

II.3. Lambs to Rams: Medicine & Anatomy

Many have taken the Bible for granted where the subject of medicine is involved as if it contains only “old wives remedies” or concocted tonics of ancient superstitions. Countless non-believers have set out to prove the Bible false by testing its medical accuracy against modern medicine and have found their quest for such to be in vain. If the evidences of any such medical practices are found to be true in the Holy Writ then shouldn’t that serve as proof to its inspiration? What are these proofs then and can modern science verify their validity? Below is just a sampling of some of the many medical and anatomical findings established in the Biblical record.

“Bloodletting”

If any journal of medicine claims to be true then there must be evidence that proves it, even though the Bible doesn’t present such a claim. It does however contain many scientific facts concerning medicine and the human anatomy that have only as recent been found to be factual. One such claim that the Bible has established way in advance is the dangerous practice of “bloodletting”.

“Bloodletting (or blood-letting) is the withdrawal of blood from a patient to prevent or cure illness and disease. Bloodletting, whether by a physician or by leeches, was based on an ancient system of medicine in which blood and other bodily fluids were regarded as “humours” that had to remain in proper balance to maintain health. It is claimed to have been the most common medical practice performed by surgeons from antiquity until the late 19th century, a span of over 2,000 years.”

“Bloodletting was also popular in the young United States of America, where Benjamin Rush (a signatory of the Declaration of Independence) saw the state of the arteries as the key to disease, recommending levels of bloodletting that were high even for the time. George Washington asked to be bled heavily after he developed a

throat infection from weather exposure. Within a ten-hour period, a total of 124–126 ounces (3.75 liters) of **blood was withdrawn prior to his death** from a throat infection in 1799.” (*Emp. added*)

Wikipedia

The Bible exposed this concept as false centuries before it became a popular treatment for anything from curing diseases to, what George Washington suffered, a throat infection. But long before it became a common practice by uninformed physicians the Bible noted otherwise.

Lev 17:13 And whatsoever man *there be* of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, which hunteth and catcheth any beast or fowl that may be eaten; he shall even pour out the blood thereof, and cover it with dust. 14 For *it is* the life of all flesh; the blood of it *is* for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the **life** of all flesh **is the blood thereof**: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off. (*Emp. added*)

Where did the author of Leviticus get his information? Even though “Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians” (*Act 7:22*) and explained that he was “not eloquent” and “slow of speech and of tongue” (*Ex 4:10*) one would think his knowledge of medicine came from his childhood studies (*under his Egyptian teachers*) many of which were of concocted tonics of the superstitions of his day. And for the most part they did the opposite of what they were supposed to do, i.e., they caused diseases. But God’s response to Moses’ excuses was to “go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak” (*Ex 4:12*). It was God Who gave Moses knowledge of all things that pertained to medicine and other practices that the Israelites were to observe. And what things that “were written in former days were written for our instruction” (*Rom 15:4*).

Circumcision

Another medical practice that has been long understood to be of benefit is circumcision, and especially when practiced on the eighth day; unless the child receives an injection of vitamin K (*normally produced by the liver*) before performing the operation which is responsible for the element known as Prothrombin. Without this clotting factor in the blood the child could bleed to death or suffer from other maladies. Circumcision was introduced to Abraham and thus Israel as a sign of a covenant between them and God until it was removed once the New Covenant was established and the Old was “nailed to the cross” (*Col 2:14*) along with other such Mosaic Laws.

“On the eighth day, the amount of prothrombin present actually is elevated **above one-hundred percent of normal**- and is the only day in the male’s life in which this will be the case under normal conditions. If surgery is to be performed, day eight is the perfect day to do it. Vitamin K and prothrombin levels are at their peak.”

“Dr. McMillen observed:

We should commend hundreds of workers who labored at great expense over a number of years to discover that the safest day to perform circumcision is the eighth. Yet, as we congratulate medical science for this recent finding, we can almost hear the leaves of the Bible rustling. They would remind us that four thousand years ago, when God **initiated** circumcision with Abraham...

