal authority to the original, leading to the destruction of older copies to prevent discrepancies.

# Title of section 4: Rabbi Aquiba and the Masoreth Tradition

- Rabbi Aquiba emphasized the accurate transmission of the text as a protective measure for the Torah.
- The Masoreth tradition, spanning from about 400 B.C. to almost A.D. 1000, involved meticulous care in transcribing synagogue scrolls.
- The Talmudic period (A.D. 100-500) saw the compilation of Hebrew civil and canonical law based on the Torah, reflecting the dedication to preserving the Old Testament text.

## **Section 1: Preservation of Hebrew Scriptures**

- Jewish preference for newer copies over older ones.
- Manuscripts were carefully preserved and damaged copies were discarded.
- Masoretes standardized the text of the Old Testament between A.D. 500 and A.D. 950.

# Section 2: Role of Masoretes in Preserving the Text

- Masoretes preserved the oral tradition concerning correct vowels and accents.
- They counted occurrences of letters and devised safeguards against scribal errors.
- The Masoretic Text is the standard Hebrew text today.

## **Section 3: Reverence for Scriptures**

- Flavius Josephus emphasized the reverence for Jewish Scriptures.
- Scribes ensured meticulous accuracy in copying the Scriptures.
- The Jewish reverence for Scriptures was almost superstitious, leading to extreme care in preservation.

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## **Section 4: Discovery of Dead Sea Scrolls**

- Dead Sea Scrolls provided older witnesses to original Old Testament manuscripts.
- Scrolls dated back to 125 B.C., confirming the reliability of the Hebrew text.
- Scrolls contained biblical texts, commentaries, and other writings from the second century B.C. to first century A.D.

## **Section 5: Value of Dead Sea Scrolls**

- Isaiah scroll from Dead Sea caves dated back to 125 B.C., showing remarkable accuracy compared to the Masoretic Text.
- Scrolls demonstrated minimal alterations over a thousand years of transmission.
- Dead Sea Scrolls confirmed the fidelity of the Masoretic tradition.

#### **Section 6: Content of Dead Sea Scrolls**

- Scrolls included fragments and complete copies of various Old Testament books.
- Caves yielded manuscripts dating back to third century B.C.
- Scrolls provided insight into the religious community at Qumran.

# **Section 7: Septuagint Translation**

- Septuagint was a Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures.
- LXX contained additional books not part of the Hebrew canon.
- Septuagint was widely used in New Testament times and influenced early Christian literature.

## **Section 8: Hexapla by Origen**

- Origen's Hexapla aimed to produce a Greek version corresponding closely with the Hebrew text.
- Hexapla had six parallel columns with different versions of the Old Testament.
- Origen's work contributed to textual criticism and comparison of Hebrew and Greek texts.

# **Section 9: Significance of Septuagint**

- Septuagint bridged the gap between Hebrew and Greek-speaking peoples.
- LXX provided a precedent for translations into various languages.
- Septuagint helped establish the reliability of the Hebrew text through centuries.

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## **Section 10: Influence of Septuagint**

- Septuagint was widely quoted in the New Testament.
- Septuagint was instrumental in understanding the Old Testament text.
- Septuagint played a crucial role in preserving and transmitting the Old Testament scriptures.

# Title of section 1: Septuagint Text and Samaritan Pentateuch

- The Septuagint text was transcribed without diacritical markings, leading to a corrupted Greek Old Testament text.
- Origen's Hexapla, if fully preserved, would have been invaluable.
- The Samaritans separated from the Jews in the fifth or fourth century B.C. and prepared their own revised text of the Pentateuch.
- The Samaritan Pentateuch is not a version but a manuscript portion of the Hebrew text itself.

## Title of section 2: Value of the Samaritan Pentateuch

- The Samaritan Pentateuch is written in an older form of Hebrew script than the Masoretic Bible.
- It contains the Pentateuch and is valuable for determining textual readings.
- Variations between the Samaritan Pentateuch and the Masoretic edition are insignificant compared to areas of agreement.
- When the LXX and the Samaritan Pentateuch agree against the Masoretic Text, they represent the original reading.

## Title of section 3: Other Witnesses to the Old Testament Text

- Aramaic Targums are paraphrases of the Old Testament in Aramaic language.
- Targums were oral paraphrases of Hebrew Scriptures into Aramaic vernacular as early as Ezra's time.
- Different Targums like Onkelos and Jonathan ben Uzziel appeared in the third and fourth centuries A.D.
- Targums were committed to writing during the early centuries A.D.

## Title of section 4: Mishnah, Gemara, and Midrash

- The Mishnah was completed around A.D. 200 and covered traditions and explanations of the oral law.
- The Gemara was written in Aramaic and was an expanded commentary on the Mishnah.
- Midrash, made up of doctrinal studies of the Old Testament Hebrew text, contained Halakah and Haggada parts.
- Midrashim were collected between 100 B.C. and A.D. 300 and included synagogue homilies on the Old Testament.

## **Title of section 5: Other Important Discoveries**

- Examples of early Old Testament Hebrew manuscripts include Nash Papyri, Codex Cairensis,
   Aleppo Codex, and Codex Leningradensis.
- Babylonian Codex of the Latter Prophets and Reuchlin Codex are significant for establishing the fidelity of the Ben Asher text.
- Erfurt Codices represent the text and markings of the Ben Naphtali tradition.

#### Title of section 6: Rules for Textual Criticism

- Criteria for determining correct or original readings include preferring older readings, difficult readings, shorter readings, etc.
- Comparison of duplicate passages in the Masoretic Text shows substantial textual agreement.
- Support from archaeology confirms the historical accuracy of biblical documents.

## Title of section 1: The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

- Evidence points to earthquake activity leading to the demise of the cities.
- Layers of sedimentary rock molded together by intense heat found at the site.
- Bitumen (brimstone) believed to have been hurled down on the cities as a form of destruction.

# Title of section 2: Archaeological Discoveries in Jericho

- Walls of Jericho fell outward, matching biblical description.
- Collaboration between archaeological evidence and biblical narrative includes fortified city, short siege, leveled walls possibly due to an earthquake, city not plundered but burned.

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## Title of section 3: Saul, David, and Solomon

- Excavations at Gibeah revealed sling shots as primary weapons.
- Confirmation of temples for Ashtaroth and Dagon at Bet She'an.
- Discovery of tunnel leading to Pool of Siloam supporting biblical account of Jerusalem's capture.

# Title of section 4: King Solomon's Wealth

- Comparison of biblical accounts of Solomon's wealth with other ancient texts and archaeological discoveries.
- Feasibility of biblical narrative regarding Solomon's gold quantities.

# **Title of section 5: Summary and Conclusions**

- Lack of archaeological finds contradicting the Bible.
- Continued research confirms the historical accuracy of the Old Testament.
- Scholars' respect for the Bible increased by archaeological evidence.

# **Title of section 6: Documentary Confirmation of the Old Testament Accounts**

- William F. Albright confirms archaeological evidence supporting Old Testament tradition.
- Merrill Unger highlights the significance of Old Testament archaeology in filling historical gaps.
- Sir Frederic Kenyon emphasizes the authority and value of the Old Testament established by archaeology.

# Title of section 7: The Reliability of the Old Testament History

- Archaeological data establishes the historicity of numerous passages and statements in the Old Testament.
- Raymond A. Bowman notes that archaeology confirms the biblical narrative, leading to a more conservative view of biblical history.
- Archaeological findings support the substantial historicity of Old Testament tradition.

# Title of section 8: Tell Mardikh: The Discovery of Ebla

- Discovery of Ebla provides background material and biblical place names for evaluating biblical narratives.
- Ebla tablets mention biblical towns and offer insights into ancient Near-Eastern history.
- Importance of Ebla for Syrian history and biblical studies.

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#### Title of section 9: Biblical Towns and Names in Ebla Archives

- Ebla tablets identify biblical towns like Hazor, Megiddo, Jerusalem, etc.
- Ebla occurrences of Hebrew names emphasize their antiquity and human origin.
- Dr. Giovanni Pettinato provides Eblaite variations of Hebrew names like Israel, Ishmael, and Micaiah.

# Title of section 10: Ancient Near-Eastern Tribute and Religious Practices

- Tribute received by Solomon at Ebla supports biblical accounts.
- Ebla texts reveal religious practices similar to those in the Old Testament.
- Eblaite records confirm the existence and antiquity of Hebrew words, challenging previous dating assumptions.

## Title of section 1: The Flood Account

- The biblical ark is described as rectangular, designed to ride rough seas well.
- Length of rainfall in pagan accounts (seven days) deemed insufficient for the devastation described.
- Babylonian idea of flood waters subsiding in one day considered absurd.

## Title of section 2: The Tower of Babel

- Sumerian literature alludes to a single language at one time.
- Archaeological evidence supports building of a great ziggurat by Ur-Nammu.
- Linguists find theory of single language helpful in categorizing languages.

## Title of section 3: The Patriarchs

- Legal codes from Abraham's time support narratives of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- Mari letters reveal names similar to biblical figures.
- Archeological factors date patriarchs to Middle Bronze Age.

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# Title of section 4: Genealogy of Abraham

- Genealogy of Abraham considered historical.
- Names in genealogy may represent individuals or ancient cities.
- Evidence supports existence of Abraham during his time.

# Title of section 5: Genealogy of Esau

- Horites were prominent warriors, not cave-dwellers.
- Esau's sale of birthright paralleled in Nuzi tablets.
- Similarities between biblical events and Nuzi tablets' records.

## Title of section 6: Isaac and Jacob Episodes

- Oral blessings and declarations legally binding in Nuzi culture.
- Jacob's purchase of Esau's birthright parallels Nuzi tablet events.
- Jacob's interactions with Laban mirrored in Nuzi episodes.

# Title of section 7: Joseph's Life

- Correct price for slave in Genesis matches historical records.
- Possibility of Joseph's visit to Egypt supported by archaeological findings.
- Joseph's promotions in Egypt compared to other historical figures.

## Title of section 8: Assyrian Invasion

- Assyrian records confirm biblical accuracy.
- References to Assyrian kings in Old Testament proven correct.
- Sennacherib's siege of Jerusalem detailed in Assyrian records.

# **Title of section 9: Babylonian Captivity**

- Records confirm treatment of Jehoiachin and Belshazzar's reign.
- Edict of Cyrus confirmed by archaeological findings.
- Historical details of Babylonian captivity supported by discoveries.

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#### Title of section 10: Lachish Letters

- Background and dating of Lachish Ostraca explained.
- Content of letters provides insight into Jeremiah's time.
- Gedaliah Seal found at Lachish adds weight to biblical account.

# Section 1: Crucifixion in the Babylonian Talmud

- Reference to Jesus as "Yeshu" or "Yeshu the Nazarene."
- Mention of his crucifixion on the eve of Passover.
- Implication of Jewish involvement in sentencing Jesus.
- Attempt to justify actions by labeling Jesus as a sorcerer or magician.

## Section 2: Ammora 'Ulla's Comment

- Description of Jesus as a deceiver.
- Reference to Jesus being "near to the kingship."
- Possible interpretations of the phrase "near to the kingship."

## Section 3: Jesus and His Disciples in the Talmud

- Listing of Jesus' disciples as Mattai, Nakkai, Netzer, Buni, and Todah.
- Comparison with other teachers in the Talmud who also had five disciples.
- Acceptance of Jesus having followers in Jewish tradition.

# Section 4: Virgin Born? in the Talmud

- Use of titles "Ben Pandera" and "Jeshu ben Pandera" for Jesus.
- Interpretation of "Pandera" as a play on words mocking the title "Son of the Virgin."
- Mention of a genealogical roll in Jerusalem questioning Jesus' parentage.

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#### Section 1: Jesus in Jewish Talmudic Texts

- References in the Talmudic texts portray Jesus as the son of Mary, a hairdresser, and suggest that he strayed from her husband.
- The Talmudic passages attempt to explain the Christian belief in Jesus' virgin birth by insinuating that Mary engaged in adultery with carpenters.
- The New Testament refutes accusations of Jesus being illegitimate, emphasizing the miraculous nature of his birth.

## **Section 2: Testimonium of Josephus**

- Flavius Josephus, a Jewish historian, mentions Jesus in his work "Antiquities," describing him as a wise man who performed miracles and had a following among Jews and Gentiles.
- The authenticity of the Testimonium has been debated, with scholars noting possible Christian additions to the text.
- Josephus also refers to James, the brother of Jesus, and his execution under the high priest Ananus.

## **Section 3: Pre-New Testament Creedal Confessions**

- Early Christian creedal confessions provide some of the earliest reports about Jesus, dating back to 30-50 A.D.
- These creeds affirm key aspects of Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and teachings, serving as foundational beliefs for early Christians.
- Examples of pre-New Testament creedal affirmations include references to Jesus' lineage, resurrection, and role as the Son of God.

## **Section 4: New Testament Documents**

- The twenty-seven books of the New Testament attest to the historicity of Jesus Christ, providing significant evidence of his existence and teachings.
- Historian John Montgomery emphasizes the reliability of the New Testament documents in portraying an accurate image of Jesus.
- The New Testament serves as a crucial source for understanding the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

## **Section 5: Post-Apostolic Writers**

- Following the apostles, early Christian writers like Clement of Rome, Ignatius, and Quadratus affirmed the historical reality of Jesus through their writings.
- These writers emphasized Jesus' birth, crucifixion, resurrection, and teachings as essential components of the Christian faith.
- Their works corroborate the events recorded in the New Testament and provide additional insights into the early Christian beliefs about Jesus.

# **Section 6: Additional Historical Sources for Christianity**

- Secular sources such as Trajan, Macrobius, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius, Juvenal, and Seneca make indirect references to Christ and early Christians.
- These sources mention persecutions, accusations against Christians, and interactions between Roman emperors and Christian communities.
- The accounts from secular sources complement the biblical narratives and offer external perspectives on the historical context of early Christianity.

# Title of section 1: Hierocles Condemns Peter and Paul

- Hierocles condemns Peter and Paul as sorcerers.
- Quote from Eusebius preserving text from the lost book of Hierocles.

# Title of section 2: Heathan Contact with Christianity During Its First Century and a Half

- Important collection of material published in Cambridge in 1923 by C. R. Haines.
- Subtitle references all references to Christianity recorded in pagan writings during that period.

# Title of section 3: Conclusions by Howard Clark Kee

- Conclusions confirming Jesus' historical existence, unusual powers, devotion of followers, movement after death, and penetration of Christianity into Roman society.
- Clear and consistent evidence about Jesus' life, teachings, and impact on history.

# Title of section 4: Testimonies Confirming Jesus' Historical Existence

- Independent secular accounts proving ancient opponents of Christianity never doubted Jesus' historicity.
- Refutation of claims denying Jesus' existence by noted scholars like I. Howard Marshall.

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## Title of section 5: Impact of Jesus on History

- Dominant figure in Western culture for almost twenty centuries.
- Influence on Western ideas, innovations, values, art, science, society, politics, economics, marriage, family, morality, and more.

# Title of section 6: Evidence Supporting Jesus' Historical Existence

- More and better historical documentation for Jesus than other religious founders.
- Nonbiblical sources corroborating basic facts of Jesus' life and biblical portrayal.

## Title of section 7: Jesus' Trial Before the Sanhedrin

- Jesus' trial before the Sanhedrin for blasphemy.
- His claim to be the Son of God leading to condemnation and crucifixion.

# Title of section 8: Jesus' Direct Claims to Deity

- Various instances where Jesus directly claimed deity.
- Examples include equality with the Father, pre-existence, and being the "I AM."

#### Title of section 9: Worship of Jesus as God

- Worship reserved for God only according to biblical teachings.
- Instances where Jesus received worship as God and accepted it.

# Title of section 10: Jesus Contrasted with Others

- Comparisons between how Jesus was worshipped and how others were worshipped.
- Acceptance of worship as God distinguishing Jesus from others in the Bible.

# Title of section 1: Paul the Apostle's Affirmation of Christ's Deity in Romans 9:5

- Charles Hodge comments that Romans 9:5 shows Christ as God in the highest sense.
- Dr. Murray J. Harris concludes that Christ is exalted over the universe and is God by nature.

## Title of section 2: Philippians 2:6-11 Demonstrates Christ's Deity

- Philippians 2:6-11 presents Jesus as fully God and fully human by nature.
- F. F. Bruce explains how this passage equates Christ with God through divine decree.

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## Title of section 3: Christ's Deity in Colossians 1:15-17

- Christ is described as the image of the invisible God in Colossians 1:15.
- The term "firstborn" over all creation signifies Christ as the Creator of all things.

# Title of section 4: Explicit Statement of Christ's Deity in Colossians 2:9

- Colossians 2:9 affirms that in Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.
- Carl F. H. Henry emphasizes the unique character of the Christian confession regarding Christ's deity.

# Title of section 5: Titus 2:13 Affirms Christ's Deity

- In Titus 2:13, the title "great God and Savior Jesus Christ" refers to one Person, Jesus Christ.
- The Greek construction supports the interpretation that both titles refer to Jesus Christ.

## Title of section 6: Testimonies from John the Baptist, Peter, Thomas, and the Writer of Hebrews

- John the Baptist proclaims Jesus as the Lamb of God and the Son of God.
- Peter acknowledges Jesus as the Christ, the Lord, and our God and Savior.
- Thomas addresses Jesus as "My Lord and my God."
- The writer of Hebrews describes Jesus as the brightness of God's glory and the express image of His person.

## Title of section 7: John the Apostle's Witness to Christ's Deity in John 1:1, 14

- John 1:1, 14 establishes the Word (Logos) as both distinct from God and identified with God.
- R. C. Sproul and other theologians highlight the significance of the Logos being the Second Person of the Trinity.

# Title of section 8: 1 John 5:20 Confirms Christ's Deity

- 1 John 5:20 asserts that Jesus Christ is the true God and eternal life.
- The verse emphasizes the Son of God's role in providing understanding and eternal life.

# Title of section 9: Titles of Deity Attributed to Jesus

- Various Old Testament titles of Jehovah are applied to Jesus in the New Testament.
- The mutual titles or acts of Jehovah and Jesus demonstrate Christ's identity as Jehovah.

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#### Title of section 10: Conclusion: Jesus Is God

- William Biederwolf emphasizes the clear claims of Christ's deity in the New Testament.
- The Beloved Apostle John states the purpose of his writings to affirm Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, for believers to have eternal life through Him.

Pages - 201 -- 210

#### Title of section 1: Who Is Jesus of Nazareth?

- People throughout history have given various answers to the question of who Jesus of Nazareth is.
- Regardless of personal beliefs, Jesus has been a dominant figure in Western culture for almost twenty centuries.
- Jesus' life has significantly impacted human history and influenced various aspects of society.

## Title of section 2: Influence of Jesus on History

- The church, as Jesus' primary legacy, has influenced history through institutions like hospitals, universities, literacy programs, civil liberties, and more.
- Despite some negative instances within the church, followers of Jesus have made significant positive impacts on society.
- Jesus' teachings have transformed lives for almost two millennia and reshaped human history.

## Title of section 3: Challenge to Christianity

- Charles Bradlaugh challenged a Christian man to debate the validity of Christianity by presenting individuals whose lives were transformed by their beliefs.
- The Christian man's challenge highlighted the positive impact of Christianity on individuals' lives.
- Bradlaugh withdrew from the debate after failing to present even one person improved by atheism.

## Title of section 4: Impact of Jesus' Life

- A nineteenth-century writer describes Jesus' humble origins, life, and lasting influence on humanity.
- Jesus' life and teachings have had an incredible impact on human history, surpassing the influence of all other historical figures combined.
- Jesus' teachings and moral example continue to inspire millions worldwide.

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## Title of section 5: Jesus' Identity

- C. S. Lewis emphasizes that Jesus' claim to be God leaves no room for considering Him merely a great moral teacher.
- Jesus' words and teachings are inseparable from His identity as the Son of God.
- Scholars like Kenneth Scott Latourette highlight the uniqueness of Jesus' teachings combined with His own character.

# Title of section 6: Alternatives: Lord, Liar, or Lunatic

- Jesus' claim to be God must be either true or false, leading to the options of accepting or rejecting His lordship.
- If Jesus' claims were false, it raises the possibilities of Him being a liar, hypocrite, demon, or fool.
- Biblical passages are cited to illustrate the consequences of Jesus being considered a liar.

#### Title of section 7: Was He a Liar?

- If Jesus knowingly made false claims about being God, it would make Him a liar, hypocrite, and evil individual.
- Various biblical verses are referenced to support the argument against Jesus being a liar.
- The moral and ethical teachings of Jesus contradict the notion of Him being a deceitful imposter.

