**Discovery - Topics & Content:**

**Week 3: Tuesday Oct 25, 2016**

**Session 3 A:** Discovering Why people still read the Bible in the 21st C.

**Intro & Review:**

* **Apologetics:** - ‘to give a defense’ for what you believe. **1 Peter 3:15**

-Not blind faith, but actually ‘seeing’ & ‘rational’ faith.

* **Getting personal:** not only intellectual but experiential too: ‘**taste & see’.**

**Psalm 34:8**

-The Hebrew & Greek mindsets

* **Reliability of texts:** transmission & translation of ancient manuscripts & copies.

-Archaeology supports this.

* We work from the paradigm that **God is ‘knowable’**: heart, mind & body.

-‘External’ evidence: outside the Bible (like creation).

-‘Internal’ evidence: from within the Bible.

* **Design in ‘Creation’ is** the ‘signature’ of God. **Romans 1:20**

-Micro scale: cell & Macro level: universe & solar system.

**Brief look at the marvel of conception through birth of a human.**

* Brief intro from creation science point of view:

-To support design / probability / complex interplay of multiple factors.

**(Photo of basic cell & then clip).**

**Psalm 139:14***I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+139%3A14&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-16254a)*]
Marvelous are Your works,
And that my soul knows very well.*

**The ‘Big Bang’ Theory**

* In science: a theory is a well-established explanation for scientific data.

-Theories typically cannot be absolutely proven, but become established when ‘scientists’ supposedly test the theory with observations.

* At best this ‘Big Bang’ theory seems to coincide with the Bible:

-At one place & time everything started from nothing. (‘In the beginning…’)

* At worst this theory obscures uncertainties even among ‘scientists’ themselves.

-The theory is **not** universally accepted by all scientists: only appears to be so at School level text books. (Like the ‘Theory’ of Evolution & ‘Climate Change’ which morphed out of ‘Global Warming’).

-The BB theory is sometimes called ’fact’, beware if you contradict.

* Simply stated: “All matter and all space was originally part of an infinitesimally small point called the Singularity which then stretched out from that point.

-No real solution as to where this singular nothingness came from.

 (‘Nothing produced something’).

-Theoretical ‘astrophysicists’ use ‘quantum physics to try to explain this.

 (Nothing has been actually observed by scientists).

**(Video clip: This attempt to explain it to children):**

*“Our Universe probably came into existence not only from nothing, but from nowhere”* – Heather Cowper (astronomer).

-This does not appear ‘scientific’, but more like a doctrine of religious faith.

“In the beginning, there was nothing. And that nothing exploded.”

* From a creationist perspective, God created the Earth (& universe) and man.

**Isaiah 45:12** *I have made the earth,
And created man on it. I—My hands—stretched out the heavens,
And all their host I have commanded.*

**Secrets from the Original Hebrew Text:**

*The Creation*

**Genesis 1:1**

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

* On December 24, 1968, in what was the most watched television broadcast @ the time the crew of [Apollo 8](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apollo_8) read in turn from the [Book of Genesis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Genesis) as they orbited the moon.
* Some call this merely a ‘metaphor’ – a literary device used to point to similarities with something else.
* If so, what is that ‘something else’ if not God creating us, as is plainly stated.
* Why not dig into the **Hebrew language**: it reveals fascinating ‘secrets’.

**(1st slide:) – Hebrew letters with Aleph / Tav in the middle.**

* The **middle word** is rendered ‘et’ but is actually ‘untranslated’ and stands simply as the letters:

 - ‘Aleph - Tav’ (Read right to left in Hebrew)

* ‘Jesus’, the Messiah – savior, creator is in the **middle** of the verse!... And of God’s plan to save mankind.
* The Aleph and the Tav are the first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet. (Total: 22)
* The Hebrew alphabet comes to us from its earliest form, ‘pictographs’.

-Words constructed by putting pictures together to illustrate a characteristic.

EG. Father: ‘ab’ from ‘aleph & ‘bet’

 *‘aleph’ – strength (of an ox)*

 *‘bet’ – family or house…*

Father: ‘the strength our house’ (think ‘abba father’)

**(See pictograph Chart of Hebrew alphabet) then pictograph of : “in the beginning”)**

* **In terms of numbers:** *(Numerology is improper perversion)*
* **Aleph:** Original pictograph = Ox - like strength.

 -Numerical value of One (1): First letter of Hebrew alphabet

* **Tav:** Original pictograph = Mark / Cross (two sticks that cross)

 -Numerical value of 400: Last letter of Hebrew Alphabet

(Complete outworking of everything: 4X10 X10)

**(See picture of Aleph /Tav (Hebrew) & Alpha / Omega (Greek)**

* Jesus is the Aleph -Tav!

-ALEPH and the TAV reveal the Plan of Redemption right from the beginning!

 -Jesus the ‘ox – like’ servant ‘worked’ salvation on our behalf on the cross.

-This secret is ‘hidden’ in the 1st verse which speaks of creation, (not chance).

**Pattern of Sevens in Genesis 1:1**

* Researcher Ivan Panin discovered a phenomenon of multiples of 7 that could not be explained by chance.
* Genesis 1:1 composed of 7 Hebrew words containing a total of 28 letters (4X7).
* The first three **Hebrew** Words translated have 14 letters: *“In the beginning God created”.* (7X2=14)
* Professors on the mathematics faculty at Harvard University were presented with this biblical phenomenon & attempted to disprove its significance as a proof of divine authorship.
* However, after valiant efforts these professors were unable to duplicate this incredible mathematical phenomenon suing 400 000 English words & computers.
* The Bible ***ends*** this way:

**Revelation 1:8**

*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, says the Lord, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty*.

* Covers space & time: past present & future.

