Archeology Confirms Bible History

and it shows that Bible people and incidents are correctly referred to.

One example is that of Sargon, a king named in [*Isaiah 20:1*](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Isa%2020.1). Critics at one time said that there was no such king. But then his palace was found at Khorsabad, and there was a description of the very battle referred to by Isaiah. Another illustration is the death of the Assyrian King Sennacherib. His death is recorded in *Isaiah 37* and also in the annals of Sennacherib’s son Esarhaddon, whom Isaiah says succeeded Sennacherib.

1. Archaeology gives local color, indicating that the background is authentic.

Laws and customs, gods, and religious practices are shown to be associated with times and places mentioned in the Bible. Rachel’s stealing her father’s clay gods illustrates the correct understanding of customs: she and Leah asked, “Is there yet any portion or inheritance for us in our father’s house?” ([*Genesis 31:14*](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Gen%2031.14)). She knew the teraphim (clay gods) were associated with title deeds, which was a custom of that time.

1. Archaeology provides additional facts.

Archaeological facts help the Bible student understand times and circumstances better than would otherwise be possible. Bible writers tell us the names of such Assyrian kings as Sennacherib and Esarhaddon, and we now know a great deal more about these rulers from records recovered in their palaces and libraries.

1. Archaeology has proved of tremendous value in Bible translations.

The meanings of words and phrases are often illuminated when found in other contexts. [*2 Kings 18:17*](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2%20Kings%2018.17), for example, correctly uses three Assyrian army titles. Those terms are *tartan* (commander-in-chief), *rabshakeh* (chief of the princes), and *rabsaris* (chief eunuch). The meanings of these words were unknown at the time of the production of the King James Version of the Bible in 1611.

Only when Assyrian palaces were excavated was a great deal of light thrown onto their meanings. The fact that these titles are correctly used in the Old Testament is another strong argument for eyewitness recording. People do not know the titles of their enemy without some form of contact.

1. Archaeology has demonstrated the accuracy of many Bible prophecies.

The prophecies against Nineveh, Babylon, and Tyre in Isaiah are typical examples, as are the early records of creation in the Bible. It is also highly important that Isaiah and others so accurately pointed to the coming Messiah. At many points their history has been vindicated, and so have their prophecies about Jesus.

This spiritual application is surely one of the most important aspects of biblical archaeology, reminding us that “holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” ([*2 Peter 1:21*](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2%20Pet%201.21)).

Archaeology has done much to demonstrate that “the Bible was right after all.” Its early records of creation, Eden, the Flood, long-living men, and the dispersal of the nations are not mere legends after all. Other tablets recording the same events have been recovered, but they are often distorted and corrupted.

The Bible record is immensely superior, and quite credible. Those early Bible records can no longer be written off as myth or legend.

“For ever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven” ([*Psalm 119:89*](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ps%20119.89)).

Bible facts: **Noah’s Flood washes away millions of years.**

Proof Through Science:

The evidence in *Genesis 6–9* for a global catastrophic flood is overwhelming. For example, the Flood was intended to destroy not only all sinful people but also all land animals and birds and the surface of the earth, which only a global flood could accomplish. The [Ark’s](https://answersingenesis.org/home/area/faq/noah.asp) purpose was to save two of every kind of land animal and bird (and seven of some) to repopulate the earth after the Flood. The Ark was totally unnecessary if the Flood was only local. People, animals, and birds could have migrated out of the flood zone before it occurred, or the zone could have been populated from creatures outside the area after the Flood. The catastrophic nature of the Flood is seen in the nonstop rain for at least 40 days, which would have produced massive erosion, mud slides, hurricanes, etc. The Hebrew words translated “the fountains of the great deep burst open” ([*Genesis 7:11*](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Gen%207.11)) clearly point to tectonic rupturing of the earth’s surface in many places for 150 days, resulting in volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis. Noah’s Flood would produce exactly the kind of complex geological record we see worldwide today: thousands of feet of sediments clearly deposited by water and later hardened into rock and containing billions of fossils. If the year-long Flood is responsible for most of the rock layers and fossils, then those rocks and fossils cannot represent the history of the earth over millions of years, as evolutionists claim.

Bible facts: **The idea of millions of years did not come from the scientific facts.**

Proof Through Science:

This idea of long ages was developed by deistic and atheistic geologists in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. These men used antibiblical philosophical and religious assumptions to interpret the geological observations in a way that plainly contradicted the biblical account of creation, the Flood, and the [age of the earth](https://answersingenesis.org/home/area/faq/young.asp). Most church leaders and scholars quickly compromised using the gap theory, day-age view, local flood view, etc. to try to fit “deep time” into the Bible. But they did not understand the geological arguments, and they did not defend their views by careful Bible study. The “deep time” idea flows out of naturalistic assumptions, not scientific observations.