## Title of section 8: Was He a Lunatic?

- Considering Jesus as a lunatic who sincerely believed He was God is deemed implausible due to His wisdom, love, and unpredictability.
- Comparisons are drawn between Jesus and actual liars or lunatics to refute the idea of Him being mentally unstable.
- Historical figures like Napoleon Bonaparte acknowledge the extraordinary nature of Jesus' character and teachings.

## **Title of section 9: Rejecting Lunacy**

- Various scholars and historical figures reject the notion of Jesus being a lunatic based on His calmness, wisdom, and moral teachings.
- The sanity and profound insights of Jesus' teachings disprove the theory of Him being mentally deluded.
- Psychiatrists and philosophers recognize the psychological and moral depth of Jesus' teachings.

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#### Title of section 10: He Is Lord!

- If Jesus is neither a liar nor a lunatic, then He must be acknowledged as Lord.
- Biblical references and confessions affirm Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God.
- Arnold J. Toynbee highlights the unparalleled significance of Jesus Christ compared to other historical figures and religious leaders.

#### 1A. Introduction

- The text introduces the concept of Messianic prophecy and its significance in relation to God's divine will and the fulfillment of specific prophecies.
- It emphasizes the importance of understanding God as the only true God, whose knowledge is infinite and whose word is never broken.

# 2A. The Breadth of Predictive Prophecy

- Over 300 references to the Messiah in the Old Testament were fulfilled in Jesus.
- An objection suggests that prophecies were written after Jesus' time, but historical evidence indicates a significant gap between the prophecies and their fulfillment.

## 3A. Credentials of Jesus as the Messiah Through Fulfilled Prophecy

- Prophecies concerning Jesus' birth are detailed, including being born of a woman, born of a
  virgin, declared as the Son of God, seed of Abraham, son of Isaac, son of Jacob, tribe of Judah,
  family line of Jesse, house of David, born at Bethlehem, presented with gifts, and Herod killing
  children.
- Each prophecy from the Old Testament is matched with its fulfillment in the New Testament, establishing Jesus' credentials as the promised Messiah.

## **IB. Prophecies Concerning His Birth**

- Genesis 3:15 predicts the Seed of the woman bruising the serpent's head, fulfilled in Galatians 4:4 with Jesus born of a woman.
- Isaiah 7:14 foretells a virgin conceiving and bearing a Son, fulfilled in Matthew 1:18 with Jesus born of a virgin.
- Psalm 2:7 declares the Lord's decree about His Son, fulfilled in Matthew 3:17 with God declaring Jesus as His beloved Son.
- Genesis 22:18 promises blessings through Abraham's seed, fulfilled in Matthew 1:1 with Jesus as the Son of David.

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- Luke 3:23, 34 confirms Jesus as the Son of Isaac and Luke 3:23, 34 as the Son of Jacob.
- Numbers 24:17 speaks of a Star and Scepter from Jacob, fulfilled in Luke 3:23, 34 with Jesus as the descendant of Jacob.
- Genesis 49:10 prophesies a Ruler from Judah, fulfilled in Luke 3:23, 33 with Jesus as the Lion of the tribe of Judah.
- Isaiah 11:1 predicts a Branch from Jesse, fulfilled in Luke 3:23, 32 with Jesus as the Son of Jesse.
- Jeremiah 23:5 foretells a Branch of righteousness from David, fulfilled in Luke 3:23, 31 with Jesus as the Son of David.
- Micah 5:2 prophesies a Ruler from Bethlehem, fulfilled in Matthew 2:1 with Jesus born in Bethlehem.
- Psalm 72:10 mentions kings bringing gifts, fulfilled in Matthew 2:1, 11 with wise men presenting gifts to Jesus.
- Jeremiah 31:15 describes Rachel weeping for her children, fulfilled in Matthew 2:16-18 with Herod killing children in Bethlehem.

# **Prophecies Fulfilled in Jesus Christ**

## **Section 1: Prophecies Concerning His Nature**

- Micah 5:2 prophecy about the ruler coming from Bethlehem fulfilled in Colossians 1:17.
- Targum Isaiah references the birth of a child who will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, and Messiah.
- Hengstenberg emphasizes the pre-existence and eternity of the Messiah in Micah 5:2.

## **Section 2: Prophecies Concerning His Nature**

- Psalm 110:1 foretells that the Messiah will be called Lord, fulfilled in Luke 2:11 and Matthew 22:43-45.
- Jewish sources confirm the name of the Messiah as Jehovah.
- The significance of David calling the Messiah "Lord" is explained by Fausset.

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## **Section 3: Prophecies Concerning His Nature**

- Isaiah 7:14 predicts the birth of Immanuel, fulfilled in Matthew 1:23.
- Targum Isaiah confirms the prophecy of a virgin bearing a son named Immanuel.
- Delitzsch highlights the eternal nature of the Messiah in Isaiah 9:6.

# **Section 4: Prophecies Concerning His Ministry**

- Deuteronomy 18:18 prophesies a Prophet like Moses, fulfilled in Jesus according to Matthew 21:11.
- Maimonides describes the Messiah as a great Prophet greater than all others except Moses.
- Comparison between Moses and Jesus in their roles as mediators and intercessors.

# **Section 5: Prophecies Concerning His Ministry**

- Psalm 110:4 foretells the Messiah as a Priest forever, fulfilled in Hebrews 3:1 and 5:5, 6.
- The unique priesthood of the Messiah after the order of Melchizedek is highlighted.
- The oath of God accompanying the Messiah's priesthood distinguishes it from the Aaronic priesthood.

# **Section 6: Prophecies Concerning His Ministry**

- Isaiah 33:22 predicts the Messiah as Judge, Lawgiver, and King, fulfilled in John 5:30.
- Targum Isaiah confirms the role of the Messiah as Judge, Teacher, and King.
- The ideal theocracy under the Messiah's rule is described by Fausset.

## **Section 7: Prophecies Concerning His Ministry**

- Psalm 2:6 prophesies the appointment of the Messiah as King on Zion, fulfilled in Matthew 27:37.
- Zechariah 9:9 foretells the Messiah entering Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilled in Matthew 21:5.
- The rejection and acceptance of the Messiah as the cornerstone are discussed in Psalm 118:22 and 1 Peter 2:7.

# **Section 8: Prophecies Concerning His Ministry**

- Isaiah 11:2 predicts the anointing of the Messiah with the Spirit, fulfilled in Matthew 3:16, 17.
- Targum Isaiah confirms the anointing of the Messiah with wisdom, understanding, and fear of the Lord.
- The Babylonian Talmud references the Messiah being laden with good deeds and suffering.

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#### **Section 9: Prophecies Concerning His Ministry**

- Psalm 69:9 foretells the zeal of the Messiah for God's house, fulfilled in John 2:15, 16.
- The Messiah's zeal for God's house is compared to a consuming flame.
- The reproaches aimed at God falling upon the Messiah due to His zeal are explained.

# **Section 10: Prophecies Concerning His Ministry**

- Isaiah 40:3 predicts the Messiah being preceded by a messenger, fulfilled in Matthew 3:1, 2.
- Targum Isaiah confirms the preparation of the way for the people of the Lord.
- Isaiah 9:1 foretells the beginning of the Messiah's ministry in Galilee, fulfilled in Matthew 4:12, 13, 17.

### **Section 38: Accused by False Witnesses**

- Prophecy from Psalm 35:11 about fierce witnesses rising up against the subject.
- The fulfillment in Matthew 26:59, 60 where false witnesses sought testimony against Jesus but found none.

# **Section 39: Silent before Accusers**

- Prophecy from Isaiah 53:7 about the subject being oppressed and afflicted yet not speaking out.
- Fulfillment in Matthew 27:12 where Jesus remained silent when accused by chief priests and elders.

#### Section 40: Wounded and Bruised

- Prophecy from Isaiah 53:5 about the subject being wounded for transgressions and bruised for iniquities.
- Fulfillment in Matthew 27:26 where Jesus was scourged and delivered to be crucified.

#### Section 41: Smitten and Spit Upon

- Prophecy from Isaiah 50:6 about the subject giving His back to those who struck Him and not hiding His face from shame and spitting.
- Fulfillment in Matthew 26:67 where Jesus was spat on and beaten.

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#### Section 42: Mocked

- Prophecy from Psalm 22:7, 8 about the subject being ridiculed and mocked.
- Fulfillment in Matthew 27:29 where Jesus was mocked as the King of the Jews.

#### Section 43: Fell under the Cross

- Prophecy from Psalm 109:24, 25 about the subject's knees being weak and becoming a reproach.
- Fulfillment in John 19:17 where Jesus bore His cross to Golgotha.

#### Section 44: Hands and Feet Pierced

- Prophecy from Psalm 22:16 about the subject's hands and feet being pierced.
- Fulfillment in Luke 23:33 where Jesus was crucified with His hands and feet pierced.

#### **Section 45: Crucified with Thieves**

- Prophecy from Isaiah 53:12 about the subject being numbered with transgressors.
- Fulfillment in Matthew 27:38 where Jesus was crucified between two thieves.

#### **Section 46: Made Intercession for His Persecutors**

- Prophecy from Isaiah 53:12 about the subject bearing the sin of many and interceding for transgressors.
- Fulfillment in Luke 23:34 where Jesus asked for forgiveness for those who did not know what they were doing.

# Section 47: Rejected by His Own People

- Prophecy from Isaiah 53:3 about the subject being despised and rejected.
- Fulfillment in John 7:5, 48 where even His brothers did not believe in Him.

# Title of section 1: Old Testament Prophecies Fulfilled in Jesus Christ

- Nostradamus' predictions were not as accurate as believed.
- The prophecy from Genesis 49:10 about the scepter and Shiloh.
- Signs indicating the coming of the Messiah: removal of Judah's identity and suppression of judicial power.
- Historical events showing the fulfillment of these signs.

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#### Title of section 2: The Time of Messiah's Coming

- Interpretation of the prophecy regarding the removal of the scepter from Judah.
- Details on the loss of legal power by Judah.
- Events surrounding the suppression of the judicial power.
- Reactions of the Sanhedrin to losing their authority.

# Title of section 3: Fulfilled to the Day

- Prophecy in Daniel 9:24-27 about the Messiah.
- Breakdown of the seventy sevens (490 years) prophecy.
- Different interpretations of the seventieth week.
- Examination of the prophecy historically.

# Title of section 4: Interpretation of the Prophecy

- Main features of the prophecy concerning Israel and Jerusalem.
- Time periods specified in the prophecy.
- Beginning of the seventy weeks with the decree of Artaxerxes.
- End of the first seven weeks of years and its significance.

#### Title of section 5: Time Measure Indicated by Seventy Weeks

- Explanation of the Jewish concept of a week.
- Reasons supporting the interpretation of seventy sevens of years.
- Length of the prophetic year based on historical and prophetic references.
- Use of specific time measures in various prophecies.

# Title of section 6: Beginning of Seventy Weeks

- Decrees suggested as the starting point of the seventy weeks.
- Justification for choosing the decree of Artaxerxes to Nehemiah.
- Details on the decree and its authorization for restoring Jerusalem.
- Calculation of the corresponding calendar date.

#### Title of section 7: End of First Seven Weeks of Years

- Duration taken to restore the city.
- Noteworthy events marking the end of forty-nine years after 444 B.C.
- Calculation of the time from the decree to the presentation of Christ in Jerusalem.
- Date of the triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

### Title of section 8: Interval between Weeks Sixty-nine and Seventy

- Events following the termination of the sixty-nine weeks.
- Crucifixion of Christ and destruction of Jerusalem.
- Discussion on the completion of the prophecy.
- Significance of the third part of the prophecy yet to occur.

# Title of section 9: Summary of Old Testament Predictions Literally Fulfilled in Christ

- Listing of Old Testament predictions fulfilled in Christ.
- Categories including His first advent, forerunner, nativity, mission, passion, resurrection, ascension, and second advent.
- Importance of these fulfilled prophecies in Christianity.

### Title of section 10: Support of Deity: The Resurrection Hoax or History?

- Introduction to the importance of the physical resurrection of Christ.
- Emphasis on the bodily resurrection as proof of Jesus' claims.
- Dr. Norman Geisler's perspective on the value of the resurrection.
- Significance of the resurrection in verifying Jesus' claim to be God.

# **Section 1: Significance of the Resurrection**

- Christianity is unique among major world religions in claiming an empty tomb for its founder.
- Other major religious figures like Abraham, Buddha, and Mohammed do not have resurrection claims.
- The belief in the resurrection was crucial for the early disciples to establish Christianity.

#### Section 2: Importance of the Resurrection

- Christianity hinges on the belief in Jesus' resurrection.
- The Resurrection is considered a foundational doctrine of Christianity.
- The Resurrection is seen as the key to establishing Jesus' identity as the Son of God.

# Section 3: Peter's Sermon on the Day of Pentecost

- Peter's sermon heavily relies on the theme of the Resurrection.
- The Resurrection is presented as the explanation for Jesus' death and the fulfillment of Messianic prophecies.
- The Resurrection is central to certifying Jesus' Messianic and Kingly position.

# **Section 4: Impact of the Resurrection on Early Disciples**

- The Resurrection transformed the disciples from defeated individuals to confident and courageous believers.
- Belief in the Resurrection turned catastrophe into victory for the disciples.
- The Resurrection enabled the disciples to proclaim Jesus as the Messiah and interpret his death in salvific terms.

# **Section 5: Claims of Christ Regarding His Resurrection**

- Jesus predicted His death and resurrection with clarity.
- His resurrection was emphasized as a sign to authenticate His claims as the Messiah.
- Various biblical passages record Jesus' predictions of His resurrection.

# **Section 6: Historical Approach to the Resurrection**

- The Resurrection of Christ is viewed as a historical event in a specific time-space dimension.
- The New Testament provides detailed accounts of the events surrounding Jesus' death and resurrection.
- The Resurrection is considered a foundational aspect of Christian faith based on historical evidence.

#### **Section 7: Testimonies of Early Church Fathers**

- Early church fathers like Ignatius and Tertullian affirmed the reality of Christ's crucifixion, death, and resurrection.
- Their writings provide historical evidence supporting the Resurrection.
- Contemporary letters of Paul the Apostle also attest to the authenticity of the Resurrection.

### **Section 8: Forensic Nature of New Testament Narratives**

- The New Testament narratives present the Resurrection as a historical fact supported by legal evidence.
- Luke's Gospel and Acts provide eyewitness accounts of Jesus' resurrection appearances.
- The Gospels detail the death and resurrection of Christ more extensively than other aspects of His ministry.

#### **Section 9: Scholarly Perspectives on the Resurrection**

- Scholars like Wolfhart Pannenberg emphasize the historical nature of the Resurrection.
- The question of whether the Resurrection occurred is approached as a historical inquiry.
- The Resurrection is considered a pivotal event that must be evaluated through historical argumentation.

#### **Section 10: Conclusion**

- The Resurrection of Christ is a central tenet of Christianity supported by historical evidence.
- The early church's faith was grounded in the empirical evidence of Jesus' resurrection appearances.
- The Resurrection remains a critical aspect of Christian belief and identity.

#### Pre-Resurrection Scene: Jesus Was Dead

- The physical suffering of Jesus before His crucifixion was intense, including scourging and mocking.
- The Roman soldiers were experts in determining death and certified Jesus' death to Pontius Pilate.
- Various historical and medical evidence supports the traditional view that Jesus was dead before being removed from the cross.
- The spear thrust into Jesus' side likely perforated the right lung, pericardium, and heart, ensuring His death.
- The flow of blood and water from Jesus' side after the spear wound was either a natural phenomenon or a miracle.

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#### **Pre-Resurrection Scene: Crucifixion**

- Crucifixion was an excruciatingly painful form of execution.
- Marcus Tullius Cicero described the abominableness of crucifixion.
- Jesus' physical sufferings included dizziness, cramp, thirst, starvation, sleeplessness, traumatic fever, tetanus, shame, and more.
- Death by crucifixion involved every nerve in the body crying out in anguish.
- Frederick Farrar vividly described the agonizing aspects of death by crucifixion.

#### Pre-Resurrection Scene: Examination of Jesus' Death

- Pilate required certification of Jesus' death before allowing the body to be removed from the cross.
- Four specialists examined Jesus to confirm His death, including a centurion who declared Him as the Son of God.
- The guarding of the sepulchre by the Jews indicated their belief that Jesus was dead.
- Medical experts have concluded that Jesus died due to agony of mind producing rupture of the heart.
- An article in the Journal of the American Medical Association supported the view that Jesus was dead before the spear wound.

# **Pre-Resurrection Scene: Physical Cause of Christ's Death**

- The flow of blood and water from Jesus' side was either a natural phenomenon or a miracle.
- St. John considered the flow of blood and water unusual, indicating its significance.
- Anatomists are familiar with cases of blood and water flow following a wound, but some cases are not recorded except by St. John.
- Death by crucifixion could cause conditions similar to drowning and strychnia poisoning.
- Samuel Houghton, M.D., explained various scenarios of blood and water flow following a wound, concluding that rupture of the heart was the cause of Jesus' death.

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### **Pre-Resurrection Scene: Wrapping of Jesus' Body**

- Joseph and Nicodemus wrapping Jesus' body in spices indicated that He was dead and known to be dead.
- The pungent nature of myrrh and aloes used in wrapping would have extinguished any remains of life if present.
- Wrapping Jesus' body in linens with spices and a napkin over His head followed Jewish burial customs.
- The meticulous care in wrapping Jesus' body provided full proof of His death.
- The wrapping of Jesus' body in spices was a significant act confirming His death.

# Section 1: Support of Deity: The Resurrection—Hoax or History?

- Dr. William Stroud supports the death of Christ and believes in the actual occurrence of a heart rupture.
- Apostle John provides detailed observations at Golgotha, indicating the authenticity of the narrative.
- Michael Green presents medical evidence of Jesus' death based on blood and water coming out of His pierced side.

#### Section 2: The Tomb

- Wilbur M. Smith notes the frequent mention of the tomb in the Gospel records.
- W. J. Sparrow-Simpson discusses exceptions to burial practices, citing Josephus's account.
- Henry Latham describes the burial preparations for Jesus by Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus.

#### **Section 3: The Burial**

- Wilbur M. Smith emphasizes the detailed knowledge about Jesus' burial compared to other historical figures.
- Alfred Edersheim explains Jewish burial customs and the specifics of Jesus' burial.
- George B. Eager highlights the use of aromatic spices and wrappings in Jewish burial practices.

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#### **Section 4: The Stone**

- Various scholars discuss the size and weight of the stone covering Jesus' tomb.
- A. B. Bruce and T. J. Thorburn provide insights into the sealing and guarding of the tomb.
- Samuel Chandler and Alfred Edersheim mention the significance of the stone being rolled away from the tomb.

#### Section 5: The Seal

- Matthew 27:66 mentions the sealing of the tomb stone and setting the guard.
- A. T. Robertson and A. B. Bruce explain the method of sealing the stone with a cord and sealing clay.
- John Chrysostom reflects on the importance of the seal in confirming the resurrection of Jesus.

# Title of section 1: The Request for Guarding the Tomb

- Jewish leaders sought Pilate's permission to seal and guard Jesus' tomb to prevent any deception about His resurrection.
- Pilate acquiesced and provided a Roman guard to secure the tomb with Imperial Seals.

# Title of section 2: The Identity of the Guard

- Debate over whether the term "guard" refers to temple police or a Roman guard.
- Scholars like A. T. Robertson and A. B. Bruce suggest it likely refers to a guard of Roman soldiers.
- The Latin term "koustodia" found in historical sources supports the presence of a Roman guard.

# Title of section 3: The Military Discipline of the Romans

- Roman soldiers faced severe punishments, including death, for offenses like desertion or sleeping on duty.
- Polybius and Vegetius describe strict discipline and punishment within the Roman army.
- Various examples from Roman military history illustrate the severity of disciplinary measures.

#### Title of section 4: The Temple Guard

- The temple guard consisted of priests and Levites stationed at specific locations within the Temple.
- Guards were not allowed to sit or sleep while on duty, facing harsh punishments for negligence.
- The captain of the Temple oversaw the guards' activities and ensured their alertness.

# Title of section 5: The Disciples' Reaction

- The disciples displayed fear and cowardice, abandoning Jesus during His arrest and crucifixion.
- Peter denied knowing Jesus out of fear for his own safety.
- The disciples' behavior changed drastically after the resurrection, becoming confident and dedicated to spreading the message of salvation.

