

# ***Building Life on a Solid Foundation***



*Erhard H Hermann*

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Jesus said

*"Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. "But the one who has heard and has not acted accordingly, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great." (Lk. 6:47-49 )*

The Apostle Paul said

*According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. (1 Cor. 3:10-15 )*

## The Footing

When we are young, our understanding and worldview is quite limited. Everything revolves around our immediate circumstances and the people in our lives. We generally do not think much about the deeper things of life or consider how we came to be and what will happen after our life on earth is finished. We tend to be primarily concerned with the present and foreseeable future. While this is certainly understandable and fairly logical from our limited perspective, it is not really the best way of looking at life and plotting a course. As we mature, it would be prudent to take a bird's eye view of reality and order our life accordingly.

The first layer of our foundation, which is the footing, is understanding how our universe came to be. We really only have three possible options. The first is that the universe created itself. Is that possible? Of course not, since that is not logically or scientifically possible. The second option is that the universe is eternal. That is not possible either because of the laws of Thermodynamics. The universe would have run down by now and no usable energy would be left. The only viable option is that the universe was created by something outside of our physical realm. God, through Moses, established this foundation by providing an account of the creation of the universe and all that is in it in the book of Genesis. Just as in the time of Moses, there were many false accounts of creation and reality, so we too have many false accounts today. Logically, only one account can be true, so, how do we know which account is true? The best way is to eliminate any that cannot be true. For example, we know that the Big Bang, evolutionary theory cannot be true because:

1. Science has established that the universe had a beginning when time, space, energy and material started. There was absolutely nothing prior to the start of the universe, not even space or time.
2. The universe cannot be eternal, since according to the laws of Thermodynamics, energy cannot be created or destroyed and the energy will flow from a hotter material to a cooler one. At some point in time, there will be no usable energy left. If the universe was eternal and had no beginning, it would already have run out of usable energy.
3. Scientists have not been able to create life from non-life, even in a laboratory. In addition to just being able to create the chemical components, the operating system, or informational



aspect of living things would also need to come into being. This has never been demonstrated either.

4. The transitional forms required for evolution to work have never been found, and complex life forms appear in the lowest (Precambrian) strata. Additionally, we should also observe some “transitional” life forms today, which we do not.
5. Since we are here, along with the rest of the universe, and we can see that the universe is not eternal, then there obviously needs to be an eternal being that has created everything in this universe.

So how about some of the other creation stories, can they be true? How about the Mesopotamian stories of one god defeating another and splitting her body open like a shellfish to make heaven and earth? How about the Egyptian story of the sun god travelling through the sky during the day and through the underworld at night where he faced other gods, or the sky being a goddess that is arched over the earth? Can the circular religions (reincarnation) be true? How do the polytheistic religions do in the light of what we do know? Are there any viable creation accounts in any of the religions? How about those that would claim that we are all a part of god, how does pain, suffering and death fit?

Realistically, the creation account that we have in the Bible and the rest of the information contained in it, provides us with the best available explanation of the universe and all that is in it. The experiences of people, both past and present with spiritual beings is also best described in the Bible. We can also demonstrate that the current text represented in the Bible has been transmitted extremely reliably.

[Associates for Biblical Research](#) (ABR) has a couple of video interviews with Dr. Craig Evans on the subject. [New Testament Documents 1](#) and [New Testament Documents 2](#). ABR has a lot of other information confirming the accuracy of the Bible. One of the articles is on the [Dead Sea Scrolls](#) which shows how accurately the Old Testament was copied. One really important point to make here is that we always need to look at everything from the worldview that is true. For example, we cannot look at the writings in the Bible from an evolutionary perspective, since we have already established that evolution cannot be true. We need to look at it from the true perspective that God created the universe and is involved with His creation. While we may think of certain events as being miraculous, they are most certainly not miraculous for God. Just think, He created the whole universe out of nothing, so how difficult would any of the “miracles” be for Him? He is not limited by the laws that He established to govern the physical universe.

