

WALKING IN WISDOM (Colossians 4:5) Number #8

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All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version
(Bible Resources may be found on: www.johntpolkll.com)

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QUESTION: "How does Scripture align to contemporary history? I heard it is full of untruths about historical events and people."

ANSWER: More Accurately Than External Histories. Every discovery in ancient civilizations, in fact, proves the Bible narrative is the factually established truth.

The following observations should help us see the difference between the Bible and other volumes:

1) Text Is Completely Preserved. When Jehoiakim, king of Judah, had the prophet Jeremiah's scroll read to him, he cut it apart and burned it in the fireplace. At God's command, "Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah, who wrote on it at the instruction of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire. And besides, there were added to them many similar words" (**Jeremiah 36:32**). God has kept His Word complete, so we now have "the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (**Jude 3**).

2) Text Is Precisely Written. Paul wrote: "how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel" (**Ephesians 3:3-5**). "Briefly written" in the original text is "few words," we might say "concisely stated," but fully expressing Holy Spirit-guided truth! Those chosen words completely express what the Holy Spirit intended for all to know and understand throughout the span of time. This is the same claim for verbal inspiration as that which Paul wrote to the Corinthians: "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with

spiritual" (**1 Corinthians 2:12-13**).

3) Text Is Historically Accurate. No other historical record has been so scrutinized, and found to have a correctly written account that perfectly matches all the archeological evidence which has ever been uncovered to date. "The appropriate manner, both as to time and place, with which the proper names of cities and countries are used in the Old Testament defies all hostile criticism directed against the genuineness of the narratives. The marvelous way in which such countries, nations, and cities as Elam, the Hittites, the old Babylonians, the Assyrians, the Egyptians and Ethiopians, the Moabites, and the Edomites; Tyre, Sidon, Damascus, Hamath, Separad, and scores of other names of places, are brought into the biblical narrative, each in its proper place and time, and generally with the very spelling as accurate as could be expected, is beyond comparison in any ancient document." (pp. 173-174, **A Scientific Investigation of the Old Testament**, by Robert Dick Wilson, Ph.D., D.D., The Sunday School Times Company, Philadelphia, Publication Date 1926.

God has given us an accurate history of life on earth from its beginning (**Genesis 1:1-2:9**) until He brings it to an end (**Matthew 24:36; 2 Peter 3:10-12**).

— **JTP II**

Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

~ A politician is a fellow who will lay down your life for his country. ~Texas Guinan. 19th century American businessman

~ "The fool wonders, the wise man asks." ~Benjamin Disraeli

~Truth never dies but it can be paralyzed by indifference to it.

~Opportunity knocks, but temptation follows you around.

~The closer you get to God the smaller everything else looks.



By David Sproule

What to Do During a Boring Sermon

Have you ever sat through a boring sermon? Ha! "Nearly everyone I've heard borders on boring," someone might say. What makes a sermon "boring"?

Is it the preacher? Some speakers are rather boring in themselves, right? Some speakers are easier to listen to than others, aren't they?

Is it the subject? Some topics are more enthralling than others, right? Of course, some speakers can take an enthralling topic and make it boring, can't they?

Is it the listener? Could "boring" be subjective? Could one listener find a sermon "boring," while another listener finds the very same sermon intriguing? (That happens nearly every Sunday, by the way.) So, can I ask a question that we honestly consider? I would concede that a preacher himself could be boring and that a preacher could make a certain subject boring, but is it possible that the charge made about a sermon being "boring" could actually be a reflection on the listener rather than the preacher? Is a "boring" sermon always "the preacher's fault"?

Ok, that may have been uncomfortable and disagreeable to read, but I think it is worth consideration. But, if you're still reading, let's get to the title of the article. I'm sitting in the

pew and I'm as bored as can be while this guy keeps going on and on. What do I do?

First, here is what I suggest and try to consider myself. In at least two New Testament passages (Matt. 26:29; Heb. 2:12), Jesus indicates that He is not only present with us in our worship assemblies, but He is also participating. So, if a sermon is "boring," imagine that Jesus is sitting next to you. What do you envision Jesus doing while the Word of God is being preached, but perhaps is a bit "boring"?

Peak out of the corner of your eye over at Jesus sitting next to you.

Peak out of the corner of your eye over at Jesus sitting next to you. Is He sleeping while the Bible is preached? Is He playing a game on His phone? Is He scrolling social media? Is He working on His To-Do List for the week? Is He texting His buddies? You can't envision Jesus doing any of those.

So, with the motivation of Jesus sitting right next to me and the motivation of Jesus knowing not only what I'm doing but also what I'm thinking, what can I do? I would urge you to take notes. Don't just write down what the preacher says, but write down verses and truths that you find while he's preaching. Listen and study at the same time. Be careful not to let your felt boredom impact or distract anyone around you. Find nuggets in the sermon that you can mine and study on your own later. Examine yourself carefully. Let your love for the Bible dominate and motivate you.

The Crime Against a King

John 19

- ➡ The **SCORNING** of A King 19:13
- ➡ The **SCOURGING** of King 19:1
- ➡ The **SOVEREIGNTY** of King 19:2a
- ➡ The **SHROUD** of King 19:2b
- ➡ The **STRIKING** of A King 19:3
- ➡ The **SINLESSNESS** of A King 19:4
- ➡ The **SPITEFULNESS** Against A King 19:57
- ➡ The **SUBMISSIVENESS** of A King 19:811
- ➡ The **SUPPORT** For A King 19:12a
- ➡ The **SOLICITATION** Against A King 19:12b
- ➡ The **SENTENCE** On A King 19:13-15



Barnes' Bible Charts

Do You Want to Prosper?

There's an interesting verse about Isaac and his success in life in Genesis 26. It is verse 13, and it says of him: "*The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous*" (NKJV). What was he doing at that particular time to be so very prosperous?

It all begins with there being a famine in the land and Isaac deciding to go to Egypt. But God said to him, "*Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I tell you. Dwell in this land and I will be with you and bless you*" (v.1-5). So Isaac stayed put (v.6). By the time we get to v.12 of the same chapter, we see that "*Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him*".

Isaac did two things that led to his very prosperous prosperity: He obeyed God and he got busy and did the work he was supposed to do. That's the thing for us to remember: **obey God and stay busy** doing what God wants.

One more thing: God blessed Isaac even though he had some shortcomings (read about the great lying incident in verses 7-11). God made Isaac prosperous not because he was sinlessly perfect, but because he had a heart for God and was willing to do His will. Do you want to prosper in your Christian life? Then obey God and stay busy!

- Edd Sterchi

Jesus Speaks Today

"If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him."

(John 10:37-38 NKJV)



I changed my password to "incorrect" so whenever I forget what it is the computer will say, "your password is incorrect."