

Renew Your Mind

Brad Harrub, Ph.D.

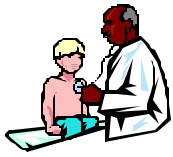
Is faith a “blind leap” or can one **know** the Bible holds all Truth? Consider a piece of evidence from the field of archaeology—the Moabite stone (also known as the Mesha Inscription). A missionary named F.A. Klein first discovered the stone in August of 1868. When he initially saw the black basalt stone, it measured approximately 3.5 feet high and 2 feet wide. Years later, Arabs decided to shatter it (possibly for profit or for retaliation) and the pieces ended up being scattered. But eventually, about two-thirds of the original stone ended up being relocated, and currently reside at the Louvre in Paris.

The written inscription on the stone provides a piece of outstanding evidence that verifies the Bible’s accuracy. Mesha, the king of Moab, had the stone cut in c. 850 B.C. to relate his numerous battle conquests. In the over 30-line text (composed of approximately 260 words), Mesha mentioned that Omri was the king of Israel, just as 1 Kings 16:21-28 indicates. Furthermore, it mentions Ahab, Omri’s son, in close connection with the Moabites, as does 2 Kings 3:4-6. In addition, both the stone and 2 Kings 3:4-6 list Mesha as King of Moab. Further down in the inscription, the stone records the Israelite tribe of Gad, and the Israelite God, Yahweh. Each word verifying the accuracy of the Bible!

Another important feature of the Moabite stone is the fact that it resolved a question that has remained unanswered for years. The biblical record chronicles the Moabite suppression under King David and King Solomon, and how the Moabites broke free at the beginning of the divided kingdom. However, the Bible also mentions (2 Kings 3:4) that Ahab was receiving tribute from Moab. As Alfred Hoerth has remarked: “Nowhere does the Bible state how or when Moab was reclaimed, for Ahab to be receiving such tribute. The Moabite Stone provides that information, telling, as it does, of Omri’s conquest from the Moabite point of view.” Taken as a whole, the Moabite stone remains one of the most impressive pieces of evidence verifying the historical accuracy of the Old Testament. We have the evidence—our faith should not be a “blind leap.”

[Brad Harrub is a professional apologist who works with Focus Press. www.focuspress.org]

Sick



Continue to remember in prayer:
**Marguerite Charles, Lyn Anderson,
 Martha Keith, Miriam Majors,
 Betty Jenkins, WJ Wood, Steve
 Harrah, Margaret Kratz, Sandra
 Wood, Amanda Brown, Huck**

Walker, Dee House, Jonnie Charles.

Buddy Martin will be undergoing 10 more cancer treatments before a stem cell transplant can be performed.

David Lynch, Charlotte Harrington's brother, was in the hospital last week for a spider bite.

Happy Birthday this week to:

- Ruth Stanton—2/8
- Charlotte Harrington—2/13
- Lynn Anderson—2/13
- Charles Maness—2/13
- Shawn Simms—2/13



FEBRUARY ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS: Meringue powder and Sweet 'n Low packets. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!

MILITARY

In Iraq: Aaron T Stricklin



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Recent responses: Elsie Smith

Upcoming Events:

Team 1 (Durham) will be having Le Evening with the Leplantes on Feb. 28 at 5:00. Sign up sheet is located on the board.



Teens

February Dates

- 2/8—BB Study
- 2/8—Teen Bible Study
- 2/14—Mock Bible Bowl
- 2/22—BB Study



Mark your calendars now for March 7. We will also be having the Biddy Bible Bowl for the kids ages 5-8.

Bi-Monthly Bible Bowl Study Sessions will be held in the large classroom at 5:00 on the following Sundays: **February 8 & 22.** Mock Bible Bowl will be held on February 14 at 9 AM. Breakfast will be provided. See Jim or Charlotte Harrington for details.

WOW



Please sign up on the WOW board for the video auto-biographies being done by Richard Simms.

Next WOW meeting will be on Tuesday, February 10, at 10:30.

Sign up on the board for the bus trip to the Maple Festival on March 14. Cost is \$10. Sign up by Feb. 15. See Don or the board for details!!



For Your Information

SPRING QUARTER LADIES CLASS

There is a sign up sheet on the board if you want to order the book for the ladies class.

TURN,TURN,TURN

There will be a T3 planners meeting today at 4:00.

CARDS& CRAFTS

The ladies will be meeting today at 4:30 to work on Valentine cards to send out.

AREA WIDE PREACHERS MEETING

The Area Wide Preachers Meeting will be on Monday, Feb. 9, at 10:30. All are invited.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN MARRIAGE RETREAT

The 2009 Great Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat will be on February 11-14 in Pigeon Forge, TN. Brad Hurrab and James Watkins will be the guest speakers for the retreat. See the board for more details!!

FEBRUARY LNO

The February Ladies Night Out will be on Thursday, Feb. 12, at 7:00 pm. Marsha & Becky Cooke will be hosting. Sign up sheet is on the board.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The February Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, Feb. 14, at 8AM at Famous Anthony's.

EDUCATION BANQUET

ATTENTION ALL Bible class teachers, education workers, elders, spouses and friends of teachers and workers! Our annual education appreciation banquet is Saturday, February 21st at 5:45. PLEASE sign up by no later than Feb. 15th so I can give the caterers a count! EVERYONE PLEASE come! Thanks Danny!

Also NEEDED: In order to add to the enjoyment of the evening, a "blast from the past" photograph of all who will be attending the Education Banquet at West Side on February 21 is needed. Please email or otherwise provide a photo to Eddy of yourself in "former days" (preferably of grade school). If you provide a picture, please put a post-it note on it identifying yourself so that the photo can be returned. Please get these to Eddy by Sunday, February 15. Thanks.

