



Upcoming Schedule

June 22-25

Matt at College Heights Baptist Church
Chickasha, OK

June 22-27

Ryan at Lake Mount Church of Christ
New Waterford, OH

June 29

Ryan at New Hope Christian Church
Bridgeport, IL

July 6-10

Matt at Crosspointe Church
Stillwater, OK

July 6-9

Ryan at First Christian Church
Phillipsburg, KS

July 10-12

Ryan at *Layers of Faith Conference*
Littleton, CO

July 13-18

Ryan at Oil Belt Niners Camp
Flora, IL

July 20-24

Matt at Calvary Memorial Church
Gering, NE

July 20-24

Ryan at Hillsboro Family Camp
Hillsboro, OH

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DR. G. THOMAS SHARP LIBRARY

Over the course of time a person can accumulate many things. Most of the stuff we collect is meaningless to most everyone else, but when a person collects books, they can be treasured for a lifetime and even beyond. In this age of digital media, physical books seem to be less important to many people. Digital books are searchable, and copy/paste functions make it easy to use those great quotes. Yet, there is still something great about a physical book, things you can't get digitally: the turning of pages, the feel of it in your hand, and the "book" smell.



Matt Miles - President
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For our founder Dr. Sharp, physical books could never be replaced by digital. While my collection of books is growing each year, it is dwarfed by Dr. Sharp's collection. Over the years he collected thousands of titles for research and enjoyment. Through the course of his ministry, he had to sell his book collection a couple of different times to support his family, only to start collecting again when he was able to do so. When Doc passed his office full of packed bookshelves to me and said he would clear the shelves, I laughed out loud at the prospect of having loads of empty bookshelves. So I urged him to instead leave his books for my, and anyone else's, use. Little did I understand that the four bookcases in my office were only a fraction of his entire collection.

A couple of years back when Doc moved from his house, it was decided that his book collection would be stored at the office. Our thought was to establish a library, yet none of us had time to plan, organize and catalog all 79 boxes of books. They sat piled in his office until last year when my daughter Megan joined our ministry. She has a love of books, both reading and writing. So we offered her the task of cataloging and establishing Doc's library. Can you picture me, a bbq lover, being offered a table full of succulent smoked offerings - brisket, sausage, ribs, pulled pork, chicken, turkey and all sides? Yep, that was Megan's response to the library. For over four months she cataloged and organized the entire collection.

The Dr. G. Thomas Sharp Library was completed earlier this year in his old office space, with overflow into my office. The entire 2700+ volume agglomeration is digitally cataloged for searching and locating. As you might expect, there is an extensive collection of creation and evolution subject matter, yet the library is full of many different categories. It very much reflects Doc's love of gaining knowledge and research. An extensive commentary collection and multiple Biblical reference sections are invaluable to our ministry. There is even a whole bookcase housing books that are over 100 years old.

Our desire was not to just house books but to also make a place of honor and inspiration. One wall exhibits Doc's many diplomas, and throughout the library we have placed personal memorabilia of the mission trips he took over the years. Come,

grab a book, relax in the sitting area and allow Doc's handwritten notes from the margins or post-it notes bring a smile to your face. For those who may be more ambitious, Doc's office chair resides at the credenza for anyone to sit and be inspired to study. This is a place to honor Doc's life and love for books. We at CTF have already utilized this great resource for further study, and we are so thankful to Diane and their family for donating these books for continued Kingdom growth. Blessings.



MOSES & HISTORY (PART 3)

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

ROMANS 15:4

In part 2, we continued answering a student's questions about what was being taught in her college class regarding Moses and the Bible's history. She informed us that the "professor has mentioned several times that those pieces of the Bible may not be historically accurate, but are just told to depict a characteristic of God." We barely scratched the surface of the voluminous evidence regarding the Bible's accuracy and reliable transmission, confirming its inspiration. Now we turn to the most attacked of God's inspired scribes.



