



Ancient Documents Revealed

- I. Two examples of archaeological findings that silence Bible skeptics.
 - a. The significant discovery of the Egyptian King's tomb—Tutankhamen in 1922. For years Bible skeptics, trying to discredit the Bible, drew attention to the statement in the Book of Exodus which speaks of the sanctuary in the wilderness. In answer to God's appeal, Israel brought together a portion of the gold given to them by the Egyptians as they left Egypt. They used the gold in the construction of the sanctuary and its furniture. Some of the skeptics claimed the Bible was untrue, because they said, there had not been that much gold found in the world in those days. Not a single gold mine had been found in all Egypt. The discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb with its multitude of golden objects has silenced such attacks against the Bible record.
 - b. The discovery of the ancient city of Petra or Biblical land called Edom. For 1100 years no trace of this city could be found. There is not a living Edomite in the world today. Petra seems to have vanished.

The skeptics once again questioned the Bible. Some said the story of Petra is just a legend. Therefore, they claimed, the Bible is fiction and not fact.

The Bible mentions Petra and Edom a number of times:

- i. In the Biblical book of Obadiah we read, "Thus saith the Lord concerning Edom...I will bring thee down." Obadiah 1:1,3,4
- ii. "There shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau: For the Lord hath spoken it." Obadiah 1:18 (Edomites were the descendents of Esau)

God predicted exactly what eventually took place. The Edomites and their glorious city, Petra had been destroyed to the point that there wasn't even an Edomite left. But there was a trace and for centuries it lay hidden from most of the world. In 1812, John Lewis Burckhart, a young Swiss explorer from the British Archaeological Society discovered the ruins of Petra.

- II. The God of the Bible is able to predict coming events with 100% accuracy; a claim no one else can make. Isaiah 46:9,10
- III. The Bible has a number of prophecies that are still standing today as evidence to the fact that God is all-knowing.

- a. Babylon – Isaiah 13:19-20
Once Babylon was the pride of the Chaldeans, but God saw that one day it would be deserted and never inhabited. This prophecy has been vividly fulfilled. Jeremiah 51:57, 58
- b. Tyre was the ancient city of glory on the sea in the year 590 B.C. God predicted her downfall. Ezekiel 26:3, 4. First Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian king laid Tyre to the ground. Then in 332 B.C., Alexander the Great attacked the rebuilt city of Tyre. The new city was half a mile out into the Mediterranean on an island and Alexander had complications with his conquest. He then formed a plan. He took walls, timbers, towers, ruined houses and palaces of ancient Tyre and with them built a solid causeway right out to the island city. So great was the demand for material for the causeway that the very dust was scraped from the old site and laid into the sea. What a fulfillment of Biblical prophecy! “They shall lay thy stones and thy timber and thy dust in the midst of the water.” Ezekiel 26:12
- c. The Jewish nation, “and I will scatter you among the heathen”. Leviticus 26:33 How completely fulfilled this prophecy is today. The Jewish historian, Craetz says, “Though scattered over the face of the globe, we are still one people”. History of the Jews, Volume V, P. 487

IV. Only a book of inspiration could be so accurate.

- a. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God...” II Timothy 3:16,17
- b. ”We have a sure word of prophecy...” II Peter 1:19-21
- c. “Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His prophets.”

V. Accurately fulfilled Bible prophecy demands the attention of modern day people to investigate the claims of the Word of God.

- a. The words of scripture are spirit and life. They are true. John 6:63
- b. The investigation of scripture will reveal a clear testimony concerning Jesus Christ. John 5:39
- c. By confirming the written Word of god, an individual will become acquainted with the Living Word. John 1:1-3, 14.
- d. The results can be wonderful. The Bible brings a change in the life of the reader. The results can include more love, joy, peace, longsuffering, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22
- e. We have a more sure word of truth. Let us hang onto the promises and not doubt its claims in the rocky and uncertain days that we face ahead. John 17:17