MEN'S RETREAT

The 20th Annual Men's Retreat will be on March 20 & 21 at the 4-H Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake. Registration forms are located in the tract rack in the foyer.

Weekly Reminders

Prayer list:

Lyn Anderson
Marguerite Charles
Steve Harrah
Dee House
Betty Jenkins
Martha Keith
Martha Keplinger
Margaret Kratz
Miriam Majors
Buddy Martin
Amanda Brown
MT (Huck) Walker
Jonnie Charles
David Lynch

Activities:

T3 meeting—2/8
Cards & Crafts—2/8
Bible Bowl Study—2/8
TBS—2/8
Area Wide Preachers—2/9
WOW Meeting—2/10
LNO—2/12
Marriage Retreat—2/12-14



“If Any Man”

It is always of interest to study words or phrases that occur several times in Scripture. Many lessons can be obtained from the same word or phrase when it is used in different settings. One such phrase is “*if any man*.” It is found 62 times in the New Testament. Let’s examine some of the instances in which it is found.

Jesus said, “*If any man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Mt. 16:24). Notice that the offer is open to everyone and no one is denied who will fulfill the obligations. Three such obligations are placed upon one who would pursue the Lord: 1) Nullify; 2) Mortify; 3) Personify.

First, one must “deny himself” (nullify). He must no longer take precedence in his own life. That position belongs to Christ (Mt. 6:33), and must never be relinquished again.

Second, one must “take up his cross” (mortify). Being an instrument of execution, the cross one is to take up has reference to his putting himself to death spiritually (Luke adds the idea that such must be done “daily”- Lk. 9:23). Paul inquired rhetorically of the Romans, “How shall we that are dead to sin live any longer therein?” (Rom. 6:2). He instructed the Ephesians to set their “affections on things above” because they were “dead” and their lives were “hid with Christ in God” (Col. 3:2, 3; cf. Col. 2:20). He told the Galatians that he had been “crucified with Christ” (Gal. 2:20). The deeds of the flesh thus put to death (cf. Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5) and the “old man” thus “put off” (Eph. 4:22; Col. 3:9), room is made for the emergence of “the new man” (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10).

Third, the Lord said he must “follow me” (personify). This is what the Lord’s sheep do (Jn. 10:27). In order to serve Him we must follow Him (Jn. 12:26). Mere lip service will not suffice. He died for us that we might, in turn, follow in His steps (I Pet. 2:21), wherever they lead (cf. Rev. 14:4). “If any man” seeks to be a servant of Christ he must deny himself, take up his cross and obey the Lord.

-Eddy

Those to Serve in February

Announcements: Charlie Gwaltney

Preside at Communion: Don Pettit

Opening Prayer: Tom Richardson

Next Week: Jerry Anderson

PM Song Leader: Adam House

Opening Prayer: Danny Guard

Next Week: Jim Harrington

Serve Communion: Garrett Durham, Shawn Simms

Wednesday Song Leader: Josh Whitlow

Open/Close Bldg: Jerry Anderson

Ushers: Norris Gearhart, Curtis Oakes

Greeters: Peverall/Hartman

Song Leader: Eric Earnhart

Serve Table: Glenn Gabbard, Jim Bush

Herb Baker, Bradford Durham

Closing Prayer: Jim Cooke

Next Week: Tom Rogers

Scripture Reader: Ethan Rogers

Closing Prayer: Paul Mays

Next Week: Jeremy White

Prayer: Jeff Durham

Prepare Communion: Crowe/Garby

Cards/Pencils: Jimmy & Caroline Harrington

Nursery Attend: T. Gibson, Melissa Oldham

Last weeks attendance (2/1&4/09)

Bible Class: 141 Worship Service: 184

Contribution: \$9832

Sunday Evening: 149

Wednesday: 154

Feb. 8 (Acts 11)

-Read Acts 11 three times today

-Pray today

-Memorize contents of Acts 11—Peter’s defense at

Jerusalem regarding Cornelius

-Barnabas & Saul (Paul) united

-Write a note or card this week

*Increase your contribution by \$1 today

Feb. 9 (Acts 12)

-Read Acts 12 three times today

-Pray today

-Memorize contents of Acts 12—James killed by Herod

-Herod imprisons Peter

-Peter released by an angel

-Herod’s death

-Barnabas & Paul go to Jerusalem with Mark

Feb. 10 (Acts 13)

-Read Acts 13 three times today

-Pray today

-Memorize contents of Acts 13—Paul’s 1st missionary journey

-Paul strikes Elymas blind

-Paul’s sermon at Antioch

-Paul & Barnabas turn to the Gentiles

Feb. 11 (Acts 14)

-Read Acts 14 three times today

-Pray today

-Memorize contents of Acts 14—Paul & Barnabas

regarded as gods at Lystra (Jupiter & Mercury)

-Elders appointed at Antioch

Feb. 12 (Acts 15)

-Read Acts 15 three times today

-Pray today

-Memorize contents of Acts 15—Council at Jerusalem (regarding circumcision & the law)

-Contention between Barnabas & Paul (regarding John Mark)

-Paul’s 2nd missionary journey begins (with Silas)

Feb. 13 (Acts 16)

-Read Acts 16 three times today

-Pray today

-Memorize contents of Acts 16—Macedonian call to Paul

-Lydia converted (Philippi)

-Paul & Silas imprisoned

-Philippian jailer & family converted

Feb. 14 (Acts 17)

-Read Acts 17 three times today

-Pray today

-Memorize contents of Acts 17—Paul at Berea & Thessalonica

-Paul’s sermon on Mars’ Hill (Athens)

February 8, 2009

Number 3006