Bible facts: **Evidences that Canyon Erosion Was Recent and Rapid**

Proof Through Science: There are several pieces of evidence which suggest the Grand Canyon is a recent or “young” canyon. When considered individually, they are significant challenges to the uniformitarian (long-age) model; when taken as a whole, they become catastrophic. Following is a brief outline of some of those challenges.

**Debris Not in the Present River Delta**

Almost 1,000 cubic miles (4,000 cubic km) of material has been eroded to form the Grand Canyon. Where did it go? If the canyon was eroded by the Colorado River, an enormous delta should be found at the mouth of the river where it empties into the Gulf of California. But the delta contains only a small fraction of this eroded material. This same problem is found with most river deltas; they only contain enough material to represent thousands, not millions, of years of erosion.

**Stable Cliffs**

One of the most striking features of the Grand Canyon is the massive sheer cliffs of sedimentary rocks. It is the difference in the rocks’ makeup that gives the canyon its color and progressive stair-stepped profile of cliffs above broad slopes. The cliffs are made mostly of limestone and sandstone, with some formations reaching 500 feet (150 m) in thickness. The dark, almost black, color of large sections of the sheer cliffs is due to a coating of desert varnish, which develops slowly over many years and is indicative of their stability. Where recent rockfalls occur, the desert varnish is missing. The fact that the cliffs maintain their desert varnish color indicates they are rarely experiencing even minor rockfalls; thus they are very stable. This is only consistent with their formation by recent catastrophic erosion, not millions of years of slow erosion.

**No Talus**

The lack of debris, or talus, at the base of the cliffs is also a challenge to the evolutionary model. Over millions of years of erosion, one would expect to find large amounts of talus at the base of the cliffs within the Grand Canyon. The most obvious areas of this lack of talus is within the side canyons ending in broad U-shaped amphitheaters. Some of these amphitheaters are hundreds of feet deep and extend back as much as a mile (1.6 km) from the river. The majority have no water source to remove material, yet the bases of most of these cliffs are relatively “clean,” with very little talus. Within the evolutionary model, there is no mechanism for the removal of this material.

**Relict Landforms**

The stability of the Grand Canyon cliffs and the lack of talus at their bases are indicative of the canyon being a relict landform. In other words, the Grand Canyon has changed very little since it was carved. It is a relatively unchanged remnant or relict of the event that eroded it, which therefore could not have been today’s slow river processes extrapolated back into the past.

There are several remnants, or relict landforms, of the material that now makes up the Grand Staircase to the north of the Grand Canyon. The two most noticeable ones are Red Butte, 16 miles (25 km) south of the South Rim (see figure 4), and Cedar Mountain just east of Desert View Overlook on the South Rim. These remnants, and others like them, are mostly capped with volcanic basalt, which has protected the sedimentary layers from being eroded away. These same sedimentary layers also form the base of the San Francisco Peaks just north of Flagstaff, Arizona.

These relicts testify to a massive erosional event, which in the biblical model is explained by the receding waters of the catastrophic global Genesis Flood.

Bible facts: **The genealogies of Genesis 5 and 11 make it clear that the creation days happened only about 6,000 years ago.**

Proof Through Science:

It is transparent from the genealogies of Genesis 5 and 11 (which give very detailed chronological information, unlike the clearly abbreviated genealogy in Matthew 1 and other chronological information in the Bible that the Creation Week took place only about 6,000 years ago. So if You add up all the births and deaths you get around 6000 years.

Bible facts: Old Testament (Dead Sea Scrolls)

Proof Through Science:

In 1947 a Bedouin stumbled upon ancient scrolls when he tossed a rock into a cave opening and heard pottery shatter. This discovery led to the search for more scrolls. Between 1947 and 1956 some nine hundred manuscripts were discovered in eleven caves around Qumran, along the northwestern shore of the Dead Sea. Over two hundred scrolls were portions of the Bible itself, dated 250 BC–AD 68. Amazingly, every Old Testament book except Esther was represented.

But why do some old scrolls matter to us today? As modern scholars continue to attack the trustworthiness of the Bible, God has given us these remarkable scrolls to study and confirm our confidence in the formation, preservation, translation, and interpretation of His Word. As research advances, we are discovering more and more from these timeless treasures.

This text fits with the claim of the first century Jewish historian Josephus that no new books were added to Scripture after the time of Ezra around 425 BC.[2](https://answersingenesis.org/archaeology/dead-sea-scrolls-timeless-treasures/#fn_2) Thus 4QMMT is remarkable evidence further illustrating that the Old Testament content was likely fixed in Ezra’s day and not by some Jewish council at Jamnia around AD 90 as is often claimed.