**Revelation 22:13**

*I am the Alpha and the Omega, (Greek) the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”*

*(In* ***Hebrew*** *it would have been recorded as ‘Aleph –Tav’)*

* The Aramaic Bible (close to Hebrew) in plain English

**Revelation 1:8**

*I am The Alap and The Tau, says THE LORD JEHOVAH God, he who is and has been and is coming, The Almighty.*

**Concluding thoughts of this session 3 A**

* Such patterns could only have been intended by a genius designer / planner.

-Never by chance.

***(Play music between sessions)***

**Discovery**

**Week 3: Tuesday Oct 25, 2016**

**Session 3 B:** Discovering who Jesus really was (& is)

**(See slide of Jesus face & scripture)**

* So far with our focus on Jesus:

 -The importance of reason & revelation (together with and from God)

* The 4 Gospels provide a comprehensive view of Jesus speaking to: 4 faces

 (God face to face with us personally)

 -Covenant Jews (Lion)

 -Gentiles (Ox)

 -Greeks (Man)

 -Believers (Eagle)

* **Keeping the main thing the main thing:** focus of the Bible is Jesus, not some set of doctrinal beliefs…. that follows a personal relationship with Him.
* **Jesus is repeatedly revealed** in the OT: prophecies are vital.

 -No other religious leader ever has fulfilled prophecy like Jesus.

**Understand Covenant in order to understand Jesus**

* The Bible is divided up into two main covenants or testaments: OT & NT.

-They both speak of a special arrangement that God set in motion to deal with mankind in general & His people in particular.

-These covenants have to ‘rightly’ divided in order to see Jesus’ work more clearly & the implications for us today.

**2 Timothy 2:15**

*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

* A covenant in Bible times a covenant was a sacred mutual understanding between two or more parties and involved ‘promise, commitment, and faithfulness to fulfill the terms of the covenant.

-God dispenses His grace (unmerited favor) by mans of covenant which requires the response & cooperation of man in this relational compact.

-He is not capricious in His dealings, but purposeful & up front: creates security…you know where you stand with God!

* Jesus came in fulfillment of Old Testament covenants.

 -Jesus even said that His life & ministry **fulfilled** God’s covenants:

 **Luke 4:21**

` *And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture* ***fulfilled*** *in your ears.*

* In short, it sure helps to consider how the two main ‘covenants’ interplay together:

 -‘The old (OT) is the new concealed, and the new (NT) is the Old revealed.’

**Connecting the dots when it comes to seeing the interplay between OT & NT**

* The OT is usually seen as the ‘covenant of Law’ (through Moses) & the NT as the ‘covenant of grace’ (through Jesus).

**John 1:17**

*For the* ***law was given*** *through Moses, but* ***grace and truth came*** *through Jesus Christ. (Emphasis added).*

 -Give: from a distance / ‘Came’: (& dwelt among us) - up close & personal.

* Since Jesus’ birth, life, ministry, death, burial and resurrection everything changed.

-We now read, understand and interpret everything in the OT through the lens / filter of the NT: (essentially the cross filter).

* **The key:** Jesus has fulfilled all the requirements taught in the various covenants.

-Placing full emphasis not on us and what we are supposedly yet to do, but faith in what He has **already done** on our behalf.

* **Caution:** we do not profit from a mixture of Law & Grace or the OT & NT’s.

-We have to ‘use’ scripture correctly: for EG.

**1 Timothy 1:8-11**

*But we know that the law is good* ***if one uses it lawfully****, knowing this: that* ***the law is not made for a righteous person****, but for the* ***lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners****, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.* (Emphasis added).

 -Note: believers have been made ‘righteous’ by God’s work @ the cross.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

**Will the real God please stand up**

Is the God of the OT harsh and vindictive or is the God of the NT a ‘softer’ version?

**Psalm 145:8 - Old Testament** *The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.*

&

**Matthew 23:27 – New Testament** *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.*

**A. Jonah** described God’s mercy towards undeserving Ninevites as follows:

**Jonah 4:2** *“I knew you were a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in graciousness, relenting from evil.”* **(See pictures of Ninevah, Assyria)**

* Sin & rebellion is really bad & destructive, so God’s seemingly extreme measures of the Old Testament to cleanse & refocus people on His plan, should be seen in terms of a ‘protective Father’ & not a ‘vindictive deity’.

(Eg. The destruction of the Canaanites who occupied the Promised Land – utterly corrupt & unrepentant.)

-Purpose of any OT ‘judgment’ to ensure the Messiah’s coming, and thus the ultimate game changing effect of the cross on all humanity.

**B. Sodom & Gomorrah** shows God patiently ‘working with His covenant partner Abraham to **save** the cities, and not being quick to ‘pull the trigger’ & judge them: absolutely wicked as they were. **(See pictures of Sodom & Gomorrah)**

* **Look @ Jesus**: you get an accurate picture of the Father (God of the OT & NT.)

**John 14:9** *He who has seen Me has seen the Father;*

**Finally, the scripture shows the qualities of God (in the NT).**

**Isaiah 30:18** *And therefore the Lord [earnestly] waits [expecting, looking, and longing] to be gracious to you; and therefore He lifts Himself up, that He may have mercy on you and show loving-kindness to you. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) are all those who [earnestly] wait for Him, who expect and look and long for Him [for His victory, His favor, His love, His peace, His joy, and His matchless, unbroken companionship]!* ***(Amplified Bible).***

**Resources for Discovery Part 3:A & B**

**Ivan Panin: Bible Numbers article.**

<http://www.biblebelievers.org.au/panin3.htm>

**Living Word: The value of Tav – the last letter of the Hebrew Alphabet.**

<http://www.thelivingword.org.au/grand-design/session40.php>

**Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry:**

<https://carm.org>