

# Plain Path

Weekly newsletter of the Fry Road church of Christ

Sunday, November 16, 2014

Volume 19, Number 46

“Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path... Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart” (Psalm 27:11-14)

## SCRIPTURE DECLARES ...

by Bob Pulliam

*“And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.”*

(Daniel 2:44)

**T**HAT THE BIBLE SAYS it is the word of God does not prove anything. After all, the Quran claims to be a holy book given by the one God Allah. Making a claim does not prove the claim. So, is it really significant that Scripture declares anything. Well, I'm not talking about the Bible claiming to be the word of God. I'm actually talking about what the Bible accomplishes by it's content. I have no reason to give the Book of Mormon a second glance after I see contradictions and failed prophecies. The same is true of many so

called inspired works. But the Bible stands apart from these in significant ways.

The prophecy cited above is a very good example of this. And we will discuss it later in this article.

### Telling Details...

Do the names in Genesis ten sound too goofy to be true? I usually suggest that anyone who thinks so look in the newspaper to see what goofy really sounds like. Those names are getting more common, however, and people

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## TRY JESUS ...

by Bob Pulliam

**B**EING “CLEVER” IS AN AWFUL TRAP into which a lot of people want to fall. They turn a clever phrase in the name of religion and think they've done something to clarify a difficult decision or concept. Ever seen a t-shirt with the “Got Milk” variation that says “Got Jesus”? I realize they aren't saying Jesus belongs in a refrigerator, but a lot of people don't drink milk because *they can't!* Clever just fell through the cracks. Do the “lactose intolerant” become “Jesus intolerant”? Why can't we just say, “You Need Jesus”? I guess it just isn't clever enough.

I saw signs on a truck last week that said “Try Jesus”. Really? We're supposed to urge the world to “try” Jesus? I know the intention is good, but is there a “trial size”? I can't find a “trial

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take them for granted. But I will always be able to point to ancient Sumerian and Akkadian documents, to show that names like those found in the Bible were in existence in those days. In fact, names of people, nations, rivers, and mountains all correspond to details found in ancient secular histories. Locations, movements and strategies of armies, and migrations of people match up detail for detail. The details in your Bible are trustworthy in every area where history's text crosses it's pages.

One very interesting area of confirmation is found in the ancient Hittite civilization. In the nineteenth century, the skeptic commonly pointed to the Hittite

in the Bible as a myth. No record of Hittites had ever been discovered, and thus the Bible was in error. When the Hittite civilization was discovered, it made no believers among the skeptics; but it did shut their mouths on this point. In 1906, thousands of texts were found in an ancient capital of the Hittites. Today, you can get a degree in Hittite civilization from the University of Pennsylvania.

Consider the mortar mentioned in the account of the tower of Babel. Older Bible versions use the word "slime", rather than asphalt. The reason seems to have been the conviction that there wasn't enough bitumen in Mesopotamia to build a tower. Today, the extensive oil fields of Iraq stand as a testimony to the truth of the Bible. Large tar (bitumen) pits have been found in the area of the ruins of Babylon, and many ziggurats (towers) have been found with tar used as mortar.

Daniel 5:30 & 31 cites Belshazzar as the last ruler in Babylon

at the time of the Median conquest. Scholars, however, "knew" this to be incorrect. History clearly listed Nabonidus as the last king of Babylon. After years of ridiculing the Bible's record on this "historical error", archaeology vindicated the Scriptures. Belshazzar was serving as prince regent in his father's place (Nabonidus was away tinkering with insanity according to some reports). This would explain the promise of Belshazzar in Daniel 5:16, that he would make Daniel the third ruler in the kingdom. If Belshazzar was First, then Daniel would be second. But we know that Belshazzar was second to his father, Nabonidus, who was first. The next highest position for Belshazzar to offer would be third ruler.

These simple little details have been acclaimed as errors in the Bible in the past. Now they are just some of the little details we take for granted. When you add up these, with many others, the answer points to an accurate, reliable Bible.

(Declare, continued on pg 3...)

## THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

COLOSSIANS 1 - 4;  
JUDE

November 16 - 18

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

II SAMUEL 15 - 18;  
PSALMS 28 - 34

November 19 - 22

I TIMOTHY 4:13



(Try Jesus, continued from pg 1...)

size" in the Bible. The only size I can find is, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." (Lk 9:23) Trying Jesus would be an add on. It would be entered into on the basis of a temporary arrangement, dependant upon how "Jesus worked out".

If you want to "try Jesus", I have to tell you it can't be done. Jesus isn't like Brill Creme (an old hair creme for men). The slogan there was, "A little dab will do." A little dab of Jesus will not do. Jesus is an all or nothing choice, and there is no clever slogan to adequately capture the serious nature of that choice.



# FAMILY NEWS & NOTES

*News and Notes of Interest  
to Fry Road Members*

Because of the large number of visitors to our services, we would ask those wishing to identify with the congregation to do so by expressing this interest directly to the elders.

## Upcoming Meetings & Events:

**Gospel Meeting (Dee Bowman)**  
January 11 - 14, 2015

**Gospel Meeting (Carl McMurray)**  
April 12 - 15, 2015

**V.B.S.**  
June 21 - 25, 2015

**Annual Singing**  
September 12, 2015

**Gospel Meeting (Jim Deason)**  
September 13 - 16, 2015

## Sick and Shut-Ins

*Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy*

## Sermons:

**Next Sunday:**

Waiting for Jesus

**Tonight:**

The Grace of God

*Additions and changes  
to the sick should be e-mailed  
to Bob by noon on Friday to  
assure inclusion and accuracy*

(Declare, continued from pg 2...)

## Prophecies of Old...

When I think of prophecies in the Old Testament that validate the Bible as God's word, I first think of Daniel 2. This prophecy (Dan 2:36-45) foretold the kingdom which God would set up. It would be in the days of the Roman empire. The book of Daniel (along with the remainder of the Old Testament), must be dated well before the New Testament. That it was included in the Septuagint version which was commissioned around 250 BC, is quite monumental. And that the Jews already accepted Daniel as one of God's prophets of the Babylonian era is very significant. This leaves the reader wondering how a prophecy from such an early time could pin-point the empire during which Jesus would establish the kingdom we read about in the New Testament (Mk 9:1; Col 1:13).

Many other prophecies set Scripture apart as a work from the Divine Mind. Not simply that they were fulfilled. But that every prophecy was fulfilled without fail — as given.

Next week we will go over a number of these to see that Scripture has shown itself to be inspired, because prophecy declares it.



## Ladies Class...

Ladies, don't forget the **Fall Ladies Bible Classes**. The last classes this year will be this Tuesday at the Fry Road Building at 10:00 a.m., and a special topic class at 6:30 p.m., at Cinco Ranch Library.

# FOR THE RECORD

## WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

## MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS

Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy

IN KEEPING WITH OUR LONG STANDING AGREEMENT, THOSE SERVING PUBLICLY ARE REMINDED TO PLEASE DRESS IN A MANNER RESPECTFUL OF THE GOD WHOM WE SERVE.

### ELDERS:

Ruben Amador  
Matthew Heaton  
Donnie Mangrum  
Steven Martin  
Steve Voss



### DEACONS:

John Coleman	Ken Dunsmore
David Ellison	Ray Farrell
Aubrey Garner	Steve Geraci
Steve LaGrasta	John Light
Mike McMurray	Jason Mock
David Stevenson	Glenn Tomblin

### TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Assembly	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Assembly	6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:30 PM

### EVANGELIST & EDITOR:

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