

Why We Need to Know and to Defend the Significance and the Historicity of the Gospel Accounts 2

Do you know how to defend the veracity of the Gospel Accounts?

First Peter 3.15

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • June 17, In the year of our Lord, 2015

Prelude:

I. I have discovered

- A. that man likes to say the opposite of what God says,
- B. that man thinks he knows more than God does,
- C. that atheism, evolution, humanism, skepticism, and secularism are all about
 - 1. affirming what God denies and
 - 2. denying what God affirms.

II. Man values what God abhors and

- A. man abhors what God values,

15 And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God” (Luke 16.15).

- B. Man does this with the Lord Himself.
 - 1. Man despises the Lord.
 - 2. So much so that many people now affirm that Jesus never existed.
 - a) This means that they believe the Gospel Accounts are fraudulent.
 - b) They seek to spread this lie to our young people and America.

III. Now, think about what I showed you from Ezekiel 1,

- A. that Jesus is the Lord, and
- B. the four living creatures represent the four Gospels.

Persuasion:

I. The Bible Says Jesus Has Always Been, Man Says Jesus Never Existed

A. John 8 shows what Jesus said about His existence,

56 “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” 57 Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” 58 Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8.56–58).

1. What does it mean that Jesus is the I AM?
2. Jesus connected Himself with the One who revealed Himself to Moses
 - a) as the I AM.

14 And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you’” (Exo 3.14).

- b) What does that mean?
 - (1) He has always existed.
 - (2) Yet, man customarily denies that He exists.
 - (a) Think of it: The very One who has always been,
 - (b) man says, No He has not.
 - i) The Lord says we have been here about 6,000 years, but
 - ii) man says we have been evolving for millions of years.

B. What are the consequences of denying this truth?

C. What are the blessings of affirming it?

Exhortation:

I. First Peter 3 teaches us to be ready to provide answers for people,

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed (1Pe 3.15–16).

A. How can we be ready,

B. if we

1. do not know the facts, and
2. do not know how to defend the Gospel Accounts?

II. The first Wednesday in July,

A. I want to begin training you

B. on how to defend the credibility of the Gospel Accounts, because

1. all the Bible points to what those Accounts say, and
2. if they speak the truth,
 - a) man who denies the existence of Jesus
 - b) is in a lot of trouble, but
 - (1) if we can persuade some,
 - (2) we will turn them to the true living One.