## The Foundation Wall

Now that we have the footing built, let’s build the foundation wall on it.

### God

The Bible describes God as one God in three persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. God is all knowing, all powerful and eternal. (Dt 6:4, Mk 12:29, Jn 1:1-3, Gen 1:2, Act 5:3-4, Mt 28:19, 2 Cor 13:14)

### Man

Man was created in the image of God. Man was given the charge to rule over all of creation. (Gen 1:26). Adam and Eve disobeyed the command of God which resulted in death and the curse on the ground. This “sin nature” was passed on to all people.

*The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life; And I will put enmity Between you and the*

*woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.” To the woman He said, “I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you.” Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. “Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.” (Gen. 3:14-19 )*

## The Spirit World

The spirit world contains several different types of beings. The most commonly known are angels and demons. (Demons are those angels that rebelled against God with Satan). The Bible also mentions 24 elders around the throne of God, Cherubim, Seraphim and living creatures. The various spirit beings also interact with our physical world in various ways. Gabriel, the archangel, is sent as a messenger at times, other angels appear to deliver messages or perform other functions. The archangel Michael is the Prince of Israel and appears to be the angel that is assigned to the nation of Israel. In the book of Ephesians, we read that our struggle is against the attacks of the evil spiritual forces. Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire at the final judgement where he will be tormented forever. (Rev 20:10)

*Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. (Eph. 6:11-13 )*

## Salvation

Salvation comes through faith in believing that Jesus died and rose again for our sins and accepting His payment for our sins.

*“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. (Jn. 3:16)*

*Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. (Jn. 14:6 )*

Peter said this regarding Jesus

*“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12 )*

## Faith

The usage of the word faith has a different meaning in today's world as compared to the Biblical usage. It seems that the word in today's world means believing in something that is just made

up in your own mind and has no basis in reality. In contrast to this, the Biblical definition is quite a bit different. Hebrews chapter 11 has long been considered the “Faith” chapter. Some excerpts here.

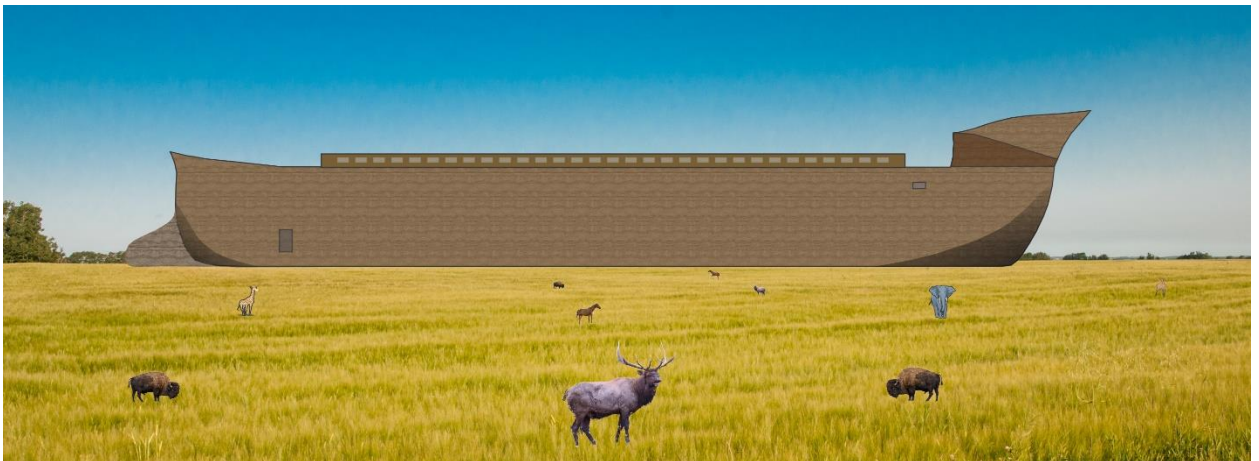
*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (Heb. 11:1 )*

