

BULLETIN

Babel: More Historical Confirmation of the Bible

The Bible possesses the attributes of divine inspiration with sufficient internal evidence to establish its divine origin. Hence, when it relates a historical incident that occurred thousands of years ago, one would naturally expect that such an incident might well be noted in other historical accounts from antiquity. Of course, one would not expect all, or even many, of the details to match exactly for at least two reasons: (1) the oral transmission of history is inevitably subject to human frailty, including both accuracy of memory and temptation to embellish, and (2) false religion has the tendency to distort and recast history in order to suit its own purposes and achieve its own agenda. An excellent example of these tendencies is seen in the multiplicity of, and variety in, the multitude of accounts of the great Flood of Noah's day.¹ Though they differ widely from culture to culture, country to country, and century to century, nevertheless, they share substantial agreement in too many significant features not to have arisen from the same historically factual event.

Consider another great event whose historicity is set forth in Scripture as factual:

Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." ...So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth (Genesis 11:1-9).

(Continued on Page 4).

The Manchester Church of Christ

66 Mammoth Rd.
Manchester, NH 03109
(603) 623-5559
mht_church@comcast.net
mhtchurch.org

Our Minister:

Park Linscomb 540-0287

Our Elders:

Barry Fogal 487-2387
Gerry Millette 497-3105

Our Deacons:

Benevolence - David Skerry
Building & Grounds - Will
Hamel / Peter Steffensen
Education - Doug Paul

Worship Time:

Sun. Worship - 9:30AM
Bible Class - 11:00AM
Sun. Evening - 6:00PM
Wed. Bible Class - 7:00PM



Dear Lord,

**Give me a heart filled with love, patience,
and concern for others. Slow me down
and calm me down so that I can see the
needs of others. Give me a loving heart to
do something about the needs I see.**

Amen



Family Events

"So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith." Galatians 6:10, NAS95.

If you are a visitor to our church, welcome! If you have questions, we welcome them; please do not hesitate to ask Park Linscomb, our minister, the really tall guy, or any other church member.



- **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING in Jan.**
Watch for the date and time. Your input is valued
- **JAN. 31** - 5th Wednesday Singing
- **MAR. 24** - Biddeford Ladies' Day
- **APR. 6-8** - Conway's Ladies' Weekend
- **APR. 13-15** - Manchester, NH Youth Rally



To all teachers, helpers, and others for providing a scriptural Bible class experience for all who come.

Wed. Night Supper

Jan. 17, Rich Therrien will make sausage gravy/biscuits & scrambled eggs. There are slots to fill for cooking the Wednesday Night Supper. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer. After you sign up, call the church office if you want someone to cook with. Plan your menu and call the church office by Tuesday so it can be posted in the bulletin.



Pantry:

The pantry is thankful for all donations. Please check expiration dates to be sure the food is still safe. "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:35.

Lord's Supper to Shut-ins

Volunteers needed, **now**. Please talk with Doug Paul about this.

Snow Removal and Grounds

- The snow is here! There is a sign up sheet in the foyer for snow removal.
- We need everyone's help to keep things tended as it gives a caring impression to those around...if we care about the building, we must also care about their souls.

Teachers

- If you are going to be out of town, please let Doug Paul know so your class can be covered.
- There is a need for a teacher for the Junior High class on Sunday morning.

Reminder

After fellowship time, when the classroom doors close, the noise and discussions in the fellowship hall need to cease or move to another part of the building.

Cancellations for Planned Events

Watch your email for news of cancellations of planned events. If we do not have an email for you, you will be put on a 'phone tree' list to be called.

Other Notes

- There is information in the foyer about the upcoming retreats.
- Londonderry/Derry members; a couple more families are needed so the rotation to pick up bread at the Derry Panera can be rotated and not be a burden on any one family.

Family Bible Reading, Birthday and Congregational Calendar for Jan. 14 - Jan. 20

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14 - Matt. 6	15 - Gen. 20-21 Steve Jones - BD	16 - Gen. 22	17 - Gen. 23-24 ----- Wednesday Night Supper @ 6pm ----- Jaxon Karafelis - BD	18 - Matt. 7	19 - Gen. 25-26 Logan Bergeron - BD	20 - Matt. 8 Doug & Linda Paul - Anniv.

Youth & Family News



UPCOMING EVENTS

Be on the lookout for future events. If you lead or help with an event, please talk with one of our elders and check with the church office to see that the date is free and then PLEASE volunteer!

JAN. 17 - Wednesday Night Supper

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - Input is needed from all, that means the Youth, also. Please watch for the notice and plan to attend and share your input

FEB. 23-25 - Conway Youth Rally - Forms will be on the Youth Board. Registrations and fees are due by Feb. 10. There is a need for chaperones.

APR. 13-15 - Manchester, NH Youth Rally - watch for details

**Weekly
Contribution
01/07/2017
\$2915.25**

Question of the Week
**Are you willing to stand for
God's truth?**

Lord's Prayer

Written by a 15-year-old school kid in Minnesota, who got an A+ for this entry. The Lord's Prayer is not allowed in most U.S. Public schools any more.

