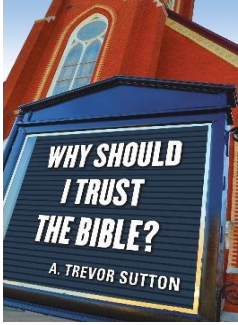


Christ the King Lutheran Church



Why Should I Trust the Bible? **A. Trevor Sutton**

Session Two – *Claims: There are Many Other Creation Accounts... Flood Accounts*

Elder, John Rau, presenting with Pastor Rob Morris

Claim: There are many other creation stories beyond the Biblical account in Genesis. The version in Genesis is just one of the many other fictitious stories

This claim is really troubling...until you stop to think about it. Some questions and curiosities are innately human: Who am I? Where did I come from? Where did the world come from? These are questions that all people in all places at all times have asked. They are not unique to any one time of culture... It is no surprise, then, that every culture throughout history would have an account of human origins. Asking questions of origin, known as cosmology, is a natural human impulse. (36)

These creation stories, along with thousands of others, all agree on one point: the world came from somewhere. There must be an explanation for the origin of life. It is neither surprising nor scandalous that there are multiple creation stories in existence. The trouble comes with all the radical differences between the various accounts... Is the Genesis account simply one of many thousands of ancient stories trying to explain the origin of the earth and life? (37)

When all the evidence is viewed together, it is obvious that the origin of the earth depicted in Genesis is credible.

Jesus: The importance of Jesus treating the Book of Genesis as authoritative cannot be overemphasized. He affirmed God as creator (Mark 13:19) and recognized that Adam and Eve were real people in God's creation (Mark 10:6). Jesus further upheld a six-day creation when He affirmed the Old Testament teaching that God created for six days and then rested on the Sabbath (Mark 2:23-28). Jesus did not treat Genesis as false or fictitious, poetic or passe...

Science: Yes, you read that correctly. Science provides evidence that the Genesis creation account is accurate. One of the most fundamental assumptions of science is consistency... Other creation stories – the ancient Greek account filled with quarreling gods and goddesses, the Babylonian account of competing creators, and Iroquois account of mud piled atop a floating turtle – lack the constancy required for scientific inquiry...

History: Human history confirms that Genesis is trustworthy. The Genesis account is deemed authoritative by what has occurred in subsequent generations... Over half the world's population identifies with one of the three Abrahamic religions. Absolutely no other ancient text has this sort of historical confirmation.(37-39)

- Additional lines of thought – naming conventions, place familiarity, cultural familiarity, archaeological finds
- How to respond to “competing” lines of scientific evidence?



Claim: Numerous flood stories exist from antiquity. The Biblical story of Noah and the ark is a mixture of flood stories from other cultures

The existence of other flood accounts is no surprise. In fact, the existence of other flood accounts is a relief, because it further proves that a catastrophic, history-altering flood actually happened. These other flood accounts just add more credence to the biblical flood in Genesis 6-9. There would be reason for skepticism if a geologically unprecedented flood happened and nobody else in human history ever made mention of it. (40)

Unlike a creation story, a catastrophic flood story is not necessary for a person's self-understanding. Tribes and nations do not need to have a flood story to explain their history. This further proves that the flood was a historical reality; it is illogical to think that over a hundred ancient societies concocted a flood story simply because it was entertaining. Something must have happened. (41)

These three additional flood stories [see pp.41-42] originated around the same time and place as the story of Noah in Genesis. Is it possible that one is right and the rest are wrong?

Jesus: Just as He confirmed the creation account in Genesis, Jesus also confirmed that the account of Noah is trustworthy. From His mouth came validation that the flood as depicted in Genesis is reliable (Luke 17:27)...

Genre: Scholars have classified all of the other Mesopotamian flood accounts as poetry... The Genesis account is not a poetic recollection of a flood; rather, it is a historical narrative depicting real events in detail...

Plausibility: Genesis offers a more plausible account than the other Mesopotamian flood stories... [construction of boat/ark, quantity of rain, time to recede, e.g.] (42-44)

Excursis: The *Epic of Gilgamesh*

