

### CAN THE BIBLE BE TRUSTED? Part 3

May 2, 2012

As we continue to ponder this question, we will move from the area of physical science to that of the life science, as it relates to Bible inspiration. There is little disagreement among modern doctors that the medical advice and remedies of the “old world” were less than effective and were, in fact, steeped in myth and superstition. The old saying, “Whatever does not kill you, only makes you stronger,” would certainly apply to the actions of those ancient physicians, especially those of the Egyptian dynasties.

Even in more modern times, supposed medical experts did not fully understand the value of the body’s blood and its obvious importance to the sustaining of life. It was a common practice to “bleed” patients (also known as bloodletting) when they were ill. Leeches and other methods were used to remove harmful vapors that were thought to have entered the body (<http://apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=13> & article=2024). We can see the misunderstanding of the need for it, however, thousands of years ago God said, “For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood” (Lev. 17:11). How would Moses have known to record this scientific fact had God not inspired him to do so?

Dr. Ignaz Philipp Semmelweis (July 1, 1818 – August 13, 1865) was a Hungarian physician also known as the “savior of mothers” because of his ground-breaking discoveries concerning bacteria and germs. His study in the field of etiology led to his discovery and use of antiseptic procedures which has saved the lives of innumerable women as they gave birth ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ignaz\\_Semmelweis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ignaz_Semmelweis)). While assistant to the professor of the maternity clinic at the Vienna General Hospital in Austria in 1847, he noticed that medical students tending to expectant mothers did not wash their hands, after doing autopsies, but rinsed them in a bowl of bloody water and dried them on a common towel. He ordered them to wash their hands thoroughly in a chlorine solution before and after every examination. In three months, the death rate among soon-to-be mothers fell from 18% to 1% (<http://semmelweis.org/about/dr-semmelweis-biography/>). Now notice the “water of purification” mentioned in Leviticus chapter 19. The ingredients that are given to make this recipe will quickly be identified as the same needed to make lye soap. Also, the “hyssop” used in the water of purification has the ingredient thymol, which is an antiseptic found in many brands of mouthwash today (McMillen, S.I. and David Stern (2000), *None of These Diseases* (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell), third edition. pg. 24).

The food restrictions God placed upon the Israelite nation are well known, especially those regarding “unclean” animals. When studies were performed on “unclean” animals, it was discovered that they possessed higher levels of toxicity than those that were labeled as “clean” (<http://apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=13> & article=2024).

When God declared that His people were to circumcise every male child on the eighth day, it is no coincidence that the prothrombin, a blood clotting protein (<http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/prothrombin>), is at its highest- 110% of normal levels- on the eighth day of life (<http://apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=13> & article=2024).

It is clear, once a sincere study has been made, that the historical, geographical, and scientific information found in the Bible is completely accurate and not at variance with modern day facts. We answer the question, "Can the Bible be trusted?" with a resounding YES!