

A few short thoughts on the debate between Adnan Rashid (Muslim) and James White (Christian) in University College Dublin on 26 February 2013: 'Koran or Bible? Where is the solution?'

On Tuesday 26 February I travelled to Dublin to watch a debate that evening in UCD (University College Dublin) featuring Christian, James White of 'Alpha and Omega Ministries' (USA) and Muslim spokesman Adnan Rashid whom I debated with this time last year in Dublin. The topic for debate was '**Koran or Bible? Where is the solution?**'. Most of what took place can be viewed on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6iwtSliCSTc>

In the course of his presentation, Adnan did what he did in the debate I had with him last year and that was to try to undermine any credibility in the trustworthiness of the Bible.

You will see that on Tuesday night he cited many differences in numbers recorded in the Old Testament concerning same incidents detailed in different Old Testament books. As ever we need to remember that we believe in the inspiration and inerrancy of God's Word as written down in the original autographs. We don't of course today have those in our possession and rely rather on handwritten copies and of course with anything being copied it can be subject to transcription errors. This is especially true when it comes to 'numbers' as recorded in Hebrew.

On page 380 of '**Alleged Discrepancies of the Bible**' by John W Haley we read "**We have previously, more than once, called attention to the marked resemblance of Hebrew letters to one another; also to the fact, generally conceded by scholars, that these letters were in ancient times employed to represent numbers. These two facts indicate at once the cause and the solution of the numerical discrepancies of scripture... But, as elsewhere intimated these (copyist) mistakes which we find in considerable numbers touch no vital point of scripture... nor do they militate against any well-balanced theory of inspiration. That the larger part of the... cases arose through the mistakes of copyists we have not a shadow of doubt**".

Moving then to another alleged 'contradiction' (@ 30 minutes on the Youtube video) Adnan asked '**did Jesus go to "Paradise" on the day of the crucifixion?**' – "yes" he said according to Luke 23:43 and "no" he said according to John 20:17. When the debate finished I re-introduced myself to Adnan and I said to him – 'let me explain what you believe is a contradiction concerning when the Lord Jesus went to "Paradise" – you believe Luke 23:43 and John 20:17 contradict each other – they don't' I said – 'in Luke 23:43 the Lord was about to die physically on the cross and when He did His 'spirit' immediately went to His Father, to "Paradise" (see verse 46). In John 20:17 the Lord has by now been resurrected and His 'spirit' has been reunited with His resurrected body and it is He in this resurrected body who has not yet ascended to His Father in "Paradise" and of course that did subsequently happen at His ascension' as recorded in Luke 24: 50-51 and Acts 1:9.

After speaking to Adnan I was then recognised by a young man, an Irish convert to Islam who had spoken to me last year about some issues and for about 15 minutes he and

another Muslim (from overseas) engaged in discussion with me on a range of issues. They questioned whether God had promised in the Old Testament that the promised Messiah would be God so I directed them to the words of **Matthew 1:22-23** “**Now all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet saying, Behold a virgin shall be with child and shall bring forth a son and they shall call his name Emmanuel which being interpreted is, God with us**” and of course “the prophet” was **Isaiah in 7:14.**

Please pray that these small seeds of divine truth might be used to bring God’s light to deceived and blinded minds.

Cecil Andrews –‘Take Heed’ Ministries – 28 February 2013