# Title of section 6: The Transformation of the Disciples

- The disciples' radical transformation from fearful deserters to confident missionaries is attributed to encountering the resurrected Christ.
- Scholars like Pinchas Lapide emphasize the impossibility of a mere vision or hallucination explaining such a profound change.
- The disciples' unwavering commitment despite hardships and martyrdom suggests sincerity in their belief in the resurrection.

# Title of section 7: The Empty Tomb

- The empty tomb is a crucial element in the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus.
- Scholars emphasize the historicity of the empty tomb as verified by the early Christian community's teachings and success in Jerusalem.
- The absence of any credible challenge to the empty tomb's status further supports its historical reality.

### **Section 1: Introduction to the Resurrection**

- The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a central theme in Christianity.
- Various historical and biblical references support the fact of the empty tomb on the first Easter day.

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### Section 2: Attempted Bribery by Jewish Authorities

- Matthew 28:11-15 records the Jewish authorities attempting to bribe the Roman guard to say the disciples stole Jesus' body.
- This fraudulent transaction acknowledges the empty grave, indicating the evidence was too notorious to be denied.

# Section 3: Acknowledgment of the Empty Tomb

- Opponents of Christianity acknowledged the emptiness of the grave while trying to explain it as a fraudulent transaction.
- Jewish comments and accusations assumed the grave was empty, leading to various explanations.

# **Section 4: Testimonies Supporting the Empty Tomb**

- Various scholars and writers cite evidence supporting the indisputable fact of the empty tomb.
- The absence of explicit mention of the empty tomb in Acts is explained by the common knowledge and lack of dispute regarding its emptiness.

#### Section 5: Testimonies from Scholars and Historians

- Scholars like J. P. Moreland and W. J. Sparrow-Simpson emphasize the significance of the empty tomb in historical accounts.
- Julius Wellhausen acknowledges the challenge of accounting for the disappearance of Jesus' body from the grave.

#### **Section 6: Significance of the Grave Clothes**

- John's narrative highlights the significance of the grave clothes as evidence for the resurrection.
- Details about the linen cloths and the handkerchief provide insights into the nature of Jesus' resurrection body.

# Section 7: The Seal and Roman Guard

- The breaking of the seal upon the stone being rolled away signifies a crime against Roman authority.
- The reaction of the Roman guards to the angelic appearance at the tomb adds credibility to the resurrection account.

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# **Section 8: Appearances of Jesus**

- Various appearances of Jesus post-resurrection are documented in the Bible.
- Eyewitness testimonies and encounters with Jesus after His resurrection are highlighted as crucial evidence.

# Section 9: Enemies' Response to the Resurrection

- The silence and mockery of Christ's enemies in response to the resurrection are noted.
- Lack of refutation or counter-evidence from opponents underscores the credibility of the resurrection account.

# Section 10: Established Facts Supporting the Resurrection

- Transformed lives of disciples and individuals post-resurrection are cited as psychological and sociological evidence.
- The establishment of the Christian Church and the preaching of Christ's resurrection serve as foundational elements supporting the resurrection narrative.

### Section 1: Support of Deity: The Resurrection—Hoax or History?

- Acts 13:34-37 and Acts 17:30, 31 emphasize the resurrection of Jesus as a key aspect of Christian faith.
- The early church faced persecution but believed in the resurrection, which was foundational to their faith.
- The resurrection of Jesus is central to the forgiveness of sins and justification for believers.

# Section 2: The Church as a Fact of History

- The existence of the church is attributed to faith in the resurrection of Jesus.
- Early Christians faced persecution but were motivated by the belief in the risen Christ.
- The church's foundation on faith in the resurrected Messiah distinguishes it from Judaism.

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#### Section 3: The Phenomenon of the Christian Sunday

- Christians shifted from observing the Sabbath to worshiping on Sunday to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus.
- The decision to change the day of worship from Saturday to Sunday was significant and required strong conviction.
- The move to Sunday worship highlights the impact of the resurrection on early Christian practices.

# **Section 4: The Phenomenon of Christian Sacraments**

- Communion symbolizes joy and remembrance of Christ's resurrection.
- The Lord's Supper signifies believers meeting Christ in the sacrament.
- Baptism represents believers' union with Christ in His death and resurrection.

# **Section 5: Historical Phenomenon of the Church**

- The institution of the church is explained by faith in the resurrection of Jesus.
- The observance of sacraments serves as evidence of the church's origin.
- Early believers celebrated the resurrection through the Lord's Day and sacraments like communion and baptism.

# **Section 6: Inadequate Theories About the Resurrection**

- Various theories attempt to explain away the resurrection of Christ.
- The swoon theory suggests Jesus never died on the cross but only swooned.
- Refutations of the swoon theory include the impossibility of survival after crucifixion and the lack of evidence for Jesus reviving from a swoon.

### **Section 7: The Swoon Theory**

- The swoon theory proposes that Jesus did not die on the cross but revived in the tomb.
- Critics argue against the swoon theory based on the severity of Jesus' suffering and the physical improbabilities of His revival.
- Scholars point out inconsistencies in the swoon theory, such as Jesus' ability to roll back the stone and appear to His disciples.

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### **Section 8: The Theft Theory**

- The theft theory suggests that Jesus' disciples stole His body from the tomb.
- Matthew records the prevailing theory among Jews that the disciples stole the body.
- Early Christian writers like Justin Martyr and Tertullian mention the theft theory as a popular explanation for the empty tomb.

# **Section 9: Refutation of the Theft Theory**

- The empty tomb presents two alternatives: a divine work or a human one.
- Enemies of Jesus had no motive to remove the body, and His disciples had no power to do so.
- Scholars argue that the removal of Jesus' body from the tomb must have been a divine act based on the lack of human capability.

#### **Section 10: Conclusion**

- The theft theory is refuted by the lack of motive for enemies and lack of power for disciples to steal the body.
- The divine nature of the empty tomb points to the resurrection as the most plausible explanation.
- The resurrection of Jesus remains a central tenet of Christian faith and history.

# **Section 1: Guarding the Tomb**

- The soldiers guarding Jesus' tomb were instructed to prevent any theft of His body.
- The soldiers were bribed by the Sanhedrin to spread a false story about the empty tomb.
- The guard's testimony was accepted as true by the Jewish authorities.

# **Section 2: Disciples Stealing Christ's Body**

- The theory that the disciples stole Christ's body is refuted due to various reasons.
- The disciples were not in a mental or physical state to attempt such a theft.
- Precautions were taken to secure the tomb against theft, making it unlikely for the disciples to succeed.

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### Section 3: Soldiers' Testimony and Lack of Questioning

- The soldiers' testimony about the empty tomb was not questioned by the Jewish authorities.
- The concocted tale by the Jews that the disciples stole Jesus' body is deemed implausible.
- The soldiers would not have fallen asleep while on watch, as it would mean death from their superiors.

# **Section 4: Grave Clothes Testimony**

- The orderly arrangement of the grave clothes refutes the theory of theft.
- The disposition of the clothes in the sepulchre contradicts the idea of theft by the disciples.
- The disciples would not have moved Christ's body due to lack of motive and character.

# **Section 5: Refuting the Hallucination Theory**

- The hallucination theory regarding Christ's post-resurrection appearances is refuted.
- The apostolic office's value would be null if all appearances were mere hallucinations.
- Hallucinations are individualistic and subjective, unlike the shared experiences of Christ's appearances.

# **Section 6: Importance of Christ's Post-Resurrection Appearances**

- Apostles claimed to be eyewitnesses of the Resurrection, emphasizing the importance of Christ's appearances.
- The credibility of the apostolic witness hinges on the validity of their testimony.
- The theory of all appearances being hallucinations undermines the foundation of the Christian Church.

#### **Section 7: Characteristics of Hallucinations**

- Hallucinations are linked to an individual's subconscious and past experiences.
- It is unlikely for multiple people to have the same hallucination simultaneously.
- Christ's appearances were seen by many individuals, making mass hallucinations improbable.

# **Section 8: Testimonies Against Hallucination Theory**

- Men subject to hallucinations do not become moral heroes like the early witnesses of Christ's resurrection.
- The New Testament testimony opposes the hypothesis of mere hallucinations.
- The hallucination theory contradicts laws and principles of psychiatry.

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### **Section 9: Vision Definition and Christ's Appearances**

- A vision is defined as an apparent act of sight without an external object stimulating the optic nerve.
- The appearances of Christ were not mere visions but real experiences witnessed by many.
- The theory of all appearances being visions is refuted based on the characteristics of visions.

# **Section 10: Implausibility of Hallucination Theory**

- The hallucination theory is implausible due to the nature of hallucinations and the characteristics of Christ's appearances.
- Multiple individuals experiencing various sensory impressions simultaneously contradicts the theory of hallucinations.
- The theory of all appearances being hallucinations is dismissed as insufficient and inadequate to explain the events surrounding Christ's resurrection.

### Section 1: Introduction to the Resurrection Debate

- Discussion on whether the resurrection was a hoax or historical event.
- Reference to Schleiermacher's perspective on disciples' mental strength.
- Mention of the need for empirical evidence in determining the reality of the Resurrection.

# **Section 2: Examination of Illusions and Perceptions**

- Definition of illusions as erroneous perceptions.
- Luke's observations on Christ's appearances with infallible proofs.
- Importance of empirical evidence in validating the Resurrection accounts.

# **Section 3: Analysis of Appearances According to Senses**

- Sparrow-Simpson's breakdown of Christ's appearances based on human senses.
- Emphasis on visual, auditory, and tactile experiences in the Gospels.
- Reference to the marks of wounds from the Passion as evidence.

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#### Section 4: Characteristics of Hallucinations

- Hallucinations typically occur in specific environments or moods.
- Hallucinations are limited in time and place, unlike the varied locations of Christ's appearances.
- Lack of psychological preparation and expectancy in disciples for hallucinations.

# **Section 5: Anticipatory Spirit and Expectation in Hallucinations**

- Hallucinations require hopeful expectancy for wish-fulfillment.
- Subject must intensely want to believe to project imagination into reality.
- Observations on the nature of visions and expectations leading to hallucinations.

#### Section 6: Recurrence and End of Hallucinations

- Hallucinations tend to recur over time with regularity.
- Christ's appearances ended abruptly after a period, unlike typical hallucinations.
- The sudden end of visions challenges the hallucination theory.

# **Section 7: Refutation of Hallucination Theory**

- Contradictions between Resurrection appearances and characteristics of hallucinations.
- Disciples' cautious and skeptical nature not conducive to hallucinations.
- Lack of motive for inventing hallucinatory experiences.

# Section 8: Examination of Women Going to the Wrong Tomb

- Detailed analysis of the women's visit to the tomb and reporting to disciples.
- Refutation of the theory that the women went to the wrong tomb.
- Critique of Professor Lake's theory on mistaken tomb location.

#### **Section 9: Further Examination of Women's Actions**

- Women's practical purpose for visiting the tomb early morning.
- Private nature of the burial ground making it unlikely for a mistake in tomb location.
- Criticism of theories suggesting the women went to the wrong tomb.

#### Section 10: Conclusion and Verdict on the Resurrection

- Summary of key arguments supporting the reality of the Resurrection.
- Quotes from scholars emphasizing the integrity and truthfulness of witnesses.
- Final affirmation of the empty tomb and the significance of Christ's resurrection.

#### Title of section 1: Introduction to the Great Proposition

- God becoming man raises questions about His attributes and purpose.
- Effective communication led to God sending His Son, Jesus, into the world.
- Jesus' birth as a baby in a manger symbolized God's non-threatening approach to humanity.

# Title of section 2: God's Love Demonstrated through Jesus

- God's love for humanity is shown through sending His Son, Jesus, for salvation.
- Jesus' birth as a baby was a way for God to relate to humans without fear.
- Incarnation of God as a human is compared to an artist becoming part of his painting.

# Title of section 3: Fulfilled Prophecy as Evidence

- Fulfilled prophecies in the Old Testament predicted the coming of the Messiah.
- Isaiah's prophecy about the virgin birth of the Messiah aligns with the birth of Jesus.
- The miraculous conception of Jesus by a virgin fulfills the prophecy in Isaiah 7:14.

#### Title of section 4: Biblical Testimony for the Virgin Birth

- The Gospels of Matthew and Luke provide accounts of the virgin birth of Jesus.
- Old Testament prophecies, like Isaiah 7:14, foretold the unique conception of the Messiah.
- The concept of the virgin birth aligns with the prescribed mode of entrance for the Messiah.

#### Title of section 5: Meaning of 'Almah in Hebrew Scriptures

- The term 'almah refers to a young unmarried woman in various Old Testament passages.
- Contextual analysis supports that 'almah implies virginity in biblical usage.
- Instances from Genesis, Exodus, Psalms, Proverbs, and Song of Solomon illustrate the meaning of 'almah.

### Title of section 6: Historical Setting of Isaiah 7:14

- Isaiah's prophecy of the virgin birth came during a time of political turmoil in Judah.
- The sign of the virgin birth was given to King Ahaz as a demonstration of God's power.
- The nature of the sign required a supernatural event, not a natural occurrence.

# Title of section 7: Translation Evidence Supporting Virgin Birth

- Various translations of Isaiah 7:14 use words like "virgin" to describe the 'almah.
- Greek, Latin, and Hebrew terms used in translations support the understanding of 'almah as a virgin.
- Consistent translation across different versions affirms the virgin birth prophecy.

# Title of section 8: Identity of the 'Almah as Mary

- The 'almah in Isaiah 7:14 is identified as Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ.
- The prophecy points to a future fulfillment through the birth of Jesus.
- The doctrine of the virgin birth in the New Testament aligns with Old Testament prophecies.

#### Title of section 9: Gospel Accounts of the Virgin Birth

- Matthew and Luke present differing perspectives on the miraculous conception of Jesus.
- Matthew focuses on Joseph's role, while Luke emphasizes Mary's experience.
- The accounts in both Gospels affirm the virgin birth of Jesus.

#### Title of section 10: Sources of Information for Gospel Accounts

- Matthew may have derived details from Joseph's testimony.
- Luke's account could be based on Mary's perspective as an eyewitness.
- Different emphases in the Gospel accounts complement each other in presenting the story of Jesus' birth.

Pages - 341 -- 350

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#### **Section 1: Introduction**

- The text discusses the support for the deity of Jesus through the virgin birth narratives in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.
- It emphasizes the Jewish flavor of the birth narratives and how the Evangelists integrated source material to highlight theological emphases.

#### **Section 2: Similarities in Birth Narratives**

- Both Gospels of Matthew and Luke contain remarkable similarities, emphasizing the essential details of the virgin conception and birth of Jesus.
- James Orr lists twelve points of agreement between the two Gospel accounts, including Jesus being conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of Mary, a virgin betrothed to Joseph.

# **Section 3: Early Writing of the Gospels**

- Irenaeus attests that Matthew was the first Gospel written among the Hebrews, followed by Mark, Luke, and John.
- Matthew's detailed account includes Jesus' miraculous conception in the womb of a virgin, fulfilling the prophecy of a virgin bearing a son named Immanuel.

### **Section 4: Genealogical Differences**

- Critics have raised objections regarding the genealogies in Matthew and Luke, particularly the discrepancy in names and lineage.
- Scholars have proposed various solutions to reconcile the differences, such as adoptive vs. physical descent, father vs. grandfather lineage, and Joseph vs. Mary genealogies.

# Section 5: Witnesses of Mark, John, and Paul

- Critics argue against the historical accuracy of the birth narratives in Matthew and Luke, but scholars point out that silence in other New Testament writings does not imply disbelief in the virgin birth.
- References in the Gospel of John, using the term "only begotten Son," suggest an understanding of Jesus' unique birth.

# Section 6: Extra-biblical Evidence for the Virgin Birth

- The early dating of the Gospel accounts leaves insufficient time for the growth of myths around Christ's birth, supporting the belief in the virgin birth.
- The Apostles' Creed affirms the virgin birth, with roots tracing back to an old Roman baptismal confession.

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### **Section 7: Witness of Early Church Fathers**

- Early church fathers like Ignatius, Justin Martyr, and Tertullian affirmed the virgin birth of Jesus in their writings.
- The belief in the virgin birth was prevalent in the early church, despite some heretical groups like the Ebionites who rejected it.

### **Section 8: Early Jewish Witness**

- Some Jews and rabbis opposed the virgin birth narrative, referring to Jesus as the son of an adulteress or a soldier named Panthera.
- Fictitious tales like the Toldoth Jeschuf propagated stories of Jesus' illegitimate origin, challenging the belief in the virgin birth.

# Section 9: Controversy Surrounding Jesus' Birth

- Rabbis and skeptics questioned the legitimacy of Jesus' birth, citing genealogical scrolls labeling him as a bastard son of an adulteress.
- The text highlights the opposition faced by Jesus' birth narrative from various sources, including fictitious accounts and Jewish skepticism.

#### **Section 10: Conclusion**

- Despite external controversies and challenges to the virgin birth narrative, early church fathers and creedal statements upheld the belief in Jesus' miraculous conception.
- The widespread acceptance of the virgin birth in the early church indicates its significance as a foundational doctrine of Christian faith.

# Title of section 1: Support of Deity: The Great Proposition 305

- Schonfield suggests the existence of a scroll during the capture of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.
- Jesus' name represented by the phrase "so and so" in older Jewish records.
- Reference to R. Shimeon indicating an early charge against Jesus as a bastard son.

# Title of section 2: Controversy Surrounding Jesus' Birth

- Origen's writings suggest early accusations against Jesus' birth.
- Ethelbert Stauffer highlights the strict Jewish rules governing naming conventions.
- Mention of Jesus being accused of being a bastard due to his unconventional birth.

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#### Title of section 3: Jesus' Sinlessness

- Various scholars and historians discuss Jesus' sinless nature.
- Examination of Jesus' self-conscious purity and lack of guilt.
- Testimonies from different authors affirming Jesus' moral perfection.

# Title of section 4: Jesus' Unique Entrance into Human History

- Discussion on Jesus' unique entrance into human history.
- Emphasis on Jesus' sinlessness and absence of any wrongdoing.
- Testimonies from friends, enemies, and historical figures regarding Jesus' character.

# Title of section 5: Expectation of Sinlessness If God Became Man

- Analysis of Jesus' view of Himself as sinless.
- Scholarly perspectives on Jesus' moral perfection.
- Testimonies highlighting Jesus' faultless life and its impact on humanity.

#### Title of section 6: Jesus' Miracles

- Overview of the various miracles performed by Jesus.
- Scholarly interpretations of Jesus' miracles as manifestations of His divine power.
- Examination of the unity and purpose behind Jesus' miracles.

#### Title of section 7: Comments on Jesus' Miracles

- Scholars' views on the congruence of Jesus' miracles with His character.
- Analysis of the motives and scope of Jesus' miracles.
- Islam's recognition of Jesus' ability to perform miracles.

# Title of section 8: Early Jewish Witness to Jesus' Miracles

- References to Jesus' miracles in Jewish law books and histories.
- Controversies among Palestinian Jews regarding healing in Jesus' name.
- Julian the Apostate's unintentional acknowledgment of Jesus' miraculous abilities.

#### Title of section 9: To Silence the Critic

- Bernard Ramm's perspective on the significance of miracles as matters of testimony.
- The capability of miracles to be perceived through sensory perception.
- The importance of miracles in providing evidence for Jesus' divine nature.

# **Section 1: Testimony of Jesus' Miracles**

- Jesus' miracles were performed publicly, allowing for scrutiny and investigation by skeptics.
- The biblical account of raising Lazarus from the dead is highlighted as a witnessed miracle.
- Jesus' contemporaries, including adversaries, acknowledged His ability to perform miracles.

#### **Section 2: Attribution of Jesus' Miracles**

- Jesus' enemies attributed His power to Satan, while His friends recognized it as coming from God.
- C. S. Lewis emphasizes that Christianity is centered around the story of Jesus' miracles.
- Miracles in Christianity are essential for establishing the true religion.

### Section 3: Expectation of Jesus' Perfection

- Jesus is described as truly human yet more than human, embodying deity in humanity.
- Various scholars and historians praise Jesus' character, highlighting His virtues and perfection.
- Jesus' life is characterized by holiness, truthfulness, and embodiment of divine truth.

# Section 4: Uniqueness of Jesus' Character

- Historians and scholars emphasize the unparalleled nature of Jesus' character and teachings.
- Jesus is regarded as the greatest personality ever lived, with an impact surpassing all others.
- His life and teachings are seen as unique, inspiring awe and reverence across different cultures.

### Section 5: Enduring Influence of Jesus' Words

- Jesus' words are considered unparalleled and enduring, surpassing all other teachings.
- His teachings address fundamental human questions and exhibit pure spirituality.
- The statistical significance of the Gospels reflects the greatness of Jesus' words.