MOSAIC AUTHORSHIP

Regarding Moses' authorship of the Torah, it was never seriously questioned until the 18th century during the Enlightenment. Here is a brief history:

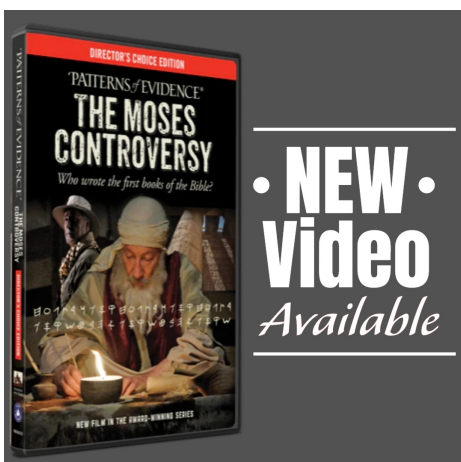
- 1656 – Dutch Jew Baruch de Spinoza was expelled from the congregation of Amsterdam for insisting Moses did not compose the Torah.
- 1753 – French professor of medicine Jean Astruc (1684-1766) anonymously published a book stating Moses is rightfully called the author, as he compiled the book of Genesis from multiple documents. Astruc believed there had been two different authors for Creation (ch. 1 & 2), as well as 2 to 4 composers of the other Genesis narratives, mostly because of the use of either *Yahweh* or *Elohim*.
 - This would be the basis of what would later become the Documentary Hypothesis as used by critics of Mosaic authorship, though Astruc supported Moses as the author through what would become the Toledoth/Wiseman hypothesis.
- 1800s – through the works of Hermann Hupfeld (1796-1866, German), Karl Heinrich Graf (1815-1869, German), Wilhelm Vatke (1806-1882, German), Julius Willhausen (1844-1918, German), and Édouard Guillaume Eugène Reuss (1804-1891, French) came the Documentary Hypothesis, referred to as JEDP.
 - JEDP (Documentary Hypothesis) teaches four sources for the Torah, all of which came centuries after Moses.

This serves to discredit Moses and the Torah's history.

- **J** – Jehovistic documents: composed around 900-850 B.C., these author(s) used the name *Jehovah* (*YHWH*) in their texts.
- **E** – Elohimic documents: composed around 750-700 B.C., these author(s) used the name *Elohim* in their texts.
- **D** – Deuteronomic documents: composed possibly around the time of King Josiah's reforms c. 621 B.C., these author(s) composed Deuteronomy.
- **P** – Priestly documents: priests added to and compiled the complete Torah during the Babylonian exile after 586 B.C.
- 1970s – the Documentary Hypothesis was actually discredited in the 1970s by John Van Seters (1935-, Canadian), Hans Heinrich Schmid (1937-2014, Swiss), and Rolf Rendtorff (1925-2014, German).
 - However, they had no cohesive replacement for the Documentary Hypothesis, only that it was bad scholarship. Here's why:
 - In Genesis:
 - *YHWH* is used 164 times in chapters 2-22, 24-32, 38-39, 49.
 - *Elohim* is used 219 times in chapters 1-9, 17, 19-28, 30-33, 35, 39-46, 50.
 - The usage of these names overlap chapters and toledoths.
 - Thus, the usage of these two names does not prove anything, yet it is the crux argument for the skeptics!

As Dr. Peter J. Gentry, professor of Old Testament Interpretation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, states, "Many scholars today are just unaware of the latest advances in research... and all of these things uphold the claims of the text and show that the criteria used to establish the Documentary Hypothesis is completely false." Hence, Jesus and the entirety of the Bible are validated in their unified testimony that Moses was the inspired author of the Torah.

To hear more of Dr. Gentry and other great scholars, we **HIGHLY** recommend the DVD or Blu-ray of *Patterns of Evidence: The Moses Controversy*, available at the ministry's bookstore. www.creationtruth.com/store



Once again, as one who studies historiography, I am convinced there is NOTHING in antiquity that is more solid, accurate, and faithfully transmitted through millennia than the Old & New Testaments, including Genesis through Deuteronomy. It is an absolutely incredible testimony to the divine inspiration of God's Holy Word.

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