

RUSSIA SEMINAR TALKS, SEEKERS TRACK
DR. ROBERT C. NEWMAN
OCTOBER 17-31, 1992

LECTURE 3: WHY DO WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE?

INTRODUCTION

If there is an infinite, personal God out there who designed and made the universe and the life in it, has he communicated with us?

The Bible claims that he has, and that the Bible itself is the text of this communication. What is more, the Bible provides evidence that this is not just an empty claim.

PRE-KNOWLEDGE OF SCIENCE:

The Bible indicates that the universe had a beginning. The creation account of Genesis one, though frequently misinterpreted, is consistent with modern scientific evidence on the origin and early history of our planet Earth. It pictures an earth that was originally formless and empty, just as modern science does. It says that it was dark and became light. That the atmosphere and oceans came from within (Job 38:8-9). That the formation of continents produced a separation between land and sea. That vegetation came before a clear sky and land animals. That man came last, after his environment had been fully prepared. [Newman, Genesis One & Origin of Earth]

The Bible suggests an enormously large universe (so large it would be a surprise that God would care about individuals), with an uncountable number of stars, and a round earth which hangs upon nothing. All these ideas were rarely believed at the time the Bible was written, but are obviously true now that modern science has developed ways of testing such matters. How did the Bible happen to get this right? [Newman, "Astronomy in the Bible"]

Biblical medicine is striking in its concern for good diet, cleanliness, and quarantine, in contrast to so many ancient works of religion and medicine. It even specifies that the circumcision operation on baby boys should take place on the eighth day of their life, which turns out to be the safest time for such an operation. [McMillen and Stern, None of These Diseases]

FULFILLED PROPHECY:

The Biblical prophets were spokesmen sent from God. One of the ways in which their messages were validated was by short-term predictions which consistently came true. For us in modern times, an even stronger evidence is that they also made long-term