

out to prove the historical accuracy of the Bible. What has often been the case is the Bible has been used as a respectable and reliable source book. It has been said that for the most part archaeology has substantiated and illumined the biblical story at so many crucial points that no one can seriously take the position that it is little more than myth or legend. While it is not my intention to detail archaeological evidence to support my position, many serious, scholarly works are within grasp of any who wish to further investigate my position. Wilson (1977) in "Rocks, Relics and Biblical Reliability" claims with fact that archaeology has given immeasurable support to the integrity of the Bible.

Archaeology assures us that Bible prophecies were genuinely set against the backgrounds claimed for them and great confidence can be had in the reliability of both Old and New Testament Scriptures. While the historical reliability of the Bible does not "prove" the factual nature of its miracles or its scriptural truths because these cannot be demonstrated by proofs of a "material" nature, we do know that the historical material of Scripture was written by the same men who witnessed and recorded the miracles and elaborated on spiritual realities. Why doubt their reliability in these areas and believe their integrity in the areas now subject to investigation by archaeology? Wilson shows (by investigation and corroboration) the authentic nature of the historical, cultural, and linguistic background depicted in the Gospels and other New Testament writings and it is clear that the accounts of early Christianity can be taken as authentic and reliable records. Biblical records are the product of a genuine human culture and were compiled and transmitted by responsible and competent individuals.

It is these records which provide an authentic and reliable source for history and faith.

With regards to Gilbert question the church: we are indeed a perverse generation and the church must wake up. However, Christianity does not support misogyny. It is the adulterated, perverted, twisted teachings of our culture that demean women and promote immoral and unrighteous behavior. If Mr. Bouchard thinks that Christianity can be reduced to a mere collection of relics and symbols, some of which should be retained for today because they make people feel good, he has mistakenly confused Christ's teachings with those of modern, secular humanism. I refer you to the Bible (NIV) and to Jude, verses 17-19: "But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. They said to you, 'In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.' These are the men who divide you, who will follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit."

I mourn for you, Gilbert, and I mourn for our generation. We must ask ourselves "Do I want to walk into eternal life or into hell?" There is no middle road.
Randall Filan
B.Sc. (O.T.)

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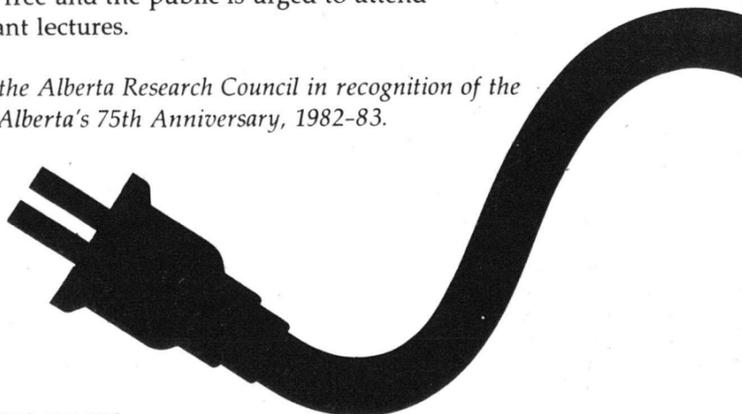
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