*By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. (Heb. 11:7 )*

*By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace. (Heb. 11:30-31 )*

*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Heb. 12:1 )*

The Biblical definition of faith involves basing present and future actions on knowledge and past experience. For example, Noah was a righteous man that walked with God and was blameless. Based on his experience with God, he obeyed by building the ark. Now, if he were to say, based on physical history, that there has never been anywhere near the amount of water that could float something that big, he also would have perished. Noah obeyed God because he trusted Him based on his past experience. Peter calls Noah a “preacher of righteousness” in 2 Pet 2:5. Just think of what Noah endured and how his faith was tested. Imagine him building the ark inland someplace and all the people around him scoffing and ridiculing him. This illustrates what it may have looked like while he was building the ark.



Rahab, the harlot who lived in Jericho when the Israelites were coming, had heard of what God had done for Israel by drying up the Red Sea and what Israel had done to the two kings of the Amorites East of the Jordan. Based on these facts, she acted and this is called faith.

## Eternity

Jesus said this about the end of time:

*"Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 'For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' "Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? 'And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? 'When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' "The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.' "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.' "Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' "Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' "These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." (Matt. 25:34-46 )*

*And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, (Heb. 9:27 )*

*Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:11-15 )*

Faith and works go together. While the Apostle Paul focused primarily on faith being the requirement for salvation because of the works-righteousness teachings of the religious leaders, James addressed those who did not express their faith through their works. If you have faith, then the works of God will be the result. This is a theme throughout the New Testament.

The writer of Hebrews reinforces the need to be diligent in training to discern good and evil. (Heb 5:11-14)

## The Building

Now that we have the footing and foundation completed, it is time to build on it.

*For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. (1 Cor. 3:11-15)*

Jesus presented some different parables to illustrate this. One is the parable of the sower in Matthew 13. Another is in Mathew 25 where the master gives his servants some money in order to use it to gain more money for the master. There are numerous other passages which emphasize that we need to bear good fruit and to persevere in following God. The letters to the churches in the book of Revelation really focus on this. (Rev chapters 2 & 3) We are in a struggle for our eternal destiny and need to “run the race” as Paul exhorts us in 1 Cor 9, and the writer of Hebrews in chapter 12. The apostle Paul paints a picture for us as he describes our situation.

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL*



*OF PEACE; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, (Eph. 6:10-18)*



We notice here that the only offensive weapon is the sword, which is the Word of God that the Spirit of God uses. It is no wonder that Satan, from the very beginning has put the Word of God into question. (Gen 3:1-6). This is still the same strategy that he is using today. The accuracy, reliability and authority of the Bible is being attacked by those outside the church as well as scholars and others that would call themselves Christians. Jesus used the Word against Satan to defeat him when Jesus was tempted by Satan while he was in the wilderness. Jesus also used the Word to teach, correct and rebuke. His use of the Word demonstrates its authority, reliability and necessity. He also said that “not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away” (Mt 5:18) As the writer of Hebrews observes

*Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil. (Heb. 5:11-6:1)*

We see again that we need to really apply and train ourselves. It is of utmost importance that we study the Word and use it.

*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (2 Tim. 3:16-17)*

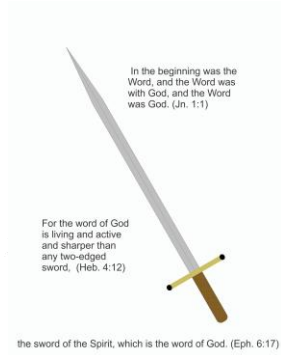
*So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. (2 Pet. 1:19-21)*

We need to also spend time in prayer. Jesus demonstrated this and the writers of the New Testament consistently prayed and encouraged it. A good example of this was in Acts chapter 6 when the task of administering the help for the widows was delegated to some believers other than the apostles. We note that the apostles were to devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word.

We are called bear fruit and demonstrate our salvation through our works by persevering.

*Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. (Jas. 1:12)*

*Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? (Jas. 2:17-20)*



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (Jn. 1:1)

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword. (Heb. 4:12)

the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Eph. 6:17)