## Old Testament Preservation

Does our Bible today preserve what was originally written? Prior to the discoveries in 1947–1956, the earliest surviving Old Testament manuscripts dated to around AD 900.

The biblical Qumran scrolls, dated 250 BC–AD 68, take the dating of available Old Testament manuscripts back one thousand years.

Of particular interest is the Great Isaiah Scroll, the only complete book of the Bible found in the Qumran caves, dated to 125 BC, which was confirmed by two independent tests. Thus, the ancient dating of the scrolls seems secure.

Remarkably, many of these ancient scrolls closely match the Masoretic Text tradition, which modern Hebrew and English Bibles are based upon, confirming the Old Testament text has been faithfully preserved for all these centuries. Further, the scrolls give us a window into the practices of scribes during the Second Temple Period, showing how they prepared, wrote, copied, and made corrections in preserving texts. Thus, the Dead Sea Scrolls fill a major gap in the history of the biblical text and help us see God’s overarching care in preserving the Old Testament.

Bible facts: Assyrians

Proof Through Science:

## Major Evidences Regarding the Assyrian Period



King Sargon of Assyria, mentioned at [*Isaiah 20:1*](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Isa%2020.1)

Part of a pathway excavated by Dr. Clifford Wilson between Sennacherib’s palace and the temple where his sons killed him

This was the time of “The Reign of Terror,” not long after Solomon’s death.

1. [*Isaiah 20:1*](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Isa%2020.1) was challenged by critics because they knew of no king named Sargon in lists of Assyrian kings. Now Sargon’s palace has been recovered at Khorsabad, including a wall inscription and a library record endorsing the battle against the Philistine city of Ashdod (mentioned in [*Isaiah 20:1*](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Isa%2020.1)).
2. Assyrian titles such as *tartan* (commander-in-chief ), and several others, are used casually yet confidently by Bible writers.

Other Assyrian titles such as *rabmag*, *rabshakeh*, and *tipsarru* were also used by Bible writers. As the Assyrians disappeared from history after the Battle of Carchemish in 605 BC, this retention of “obsolete” words is a strong pointer to the eyewitness nature of the records. Thus it points also to the genuineness of the prophecies because the same men who wrote the historical facts also wrote prophecies.

1. The death of Sennacherib is recorded at [*Isaiah 37:38*](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Isa%2037.38) and [*2 Kings 19:37*](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2%20Kings%2019.37) and is confirmed in the records of Sennacherib’s son, Esarhaddon. It was later added to by Esarhaddon’s son Ashur-bani-pal.

Bible facts: **Major Evidences for the Babylonians and Nebuchadnezzar**

Proof Through Science:

Nebuchadnezzar sacked Jerusalem and took Judah into captivity.

1. Daniel knew that Nebuchadnezzar was responsible for the splendor of Babylon ([*Daniel 4:30*](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Dan%204.30)). This was unknown to modern historians until it was confirmed by the German professor Koldewey, who excavated Babylon approximately 100 years ago.
2. We now know from the Babylonian Chronicle that the date of Nebuchadnezzar’s capture of Jerusalem was the night of March 15/16, 597 BC. We also know that Belshazzar really was the king of Babylon at this time because his father Nabonidus, who was undertaking archaeological research, was away from Babylon for about 10 years. He appointed his son Belshazzar as co-regent during that time.
3. Prophecies against Babylon (e.g., *Jeremiah 51, 52*) have been literally fulfilled. Nebuchadnezzar wrote that the walls of Babylon would be a perpetual memorial to his name, but Jeremiah said, “The broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly broken” ([*Jeremiah 51:58*](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jer%2051.58)). Jeremiah, inspired by God, has been confirmed.



Cyrus became king over the Medes and Persians. We read of Cyrus when his name was recorded prophetically in [*Isaiah 44:28 and 45:1*](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Isaiah%2044.28%2C%2045.1). He issued the famous Cyrus Decree that allowed captive peoples to return to their own lands ([*2 Chronicles 36:22–23*](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2%20Chron%2036.22%E2%80%9323) and [*Ezra 1:1–4*](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ezra%201.1%E2%80%934)). The tomb of Cyrus has been found.

God was in control of His people’s history—even using a Gentile king to bring His purposes to pass. The Cyrus Cylinder (a clay cylinder found in 1879 inscribed in Babylonian cuneiform with an account of Cyrus’ conquest of Babylon in 539 BC) confirms that Cyrus had a conquest of Babylon.

Some Jews remained in Babylon, as shown in the book of Esther. The type of “unchanging” laws of the Medes and Persians shown therein ([*Esther 1:19*](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Esther%201.19)) is endorsed from Aramaic documents recovered from Egypt

The Cyrus Cylinder

