

PARACLETE

ADVOCATING FOR THE TRUTH OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

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A 3:15 Response: Fulfilling Jesus' Heart

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FaithSearch International is in its forty-first year of evangelism ministry. Throughout that entire time our mission has not changed: **“To extend the Gospel with evidence to all peoples everywhere.”** The “Gospel with evidence” means that we answer “*why*” questions as well as “*what*” questions about the Christian faith.

Today, with the rise of secular humanism and socialism, the abandoning of the Church, and an anti-God worldview, our mission to defend the truthfulness of the Bible and Christian faith is more relevant than at any previous time of our ministry. In 2019, it is time to call Christians everywhere to the Holy Spirit-revealed appeal of the apostle Peter:

Simply reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience... (1 Peter 3:15, Jerusalem Bible).

Peter’s appeal for the use of evidence (reasons) to provide answers to an unbelieving world is what we are calling **“A 3:15 Response.”** I will outline **four components** of this response in this issue of the *Paraclete*. In subsequent issues I will elaborate each of the components.

1. My STORY: *“May I share with you what God has done in my life?”*

Only if there is transformation evident in our lives will it peak the interest of the watching world. Jesus alluded to this when told us, *“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Fa-*



Are you prepared at any time to give a defense for the reason you believe, no matter where you are?

ther who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16, NASB). There should be a contrast between lives lived “with God” versus lives “without God”! **The difference Christ has made in us is our story.** Additional details and the preparation of “My Story” will be in the next issue of the *Paraclete*.

2. My WORLDVIEW: *“These components help me to think like Jesus.”*

A 3:15 Response is to **act** like Jesus twenty-four hours a day. We can *only do this* when we **think** like Jesus. *“For as he thinks within himself, so he is”* the Proverb says (23:7, NASB). The life of the believer and the life of the unbeliever are *different* because their convictions about God, the Bible, and Jesus Christ are *different*. These components together with our understanding of humanity, the universe, and time define our worldview. Society may support views which are repugnant to a Christian. Both think they are right! The reason “*why*” will be apparent when I develop “My Worldview” in a later issue of the *Paraclete*.

3. My REASONS: *“Biblical and external evidence support my worldview.”*

God is gracious in that He has left His fingerprints in nature and history. The

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FaithSearch International exists to proclaim the Gospel with evidence to all peoples everywhere. *FaithSearch* International is not denominationally affiliated.

IN THE NEWS

King David: For Real?

What has never been in doubt to Christians who believe in the inspiration of Scripture, can no longer be in doubt to the general public either.

At **Tel Dan** in northern Israel, a stela (stone slab) has been discovered containing a reference to the **“king of the House of David.”** Dating from the mid-eighth century B.C., it is the first extra-biblical, historical evidence for the existence of the King David of the Bible. David is believed to have lived about 1000 B.C.



The Tel Dan Stele on display at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem.

Photo credit: Oren Rozen

The stela’s fragmented inscription, written in Aramaic, **proves that King David was a genuine historical figure** (the position of believers) and not merely the fantastic literary creation of later biblical writers and editors (the position of skeptics).

As Millar Burrows of Yale wrote, “archaeological work has unquestionably strengthened confidence in the reliability of the scriptural record. More than one archaeologist has found his respect for the Bible increased by the experience of excavation in Palestine.” 

Sources: Biblical Archaeology Society Staff listing, May 02, 2019, <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/author/biblical-archaeology-society-staff/>.

Millar Burrows, *What Mean These Stones?* (New York: Meridian Books, 1956), p. 1.

FOR REFLECTION

**Darwinian Evolution –
Fact or Blind Faith?**

A Pew Research Center survey revealed that 95 to nearly 100% of people in thirteen countries of the world indicated an adherence to Islam. With such high percentages holding those beliefs, many may conclude the claims of Islam are likely to be right. After all, “Could so many people be wrong?”

They *could* be wrong because those countries typically have laws against blasphemy and apostasy. Those who criticize Muhammad or abandon Islam could go to prison and may even face execution.