### **Section 6: Universal Appeal of Christ's Teachings**

- Christ's message is noted for its universal adaptation and appeal to all individuals.
- His teachings emphasize repentance, trust, and love, resonating across different ages and cultures.
- Christ's words continue to inspire and guide individuals towards spiritual growth and moral excellence.

### Section 7: Lasting Impact of Jesus on Humanity

- Jesus' influence on humanity remains strong and continues to mount over time.
- His life and teachings have transformed lives, inspired philanthropy, and elevated human ideals.
- Scholars and historians acknowledge Jesus as the most influential figure in history, shaping the course of civilization.

# Section 8: Unique Influence of Jesus Throughout History

- Jesus' influence transcends time and space, impacting individuals and societies worldwide.
- His teachings have led to profound changes in society and have inspired devotion and love.
- The enduring presence of Jesus in history is seen as a testament to His divinity and significance.

# Section 9: Recognition of Jesus' Unparalleled Impact

- Scholars and historians recognize Jesus as the central figure in modern history.
- His life and teachings have left an indelible mark on humanity, surpassing all other religious and philosophical figures.
- Jesus' influence is viewed as a transformative force that continues to shape human thought and behavior.

### Section 10: Legacy of Jesus' Life and Teachings

- Jesus' life is described as a model of selflessness, compassion, and divine love.
- His impact on individuals and societies is unparalleled, leading to profound transformations and spiritual awakenings.
- The enduring legacy of Jesus' life underscores His unique role as a source of inspiration and guidance for humanity.

Pages - 371 -- 380

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#### Title of section 1: Support of Deity

- The name of Jesus abounds more and more despite the passing of time.
- Jesus is acknowledged as the living, personal Christ, our Lord and Savior.
- He is proclaimed by God, acknowledged by angels, adored by saints, and feared by devils.

# Title of section 2: Spiritual Hunger in Humanity

- Humanity's need for something more than itself is highlighted.
- Major religions testify to humanity's spiritual search.
- Christianity is praised for dealing with sin and wickedness effectively.

# **Title of section 3: Overcoming Human Emptiness**

- Testimonies from various individuals on finding peace and fulfillment in Jesus Christ.
- Only through committing to Christ can man be changed spiritually.
- Jesus offers peace, rest, and abundant life to those who believe in Him.

# Title of section 4: Overcoming Death

- Jesus willingly gave up His life for the sins of humanity.
- His death was voluntary, foreseen, foretold, and prepared for.
- After His resurrection, the apostles were able to raise the dead through His power.

# Title of section 5: Inspiration of the Bible

- The Bible claims to be the Word of God.
- All Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching and training in righteousness.
- Inspiration is defined as the process by which God worked through human writers to produce authoritative and inerrant writings.

#### Title of section 6: Old Testament Claims to Inspiration

- The Old Testament is considered "God's Word."
- The Law and The Prophets are examined in terms of their claims to inspiration.
- The first five books, known as The Law or The Pentateuch, make explicit claims to inspiration.

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#### Title of section 7: Inspiration of the Law

- The Law consists of the first five books traditionally attributed to Moses.
- Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy explicitly claim inspiration.
- Genesis, though not directly claiming inspiration, is considered part of the Book of Moses and carries divine authority.

Pages - 381 -- 390

#### Title of section 1: The Bible as God's Word in the Old Testament

- Daniel recognized Moses' Law as God's Word during exile.
- Nehemiah's revival came from obedience to Moses' law.
- Prophets in the Old Testament regarded earlier prophets' writings as divine.
- Zechariah and Nehemiah emphasized the authority of previous prophets' words.

# Title of section 2: Inspiration of All Books in the Old Testament

- Majority of Old Testament books explicitly claim to be God's words.
- Historic and poetic books present "what God showed" rather than "what God said."
- Writers like Solomon, David, Jeremiah, and Ezra claimed divine inspiration for their works.

### Title of section 3: New Testament Claims to Inspiration

- New Testament claims to be the "Word of God."
- Christ confirmed the inspiration of the Hebrew canon.
- Apostles and prophets laid the foundation of the church with their teachings.

# Title of section 4: Inerrancy of the Bible

- Inerrancy is linked to the truthfulness of God's character.
- Inerrancy means the Scriptures are wholly true in all aspects.
- Inerrancy does not demand strict grammar or exact historical precision.

#### Title of section 5: Objections to Claims of Inspiration and Inerrancy

- Some object that belief in inerrancy leads to circular reasoning.
- Inerrancy is deduced logically from the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- Inerrancy is not explicitly stated in the Bible but can be inferred from its teachings.

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Pages - 391 -- 400

# Title of section 1: The Bible's Truth and Inerrancy

- God's word is considered true and without error.
- Various biblical references affirm the truthfulness of God's word.
- The doctrine of inerrancy logically follows from the inspiration of the Bible.

# Title of section 2: Importance of Inerrancy

- Some argue that inerrancy is not important, but biblical teachings clearly emphasize its significance.
- Examples from Jesus' teachings and biblical passages supporting inerrancy are provided.
- Historical figures like Augustine, Aquinas, Luther, and Wesley endorsed the inerrancy of Scripture.

# Title of section 3: Denials and Claims about Inerrancy

- Some claim that inerrancy is a recent invention, but historical evidence suggests otherwise.
- Arguments against inerrancy due to perceived errors in the Bible are addressed.
- Recent discoveries support evangelical positions on biblical inerrancy.

#### Title of section 4: Philosophical Issues with Inerrancy

- The rejection of inerrancy is attributed to philosophical presuppositions rather than factual findings.
- Scholars may be influenced by rationalistic and existential thinking.
- Davis's analysis highlights how philosophical assumptions impact beliefs about inerrancy.

#### Title of section 5: Limited Scope of Inerrancy

- Some argue that inspiration covers only doctrinal or moral areas, not historical or scientific aspects.
- The Bible does not make such distinctions, and spiritual and historical elements are intertwined.
- Denying inerrancy can lead to selective acceptance of biblical teachings.

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### Title of section 6: Original Manuscripts and Inerrancy

- Critics argue that inerrancy relies on non-existent original manuscripts.
- Response emphasizes the adequacy of accurate copies for Christian teaching.
- Essential teachings are preserved despite minor copyist errors.

# Title of section 7: Divine Concern and Inerrancy

- Questions raised about the necessity of error-free originals given the adequacy of copies.
- The perfection of God necessitates error-free originals.
- Reasons why God did not preserve original manuscripts are discussed.

# Title of section 8: Qualifications of Inerrancy

- Addressing claims that inerrancy is limited by numerous qualifications.
- Clarification on the two main qualifications of inerrancy.
- Interpretation vs. inspiration in determining biblical truths.

# **Title of section 9: Conclusion on Inerrancy**

- Affirmation that the Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God.
- Assurance based on archaeological discoveries and accurate translations.
- Discussion on attacks by critics and the importance of understanding anti-supernaturalism presuppositions.

# Section 1: The Presupposition of Anti-Supernaturalism

- The concept of being dead in a parable is discussed, emphasizing the severance from the living world.
- Examples of proponents advocating the documentary hypothesis or form criticism are provided.
- Quotes from scholars like Frank, A. Kuenen, Langdon B. Gilkey, Julius Wellhausen, W. H. Green, and J. Orr are presented to illustrate anti-supernaturalist views.

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#### Section 2: Form Criticism by Rudolph Bultmann

- Rudolph Bultmann's perspective on history as a closed continuum without supernatural intervention is outlined.
- Norman Perrin's views on miracles and historical events are highlighted.
- Bultmann's rejection of miracles and emphasis on rational order in the universe are discussed.

# **Section 3: Other Proponents**

- Views from W. J. Sparrow-Simpson, Schubert Ogden, E. C. Burkitt, and Ernst Kasemann on miracles and supernatural events are summarized.
- The denial of the supernatural in modern rationalist criticism is emphasized.
- The role of faith in God as an effective cause in history is contrasted with naturalistic explanations.

#### **Section 4: Science and Miracles**

- Definitions of miracles and their significance in Christianity are explored.
- Arguments by Peter Kreeft and R.C. Sproul, Gerstner, and Lindsley regarding the importance of miracles in Christianity are presented.
- Discussions on the limitations of science in understanding miracles and supernatural events are outlined.

# Section 5: Hume's Philosophical Argument

- David Hume's argument against miracles based on uniform experience is explained.
- Rebuttals to Hume's position by Norman Geisler, Nash, C.S. Lewis, and Merald Westphal are summarized.
- Criticisms of Hume's statistical approach to evaluating miracles are highlighted.

# **Section 6: A Proper Approach to History**

- Ethelbert Stauffer's suggestions for approaching history with critical analysis are discussed.
- Philip Schaff and Ronald Sider's perspectives on historical objectivity and unbiased investigation are presented.
- John Warwick Montgomery's conclusion on objectively interpreting historical documents is outlined.

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#### **Section 7: Critical Method**

- The importance of critical analysis in historical research is emphasized.
- The need for historians to remain open-minded and objective in evaluating historical events is highlighted.
- Objectivity in historical interpretation is discussed in relation to philosophical presuppositions.

# **Section 8: An Appropriate Investigation**

- The necessity for a critical historian to evaluate the evidence for alleged miracles on a case-by-case basis is emphasized.
- The importance of objectively assessing the depiction of Jesus in historical records is highlighted.
- John Warwick Montgomery's conclusion on investigating the historicity of miracles is summarized.

### Title of section 1: The Presupposition of Anti-Supernaturalism

- Scientific knowledge enhances critical attitude towards reports of unusual events.
- Historians must carefully examine data about alleged events like the resurrection of Jesus.
- The historian cannot prove direct divine intervention in unusual events.
- Faith is based on historical facts and witnesses.

# **Title of section 2: Historical Criticism and Unusual Events**

- Historians cannot prove an event as inexplicable in terms of natural causes.
- Future scientific knowledge may explain events beyond present understanding.
- Maintaining neutrality in historical inquiry is crucial.
- Fitness to meet the facts is the ultimate test.

### Title of section 3: The Resurrection of Jesus

- Believing in the resurrection requires historical facts of death, burial, and witness of disciples.
- Christian faith would be shattered if Jesus did not rise from the tomb.
- God's interventions in history are beyond natural explanation.

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# Title of section 4: Biases in Approaching History

- Personal beliefs influence acceptance of biblical texts.
- Anti-supernaturalistic approach challenges supernatural elements in sacred history.
- Historical study can be influenced by philosophical principles.

# Title of section 5: Contributions of Archaeology to Biblical Criticism

- Archaeology enhances scientific study of biblical text.
- Acts as a check in critical studies, confirming biblical accounts.
- Illustrates and explains various biblical passages.
- Provides archaeological confirmation of Old Testament history.

### Title of section 6: Reliability of Old Testament History

- Archaeological evidence confirms substantial historicity of Old Testament tradition.
- Accuracy of Hebrew Bible manuscripts is supported by archaeology.
- Archaeology supplements areas not covered in the Bible.

# Title of section 7: Limitations of Archaeology

- Archaeology cannot prove the Bible's inspiration or revelation.
- It confirms historical accuracy but does not address the nature of God.
- Evidence in archaeology is limited compared to the vast historical context.

### Title of section 8: Relationship Between Archaeology and the Bible

- Archaeology sheds light on puzzling biblical passages.
- Illuminates the text of the Bible with new discoveries.
- Helps understand historical context and background of biblical events.

# Title of section 1: Archaeology Supports the Old Testament Accounts

- Archaeological evidence from Ebla tablets confirms early chapters of Genesis.
- Creation tablet from Ebla predates Babylonian creation account by 600 years.
- Ebla tablets mention names found in the book of Genesis, such as Adam, Eve, and Noah.

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#### Title of section 2: The Flood of Noah

- Flood narrative in Genesis is more realistic and less mythological compared to other ancient versions.
- Similar flood accounts found in various cultures worldwide.
- Geological evidence supports a worldwide flood.

#### Title of section 3: The Tower of Babel

- Evidence of a single language at one time found in Sumerian literature.
- Ur-Nammu's construction of a ziggurat similar to the Tower of Babel story.
- Evidence supporting Mosaic authorship through retrospective revelation or compilation of earlier records.

#### Title of section 4: The Patriarchs

- Legal codes from Abraham's time support biblical narratives.
- Mari letters confirm names and events mentioned in Genesis.
- Evidence from Mari and Nuzu supports historical accuracy of patriarchal stories.

### Title of section 5: Sodom and Gomorrah

- Archaeological findings confirm existence and destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.
- Geological evidence of earthquake activity and burning in the region.
- Bitumen deposits and sedimentary rock layers support biblical description of destruction.

# Title of section 6: The Dating of the Exodus

- Debate on the timing of the Exodus into Palestine.
- Reinterpretation of Middle Bronze Age dates aligns with Israelite conquest.
- New chronology suggests Exodus around 1450 B.C.

# Title of section 7: Saul, David, and Solomon

- Archaeological findings support biblical accounts of Saul, David, and Solomon.
- Discoveries at Gezer confirm biblical narrative of Pharaoh's attack and capture.
- Excavations reveal evidence of sling shots and temple structures mentioned in the Bible.

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### Title of section 8: The Assyrian Invasion

- Ashurbanipal's tablets confirm Assyrian conquests and biblical references.
- Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser depicts Jehu bowing down to the king of Assyria.
- Sennacherib's siege of Jerusalem corroborated by archaeological evidence.

# Title of section 9: The Captivity

- Records from Babylon's hanging gardens confirm treatment of Jehoiachin and Belshazzar.
- Cylinder confirming Cyrus' decree aligns with biblical prophecies.
- Archaeological discoveries support historical accuracy of captivity narratives.

# Title of section 1: Archaeological Evidence for Mosaic Authorship

- Archer provides examples of archaisms in the Pentateuch, supporting early authorship.
- Trivial details mentioned in the Old Testament suggest contemporary eyewitness accounts.
- Names of Egyptian kings were not mentioned until the time of Solomon, indicating early authorship.

### **Title of section 2: Early Hebrew Literature**

- Traditional view suggests Hebrew literature was late, but recent evidence supports earlier dating.
- Scribes recorded events close to their occurrence, reducing oral transmission time.
- Majority of the Old Testament is considered of great antiquity.

# Title of section 3: Early Parallels in Pentateuchal Laws

- Numerous discoveries show parallel laws in other Mesopotamian cultures.
- The Covenant Code reflects Israelite customs and religious obligations.
- Antiquity of the Covenant Code is established by archaeological findings.

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#### Title of section 4: Land Transaction Recorded in Genesis 23

- Abraham's land transaction with Ephron the Hittite reflects accurate knowledge of Hittite legal procedures.
- Discovery of the Hittite Legal Code provides parallels to the narrative in Genesis 23.
- Narrative suggests a high probability of preceding the fall of the Hittites in the thirteenth century B.C.

#### Title of section 5: Three Customs Referred to in Genesis

- Ancient customs mentioned in Genesis are proven to be common in the second millennium B.C.
- Nuzi documents support practices like siring legitimate children by handmaidens.
- Customs such as oral deathbed wills and family teraphim are validated by archaeological evidence.

# Title of section 6: Conclusion on Archaeology and Mosaic Authorship

- Archaeology undermines the documentary hypothesis and supports Mosaic authorship.
- Albright confirms historical accuracy and literary antiquity in the Pentateuch.
- Bright asserts that no evidence contradicts any item in the patriarchal narratives.

# Title of section 7: Introduction to the Documentary Hypothesis

- Documentary hypothesis claims the Pentateuch was written years after Moses' death by various editors.
- JEDP hypothesis suggests four different documents (J, E, D, P) make up the Pentateuch.
- Literary variations within the text are cited as evidence for multiple authors.

#### Title of section 8: Background and Purpose of Each Writer in the Documentary Hypothesis

- J, or Yahwist, gathered legends and stories into one history around the time of David or Solomon.
- E, or Elohist, wrote about 700 B.C. and emphasized traditions passed down among northern tribes.
- D, or Deuteronomy, document aimed at reforming religious practices during the reign of Josiah.

### Title of section 9: Dates and Development of the Four Documents in the Documentary Hypothesis

- Wellhausen theory dates the four documents based on the D document from the seventh century.
- J and E documents were combined around 650 B.C., with P appearing in the fifth century.
- Pentateuch composed in its present form around 400 B.C. according to the documentary hypothesis.

# Title of section 10: Consequences of the Documentary Hypothesis

- Rejects Mosaic authorship and questions the credibility of the Old Testament.
- People in the Pentateuch are viewed as idealized heroes rather than actual individuals.
- Skepticism inherent in the theory creates a credibility gap with laymen regarding the Pentateuch's usefulness.

# **Introduction to the Documentary Hypothesis**

- The Documentary Hypothesis, also known as JEDP theory, is a key aspect of biblical criticism.
- It involves analyzing the Pentateuch (first five books of the Bible) to identify different sources and authors.

#### **Definitions of Biblical Criticism**

- Biblical criticism involves impartially judging the origin, history, and text of Scripture.
- It is divided into lower criticism (textual analysis) and higher criticism (judgment based on literary aspects).

### **Higher Criticism**

- Higher criticism questions the integrity, authenticity, credibility, and literary forms of biblical writings.
- It aims to scrutinize the Bible using literary principles to determine authorship, sources, and composition methods.

# **History of Higher Criticism**

- Higher criticism was first applied to classical literature before being used in biblical studies.
- German scholar J. G. Eichhorn introduced the term "higher criticism" to Old Testament study in the late 1700s.

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#### Three Schools of Radical Pentateuchal Criticism

- Documentary Hypothesis: Proposes that the Pentateuch consists of four documents written by different authors over centuries.
- Form Criticism: Suggests that the Pentateuch evolved from oral traditions compiled after the Exile.
- Oral Traditionists: Emphasize the importance of oral tradition in shaping the Pentateuch's content.

# **Documentary Hypothesis: Statement of Theory**

- The Pentateuch is a compilation of four documents combined by redactors around 400 B.C.
- Julius Wellhausen's 1878 work is a classic expression of this theory.

### Form Criticism (Formgeschichte)

- Form critics believe the Pentateuch originated from oral traditions compiled post-Exile.
- Scholars like Herman Gunkel and Hugo Gressmann founded this school in the early 20th century.

# Oral Traditionists ("Uppsala School")

- This school views the Pentateuch as a collection of material compiled over centuries, not authored by Moses.
- They emphasize oral tradition's role in transmitting ancient texts.

#### Introduction to the Pentateuch

- The Pentateuch comprises Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.
- It records God's saving acts in history, with the Exodus from Egypt as a central event.

#### **Contents of the Pentateuch**

- The Pentateuch covers primeval history, patriarchs, Exodus, laws, and historical events.
- It holds religious significance as a record of God's redemption of mankind.

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### Title of section 1: Development of the Documentary Hypothesis

- In 1830, a theory was developed suggesting the first six books of the Bible were based on an Elohistic writing with later additions using the divine name "Jehovah."
- Various versions of this hypothesis emerged, with some scholars proposing multiple supplements.
- By 1845, Ewald proposed a theory involving five narrators writing different parts of the Pentateuch over seven hundred years.
- Hupfeld in 1853 introduced a modified theory with four distinct documents (P, E, J, D) woven into the Pentateuchal narrative.

#### Title of section 2: Essential Differences in Theories

- The Fragmentary Hypothesis suggests a unity with one basic document (E) supplemented by later additions (J).
- The Crystallization Theory proposes five narrators contributing to the Pentateuch instead of one supplementer.
- The Modified Documentary Theory combines three documents (J, P, E) through a redactor, differing from the Crystallization Theory.

# Title of section 3: Development Hypothesis (Revised Documentary Theory)

- Wellhausen restated the documentary hypothesis in terms of an evolutionary view of history.
- The Supplementary Theory, commonly known as the Documentary Hypothesis, was established with a revised order of documents (JEDP).

### **Title of section 4: Modern Revisions and Developments**

- Scholars like Smend, Eissfeldt, Kennett, and others proposed variations in the number and nature of documents within the Pentateuch.
- Different conclusions were drawn regarding the dating and authorship of Deuteronomy and other sections of the Pentateuch.

### **Title of section 5: Ground Rules**

- Approach Hebrew Scriptures harmonistically as other ancient literature.
- Exercise an open mind in studying historical and literary documents.
- Submit to external, objective controls such as archaeological evidence in biblical studies.

