



The Bible As History

Kevin McKinney

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The spread of Christianity is not easily explained or understood and confounds critics and believers alike. While this new faith was widely spread by word of mouth, the primary tool for the new religion was the Bible. Even now, nearly 2,000 years later the Bible continues to influence lives all over the world. How can this ancient document continue to have such a profound influence on the world? How has it survived the changing times and the feeble whims of mankind? While the world has changed so dramatically, the Bible remains the same. The Bible has withstood centuries of attack from critics and non-believers, but it still stands intake. The Bible has its roots in both theology and history. Some believe the Bible is at its basest form a book of history. "The Religion of the Bible is broadly speaking, a historically based religion; the primary arena of the Bible is history; the divine manifestation is set essentially in history." This second edition is intended to show the Bible is a historically accurate document which can be trusted in all the elements it records regarding history, and therefore should be considered trustworthy and accurate in other areas as well. Even given the short span of time since the first edition was published, there have been numerous additional discoveries in the field of Bible archaeology. Items such as the James Ossuary, The Jehoash Inscription and the Stone Lamp all found new life in publication as 'The forgery trial of the century' concluded. These artifacts, which the Israel Antiquity Authority (IAA), claimed as forgeries are now beginning to be accepted as authentic archaeological artifacts. Other discoveries including new evidence concerning Samson, Bethlehem and a seaport used in Israel in the first century BC have shed new light on Biblical times and the people who inhabited that period. It is a very exciting time to be involved in this area of research and exploration. The first edition somewhat shied away from some of the more controversial items/artifacts. These included the Jesus Family Tomb and the recently announced Jesus' Wife Papyrus. These are included in this edition as well as new scientific findings regarding the Shroud of Turin, which while certainly not proving the artifact authentic, does seem to offer evidence it could not have been forged during the middle ages as has always been the position of its critics. In this edition you will also find revised versions of two novellas which take a closer look at specific passages from scripture. These included the battle between David and Goliath as well as the Story of Noah's Ark. Can and should the Bible be taken seriously as an historical document? What does science, archaeology and ancient writings have to say on the subject? All of this and more is covered in the new expanded second edition of 'The Bible As History'.

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