

### CAN THE BIBLE BE TRUSTED? Part 1

April 11, 2012

In his poem, “An Essay on Criticism,” Alexander Pope made the statement, “To err is human.” This is a fact of life that we have all experienced personally on numerous occasions. To put it simply, people make mistakes. Over the years, the Bible has been attacked by various people that say it is the product of man, therefore, it has within its pages errors and contradictions. Those that hold the Bible up as the word of the Almighty God of heaven, disagree whole heartedly with that belief. The question we must be able to answer is how we know we can trust the Bible as the inspired word of God.

There are many examples of human writers publishing their beliefs and ideas concerning science and history... only to have them proven wrong later.

It is not just in the secular world, however, that human authors have erred in their writings. It has happened in the religious world, as well. Notice a few:

The religion of Islam claims that the *Qur'an* came to man by inspiration of God, but with a little investigation that belief is found to be false. The *Qur'an* teaches that human babies result from sperm, “a moist germ,” that changes into “a clot of blood” which then becomes “a piece of flesh” and later “into bones.” It is then stated, “We clothed the bones with flesh” (Sura 23:14). Modern science has proven this to be false.

*The Book of Mormon* is revered by millions of “Latter-Day Saints.” It claims to be an infallible revelation from God given to the original founder of the movement, Joseph Smith Jr., by an angel of the Lord. There are more than a few human errors found within this writing. Through supposed inspiration it claims that Jesus Christ was born in Jerusalem (Alma 7:10). However, it is recorded in both biblical and civil history that Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1). How could an inspired writer misstate the location of the birth of the Savior?

Their founder also taught that there were people living on the moon. According to Smith, they were six feet tall, dressed like Quakers, and had a life-span of one thousand years (Journal of Oliver B. Huntington, Vol. 3, p. 166; as recorded at the Utah State Historical Society). Brigham Young, Smith’s successor, when asked about this matter said, “...So it is in regard to the inhabitants of the sun. Do you think it is inhabited? I rather think it is. Do you think there is any life there? No question of it; it was not made in vain,” (Journal of Discourses, Vol. 13, p. 217).

Mary Baker Eddy, founder of the Christian Science religion and author of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, claimed that “man is incapable of sin, sickness, and death” (Science and Health pg 475). Her belief that man cannot die was proven false on December 3, 1910, when she departed this world in death.

It is clear that man errs, but what about the Bible? Some Biblical facts will be noticed in next week’s *Cordova Connection*.