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### **Title of section 6: Documentary Presuppositions**

- Radical critics hold anti-supernaturalistic worldviews as their basic presupposition.
- Source analysis was prioritized over archaeology in determining the historical background of the Pentateuch.
- Critics' subjective theories influenced their conclusions more than objective archaeological evidence.

### **Section 1: Importance of Archaeological Evidence**

- External criteria are needed to verify historical assertions in biblical studies.
- Archaeologists have provided abundant external evidence to reconstruct the history of Israel.
- Albright emphasizes the necessity of verifiable methods and external evidence in establishing historicity.

### **Section 2: Critiques of Skeptical Criticism**

- Sayce and Wright highlight how archaeological discoveries have disproved skeptical criticism.
- Mendenhall notes that important historical results often rely less on literary analysis.
- Wright warns against hypercriticism leading to hyperskepticism due to insufficient extra-biblical data in the past.

# **Section 3: Historicity of the Old Testament**

- Albright asserts that archaeological and inscriptional data support the historicity of numerous Old Testament passages.
- Wellhausen's views on the evolution of Israel's religion are criticized as antiquated and distorted by Albright.
- Albright challenges the notion that Israelite monotheism evolved gradually, emphasizing the historical context.

### Section 4: Evolutionary View of Israel's Religion and History

- Rationalistic critics believed in an evolutionary process of religious development from animism to monotheism.
- Wellhausen's reconstruction of Israel's religion depicts an evolution from animism through henotheism to monotheism.
- Orr and Archer critique the evolutionary view of Israel's religion and history, highlighting the uniqueness of Israelite monotheism.

# **Section 5: Hegel's Influence on Old Testament Studies**

- Hegel's evolutionary philosophy influenced nineteenth-century Old Testament scholars.
- Hegel's view of Hebrew religion as a necessary step in the evolution towards Christianity impacted interpretations of the Old Testament.
- The evolutionary concept in historical investigation was prevalent in the nineteenth century, shaping interpretations of Old Testament history.

### **Section 6: Monotheism in Ancient Religions**

- Albright and Free discuss early instances of monotheistic tendencies in ancient Egypt, Babylonia,
   Syria, and Canaan.
- Archer emphasizes the rarity of true monotheistic religions apart from those influenced by Hebrew faith.
- Youngblood highlights the inspired insight of monotheism revealed to Israel by God.

### Section 7: Environmental Conditioning and Israelite Religion

- Critics suggest that Israelite religion was influenced by environmental and geographical conditions.
- Wright argues against explaining Israelite religion solely through evolutionary or environmental categories.
- Unger points out the patriarchs' resistance to pagan practices despite surrounding polytheism.

# **Section 8: The Second Commandment**

- Radical critics reject Mosaic authorship of the second commandment due to its prohibition of images.
- Wright's excavation findings at Megiddo do not support the presence of images of Jehovah among Israelites.
- The prohibition against images of Yahweh was deeply ingrained in early Israelite religion, as evidenced by archaeological discoveries.

### Section 9: Misunderstandings in Israel's Religion

- Failure to discern between official doctrines and common people's practices led to misunderstandings.
- The prohibition against images of Yahweh was firmly established in early Israel.
- Archeology supports the antiquity and significance of the second commandment in Israelite religion.

### **Section 10: Conclusion**

- The text provides a comprehensive overview of the documentary presuppositions and critiques in biblical studies.
- Key points include the importance of archaeological evidence, critiques of skeptical criticism, discussions on the historicity of the Old Testament, evolutionary views of Israel's religion, and influences of Hegel on Old Testament studies.

### Title of section 1: Documentary Assumption on Moses' Moral Level

- The laws, moral tone, and social level attributed to Moses were considered too advanced for early Israel's development.
- Archaeological evidence contradicts this assumption, showing no valid reason for dating the Levitical sacrificial laws late.
- Albright contrasts Israel's monotheism and ethical code with pagan worship encountered in Canaan.

### Title of section 2: The Priestly Code

- Pfeiffer suggests the Priestly Code dates back to the first half of the Persian period.
- Joseph P. Free challenges the late dating of Levitical sacrificial laws, citing archaeological evidence from Ugaritic material.
- Archer argues against skepticism regarding Israelites' ability to govern by such laws in Moses' time.

#### Title of section 3: Contrast of the Codes

- Differences between the Torah and the Code of Hammurabi are emphasized over similarities.
- Hammurabi takes credit for his laws, while Moses is seen as an instrument of God.
- Hebrew laws prioritize human life, honor of women, and humane treatment of slaves, unlike Babylonian laws.

#### **Title of section 4: Additional Comments**

- Albright criticizes Wellhausen's evolutionary view of Israel's history.
- Archaeological evidence refutes theories about the complexity of Pentateuchal legislation.
- Scholars like Ira Maurice Price and M. J. Lagrange challenge critical views on the origin of laws ascribed to Moses.

### Title of section 5: No Writing in Israel at Moses' Time

- Documentarians believed writing was unknown in Israel during Moses' time, questioning his authorship of the Pentateuch.
- Sayce and Albright present evidence of writing systems in ancient Palestine and Syria before Moses' era.
- Cyrus Gordon highlights the advanced literary culture in Canaan prior to Hebrew emergence.

### **Title of section 6: Evaluation and Cultural Climate**

- A. H. Sayce debunks the theory of late writing use for literary purposes.
- Crete and Egypt show early examples of writing systems predating Moses.
- Albright emphasizes the importance of Ugarit discoveries in understanding biblical Hebrew language.

### **Title of section 7: Implications**

- Conclusions undermine the documentary hypothesis, challenging classical Pentateuchal analysis.
- Kitchen rejects assumptions based on the concept of cultural advancement.
- Critics' views on Abraham's historicity are criticized, with some denying his existence altogether.

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### **Section 1: Documentary Presuppositions**

- Various scholars discuss the historicity of Old Testament narratives, ranging from legendary elements to genuine history.
- Robert H. Pfeiffer highlights the mix of fiction and history in Old Testament narratives, emphasizing the credibility of events recounted by eyewitnesses.

# Section 2: Archaeological Discoveries and Patriarchal Period

- G. Ernest Wright mentions the role of archaeology in enhancing knowledge of the patriarchal period.
- Unger discusses the importance of inscriptions in understanding patriarchal culture and how archaeological findings support Old Testament narratives.

### **Section 3: Historicity of Patriarchal Traditions**

- David Noel Freedman emphasizes the relevance of recent archaeological discoveries to the historicity of patriarchal traditions.
- William F. Albright and E. Speiser's views on the historicity of Abraham and patriarchal figures are discussed.

#### Section 4: Mari Tablets

- William F. Albright discusses the significance of the Mari Tablets in confirming Israelite traditions related to the Hebrew forefathers.
- The Mari Tablets shed light on the background of the Patriarchal traditions of Genesis, providing details that align with biblical narratives.

# **Section 5: Law Codes and Nuzi Tablets**

- Manfred Lehmann's findings on Hittite law codes corroborate incidents associated with the patriarchs in the early second millennium.
- The Nuzi Tablets reveal legal and social customs of the patriarchal age, supporting the authenticity of patriarchal society.

#### **Section 6: Egyptian Execration Texts**

- The Execration Texts provide evidence supporting the background of the patriarchs as depicted in Genesis.
- These artifacts, inscribed with names of potential enemies, demonstrate the historical context of the patriarchal narratives.

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#### **Section 7: Ebla Tablets**

- The discovery of the ancient city of Ebla at Tell Mardikh offers new insights into Near Eastern studies of the third millennium B.C.
- David Noel Freedman suggests a direct link between the Ebla tablets and the Bible, emphasizing historical, chronological, and factual connections.

# **Section 8: Living Conditions**

- Scholars analyze the social-cultural setting of Middle Bronze Age Palestine, highlighting the accuracy of biblical narratives in reflecting the region's customs.
- The geographical-topographical setting is discussed, showing how topographical allusions in the patriarchal stories align with archaeological indications.

### Section 9: Counter-issue: Abraham in Egypt

- Edgar Banks addresses the skepticism surrounding Abraham's visit to Egypt, refuting claims that strangers could not enter Egypt in earlier times.
- Archaeological evidence contradicts historical accounts suggesting Egypt was closed to foreigners during Abraham's time.

### Section 10: Conclusion on Historicity of Patriarchs

- Scholars like W. F. Albright and J. Bright assert the historicity of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as actual historical individuals.
- The balance between examining patriarchal traditions against contemporary contexts and making positive statements based on evidence is emphasized for anchoring the patriarchal narratives in history.

### Section 1: Mesopotamian Kings' Names

- Mari tablets discovered in 1933 contain names identified with Genesis 14.
- Tid'al and Chedorla'omer are names known from historical records.
- Scholars now find means of identifying the kings mentioned in Genesis 14.

#### **Section 2: Extensive Travel**

- Historical evidence supports extensive travel during the patriarchal period.
- Examples of long-distance travel between Babylonia and Palestine.
- Archaeological discoveries confirm extensive travel as implied in Genesis 14.

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#### Section 3: Route of the March

- Archaeological discoveries support the historical account of the campaign in Genesis 14.
- Albright retracted his legendary view of the march route.
- Developed regions along the route existed early in history.

### **Section 4: Authority Over Canaan**

- Archaeological evidence supports Mesopotamian kings' control over Canaan.
- Inscription refers to the King of Elam as the prince of the Land of Amurru.

### **Section 5: Additional Comments**

- Power-alliances in Mesopotamian politics during a specific period.
- Important cities along the invading armies' route before 2000 B.C.
- Identification of towns mentioned in Genesis 14 verses 5-7.

### **Section 6: Conclusion Regarding Documentary Hypothesis Presuppositions**

- Wellhausen's theory based on Hegelian philosophy of history.
- Founders of documentary theory not scientifically objective.
- Criticism of making a priori assumptions without convincing argument.

### Section 7: Presuppositions and Contemporary Biblical Criticism

- Conservative and liberal critics hold preconceived positions.
- Recognition of preconceived positions in biblical study.
- Importance of analyzing present presuppositions in understanding ancient Scriptures.

### Section 8: Consequences of Radical Higher Criticism Overview

- Old Testament considered essentially unhistorical by radical higher critics.
- Critics construct their own account of early Hebrew history contradicting the Old Testament record.
- Comparison of Hebrew account of history with modern higher critics' view.

### Section 9: Israel's Religion Origin and Development

- The theory that Israel's religion is natural, not supernatural in origin.
- Dependence of literary criticism on religious theory.
- Biblical narratives viewed as symbols rather than historical facts.

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### Section 10: History and Religion of Israel as Fraudulent

- Hebrew account intended to be accepted as truly historical.
- Implications of a contrived history if documentarians are correct.
- Honest portrayal of history and religion in the Old Testament.

Pages - 501 -- 510

### Title of section 1: Internal Evidence - Witness of the Pentateuch

- The Pentateuch states that portions were written by Moses.
- Various passages attribute authorship to Moses, such as Exodus 24:4, Deuteronomy 31:9, and Numbers 33:2.
- Moses had the qualifications and opportunity to write the Pentateuch.

#### Title of section 2: Internal Evidence - Witness of the Other Old Testament Books

- Old Testament verses attribute the Torah to Moses, like Joshua 8:32 and 1 Kings 2:3.
- New Testament writers also affirm that the Law came from Moses.
- Jesus himself believed Moses wrote the Torah.

### Title of section 3: External Evidence - Jewish Tradition

- Jewish sources like the Talmud and Philo attribute the Torah to Moses.
- Flavius Josephus confirms the belief in Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch.
- Early Christian Church Fathers also support Mosaic authorship.

### Title of section 4: External Evidence - Early Christian Tradition

- Various Church Fathers list the Pentateuch as authored by Moses.
- Junilius and Leontius of Byzantium affirm Mosaic authorship.
- Early church canonical lists attribute the Pentateuch to Moses.

### Title of section 5: Covenant-Form Analysis - Introduction

- George Mendenhall's study on ancient suzerainty treaties.
- Meredith Kline's correlation of these treaties to Deuteronomy.
- G. Ernest Wright's insights on the covenant form in Israel.

### Title of section 6: Covenant-Form Analysis - Hittite Suzerainty Treaties

- Elements of Hittite treaties from the fourteenth to thirteenth centuries B.C.
- Comparison of Hittite treaties with Deuteronomy's structure.
- Deuteronomy's form reflects ancient treaty patterns.

### Title of section 7: Covenant-Form Analysis - First Millennium B.C. Treaties

- Differences between second millennium and first millennium treaty forms.
- Mendenhall's observations on the survival of covenant types.
- Kitchen and Kline's conclusions on Deuteronomy's antiquity.

### Title of section 8: The Antiquity of the Alleged D Source - Introduction

- Importance of Deuteronomy in Old Testament scholarship.
- Disagreement over the date of Deuteronomy's authorship.
- Recognition of Deuteronomy's central role in biblical history.

# **Title of section 9: Statements - Frequently Recurring Statements**

- Common themes in Deuteronomy related to Egypt, Canaan, sin, and blessings.
- Purpose of Deuteronomy to protect against Canaanite influence.
- Themes consistent with a second millennium B.C. context.

# Title of section 10: Statements - Geographical Statements

- Accuracy and realism of geographical details in Deuteronomy.
- Absence of certain locations indicating historical accuracy.
- Geographical data supporting early date and historical character of Deuteronomy.

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### **Evidence for Mosaic Authorship**

### **Section 1: Literary Characteristics of Deuteronomy**

- Deuteronomy presents new terms, thought patterns, and expressions compared to Genesis through Numbers.
- Deuteronomy's oratorical style indicates a long literary history behind it.
- Differences in style between Deuteronomy and the rest of the Pentateuch are due to their respective standpoints.

# **Section 2: Antiquity of Legislation**

- Deuteronomy reflects a more advanced community life than earlier laws.
- Laws in Deuteronomy do not show dependence on earlier sources but complement them.
- Deuteronomy includes laws that follow naturally from preceding discourses.

# **Section 3: Stylistic Points**

- Moses uses an oratorical style in Deuteronomy.
- The oratorical style does not necessarily indicate a long period of development.
- Earlier speeches of Moses in the Pentateuch show a similar style.

### **Section 4: Centralized Worship**

- Documentary hypothesis assumes a plurality of sanctuaries during Moses' time.
- Deuteronomy emphasizes purification of worship rather than unification.
- Altar construction in Deuteronomy challenges the assumption of centralized worship.

#### Section 5: Statements Alleged to Oppose Mosaic Authorship

- Phrases like "beyond the Jordan" and "until this day" are explained within their contexts.
- Accounts in Deuteronomy, such as Moses' death, are considered reasonable additions.
- Events in Deuteronomy cover all of Moses' life without transgressing historical limits.

### Section 6: Antiquity of the Alleged P Source

- Claims about the late date of the Priestly writing are challenged.
- Features present in P are compared across different periods.
- Internal evidence suggests P was known in pre-exilic times.

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#### Section 7: Genesis 17

- Genesis 17's form, style, and content belong to the 2nd millennium B.C.
- Parallels are drawn between Genesis 17 and Vassal Treaties of the same period.

### Section 8: Genesis 9

- Genesis 9's reference to eating meat without blood is deemed inconsistent with a priestly tendency.
- The permission to eat meat in Genesis 9 is seen as unnecessary for the exilic-postexilic period.

### **Section 9: The Tabernacle**

- Documentarians dismiss the tabernacle in Exodus as a "pure fantasy."
- Wellhausen and Bentzen question the historical accuracy and feasibility of the tabernacle's description.

### Title of section 1: Evidence for Mosaic Tabernacle Structure

- Archaeological discoveries show portable structures similar to the Mosaic tabernacle.
- Prefabricated structures from ancient Egypt resemble the design and construction of the Tabernacle.
- Tent of Purification from the third millennium B.C. shares similarities with the Tabernacle.

### Title of section 2: Support for Mosaic Authorship

- Kenneth Kitchen highlights the practicality and use of construction techniques similar to the Tabernacle.
- Egyptians valued Semitic craftsmanship, supporting the idea that Hebrews could construct the Tabernacle.
- Evidence from archaeological findings refutes claims of late fantasy regarding the Tabernacle's construction.

# Title of section 3: External Evidence for Early Dating of Priestly Writings

- Cuneiform data from the eighteenth to fifteenth centuries B.C. helps interpret difficult expressions in Leviticus.
- Ras Shamra tablets from 1400 B.C. contain sacrificial terms found in Leviticus.
- The terminology of the Levitical cultus is deemed early, contrary to previous beliefs.

### Title of section 4: Specific Uses of Divine Names

- Different divine names like Jehovah and Elohim hold distinct significance.
- Authors used Jehovah, Elohim, or Jehovah-Elohim based on the context of the passage.
- Various scholars provide interpretations of the etymology and significance of divine names.

### Title of section 5: Explanation of Divine Name Usage

- Yahweh and Elohim are used based on the portrayal of God and the context of the narrative.
- Rules are established for the use of Yahweh and Elohim in different types of literature.
- Divine name usage varies depending on the nature of the text and the relationship with Israel.

# Title of section 6: Application of Divine Name Rules in Genesis

- Analysis of divine name usage in Genesis reveals a purposeful selection based on the narrative.
- Yahweh and Elohim are used interchangeably to convey different aspects of God's character.
- The compound name Yahweh-Elohim signifies the consolidation of specific and general attributes of God.

#### **Title of section 7: Critiques of Documentary Hypothesis**

- Scholars question the validity of using divine name variations to support multiple authorship.
- Traditionalists argue that stylistic practices rather than separate documents explain divine name changes.
- Archaeological evidence supports the combination of divine names as a common practice in ancient cultures.

# **Title of section 8: Significance of Compound Deity Names**

- Comparison with Egyptian deity names shows the use of multiple terms for a single god.
- The compound name Yahweh-Elohim may indicate the equivalence of Yahweh and Elohim.
- Scholars challenge the notion that Yahweh-Elohim results from combining J and E documents.

### **Title of section 9: Practical Examples from Ancient Texts**

- Examples from ancient texts demonstrate prolixity of expression without the need for multiple sources.
- Inscriptions like the Berlin stela of Ikhernofret show varied terms for deities without invoking multiple sources.
- Texts were composed, carved, and set up quickly without the need for extensive redactors or conflation.

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#### Title of section 10: Conclusion

- The use of divine names in ancient texts reflects cultural practices and stylistic choices.
- Archaeological evidence and scholarly critiques challenge traditional theories of multiple authorship based on divine name variations.
- Understanding the significance of divine names enhances interpretations of ancient texts.

### Section 1: The Phenomenon of Divine Names in Mesopotamia

- Multiple divine names occur in Mesopotamia.
- Examples include Enlil (Nunamnir), Inanna/Ishtar/Telitum, and Nintu/Mama.

# Section 2: Difficulty in Using Divine Names as Evidence for Multiple Authors

- Critics question why different divine names are preferred by different authors.
- Cassuto observes the unique concept of the specific God of Israel in Hebrew literature.

#### **Section 3: Exegesis of Exodus 6:3**

- Critics interpret Exodus 6:3 to mean that the name Jehovah was not known until revealed to Moses.
- The word "to know" in the Old Testament includes apprehending divine attributes.

### **Section 4: Correct Exegesis of Exodus 6:3**

- The verse implies that the relationship with God implied by the name "Jehovah" was not known.
- The use of divine names reflects the nature of the reality they stand for.

### Section 5: Difficulties with Documentarians' Manipulation of Divine Names

- Inconsistencies in assigning divine names to different sources.
- Appeal to redactors to explain contradictions.

#### Section 6: Similar Use of Divine Names in the Koran

- The Koran shows a parallel to the irregular distribution of divine names in the Pentateuch.
- Different suras use different divine names.

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### Section 7: Divine Name Variation in the LXX (Septuagint)

- The LXX shows more variation in divine names than the Masoretic Text.
- Scholars re-evaluate the use of divine names as evidence for separate documents.

# **Section 8: Repetition of Accounts**

- Certain stories in the Pentateuch are repeated twice.
- Alleged contradictory details in Creation and Flood narratives.

### **Section 9: Documentary Assumption on Repetition of Accounts**

- Repetition of narratives indicates multiple authors according to the documentary assumption.
- Contradictory details suggest different sources.

#### Section 10: Anachronisms—Late Words

- Late words and anachronisms are pointed out in the text.
- Alleged contradictions in details are highlighted.

# **Section 1: Alleged Contradictions in the Flood Story**

- Critics claim discrepancies in the duration of the Flood, citing different accounts from Genesis 7 and 8.
- Kitchen argues that these alleged contradictions are inventions of the theory and that the biblical text is consistent in giving a total duration of one year and eleven days for the Flood episode.

