

Vexed Verses

Confronting contradictions in sacred scripture



Bible Center Church (Charleston, WV)

Christian Fundamentalism

- Literal
- Doctrinal
- Exclusive
- Triumphal
- Legalistic
- All-encompassing

Christian Fundamentalism – 2

- Highly skeptical of society's educational, cultural and media systems
- Embattled
- Pauline
- Decentralized
- Patriarchal

Photo below: Scopes trial in Dayton



Bryan College (Dayton, Tenn.)

Trouble spots

- Scriptural
- Philosophical/Theological
- Sociological



University of Chicago

Chicago, Ill.

Dead Sea Scrolls

A photograph showing two individuals in traditional, earth-toned clothing and head coverings. They are in a dimly lit, rocky cave environment. One person is kneeling on the left, holding a large, unrolled scroll. The other person is sitting on the right, pointing towards the scroll. The scene suggests the discovery or study of ancient documents.

Four assumptions of ancient interpreters

Four Assumptions

- ◆ Scripture is inherently cryptic and needs to be interpreted.

Four Assumptions

- ◆ The Bible is a book of lessons directed to readers in their own day.

Four Assumptions

- ◆ Biblical texts are without mistake or contradiction.

Four Assumptions

- ◆ The entire Bible is essentially a divinely given text, a book in which God speaks directly or through his prophets.

Four Assumptions

- ◆ Needs to be interpreted.
- ◆ Provides lessons for us today.
- ◆ Is without mistake or contradiction.
- ◆ Comes directly from God.

Modern Interpretation

- Internal analysis
- External comparison



Artistic interpretation:
"The Rapture"



Four evangelical assumptions

- ◆ Provides lessons for us today.
- ◆ Is without mistake or contradiction.
- ◆ Comes directly from God.
- ◆ Is easily understood.