Abraham did not pick the eighth day after many centuries of trial-and-error experiments. Neither he nor any of his company from the ancient city of Ur in the Chaldees ever had been circumcised. It was a day picked by the Creator of vitamin K (1984, p. 93).”

“Moses’ information, as recorded in Genesis 17:12, not only was scientifically accurate, but was years ahead of its time. How did

Moses have access to such information? The answer, of course, is provided by the apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 3:16- 'Every scripture is inspired of God'."

Bert Thompson, Ph.D.: "Biblical Accuracy and Circumcision on
the 8th Day"
Apologetics Press © 1993

Biblical Sanitation and Labor Fever

One might be horrified to learn of the level of hygiene practiced by physicians in the 1800s since we've been taught from little up that "cleanliness is next to godliness" and how basic sanitation practices are the norm in most areas. Hospitals, and especially operating rooms, are disinfected daily for germs since we all understand the danger of illnesses that are caused by them.

One such practice that existed in the 1800s was that of the dual role of the medical student who performed autopsies "on dead mothers. Then they would rinse their hands in a bowl of bloody water, wipe them off on a common, shared towel, and immediately begin internal examinations of the still-living women." At the time they felt "there seemed no reason for them to wash their hands, except superficially, or change their clothing" before moving on to the next patient. "But to Europeans in the middle-nineteenth-century, germs were virtually a foreign concept".

Kyle Butt, M.Div.: "Scientific Foreknowledge and Medical
Acumen of the Bible"
Apologetics Press © 2006

Moses understood via inspiration centuries before, that it was a common understanding that the handling of dead bodies without proper cleansing left anyone unclean.

Num 19:11 He that **toucheth the dead body** of any man **shall be unclean** seven days. 12 He shall purify himself with it* on the third day, and on the seventh day he shall be

clean: but if he purify not himself the third day, then the seventh day he shall not be clean. (*Emp. added*) (**water of purification- Num 19:9, 17*)

The complexity of the Eye

Obviously for every design there must be a designer. The same must be true no matter how simple or complex a thing is since the more complex and greater the design the higher the intelligence of the designer. Thus the lens of a camera isn't as complex as the lens of the human eye. If someone designed a camera then why can't it be said that Someone must have designed the human eye. Even an atheist has to admit that the eye couldn't have been formed through some random evolutionary process.

According to John Blanchard in his book "Does God Believe In Atheists" © 2000:

"The tiny retina contains about 130 million rod-shaped cells, which detect light intensity and transmit impulses to the visual cortex of the brain by means of some one million nerve fibers, while nearly six million cone-shaped cells do the same job, but specifically respond to color variation."

And that's only one aspect of the eye not to mention the work of the eye lids and lashes, along with the rest of how the body functions with all its complexities. It would take more space here than imaginable to list all the wonders of the human body since we are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (*Psa 139:14*). And there are so many other verifications of the anatomy that could only be understood through inspiration as evidence of biblical truth.

II.3. Questions

1. True or false: Bloodletting was once popular in curing diseases in the 1800s. a) true; b) false; c) the text does not say.
2. Which American president died from bloodletting? a) Lincoln; b) Grant; c) Washington
3. Why was Moses able to give medical instructions even though he wasn't known as a physician? a) from his Egyptian upbringing; b) by inspiration of God; c) he went to medical school
4. What chemical is in its highest level in a male newborn on day eight? a) vitamin c; b) vitamin k; c) vitamin b-12
5. True or false: the mortality rate was high for mothers in hospitals in the mid-1800s. a) true; b) false; c) the text does not say.
6. True or false: Medical students in the 1800s understood proper sanitation. a) true; b) false; c) the text does not say.
7. A design's complexity shows what? a) level of intelligence; b) nothing; c) its origin
8. True or false: The eye could have been formed through a random evolutionary process. a) true; b) false; c) the text does not say.