### **Section 2: The Continuity of Isolated Documents**

- Eissfeldt notes the interweaving of compiled parallels in Pentateuchal narratives, resulting in incomplete stories.
- Green illustrates the arbitrary nature of dissecting sources by comparing it to the New Testament parable of the prodigal son.

### **Section 3: Abraham's Journey**

- Critics suggest two interwoven stories in Genesis chapters 11 through 13, assigning different verses to J and P sources.
- Orr argues that the story is a unity and loses its connection when divided into separate sources.

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### Section 4: Isaac's Blessing

- Genesis 27 faces criticism from critics who dissect passages arbitrarily, assigning phrases to different sources based on motifs.
- Cassuto highlights the illogical dissection of Genesis 27, showing that the passage makes sense as a whole unit but becomes meaningless when dissected.

### **Section 5: The Story of Joseph**

- Rowley points out contradictions in the story of Joseph being sold into Egypt, involving the Ishmaelites, Midianites, and Joseph's brothers.
- Kitchen refutes the claims of irreconcilable accounts, explaining that terms overlap and pronouns can refer back to different antecedents in Hebrew.

### **Section 6: Repetition of Accounts and Alleged Contradictions**

- Various examples are provided where alleged contradictions in the Genesis narrative are shown to have simple and reasonable solutions within the Hebrew text.
- Alexander Heidel emphasizes that leaving the story as it is in the text resolves the supposed discrepancies without the need to dissect sources.

### **Section 7: The Creation Story**

- Differences between the two accounts of creation in Genesis are highlighted, such as theological and stylistic variations.
- Kitchen argues against claims of contradictory details, emphasizing the complementary nature of the accounts when understood correctly.

### **Section 8: Jacob's Flocks Prosper**

- Driver divides Genesis 30:25 through 31:18 into sections from J and E sources, highlighting differences in the accounts of Jacob's prosperity.
- The author's objective description in chapter 30 contrasts with Jacob's perspective in chapter 31, showing complementary details rather than discrepancies.

#### **Section 9: Abraham's Deceit**

- Allegations of Abraham passing Sarah off as his sister twice are addressed, with Archer arguing against the assumption of repetitive events.
- The financial gain from both instances is noted, challenging the idea of identical mistakes not occurring more than once.

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#### Section 10: Isaac's Deceit

- Similarities between Isaac allowing his wife to be regarded as his sister and Abraham's deception are discussed.
- Archer presents difficult assumptions that must be made if these events are considered differing versions of the same event.

Pages - 551 -- 560

### Title of section 1: Hebrew Style and Repetition

- Hebrew style characterized by paratactic sentence structure using the connective "and"
- Repetition in Biblical narratives for emphasis and amplification
- Poetic parallelism as a common feature in Hebrew verse

# **Title of section 2: Misunderstandings of Repetitious Accounts**

- Misinterpretation of repetitious accounts due to Hebrew syntax
- Emphasis on the importance of themes through reiteration
- Examples of repetition in the account of the ten plagues in Exodus

### Title of section 3: Contradictions and Alleged Inconsistencies

- Initial observations of contradictions in nomenclature, geography, legislation, customs, and ethics
- The role of a final redactor in addressing irreconcilable contradictions
- Different authors from various backgrounds writing at different times

# **Title of section 4: Documentary Assumption**

- Contradictions as evidence of different authors and composite authorship
- Incorporation of contradictory accounts into the work by redactors
- Examples of contradictions in the Pentateuchal law

### **Title of section 5: Harmonization of Alleged Contradictions**

- Analysis of Hebrew language and cultural background to harmonize contradictions
- Preservation of moral ethic in narratives like Jacob tricking Isaac
- Critique of the ethical sensitivity of different sources (J, E, P)

#### Title of section 6: Anachronisms and Late Words

- Identification of anachronistic words suggesting a later composition date
- Scribal glosses as a possible explanation for anachronisms
- Examination of rare words and their implications for dating texts

### Title of section 7: Scribal Glosses and Rare Words

- Examples of anachronistic words and their potential origins
- Revision of spelling and inclusion of glosses by ancient scribes
- Explanation of the presence of rare words in the Old Testament

# Title of section 8: Aramaisms and Philological Evidence

- Critique of Aramaic words labeled as Aramaisms in the Pentateuch
- Hebrew words mistakenly classified as Aramaic due to similar endings
- Scholarly perspectives challenging the classification of Hebrew words as Aramaisms

# Title of section 1: Alleged Contradictions in Aramaic Words

- Only 40 out of the alleged 350 "Aramaic words" found earlier than the second century A.D. are unique to Aramaic among Near Eastern languages.
- More than two-thirds of the 50 "Aramaic" words in the Pentateuch had to be replaced by genuinely Aramaic words for intelligibility in Aramaic translations.

### Title of section 2: Dating of Alleged Aramaic Words

- 120 of the alleged 350 "Aramaic words" were used by Old Testament writers up to seven hundred years before appearing in any Aramaic documents.
- Hebrew words incorporated into Aramaic over time may explain the presence of these words in the Pentateuch.

### Title of section 3: Incongruities Regarding Moses in the Pentateuch

- The Pentateuch's third-person references to Moses and the account of his death raise questions about Mosaic authorship.
- Various plausible alternatives challenge critics' arguments about third-person writing and Moses' death account.

### Title of section 4: Internal Diversity in the Pentateuch

- Considerable diversity exists in the Pentateuch regarding subject matter, style, and diction.
- The internal diversity suggests multiple authors at different times, each with individual viewpoints and techniques.

# Title of section 5: Subject Matter Diversity in the Pentateuch

- Ancient Orientals' ability to write diverse subject matter is highlighted as a counterargument to composite authorship theories.
- Examples from ancient Egyptian literature demonstrate versatility in combining historical narrative, poetry, and legal material.

#### Title of section 6: Style Variations in the Pentateuch

- Different styles within the same subject matter do not necessarily indicate multiple authors.
- Literary works like Dante's Divine Comedy show divergent styles by a single author for emphasis or vividness.

# Title of section 7: Diction Analysis in the Pentateuch

- Critics' use of unique words to support composite authorship is challenged by examples of word variations within a single author's work.
- Circular reasoning and arbitrary criteria in assigning words to specific sources weaken the documentary hypothesis.

# Title of section 8: Archaeological Evidence and Word Usage

- Archaeological discoveries have undermined arguments supporting composite authorship based on word usage.
- Further excavations may provide more insights into ancient Hebrew literary techniques and language usage.

# Title of section 9: Unity of the Pentateuch

- The Pentateuch demonstrates unity of arrangement and organic coherence despite potential differences in authorship.
- Acknowledgment of unity by critics through the introduction of a hypothetical redactor to explain the text's harmony.

Pages - 571 -- 580

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### **Section 1: Internal Diversity in Genesis**

- Genesis is described as a work of remarkable consistency and detail.
- W. W. J. Martin highlights the literary genius behind Genesis, emphasizing diversity, variety, and a wide range of colors and notes.
- The unity in Genesis is found not in uniformity of style but in the uniformity of quality.

# **Section 2: Strengths of the Documentary Hypothesis**

- Critics acknowledge that individual criteria for dividing the Pentateuch into sources may not be convincing on their own.
- A. T. Chapman emphasizes the collective force of multiple arguments supporting composite authorship.
- However, Kitchen criticizes the supposed concordance of criteria as invalid and lacking evidence.

### Section 3: Reasons for Acceptance of the Documentary Hypothesis

- W. H. Green explains the popularity of the documentary hypothesis due to its specious arguments, revolutionary nature, and appeal to original research.
- Green also points out the failure of the hypothesis due to methodological weaknesses and lack of objective evidence.

# Section 4: Methodological Weaknesses of the Documentary Hypothesis

- Gleason Archer criticizes the methodology of the Wellhausen hypothesis, citing special pleading, circular reasoning, and questionable deductions.
- Examples of weaknesses include imposing modern views on ancient texts and lack of objective evidence.

### **Section 5: Substitution of Disintegrative Approach**

- The disintegrative approach of the documentary hypothesis leads to finding contradictions where none exist.
- Allis and Kyle highlight how this approach fabricates problems and creates artificial difficulties in biblical studies.

# Section 6: Unlimited Number of "Original Documents"

- Due to the disintegrative nature of the methodology, new sources like JI, J2, L, K, and S have been proposed.
- Critics like North and Green criticize the endless fragmentation caused by the disintegrative approach.

### Section 7: Irresponsible Logic in the Documentary Hypothesis

- The radical critics are criticized for committing logical fallacies like petitio principii or begging the question.
- Examples include predetermined characteristics of documents and heavy reliance on redactors to explain inconsistencies.

# **Section 8: Ultimate Failure of the Documentary Hypothesis**

- Scholars like Umberto Cassuto and M. H. Segal reject the documentary theory as complicated, artificial, and based on unproved assumptions.
- The failure of the hypothesis to substantiate its denial of Mosaic authorship is highlighted.

# **Section 9: Closing Comments on the Documentary Hypothesis**

- Scholars like Yehezkel Kaufmann and Cyrus Gordon question the continued adherence to the documentary theory despite evidence against it.
- Herman Wouk critiques literary analysis as an unreliable scientific method and questions the scholarly commitment to theories like JEDP.

### Section 10: Challenges to Revising the Documentary Hypothesis

- Scholars like H. H. Rowley and Cyrus Gordon discuss the challenges in replacing the documentary hypothesis with a more satisfying view.
- The reluctance to abandon the theory despite its flaws is attributed to intellectual laziness and academic inertia.

### Title of section 1: Introduction to New Testament Form Criticism

- Form criticism aims to bridge the gap between written sources and oral transmission of Gospel traditions.
- The Gospels are viewed as composed of small independent units or episodes known as pericopes.
- Form critics believe that the Gospels reflect the beliefs and practices of the early Christian community rather than being direct witnesses to the life of Christ.

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#### Title of section 2: Definitions of Form Criticism

- Form criticism, translated from the German word Formgeschichte, focuses on studying forms of literature and documents preserving earlier traditions.
- It seeks to determine the forms in which Gospel traditions circulated before being written down and the life situations of the church they reflect.

### Title of section 3: Purposes of Form Criticism

- Form criticism emphasizes that the synoptic Gospels depict the faith of early Christians rather than the historical Jesus.
- It aims to explain the origin of Gospel traditions and uncover the social situations that influenced their formation.

### Title of section 4: Methodology of Form Criticism

- Form criticism involves classifying material by form, recovering the original form, and identifying the life situations (Sitz im Leben) reflected in the Gospel traditions.
- By determining the Sitz im Leben, form critics can understand the practical purposes behind the development of Gospel pericopes.

### Title of section 5: Background of Form Criticism

- Form criticism originated in Germany after World War I, building upon earlier studies of folk tales and oral traditions in the Old Testament.
- Scholars like K. L. Schmidt, M. Dibelius, and R. Bultmann were pioneers in form criticism, emphasizing the importance of oral tradition in shaping Gospel materials.

# Title of section 6: Major Proponents of Form Criticism - Martin Dibelius

- Martin Dibelius focused on testing the trustworthiness of Gospel traditions through less subjective criteria.
- He emphasized that the Gospels were collections of material shaped by ecclesiastical requirements for missionary purposes.

### Title of section 7: Major Proponents of Form Criticism - Rudolf Bultmann

- Rudolf Bultmann's work centered on analyzing the component units of Synoptic Gospel traditions.
- He aimed to distinguish these units, discover their origins in the early Christian community, and evaluate the theological motives guiding the Gospel writers.

### Title of section 8: Major Proponents of Form Criticism - Rudolf Bultmann (continued)

- Bultmann highlighted the separate units of tradition in the Synoptic Gospels and the editorial work done by the evangelists.
- His approach involved applying form-criticism methods to identify the historical settings and origins of Gospel sayings and stories.

### Title of section 9: Influence of Form Criticism

- Form criticism arose due to weaknesses in source criticism and a questioning of the historical accuracy of Mark.
- Scholars sought to update the Gospels to align with contemporary views and position literary materials within their original life settings.

### Title of section 10: Influence of Form Criticism (continued)

- Form criticism aimed to peel back layers added to Gospel sayings and return them to their original state.
- Influences contributing to the rise of form criticism included the need to account for the time span between Jesus' death and the appearance of written sources.

### Section 1: Impact of Bultmann on Theology

- Bultmann's program has had a significant influence on postwar theology in Germany.
- Leading theologians in Germany, as well as in the United States, have been influenced by Bultmann's ideas.
- Some theologians even suggest that the traditional idea of God based on the Bible is considered dead.

# **Section 2: Perspectives on Form Criticism**

- Rudolf Pesch emphasizes the influence of social conditions and needs on the literature reflecting the life of a community.
- Bultmann's approach to the New Testament involves comparing it to non-Christian religions using the method of the history of religion.
- Bultmann expresses skepticism about the Gospels, highlighting uncertainty about knowledge of the historical Jesus and the origin of Christianity.

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#### Section 3: Bultmann's Method and Views

- Bultmann discusses the importance of distinguishing between tradition material used by evangelists and their editorial additions.
- G. E. Ladd points out Bultmann's use of the comparative religious method for reconstructing early Christian thought.
- Schubert Ogden criticizes Bultmann's proposal, highlighting fundamental propositions and their incompatibility.

### **Section 4: Interpretations of Jesus**

- Edward Ellwein interprets Bultmann's view of Jesus as a real man without messianic radiance, emphasizing uncertainty and legendary aspects.
- Donald Guthrie identifies Bultmann's disillusionment leading to a non-historical approach influenced by existential philosophy.
- Martin E. Marty presents different reactions toward Bultmann, ranging from praise to criticism.

### **Section 5: Vincent Taylor's Critique of Form Criticism**

- Vincent Taylor criticizes the study he supports, discussing strengths and weaknesses of form criticism.
- Taylor agrees with the form critics' assumption about the earliest tradition consisting of small isolated units without temporal connections.
- He explores the lack of biographical interest among early Christians and the communal process of forming Jesus tradition.

# **Section 6: Similarities and Differences Among Proponents**

- Bultmann and Dibelius agree on the fundamental assumption of form criticism regarding the early community and the editorial work of evangelists.
- E. V. McKnight notes their classification of materials and reconstruction of tradition history.
- L. J. McGinley highlights agreements and disagreements between Bultmann and Dibelius on various aspects of form criticism.

# **Section 7: Historical Skepticism Overview**

- The text questions the historical portrayal of Jesus in the New Testament writings.
- Albert Schweitzer challenges the existence of a historical Jesus outside biblical and Christian experience.
- Martin Dibelius doubts any historical interest in Jesus among early Christians.

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### **Section 8: Perspectives on Historical Truth of Jesus**

- Rudolf Bultmann expresses skepticism about knowing details of Jesus' life and personality due to fragmentary and legendary sources.
- Ernst Kasemann suggests only a few authentic memories of Jesus exist in Gospel tradition.
- Critics question the historical value of Gospel material and emphasize kerygmatic interest over historical accuracy.

### **Section 9: Rebuttals and Consequences**

- George E. Ladd highlights the consequence of historical skepticism, turning Jesus into a product rather than the creator of Christian faith.
- Peter G. Duncker cites P. Benoit on what would remain after eliminating historically inaccurate Gospel material.
- David Cairns critiques Bultmann's flight from history and its resemblance to decapitation as a cure for a headache.

### Section 10: Implications of Bultmann's Theology

- Bultmann's theology excludes historical analysis, leaving a mangled text of little interest to both primitive Christians and modern exegetes.
- Ellwein criticizes Bultmann's existential basis, which places historical reality of Jesus into doubt.
- Bultmann's approach leads to an exclusion of historical framework, resulting in a punctual event
  of preaching lacking extension.

### Title of section 1: Historical Skepticism and the Disciples' Accounts

- Peritz argues against Form Critics' claim that early disciples had no interest in history.
- A.N. Sherwin-White compares Roman historians' methods with Gospel writers'.
- F.F. Bruce praises Luke's accuracy in recording historical events.
- E.C. Blackman emphasizes the Gospel writers' role as reporters of real events.

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### Title of section 2: The Unique Character of Jesus

- E.F. Scott notes critics' skepticism towards Jesus' life compared to other historical figures.
- F.F. Bruce asserts the historicity of Christ is fundamental for unbiased historians.
- Early Christians welcomed examination of their message's credentials.
- Pierre Benoit highlights the distinction between "history" and the "historical."

### **Title of section 3: Ancient Historiography**

- J.P. Moreland questions ancient historians' ability to distinguish fact from fiction.
- A.W. Mosely discusses the importance of accuracy in historical reporting.
- Mosely emphasizes the difference between fact and fiction in ancient historiography.
- Albright stresses the need for external evidence in establishing historical data.

### Title of section 4: View of the Critics and Impartiality

- Redlich warns against identifying historical criticism with personal opinions.
- McNeile criticizes form critics for their literary approach rather than historical.
- G.E. Ladd highlights the origins of modern biblical criticism.
- Pierre Benoit emphasizes the importance of distinguishing between historical facts and personal opinions.

### Title of section 5: Conclusion on Historical Interest

- Pierre Benoit questions the credibility of novel faith based on invented stories.
- Filson discusses the challenge of reliability in portraying the historical Jesus.
- Albright emphasizes the need for external evidence in historical studies.
- Laurence J. McGinley acknowledges the importance of historical testimony in studying the Synoptic Gospels.

### Title of section 1: Introduction to Distrust in Biblical Critics

- The author expresses skepticism towards biblical critics.
- Doubts the literary judgment and perceptiveness of these critics.
- Questions the lack of standard comparison in their literary experiences.

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### Title of section 2: Lack of Literary Judgment in Biblical Critics

- Author questions the ability of biblical critics to discern the quality of texts they study.
- Suggests that extensive focus on New Testament texts may hinder their judgment.
- Emphasizes the importance of broad literary experience for critical analysis.

### Title of section 3: Critique of Labeling Texts as Legend or Romance

- Author challenges critics who label Gospel content as legend or romance.
- Calls for a comparison with other legends and romances for accurate assessment.
- Highlights the need for a trained palate in detecting literary genres.

### Title of section 4: Example of Commentary Critique

- Author provides an example of a critique within an old commentary.
- Illustrates the importance of understanding the context of textual analysis.
- Emphasizes the need for a comprehensive literary background for accurate criticism.

# **Title of section 5: Importance of Context in Textual Analysis**

- Stresses the significance of considering the context in interpreting texts.
- Implies that a deep understanding of historical and cultural contexts is essential.
- Suggests that overlooking context can lead to misinterpretations.

### Title of section 6: Role of Experience in Literary Analysis

- Discusses the role of wide and genial literary experience in analyzing texts.
- Argues that diverse literary exposure enhances critical judgment.
- Emphasizes the value of varied experiences in evaluating texts accurately.

### Title of section 7: Need for Comprehensive Literary Training

- Advocates for a well-rounded literary education for biblical critics.
- Highlights the importance of training in various genres for effective analysis.
- Suggests that a broader literary background leads to better critical insights.

### Title of section 8: Limitations of Specialized Study

- Points out the limitations of solely focusing on New Testament texts.
- Indicates that exclusive study may hinder critical judgment.
- Advocates for a more holistic approach to literary analysis.

### Title of section 9: Call for Balanced Criticism

- Encourages critics to balance specialized study with general literary experience.
- Proposes a more comprehensive approach to textual analysis.
- Emphasizes the benefits of a well-rounded critical perspective.

### Title of section 10: Conclusion on Skepticism Towards Biblical Critics

- Summarizes the author's skepticism towards biblical critics.
- Reiterates the importance of broad literary exposure for critical analysis.
- Concludes with a call for a balanced and informed approach to textual criticism.

### Section 1: Introduction to the Personality in the Gospels

- The sense of meeting a personality in the Gospels is common among believers and even some unbelievers.
- Characters like Plato's Socrates, Jesus of the Gospels, and Boswell's Johnson claim historical reality while also having a strong personal presence.

### Section 2: Recognition of Personality in the Gospels

- Readers can distinguish authentic sayings of Jesus from apocryphal ones due to the distinct flavor of His personality.
- Even passages focused on the divine nature of Jesus bring out His human personality.

### **Section 3: Critique of Liberal Theology**

- Liberal theology often claims that the true teachings of Christ were misunderstood by His followers and only recently recovered by modern scholars.
- This theory of misinterpretation has parallels in other fields like ancient philosophy and literature.

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#### Section 4: Criticism of Historical Reconstruction

- The author questions the accuracy of reconstructing the history of ancient texts, as it relies on speculation rather than verifiable facts.
- Reviewers' attempts to interpret an author's intentions are often inaccurate, showing a high failure rate.

