

Dear Lillian Methodist Church family,

In my June newsletter, I closed with the statement that the Bible is not a science book, but in fact a history book, recording a holy God's dealings with sinful men. Those dealings started even before man was created, providing the perfect world for humans to inhabit, as recorded in Genesis. It is recorded as history, not some sort of "epic poetry." The honest scholar can admit that he doesn't believe what is written, but he cannot deny how it is plainly written.

Genesis moves from the history of the Earth to the history of a man and his descendants: Abraham and the children of Israel. Throughout the scriptures, prophets proclaimed image-filled messages and psalmists cried out with their poetry, yet these too are intertwined with the context of real history, involving real people and real places, living real lives. The Bible reads like no other religious document.

For years, sceptics have denied its history, assuming myth, legend and fairy tale. Sadly, many Christians have believed the skeptics and have compromised their faith. However, history leaves a mark. Artifacts do not prove the truth of the Bible's words, but they do confirm the historical reliability of the Bible.

Most ancient artifacts survive in the form of inscriptions in clay tablets or stone monuments, confirming biblical names and customs. Others, like the Seal of Queen Jezebel, inscribed in opal with Jezebel's name (used for sealing documents) or pottery inscribed with the name of Goliath, found in the ancient Philistine city of Gath, are smaller artifacts, yet also give evidence for the accuracy of the Bible. Time and time again, the sceptic's attacks have been silenced by the archaeologist's shovel.

There is simply no reason to give in to the sceptic's unbelief. There is no reason to compromise the Word of God. The sceptic's day will soon come to its end. "All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever." (I Peter 1:24)

See y'all Sunday
Perry Cunningham
Lay Leader



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