

# understanding biblical (in)accuracy

Marvin Zelkowitz  
University of Maryland

Although biblical scholars agree that the stories in the bible only approximate what happened in Israel some 2500 years ago, they cannot agree on exactly what did happen. The historical record (i.e., what was written in the bible and elsewhere) presents one view of kings David, Solomon and the 2 kingdoms of Judah and Israel, while the archaeological record (i.e., what is buried where) tells a very different story. In this talk, both correct but inconsistent views of the two kingdoms will be presented.

Adding confusion to this mix, whether due to profit motives of the unscrupulous or to promotion of ideology by religious zealots, is the impact of forgeries on this historical record. We will discuss two recent artifacts that have shaken the archaeological world - the James bone box that presents evidence that corroborates the existence of Jesus and the Jehoash tablet that corroborates the role of King Solomon in building the temple in Jerusalem. Both have now been declared forgeries, but for a time caused quite an uproar in this community.

Marvin Zelkowitz is a professor of Computer Science at the University of Maryland who has been interested in biblical history for over 30 years. This talk is a continuation of the talk he gave at NCAS in 1995 on "Who wrote the Bible's '5 Books of Moses?'"

**Saturday November 8, 2-4pm  
B-CC Services Center  
4805 Edgemoor Lane  
Bethesda, Maryland**

The **Bethesda-Chevy Chase Services Center** is located at 4805 Edgemoor Lane in downtown Bethesda, across the street from the Bethesda Metro station. The Center is located in the two-story County office building on the plaza level of the Metropolitan complex, above a County parking garage. Free parking is available in the garage on weekends.



## **National Capital Area Skeptics Public Lecture Series**

**FREE admission - Everyone welcome - members and non-members**

For more information call the 24-hour NCAS Skeptic Line recording at

(301) 587-3827

e-mail: [ncas@ncas.org](mailto:ncas@ncas.org)

[www.ncas.org](http://www.ncas.org)



# Shadow of a Doubt

THE MONTHLY CALENDAR OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA SKEPTICS

NOVEMBER 2003

## CFI Announces Two New Magazines

CFI has added two magazines to its roster: The Scientific Review of Alternative Medicine, edited by Dr. Wallace Sampson; and The Scientific Review of Mental Health Practice, edited by Professor Scott Lilienfeld. Both are published by the newly integrated "Council for Scientific Medicine and Mental Health" and have transferred from their original publisher, Prometheus Books, to the Center for Inquiry. With its focus on human health, the new Council will be launched on November 13th at the New York Academy of Medicine (1216 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10029) from 1-5pm. For details, contact Dr. Austin Dacey at ADacey@centerforinquiry.net.

## James Randi in Las Vegas

The 2003 Amazing Meeting was a huge success, so Randi received a storm of requests to "do it again." The meeting will be in Las Vegas, January 15th to 18th, 2004, as The James Randi Educational Foundation hosts "The Amazing Meeting II" with a stellar list of great speakers and a number of irresistible extra attractions. This now-annual conference will be entertaining, educational and energizing. Only a part of the great lineup of guest speakers includes: Michael Shermer, Philip Plait (Bad astronomy), Jerry Andrus and Jamy Ian Swiss (magicians), Ian Rowland, Banachek, many others. Registration is \$285. Details at 954-467-1112 or <http://www.randi.org/jref/tamii.html>. [Note: Several of these speakers were at the recent CSICOP meeting. If you missed them in Albuquerque, you don't want to miss them again. – Ed.]

## Spring 2004 NCAS workshop

The NCAS board is starting to plan the 2004 weekend workshop. If you have a topic you are particularly interested in, let the board know at [ncas@ncas.org](mailto:ncas@ncas.org).

## Evolution in Texas

The Texas Board of Education will decide on November 6 on textbook for biology. ID proponents are trying to weaken current standards. The NCSE website ([www.ncseweb.org](http://www.ncseweb.org)) has details.

## Some interesting websites

At CSICOP's recent meeting in Albuquerque on hoaxes, myths, and manias, several interesting websites were mentioned. All have been added to the NCAS resources page. These include:

**[www.badastronomy.com](http://www.badastronomy.com)** – Philip Plait's site on bad astronomy.

**[www.skeptiseum.org](http://www.skeptiseum.org)** – Joe Nickell of CSICOP's collection of paranormal objects.

**[www.phact.org/e/](http://www.phact.org/e/)** - Eric Krieg (Philadelphia Assoc. of Critical Thinkers) maintains a site on free energy proponents.

**[www.ncseweb.org](http://www.ncseweb.org)** – National Center for Science Education. Combating creationism and ID is a focus of this group.

## Harmonic Concordance

Also from the CSICOP meeting. Some people say that on November 8-9, 2003, there will be an alignment of the planets (called the Harmonic Concordance) that will inspire humanity to be nice to everyone and raise us to a new level of consciousness. On that date, the Sun, Moon, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and Chiron (a 200 km asteroid out past Saturn) will form a hexagon when viewed from the earth. (Why Chiron?) The [badastronomy.com](http://www.badastronomy.com) website above explains all.

## !!! Time to renew !!!

*Check your mailing label.* If the renewal date has passed, please send \$30 (for 1 person) or \$40 (for 2 member households) for a one-year renewal to the NCAS address below, or you will be dropped as a member.

***This means you!***



**National Capital Area Skeptics**

**P.O. Box 8428**

**Silver Spring, Maryland 20907**

## NCAS Information:

Telephone: 301-587-3827

Email: [ncas@ncas.org](mailto:ncas@ncas.org)

Skeptical Eye submission: [S\\_Eye@ncas.org](mailto:S_Eye@ncas.org)

<http://www.ncas.org/>