# **Section 5: Challenges to Modern Scholarship**

- The author challenges the reliability of modern biblical critics in interpreting ancient texts accurately.
- Differences in language, culture, and religious background create barriers between biblical critics and the original authors of the texts.

### **Section 6: Comparison with Literary Critics**

- The author compares the limitations faced by biblical critics in understanding ancient texts to those of literary reviewers interpreting contemporary works.
- The familiarity with the author's language and cultural context gives reviewers an advantage over biblical critics.

#### Section 7: Personal Note from the Author

- The author addresses potential reader concerns about the relevance of philosophical and historical issues in a book on faith.
- Understanding the nature of truth and history is crucial due to the profound implications behind common phrases related to faith.

### **Section 8: Importance of Understanding Truth**

- The author highlights the necessity of grasping the philosophical foundations behind arguments against faith in Christ or Christianity.
- Discussions on truth and certainty may seem theoretical but are essential for comprehending the challenges to faith.

### **Section 9: Encouragement for Readers**

- The author acknowledges that some readers may find the material challenging or simplistic.
- The chapters aim to initiate thought and understanding on different levels, encouraging readers not to give up on exploring complex topics.

#### Section 10: Conclusion and Call to Action

- The author urges readers to continue engaging with the material to see how truth can be practically applied in today's culture.
- Quoting Proverbs 3:13-14, the author emphasizes the value of wisdom and understanding gained through deeper exploration of truth.

Pages - 631 -- 640

#### **Section 1: Introduction to Truth**

- Metaphysics is the philosophical study of being as being, focusing on reality as it is in itself.
- Epistemology is the theory of knowledge, exploring how we come to know what we know.
- Truth is defined as that which corresponds to its referent, reflecting reality or what really exists.

### Section 2: Truth as Correspondence with Reality

- Correspondence view of truth states that beliefs are true when they accurately reflect facts.
- Subjectivism contrasts correspondence by suggesting truth is determined internally by the subject.
- Aristotle emphasizes that truth relies on the actual existence of the thing a statement is about.

# **Section 3: Truth According to Philosophers**

- Thomas Aguinas defines truth as the harmony between intellect and the thing understood.
- Contemporary philosophers like G. E. Moore and Bertrand Russell emphasize the correspondence theory of truth.
- Various philosophers highlight the importance of truth corresponding to reality for accuracy.

# **Section 4: Consequences of Denying Correspondence View**

- Lying becomes impossible without a correspondence to reality.
- Factual communication breaks down if statements do not correspond to the facts.
- A real difference between thoughts and things is necessary to determine truth or falsehood.

### Section 5: Absolute vs. Relativism

- Relativism posits no objective standard for truth, leading to varying truths based on individuals and circumstances.
- Absolute truth is contrasted with relative truth, highlighting the objectivity of truth independent of perspectives.

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### Section 6: Truth Not Relative to Space and Time

- Relativism's perspective on space and time is challenged, emphasizing the inherent context in statements.
- Statements' truth is discussed in relation to temporal and spatial contexts, distinguishing absolute truths from relative ones.

### **Section 7: Self-defeating Nature of Relativism**

- Relativism faces self-defeat or unassertability due to the challenge of asserting relativism without relying on absolute truth.
- The dilemma arises when relativism claims absolute truth while aiming to relativize everything else, leading to contradictions.

#### Section 8: Additional Problems for Relativism

- Relativism leads to contradictory conditions where opposite truths coexist, challenging the coherence of reality.
- Learning becomes hindered under relativism as truth becomes subjective and individualized.

#### Section 9: Moral Relativism

- Moral relativism applies relativism to societal morals, suggesting moral propositions are not simply true or false.
- Critical analyses of moral relativism include challenges related to defining societies, reformer's dilemma, and particularism.

#### **Section 10: Conclusion**

- Some acts are universally wrong regardless of social conventions, challenging the idea that all moral values are relative.
- Moral reformers and their role in society pose a dilemma for moral relativism, questioning the possibility of moral improvement within societies.

# Section 1: The Nature of Truth and Moral Relativism

- An act can be considered right or wrong regardless of societal norms.
- Moral relativism raises questions about justifying moral criticism between societies.
- Criticism of moral relativism includes inconsistencies in normative beliefs and lack of justification for moral views.

### Section 2: Subjectivism and Fear of Change

- Subjectivism may stem from the desire to be accepted and fear of radical change.
- Subjectivism is seen as more comfortable compared to embracing objective truth.
- Fear of conversion and consecrating one's life to God's will can contribute to subjectivism.

### **Section 3: Denial of Objective Truth**

- Some individuals deny the existence of objective truth.
- People who deny objective truth may have a deep hostility towards concepts that stand in judgment over them.
- The denial of objective truth is linked to a resistance to the idea of an objective universe.

### **Section 4: Knowability of Truth and First Principles**

- Modern philosophies denying reality's knowability often fail to acknowledge that we do know reality.
- First principles serve as the foundation for all knowledge, including science and philosophy.
- Demonstrations must be based on premises better known than the conclusion, according to Aristotle.

### **Section 5: Self-Evident First Principles**

- First principles are self-evident propositions that do not require proof.
- The mind is predisposed to truth and has a natural appetite for it.
- Immediate propositions are directly aware of immediate facts without being filtered through belief systems.

### **Section 6: Certainty of First Principles**

- The intellect cannot be mistaken about first principles, which are known as soon as the terms are understood.
- The undeniability of first principles is emphasized, as they are either self-evident or reducible to the self-evident.
- First principles are foundational truths that underlie all knowledge and understanding.

Pages - 651 -- 660

### Title of section 1: The Pragmatist View on Truth

- Richard Rorty maintains that true sentences are not true because they correspond to reality.
- He argues that truth is established neither by correspondence with reality nor by internal coherence of assertions.
- Rorty suggests giving up the search for truth and being content with interpretation.

# Title of section 2: Postmodern Rejection of Correspondence Theory of Truth

- Postmodernists reject the classic conception of truth as mirroring nature.
- They argue that truth is made rather than found, according to philosopher Richard Rorty.
- Reality is seen as constructed by the mind, not simply perceived by it, leading to radical ambiguity in the nature of truth and reality.

### Title of section 3: Rejecting the Grand Narrative

- Jean Francois Lyotard introduced the idea of "Incredulity to Metanarratives" as a cornerstone of postmodernism.
- Postmodern thinkers reject the notion of a grand narrative that can account for all reality.
- They argue that we construct the world using concepts we bring to it, denying naive access to an objective reality beyond our own constructions.

#### **Section 1: Introduction to Metanarratives**

- A metanarrative is a grand story that unifies philosophy, research, politics, and art.
- Examples of metanarratives include the Christian religious story, Marxist political story, and Enlightenment's intellectual story.
- Postmodernism is characterized by incredulity towards all metanarratives.
- Postmodernism challenges global worldviews and dismisses them as logocentric totalizing metanarratives.

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### **Section 2: Postmodern Critique of Metanarratives**

- Postmodernism rejects all great philosophical systems and cultural accounts.
- Postmodernism denies all worldviews and seeks to do away with frameworks for knowledge altogether.
- The postmodern perspective emphasizes incessant choosing and values all traditions with selfconsciousness and irony.

# **Section 3: Rejection of Objective Reality**

- Postmodernists argue that all attempts to describe an objective, unifying center are doomed and produce only fictions.
- Objectivity of knowledge is denied in postmodernism, where meaning resides in the interpreter rather than external reality or texts.
- Language produces its own world without reference to reality, leading to multiple interpretations and subjective truths.

#### **Section 4: Denial of Ultimate Foundation**

- Postmodernism rejects foundationalism and believes that knowledge is uncertain and relative.
- Objectivity is considered an illusion in postmodernism, where knowledge is influenced by biases and lacks neutrality.
- Postmodernism seeks to destroy all objective foundations and replace them with nothing.

# **Section 5: Truth as Perspectival**

- Postmodernism views truth as perspectival, created by the reader in the act of reading.
- Jacques Derrida describes the 'death of the author' and 'death of the text,' emphasizing that meaning is made, not found.
- Postmodern worldview affirms that truth is relative to the community in which one participates.

### **Section 6: Self-Defeating Aspects of Postmodernism**

- Postmodernism is self-defeating as it either dismisses itself as an arbitrary social construction or presumes the reliability of reason and objectivity.
- Asserting 'the truth is that there is no truth' is self-refuting and arbitrary.
- Postmodernism faces contradictions in rejecting rational objectivity while making cognitive claims.

### **Section 7: Criticisms Against Postmodernism**

- Postmodernism devalues theory building but holds an anti-theory position, which is a theoretical stand in itself.
- Postmodernists employ logical reasoning despite expressing doubts about rationality.
- Postmodernists reject modern criteria for assessing theory but draw conclusions implying some certainty in the world.

# Section 8: Knowledge of the Thing-in-Itself

- Knowledge occurs when the knower and known are one, involving the fusion of two beings.
- The Thomistic thesis states that every act of knowledge supposes the object known becomes present in the knowing subject.
- Truth is seen as the correspondence of an affirmation to the thing in reality.

### **Section 9: Practical Experience and Extracting Meaning**

- Postmodern skepticism is challenged by practical experiences that demonstrate the reliability of human knowledge.
- Communication experiences show that understanding different perspectives does not mean being unable to grasp their meanings.
- It is possible to articulate the existence of a transcendent signified, contrary to Derrida's claims.

### Section 10: Inconsistencies in Postmodern Philosophy

- Postmodernism's rejection of metanarratives leads to self-destructive conclusions.
- Cultural baggage can be removed from texts without forfeiting objective truth.
- Postmodern philosophy of language and meaning fails to account for practical communication experiences.

### Title of section 1: Postmodernists' View on Language

- Postmodernists believe that due to the unique logic and meaning of each language, meaningful communication and accurate translation between languages should be impossible.
- Multilingual speakers argue that despite differences between languages, concepts can still be effectively expressed.
- Postmodernists focus on the challenging aspects of language translation while overlooking the majority of language that is easily understood.

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# Title of section 2: Critique of Deconstructionist Philosophy

- Deconstructionists expect their work to be interpreted accurately, contradicting their skepticism about language and meaning.
- In real-world communication, people expect others to express themselves clearly and understand each other's viewpoints.
- Mature individuals are expected to comprehend and represent others' statements fairly.

# Title of section 3: Objective Truth vs. Perspectival Truth

- Living as if truth is subjective rather than objective would lead to impractical and dangerous consequences.
- The danger of adopting a perspectival view of truth is exemplified by ethical dilemmas like the recommendation to use fetuses for experimentation based on societal constructs.
- Belief in objective truth is essential for effective functioning and moral decision-making.

### Title of section 4: Refuting Skepticism

- Skepticism, the belief in the impossibility of reliable knowledge, is self-defeating as it implies a
  judgment about reality.
- Various philosophers and scholars argue against skepticism by highlighting its inherent contradictions and limitations.
- Common sense and first principles provide undeniable access to certain truths, refuting extreme skepticism.

#### Title of section 5: Hume's Skepticism on Causality

- David Hume challenges the traditional argument for God's existence by questioning the inference of cause from effect.
- Hume's skepticism focuses on the inability to establish causal connections through philosophical means.
- Hume's denial of causality leads to radical empirical atomism, suggesting a disconnected view of
  events that is ultimately unsustainable.

### Title of section 6: Kant's Agnosticism

- Immanuel Kant's philosophy asserts that we cannot know reality itself, leading to agnosticism regarding truth.
- Kant's epistemology emphasizes that knowledge is structured by the mind, limiting our understanding of reality.
- Kant's denial of knowing reality in itself results in an agnostic stance on truth and knowledge.

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Pages - 681 -- 690

# Title of section 1: Zen Philosophy of Knowledge

- D. T. Suzuki presents Zen epistemology with two kinds of information about reality: knowable knowledge and unknowable knowledge.
- Knowable knowledge is the relationship between subject and object, while unknowable knowledge arises from inner experience and is subjective yet believed to be universal.

#### Title of section 2: Truth Can Entail Contradiction

- Zen does not follow reasoning routines and does not mind contradicting itself or being inconsistent.
- Zen's way of reasoning involves accepting contradictions and illogical statements as having their own logic that corresponds with the true state of things.

#### Title of section 3: More Truth in Contradictions

- Suzuki suggests that there is more truth in logically impossible or contradictory statements made by Prajnaparamita than in logical ones.
- Despite appearing illogical, these statements are satisfying to the spirit and contain deeper truths.

#### Title of section 4: Reality Beyond Logical Dualism

- Suzuki associates ignorance with logical dualism and emphasizes the need to see reality from a perspective where consciousness and artificial laws of thought do not exist.
- Zen philosophy aims to transcend logical categories and embrace the ultimate fact of experience without being bound by conventional rules.

# Title of section 5: Two Realms of Reality

- Suzuki distinguishes between knowable knowledge based on subject-object relationships and unknowable knowledge arising from inner experiences.
- Unknowable knowledge is subjective but believed to have universal significance despite its individual nature.

### Title of section 6: Inner Experience and Universality

- Individuals with inner experiences of unknowable knowledge are convinced of its universality despite its private and subjective nature.
- This type of knowledge emerges from reality itself and is deeply personal yet perceived as universally significant.

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### Title of section 7: Zen Epistemology

- Zen epistemology emphasizes the importance of experiencing reality beyond mere knowledge about it.
- The focus is on inner experiences that reveal truths about reality, leading to a deeper understanding that transcends conventional knowledge.

### Title of section 8: Absurdities and Irrationalities in Zen

- Zen philosophy embraces absurdities and irrationalities as part of its approach to truth-seeking.
- These apparent contradictions serve a purpose in challenging conventional logic and revealing deeper truths about reality.

#### **Title of section 9: Ultimate Truth of Things**

- To grasp the ultimate truth of things, one must transcend logical dualism and preconceived notions.
- Zen philosophy encourages seeing reality from a perspective free of artificial laws of thought and dualistic thinking.

### Title of section 10: Individual vs. Universal Significance

- Unknowable knowledge derived from inner experiences is subjective yet carries a sense of universality.
- Despite its individual nature, this type of knowledge is believed to hold broader significance beyond personal experiences.

### Section 1: Understanding Mysticism and Buddhist Epistemology

- Seeing plays a crucial role in Buddhist epistemology, as knowing is impossible without seeing.
- Direct knowledge of God or ultimate reality is attainable through immediate intuition or insight, different from ordinary sense perception or logical reasoning.
- Zen Buddhists believe in attaining enlightenment through rigorous self-discipline and meditation.

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### Section 2: Definition of Satori and Prajna in Buddhism

- Satori is defined as an intuitive understanding of the nature of things, distinct from analytical or logical understanding.
- Prajna is transcendental knowledge that discursive knowledge cannot attain, belonging to a different category from mere knowledge.

# **Section 3: Zen Philosophy and Illogical Statements**

- Zen uses illogical statements to challenge logical thought and emphasize that logical consistency is not final.
- Zen aims to lead individuals to an absolute realm where there are no antitheses.

### Section 4: Reality and Illusion in Mystical Experience

- The concept of Maya suggests that the material world or reality is illusory.
- The more real world lies behind the perceived reality, forming a complete and undivided whole.

#### **Section 5: Mystical Experience Is Ineffable**

- Mystical experience, such as satori, is considered intimate and beyond expression in words.
- Reality itself is described as formless and beyond comprehension through words and letters.

## Section 6: Zen's Self-Defeating Statements and Ad Hoc Criticism

- Zen teachings are described as self-defeating, with contradictory statements challenging traditional logic.
- Zen masters prioritize experience over concepts and systems based on them, leading to paradoxes and ambiguities.

### Section 7: Critique of Zen as Philosophy

- Zen Buddhism is argued to be a philosophy despite claims of teaching nothing.
- Zen commentators' statements are deemed philosophical beliefs, subject to examination and criticism.

#### **Section 8: Logical Problems with Mysticism**

- Denial of systematic consistency as a test for truth is critiqued, highlighting the importance of logical reasoning.
- Claims of transcending logical categories are questioned for their coherence and intelligibility.

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#### **Section 9: Pantheism and Mystical Experience**

- Mystics are drawn to pantheism to maintain two forms of experience, leading to challenges in reconciling different metaphysical conclusions.
- Mystical experiences are analyzed for uniqueness and superiority compared to ordinary experiences.

### Section 10: Reality Is Not Illusory

- Illusion is defined in contrast to reality, suggesting that absolute illusion is impossible.
- Calling reality an illusion raises questions about the cause of this pervasive mistake and the nature of human perceptions.

### **Title of section 1: Defining Miracles**

- A miracle is defined as a special act of God in the world.
- Miracles are possible in a theistic universe where God can perform such acts.
- The Bible reports the historicity of certain miraculous events but does not confirm the possibility of miracles.

#### Title of section 2: Characteristics of Miracles

- Antony Flew defines a miracle as an act that manifests divine power through the suspension or alteration of natural laws.
- C. S. Lewis describes a miracle as an interference with nature by supernatural power.
- Richard L. Purtill outlines five characteristics of a miracle, including being temporary and showing that God has acted in history.

### Title of section 3: Miracles and Natural Laws

- Miracles do not necessarily violate natural laws within a theistic framework.
- Natural law is not a closed system in theism, allowing for divine intervention without violating natural laws.
- Sir George Stokes suggests that miracles may involve the super addition of something not ordinarily in operation.

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#### Title of section 4: Immediate Nature of Miracles

- Miracles are immediate, with no progression over time in their occurrence.
- Examples from Jesus' healing ministry and Peter's ministry in Acts show instantaneous and complete restoration of health.
- Norman Geisler emphasizes that true miracles are always successful in accomplishing what God intends.

#### Title of section 5: Purpose of Miracles - Confirming a Message from God

- E. J. Carnell argues that miracles confirm the veracity of special revelation and serve as a sign of God's covenant with humanity.
- Miracles provide an external reference point outside the system of natural law to guarantee revelation.
- Rejecting miracles to maintain a mechanical order leads to a lack of external reference point and reliance on flux and change.

### Title of section 6: Purpose of Miracles - Confirming a Messenger of God

- Miracles can also serve as divine confirmation of a prophet or messenger of God.
- Nicodemus acknowledges Jesus as a teacher come from God due to the signs and miracles he performs.
- Miraculous signs validate the authority and message of those claiming to be messengers of God.

#### **DEFENDING MIRACLES**

#### Section 1: Miracles in the Bible

- People recognized Jesus as a teacher from God due to the miraculous signs he performed.
- Apostles and Paul emphasized the importance of miracles as credentials for Jesus and the early Church.

### **Section 2: Arguments for Miracles**

- Sproul, Gerstner, and Lindsley argue that miracles are necessary for confirming God's messengers.
- Miracles promote good and glorify God, forming the framework of Christianity.

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#### **Section 3: Objections to Miracles**

- Benedict Spinoza argues against miracles, claiming they violate immutable natural laws.
- David Hume argues against miracles based on the improbability of rare events.

## **Section 4: Critiques of Objections**

- Spinoza's argument is criticized for presupposing naturalism without empirical evidence.
- Hume's reliance on uniform experience is questioned for overlooking indirect evidence supporting miracles.

#### **Section 5: Views on Miracles**

- Patrick Nowell-Smith views miracles as strange natural events with future scientific explanations.
- Nowell-Smith's objections are critiqued for closing off supernatural explanations and demanding predictive value.

#### **Section 6: Historical Reliability and Knowability**

- Christianity's validity is rooted in historical events like Jesus' resurrection.
- Historiography involves researching past human experiences and constructing narratives based on evidence.

#### Section 7: Process and Methodology of Historiography

- Fischer outlines rules for historical proof, emphasizing direct, best relevant evidence.
- Encyclopaedia Britannica highlights heuristic, interpretation, research, and writing aspects of historiography.

#### Section 1: Historical Research and Source Material

- Historical research involves establishing occurrences in history based on source material.
- Historians rely on accounts from contemporaries or end products of occurrences for information.
- Traces, relics, tracks, or written materials are considered the "facts" of history.
- Historical research focuses on discovering relevant traces and deducing occurrences from them.

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### **Section 2: Writing History**

- Louis Gottschalk outlines essentials for writing history, including collecting relevant materials and organizing credible testimony into a narrative.
- Historical sources are categorized as primary (eyewitness testimony) and secondary (noneyewitness testimony).
- The author's ability and willingness to tell the truth are crucial considerations in historical analysis.

# **Section 3: Historical Reliability and Knowability**

- Mortimer J. Adler discusses historical knowledge as certitude supported by evidence and reason.
- Craig emphasizes the importance of accepting hypotheses that provide the most probable explanation of evidence.
- McCullagh stresses the importance of basing historical descriptions on well-supported evidence for reliability.