Now I sit me down in school
Where praying is against the
rule.

For this great nation under God
Finds mention of Him very odd.

If scripture now the class
recites,
It violates the Bill of Rights.
And anytime my head I bow
Becomes a Federal matter
now.

Our hair can be purple, orange or
green,
That's no offense; it's a freedom
scene.

The law is specific, the law is
precise.
Prayers spoken aloud are a seri-
ous vice.

For praying in a public hall
Might offend someone with no
faith at all,
In silence alone we must medi-
tate,
God's name is prohibited by the
State.

We're allowed to cuss and dress
like freaks,
And pierce our noses, tongues
and cheeks.

They've outlawed guns, but
FIRST the Bible.

To quote the Good Book makes
me liable.

We can elect a pregnant Senior
Queen,
And the 'unwed daddy,' our Se-
nior King.

It's 'inappropriate' to teach right
from wrong,
We're taught that such 'judg-
ments' do not not belong.

We can get our condoms and
birth controls,
Study witchcraft, vampires and
totem poles.
But the Ten Commandments are
not allowed,
No word of God must reach this
crowd.

It's scary here I must confess,
When chaos reigns the school's
a mess.
So, Lord, this silent plea I
make:
Should I be shot; my soul please
take!

Amen

A Parting Encouragement

“For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.”
Hebrews 2:1, NAS95.

Babel: More Historical Confirmation of the Bible

(Continued from Page 1)

The great Joseon (Chosun) nation was a Korean dynastic kingdom that flourished for five centuries (1392-1897).² During the 17th century, Korea was largely closed to the West and somewhat of a mystery to Europeans. But for a group of wayfaring Dutchmen on a journey to Japan, that all changed in 1653 when their ship “De Sperwer” (The Sparrowhawk) was shipwrecked on Jeju (formerly Cheju-do) Island off the coast of South Korea. The 36 survivors were taken into custody by the local prefect and, within a year, transferred from the island to the capitol of Seoul on the mainland where they spent the next 12 years. At the end of 13 years, in September 1666, eight survivors managed to escape to Japan. One of those survivors, Hendrick Hamel, spent the ensuing year in Nagasaki writing an account of his observations and experiences in Korea, which was published in 1668 under the title *Journal van de Ongeluckige Voyage van 't Jacht de Sperwer*. In what was essentially the first Western account, Hamel provided the world with a firsthand description of Korean society and culture. Only recently was his account translated accurately by a Dutchman based on the original manuscript.³

Apart from his fascinating assessment of Korean life in the 17th century, Hamel provides a portrait of religious life, including the customs and practices of Confucianism. At one point in his narrative, he makes a passing remark concerning the beliefs held by the Confucian monks: “Many monks believe that long ago all people spoke the same language, but when people built a tower in order to climb into heaven the whole world changed.”⁴ Keep in mind that Hamel encountered the monks’ belief circa 1660. No one knows for how long this belief was part of the religious traditions of Korea. Hamel claims that “many” of the monks believed the matter, and that the event occurred “long ago.”

Observe that the belief of the non-Christian monks regarding the Tower of Babel contained four salient points that explicitly and directly connect with the biblical account:

1. The entire world’s population spoke a single language;
2. The people constructed a tower;

3. Their stated goal was to climb into heaven;
4. Their efforts affected the entire world.

All four of these features are included in the biblical record found in Genesis 11:

1. “[T]he whole earth had one language and one speech” (vs. 1).
2. “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower” (vs. 4).
3. “a tower whose top will reach into heaven” (vs. 4, NASB).
4. “So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city” (vs. 8).

Christianity and the Bible have nothing to fear from the unbelief, skepticism, and hostility of infidelity. The more information surfaces from history and nature, the more the Bible is confirmed in its uncanny accuracy and supernatural endowment.⁵

=====

ENDNOTES

¹ See Kyle Butt and Harrison Chastain (2015), “Noah’s Flood and The Epic of Gilgamesh,” Apologetics Press, <http://apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=13&article=5194&topic=100>; Eric Lyons and Kyle Butt (2003), “Legends of the Flood,” Apologetics Press, <http://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=9&article=64>.

² The following historical details are gleaned from Gari Ledyard (1971), *The Dutch Come to Korea* (Seoul, Korea: Royal Asiatic Society); Keith Pratt and Richard Rutt (2013), *Korea: A Historical and Cultural Dictionary* (London: Routledge).

³ Hendrik Hamel (1668), *Hamel’s Journal: And, A Description of the Kingdom of Korea, 1653-1666*, trans. Jean-Paul Buys (Seoul, Korea: Royal Asiatic Society, Korea Branch, 1994 edition).

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 61.

⁵ My thanks to Shane Fisher, missionary to Korea, for calling my attention to this fascinating incident.

*Dave Miller, Ph.D.
via Apologetics Press*