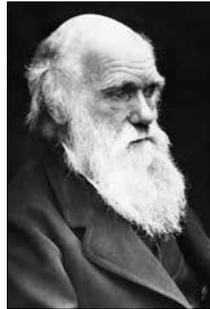
Another Pew survey in 2009 showed that 87 percent of scientists agree with this statement: “Humans and other living things have evolved over time due to natural processes.” **How could 87 percent of scientists be wrong?**

The same caveats apply as with Islam. Many scientists are basing their view on what their professors and deans have told them, *and* out of necessity for what you must accept in order to survive in the field of science today.

Now, about **1,000 Ph.D. scientists** are saying that evolution is no longer in conflict with Christianity and the



Observations of tortoises on the Galapagos Islands were important to Darwin's theory.



Charles Darwin (1809–1882) in his later years.

Bible. Rather, **the conflict is with science itself.** The list of scientists can be seen online at dissentfromdarwin.org.

One of these scientists, **Michael Behe**, a biochemist, recently released a new book, *Darwin Devolves: The New Science About DNA That Challenges Evolution* (HarperOne). He points out that **160 years ago Darwin knew almost nothing about the sophisticated molecular machinery of the cell.** He thought that the cell was just a blob of jelly and our reproductive organs accumulated gemmule particles shed by our bodies.

Today we have advanced laboratory equipment and techniques to closely examine the molecular level of life. As a result, Behe states, regarding Darwin's proposed mechanism of evolution, “It has been wildly overrated—it is incapable of producing much biological change at all.”

So who is the most progressive, the 87% or the 1,000? 

Source: “Crowd-sourcing evolution,” by Marvin Olasky, *World Magazine*, Vol.34, No. 4 (March 2, 2019), p. 24, and “Necessary Trips?” p. 68.

IN THE NEWS **Yerushalayim - Typo?**

A Jerusalem inscription dating to the first century B.C. spells the city's name as *Yerushalayim*. Carved on a limestone drum, it was recently excavated in Jerusalem. The inscription spells “Jerusalem” as *Yerushalayim*, the same way it is spelled in Hebrew today.

Such inscriptions are rare. In fact, researchers of the Israel Antiquities Authority stated that “This is the only stone inscription of the Second Temple period known where the full spelling appears.” All others use a shortcut *Yerushalem* or *Shalem*, typical of Aramaic. The Jerusalem inscription is on display at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem. 

Source: “2,000-Year-Old Jerusalem Inscription Bears City's Name,” Bible and archaeology news (*Biblical Archaeology Review*), Robin Ngo, 10/09/2018.

A 3:15 Response

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evidence of Intelligent Design detectable in the creation, and the eyewitness accounts of His incarnation are quite adequate to prevent atheism for the honest seeker. The discoveries of archaeology have confirmed that the people, the places, and the events recorded in the Bible are historically reliable. Sharing these reasons leads unbelievers to take the Word of God seriously. Strengthening “My Reasons” is part of **A 3:15 Response**. Details will be forthcoming.

4. My INVITE: “I want to invite you to become a follower of Jesus.”

The primary reason Christians tend not to prepare **A 3:15 Response** in this area is because they are not convinced that unbelievers are lost for eternity and because of the fear of asking. If we are not prepared to offer a **salvation summary**; to suggest a **prayer of confession and faith commitment**; nor able to provide **spiritual nurture** to a new Christian; why would God trust us with an opportunity and the privilege of leading someone to Christ? God will use anyone who is prepared with “My Invite.” A discussion of this will be the subject of a future issue of the *Paraclete*.



Who knows where any conversation may lead if you are prepared with **A 3:15 Response**.

In the forty days after His resurrection, Jesus was passionate that His followers share the Good News with everyone of the availability of forgiveness and life after death in heaven. It is recorded in the Bible on several occasions (Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:8).

A3:15 Response is one way **FaithSearch** can assist you to become equipped to fulfill Jesus' heart. Stay tuned! 

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