# Section 4: Objections to the Knowability of History

- Charles A. Beard raises objections to the objectivity and knowability of history.
- Beard highlights challenges such as history not being directly observable and the selective nature of historical methodology.
- He also points out the impact of value judgments, biases, and subjective interpretations in historical research.

# Section 5: Defense of the Knowability of History

- William Lane Craig argues against objections to historical relativism and defends the possibility of objectivity in historical research.
- Geisler responds to objections related to the fragmentary nature of historical accounts and the interpretive structuring of historical facts.
- Geisler emphasizes the role of worldview in understanding historical events and the importance of meaningful structures in interpreting history.

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### Section 6: Objections to the Knowability of Miraculous History

- David Hume presents objections to miracles based on historical criteria and human propensity for extraordinary events.
- Theological objections from Lessing, Kierkegaard, Barth, and modern theologians question the historical validity of miracles.
- Troeltsch's principle of analogy influences contemporary theologians and critical historians in reevaluating Christian beliefs.

# Section 7: Defense of the Knowability of Miraculous History

- Frank Beckwith critiques Hume's arguments against miracles and responds to philosophical objections.
- Beckwith addresses fallacies in Hume's reasoning and the need for credible testimony in evaluating historical events.
- Geisler counters Troeltsch's principle of analogy and emphasizes the importance of credible testimony in historical research.

# **Section 8: Critique of Philosophical Objections**

- Beckwith analyzes Hume's objections to miracles and identifies flaws in his criteria for evaluating eyewitness testimony.
- Geisler responds to Troeltsch's argument based on uniformity of nature and its implications for studying historical events.
- Beckwith refutes Flew and Troeltsch's argument by distinguishing between studying the past and the object of historical study.

### **Section 9: Theological Objections**

- Theological objections from Lessing, Kierkegaard, Barth, and modern theologians challenge the historical validity of Biblical stories.
- Troeltsch's principle of analogy influences theological perspectives on the knowability of miraculous history.
- Van A. Harvey discusses the conflict between historical-critical methods and Christian faith in contemporary theology.

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#### Section 10: Defense of the Knowability of Miraculous History

- Frank Beckwith critiques Hume's objections to miracles and responds to philosophical and theological arguments.
- Geisler counters Troeltsch's principle of analogy and emphasizes the importance of credible testimony in evaluating historical events.
- Beckwith refutes Flew and Troeltsch's argument by distinguishing between studying the past and the object of historical study.

Pages - 731 -- 740

#### **Section 1: Beckwith on History and Miracles**

- Beckwith argues that history is knowable and unique singularities in history can be understood.
- He emphasizes the importance of objectivity in historical dimensions of miracles.
- Miracles may not align with natural historical processes but can still occur.

#### Section 2: Geisler on Miracles

- Geisler counters the idea that miracles are subjective by stating they can be identified both directly and indirectly within an empirical or historical context.
- Miracles possess scientific, theological, and moral relevance.
- The theological and moral aspects of miracles are experienced subjectively but grounded objectively in God.

#### Section 3: Erickson on Faith and Reason

- Erickson highlights examples from the Bible where faith and historical considerations are intertwined.
- He mentions instances like Jesus' response to John the Baptist's disciples and Paul's emphasis on Jesus' resurrection.
- Luke's meticulous concern for accurate information in his writings supports the connection between faith and historical reason.

#### **Section 4: Bultmann's Historical Assumption**

- Bultmann suggests that positive bias towards Jesus led to less accurate reporting by New Testament believers.
- A classroom analogy is used to argue that disciples were committed followers who accurately
  preserved Jesus' teachings.

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### **Section 5: Conclusion by McDowell**

- McDowell emphasizes the importance of using both reason and heart in evaluating evidence of God's revelation.
- Biblical references highlight the significance of humility and openness to God's message.
- Encourages readers to consider the possibility of miracles and a personal relationship with God.

# **Section 6: Bibliography Entries**

- Various authors and their works cited in the text include scholars like Albright, Aquinas, Augustine, and many others.
- Works cover topics such as biblical interpretation, historical reliability, philosophy, and theology.
- Authors provide insights into historical events, biblical texts, and philosophical arguments.

### **Section 7: Critique of Theological Objections**

- Geisler argues against radical existential theologians regarding the objectivity and historical dimensions of miracles.
- Miracles are scientifically unusual and possess theological and moral relevance.
- The theological and moral characteristics of miracles are not empirically objective but grounded in God.

#### **Section 8: Examples from Biblical Texts**

- Examples from the Bible illustrate the close relationship between faith and historical events.
- Instances like Jesus' response to John the Baptist's disciples and Paul's emphasis on Jesus' resurrection demonstrate this connection.
- Luke's meticulous approach to gathering accurate information supports the integration of faith and historical reason.

#### **Section 9: Observations on Witness Testimonies**

- Witness testimonies are deemed valid based on honesty, capacity not to be deceived, and proximity to the alleged event.
- The validity of testimony depends on the witnesses' integrity rather than shared worldviews or education levels.
- Collin Brown emphasizes the importance of witness credibility in determining the truthfulness of claims.

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#### Section 10: Invitation to Reflect and Act

- McDowell invites readers to reflect on the evidence presented and consider the possibility of a personal relationship with God.
- Encourages individuals to act upon their beliefs and open themselves up to observing the miraculous.
- Shares personal stories of life-changing experiences and emphasizes the transformative power of faith.

## Section 1: Works by Rudolf Bultmann

- Various works by Rudolf Bultmann are listed, including "History and Eschatology," "The History
  of the Synoptic Tradition," "Jesus and the Word," and others.
- These works cover topics such as theology, mythology, the New Testament, and the Synoptic Gospels.

### Section 2: Contributions by F. Crawford Burkitt

- F. Crawford Burkitt's works like "The Gospel History and Its Transmission" and "Jesus Christ" are mentioned.
- Burkitt's focus is on the history and transmission of the Gospel narratives.

### **Section 3: Texts on Christian Apologetics**

- Texts by authors like Donald R. Burrill, James Oliver Buswell, and L. Russ Bush are included.
- These texts delve into classical readings in Christian apologetics, systematic theology, and philosophical debates.

#### Section 4: Discussions on Philosophy and Theology

- Authors like Panayot Butchvarov, Paul Carus, and John D. Caputo are referenced.
- Topics covered include metaphysical realism, Kant's philosophy, and radical hermeneutics.

### **Section 5: Biblical Studies and Criticism**

- Authors like Henry J. Cadbury, Arthur Temple Cadoux, and Steven M. Cahn are highlighted.
- Subjects discussed range from biblical scholarship to religious epistemology and the sources of the Second Gospel.

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#### **Section 6: Commentary and Interpretation**

- Works by scholars like Lewis Sperry Chafer, Samuel Chandler, and A. T. Chapman are noted.
- These texts provide commentary on the Book of Isaiah, witnesses of the Resurrection, and an introduction to the Pentateuch.

### Section 7: Archaeology and Biblical Research

- Authors such as Millar Burrows, Edward Chiera, and Johannes Dahse are mentioned.
- Their works explore how archaeology aids in understanding the Bible, Ebla tablets, and textual criticism.

### **Section 8: Historical Analysis and Critique**

- Texts by scholars like Frederick C. Grant, Martin Dibelius, and Hans Conzelmann are cited.
- These works offer insights into the growth of the Gospels, Gospel criticism, and the theology of St. Luke.

#### **Section 9: Philosophical Perspectives**

- Authors like Etienne Gilson, Douglas Groothuis, and Stanley J. Grenz are highlighted.
- Their writings cover topics such as Christian philosophy, postmodernism, and the philosophy of religion.

### Section 10: Religious Knowledge and Belief

- Works by authors like Joseph P. Free, Louis Gottschalk, and Norman L. Geisler are included.
- These texts discuss religious knowledge, biblical history, and the concept of truth in the inerrancy debate.

#### Title of section 1: Biblical Studies and Research

- Herbert E. Hahn's book "The Old Testament in Modern Research" published by Fortress Press in 1966.
- H. R. Hall's work "The Ancient History of the Near East" from Methuen and Co. Ltd. in 1932.
- Dean Halverson's "The Compact Guide to World Religions" released by Bethany House in 1996.

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#### Title of section 2: Christian Faith and Theology

- Floyd E. Hamilton's "The Basis of Christian Faith" from George H. Doran Company in 1927.
- Anthony Hanson's edited collection "Vindications: Essays on the Historical Basis of Christianity" by Morehouse-Barlow Co. in 1966.
- George Hanson's "The Resurrection and the Life" published by William Clowes & Sons, Ltd. in 1911.

### Title of section 3: Historical and Literary Criticism

- Everett E. Harrison's "Are the Gospels Reliable?" article in Moody Monthly from February 1966.
- R. K. Harrison's "The Archaeology of the Old Testament" by Harper and Row Publishers in 1963.
- R. K. Harrison's "Introduction to the Old Testament" from William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. in 1969.

### Title of section 4: Philosophical and Theological Works

- Charles E. Hartshorne's "Aquinas to Whitehead: Seven Centuries of Metaphysics of Religion" as The Aquinas Lecture in 1976.
- Charles E. Hartshorne's article "The Dipolar Conception of Deity" in The Review of Metaphysics in December 1967.
- H. Harold Hartzler's "Foreword" cited in Peter W. Stoner's "Science Speaks" published by Moody Press in 1963.

### Title of section 5: Biblical Commentary and Interpretation

- Matthew Henry's "Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible" in Volumes I and II by Sovereign Grace Publishers in 1972.
- J. C. Ryle's "Expository Thoughts on the Gospels" from Banner of Truth Trust in 1960.
- Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown's "A Commentary, Critical, Experimental, and Practical on the Old and New Testaments" by William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. in 1961.

#### **Title of section 6: Textual Criticism and Manuscripts**

- Bruce M. Metzger's works on the transmission, corruption, and restoration of the New Testament text.
- Frederic G. Kenyon's contributions to the study of ancient manuscripts and textual criticism.
- John P. Meier's research on evidence for Jesus outside the Bible, particularly the Testimonium Flavianum.

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### **Title of section 7: Apologetics and Christian Literature**

- Josh McDowell's influential books "Evidence That Demands a Verdict" Volumes 1 and 2.
- Alister McGrath's writings on Christian theology and understanding Jesus.
- Terry L. Miethe and Antony G. N. Flew's debate on the existence of God in "Does God Exist? A
  Believer and an Atheist Debate."

### **Title of section 8: Historical and Archaeological Studies**

- George E. Mendenhall's contributions to biblical history and transition.
- Alan Millard's research on King Solomon's wealth and biblical accuracy.
- M. E. L. Mallowan's excavations at Nimrud and archaeological discoveries.

### Title of section 9: Religious Philosophy and Thought

- John S. Mill's essays on religion and philosophy.
- Alasdair MacIntyre's works on contemporary philosophical issues.
- Jacob S. Minkin's exploration of the world of Moses Maimonides.

#### Title of section 10: Christian Education and Evangelism

- Fred John Meldau's teachings on the deity of Christ from the Gospels.
- Dennis McCallum's book "The Death of Truth" addressing postmodern challenges.
- Paul L. Maier's historical investigations into Easter and Christmas events.

### **Section 1: Biblical Studies**

- Various works related to biblical studies and historical Jesus.
- Authors include John W. Montgomery, G. E. Moore, J. P. Moreland, and others.

#### **Section 2: Historical Criticism**

- Works discussing historical reporting in the ancient world.
- Authors like A. W. Mosely and C. F. D. Moule are mentioned.

#### **Section 3: Philosophy and Theology**

- Texts on philosophy, theology, and ethics without God.
- Authors such as Friedrich Nietzsche, Alvin Plantinga, and Bertrand Russell are referenced.

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### Section 4: Archaeology and Bible History

- Works exploring the relationship between archaeology and biblical history.
- Authors like Joseph P. Free and Walter Mueller are cited.

### **Section 5: Christian Apologetics**

- Books focusing on defending Christianity through evidence and reason.
- Authors include Norman L. Geisler, Ravi Zacharias, and Lee Strobel.

### **Section 6: Gospel Studies**

- Texts analyzing the Synoptic Gospels and the Gospel According to John.
- Authors like Leon Morris and James Hardy Ropes are discussed.

#### **Section 7: Theological Interpretation**

- Works on interpreting the Old and New Testaments theologically.
- Authors like Herman N. Ridderbos and Richard N. Soulen are highlighted.

# **Section 8: Religious Philosophy**

- Books exploring religious philosophy, miracles, and the existence of God.
- Authors such as Blaise Pascal, William Paley, and Richard Swinburne are mentioned.

#### Section 9: Zen Buddhism

- Texts on Zen Buddhism, its teachings, and practices.
- D. T. Suzuki's works like "Introduction to Zen Buddhism" and "Living by Zen" are included.

### **Section 10: Science and Religion**

- Works discussing the relationship between science and religion.
- Authors like Carl Sagan, Hugh Ross, and Alvin Plantinga are referenced.

#### **Section 1: Swinburne's Works**

• Richard Swinburne authored "The Existence of God?" in 1979 and "Is There a God?" in 1996.

### Section 2: Tacitus' Work

• Tacitus' "Annals" is included in the Great Books of the Western World, edited by Robert Maynard Hutchins in 1952.

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### Section 3: Talmage's Study

- James E. Talmage's "A Study of the Articles of Faith" was published in 1924.
- It was quoted in Norman L. Geisler and William D. Watkins' "Worlds Apart" in 1989.

#### **Section 4: Tan's Guide**

• Paul Lee Tan authored "A Pictorial Guide to Bible Prophecy" in 1991.

#### **Section 5: Tanner's Book**

Jerald and Sandra Tanner wrote "The Changing World of Mormonism" in 1980 and 1981.

#### Section 6: Tamas' Book

Richard Tamas authored "The Passion of the Western Mind" in 1991.

#### **Section 7: Taylor's Works**

- R. O. P. Taylor published "The Ground Work of the Gospels" in 1946.
- Richard Taylor contributed to "The Cosmological Arguments: A Spectrum of Opinion" in 1967.

# **Section 8: Vincent Taylor's Works**

- Vincent Taylor authored "The Formation of the Gospel Tradition" in 1935 and "The Gospels, A Short Introduction" in 1945.
- He also wrote articles like "Modern Issues in Biblical Studies" and "Second Thoughts— Formgeschichte."

# **Section 9: Tenney's Works**

- Merrill C. Tenney wrote books like "The Genius of the Gospels," "John: The Gospel of Belief," and "The Reality of the Resurrection."
- He also edited "The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible."

#### **Section 10: Thiele's Article**

E. R. Thiele's article on "The Chronology of the Kings of Judah and Israel" was published in the Journal of Near Eastern Studies in July 1944.

Pages - 781 -- 790

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### **Biographical Sketches of Authors**

# Section 1: Harvey, Van A.

- New Testament scholar
- Education at Occidental College and Yale University
- Writings include Religious Thought in the 19th Century and The Historian and the Believer

## Section 2: Hengstenberg, Ernst Wilhelm

- Qualified for University of Berlin at 17
- Excellent foundation in Oriental languages and philosophies
- Issued an Arabic work in German at age 21

#### Section 3: Henry, Carl Ferdinand Howard

- American Baptist theologian and evangelical leader
- Graduated from Wheaton College
- Works include God, Revelation and Authority and Aspects of Christian Social Ethics

### Section 4: Hick, John Harwood

- Theologian and religious philosopher
- Educated at Universities of Edinburgh and Oxford
- Authored books like Evil and the God of Love and The Metaphor of God Incarnate

### Section 5: Hoehner, Harold W.

- New Testament scholar
- Alumnus of Dallas Theological Seminary and Cambridge University
- Written works include Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ

### Section 6: Horn, Siegfried H.

- Archaeology scholar
- Professor at Andrews University
- Author of Biblical Archaeology-A Generation of Exploration

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#### Section 7: Hort, Fenton John Anthony

- Educated at Rugby and Trinity College, Cambridge
- Lectured on New Testament and patristic subjects at Emmanuel College
- Made Hulsean Professor of Divinity in 1878

### Section 8: James, William

- Philosopher
- Taught at Harvard University
- Remembered for works like The Varieties of Religious Experience and Pragmatism

### Section 9: Josephus, Flavius

- Jewish historian and author
- Studied in various schools of Judaism
- Wrote History of the Jewish War and Jewish Antiquities

# Section 10: Kasemann, Ernst

- Theologian
- Student under Bultmann at Marburg
- Author of Exegetische Versuche und Besinnungen

Pages - 791 -- 800

### **Section 1: List of Names and References**

- The section provides a list of names including scholars, philosophers, theologians, and historical figures along with their corresponding references.
- Notable figures mentioned include Descartes, Dewey, Derrida, Einstein, Hegel, Hume, Kant, Nietzsche, Plato, Rousseau, and many others.

### **Section 2: Notable Scholars and Theologians**

- Includes references to scholars like Davidson, Delitzsch, Driver, Eichhorn, Geisler, McGrath, Montefiore, and more.
- The text mentions theologians such as Barth, Calvin, Luther, and Warfield among others.

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#### **Section 3: Philosophers and Thinkers**

- Lists philosophers like Aristotle, Confucius, Kierkegaard, Locke, Spinoza, and Wittgenstein.
- Also includes thinkers such as Lewis, Russell, Sartre, and Voltaire.

### **Section 4: Biblical Figures and Texts**

- Mentions biblical figures like Abraham, David, Isaac, Moses, and Solomon.
- References to biblical texts such as the Flood of Noah, Tower of Babel, Exodus, and Creation Story are included.

## **Section 5: Archaeological Discoveries**

- Discusses archaeological findings related to Assyrian Invasion, Babylonian Captivity, and contributions to biblical criticism.
- Highlights discoveries like Dead Sea Scrolls, Elephantine Papyri, and Ebla Tablets.

### **Section 6: Literary Criticism Theories**

- Covers various literary criticism theories including Documentary Hypothesis, Form Criticism, and Graf-Wellhausen Hypothesis.
- Provides insights into the purpose, methodology, and limitations of these critical approaches.

### **Section 7: Historical Approaches**

- Explores historical approaches to biblical studies, including the Gospel Tradition and the History Approach.
- Discusses the knowability of history, prejudices, skepticism, and the resurrection of Jesus.

#### **Section 8: Religious and Mythological References**

- Includes references to religions like Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, and Islam.
- Mentions mythologies such as Greek Mythology and Hindu Mythology.

# **Section 9: Legal Codes and Treaties**

- Discusses legal codes like the Code of Hammurabi and the Holiness Code.
- Mentions Hittite Treaties and the significance of the House of David.

### **Section 10: Cultural and Geographical References**

- Covers cultural aspects like customs, ethics, legislation, and nomenclature.
- Includes geographical references to regions like Canaan, Egypt, Gilead, and Hyksos.

### The Four Spiritual Laws

- Physical laws govern the physical universe, while spiritual laws govern the relationship with God.
- The Four Spiritual Laws outline God's love, man's sinfulness, Jesus Christ as the solution, and the individual's need to receive Christ.

#### Law 1: God's Love and Plan

- God loves humanity and offers a plan for abundant life through belief in His Son (John 3:16, 10:10).
- Most people do not experience this abundant life due to sin and separation from God.

#### Law 2: Man's Sinfulness and Separation

- All have sinned and fallen short of God's glory (Romans 3:23).
- Sin causes spiritual death and separates man from God (Romans 6:23).

#### Law 3: Jesus Christ as the Solution

- Christ died for our sins, rose from the dead, and is the only way to God (Romans 5:8, 1 Corinthians 15:3-6, John 14:6).
- Through Christ, the gulf between God and man is bridged.

# **Law 4: Receiving Christ**

- Individuals must personally receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord to know God's love and plan for their lives (John 1:12, Ephesians 2:8-9, Revelation 3:20).
- Receiving Christ involves repentance, faith, and inviting Him into one's life.

### **Receiving Christ Through Prayer**

- A suggested prayer is provided for receiving Christ into one's life.
- Assurance of Christ's presence is based on God's promise and trust in His Word.

# **Knowing Christ Is in Your Life**

- The Bible promises eternal life to those who receive Christ (1 John 5:11-13).
- Christians should not rely on feelings but on faith in God's promises.

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# **Christian Growth and Living**

- Spiritual growth comes from trusting Jesus Christ and living by faith (Galatians 3:11).
- Suggestions for Christian growth include obedience, witnessing, trust, reliance on the Holy Spirit, fellowship in a church, prayer, and reading the Bible daily.

Pages - 811 -- 820