

Apologetics - 10.1- FEAT and MAPS – Part 1

Transcription

The purpose of the Bible, pure and simple, is to prove who Christ Jesus is. Are you all with me? Now, we can do Apologetics, we can study the Greek, we can do all kinds of systematic analysis of scripture, but really the ultimate reason for all of it. The purpose of this sitting right here, if you were to go into the computer...you would look at technology, boy, if we were to be able to blow up all of the technology in this television, it would be so impressive, and if we looked at all the inventions, and all the ways that they had crushed down, and now squished down these little chips, it would be impressive, if we looked at the millions of dollars spent to develop it, it would be impressive, but there's only one real reason for this TV...to show a picture. Are y'all with me? So, within the high complexity of Scripture, there's really an extreme simplicity to it in its purpose. And I've shared this before, and I'll always remember. I was a son of a Theologian, one of the key things is, you can get caught up so much in the data, you forget what the purpose of the TV is. Don't forget the purpose of what we're studying, the Word of God, what the real purpose is, is ultimately, can we prove Christ? Crucified, risen. Can we prove that He is the only way to heaven? Can we prove there is no other way into heaven whereby men must be saved except through Christ Jesus? That is what the study is about, and that is why we have apologetics. That's what it is, rescue the damned from hell, and build up the saints while they live on this planet. Really, pretty simple. Churches often forget. I've talked to a lot of pastors, and, you know, churches forget that one of the reasons the Church exists as well, is to lead the lost to Christ. To evangelize, as well as to edify. Now, this is something, would you guys read with me 1 Peter 3:15? "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone that asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have with gentleness and respect." You just saw a verse which Peter...do y'all remember who the author is, he says always be prepared to give an answer to all who ask...why do you have such hope? I mean, really, we ought to be able to say, "this is why I'm so hopeful". Are you going to heaven? Yeah. Why? Uh, don't know. That's not a good answer. We should say, if somebody says, "Are you going to heaven?" you say, "Absolutely", "Why do you think that?" and you should be able within 30 seconds pretty much put a miniature treatise together that says, "This is why I believe I have hope." And we're going to look at a verse tonight where Paul writes about, if all life is about is now, we're hopeless creatures. If we don't believe there's a resurrection, we are without hope. But what I get a kick out of, now this is just me, you know, I get a kick very easily in life, but, it says, "asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have with gentleness and respect". Look at the author. His name was Simeon, in the Aramaic means volatile one. This is a

guy who chopped off ears. This is probably a guy, if there were bar fights in town, Peter was in the middle of it, OK? And yet, at the ending, here he has been so touched in grace by the Spirit of God, he says, by the way, don't forget HOW you are to communicate the gospel. Gently, respectfully. Don't bruise the fruit as you pick it from the tree. Now, the reason for apologetics, what we're going to go a little more into tonight is this. We're going to have 2 halves to the study. The first half of the study is going to be the logic of truth. The Word of God is very logical. Truth is logical, it makes sense. If I were to say, there's a forest, and I'm looking at a forest, and I see crackling flames in the distance, and I see smoke, and suddenly I see animals running out of that forest as the flames are moving this way, I can probably make, though I may not be a park ranger, I can probably make a correct assumption that the animals are fleeing the fire, right? That's probably not a hard assumption. Now, let's say that it's June 5th at 2:30, it will be an improper assumption to say, the animals will always flee the forest June 5th at 2:30. No, that's not a logical assumption. In other words, when we look at the Word of God, we should have, just also, there is pure logic to God's Word, and we need to come to the point where we consistently run and churn these thoughts through our minds, and this is why it says, by meeting, only by meeting honest objections with biblical answers, can we "take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ". Have you ever heard that verse, "take every thought captive"? Why? Because, if you have dispersive thoughts that are not captive, that means orderly...the work captive there just does not mean, like, a prisoner, it means captivated. If I were to say to Maria, "you captivate me", when I look at her, I mean, she's a beautiful girl, I could say, "you captivate me". But I don't, I'm not saying, I feel like I'm in prison being around you, right? Are y'all with me? Ok, so we've gotta be careful how we phrase things right? So, you've captured my heart. It's doesn't mean I feel imprisoned cardiovascularly, right? I mean, what it's, there is a realm of logic in understanding the triumph of what the Word of God is about. So, folks, 2 Corinthians 10:5, let's read it together one more time, "Take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." Ok, the more you know about God's Word, the easier it is to be captured by God's word. Acts 19:1-22, this is, we're going to be taking a look, apologetics isn't new. Now, I've had people that said to me, you know, you don't even really need to study the bible that much, because I mean the Holy Spirit will take care of things for you, and it's true, the Holy Spirit does interpret, he is the comforter according to the book of John, but apologetics is actually something that is part of the basic teaching of the faith by the apostles. Acts 19, it shows how Christians, if you read that passage, we didn't have time to put it all in tonight and still hit my time, but Christians were told actually to approach the Gentiles, and tell them to turn from superstitious cults to the true God. In other words, we live in that day and age right now. We are, I am telling you, cult central. America is Cult Central right now, and we're living in a world of cults. Christians pointed out, now this is in the New Testament, that Jesus

was an Old Testament prophecy fulfilled, that comes from Acts 3. That's why I was teaching prophecy 5 weeks ago. How prophecy was fulfilled by Christ. Because this was taught, and this is a method that they would go to Jews and say that Jesus was the messiah, the Jews would say, "There've been a hundred Messiah's", and they'd go, "no, but only one fulfilled prophecy perfectly". And then they would go ahead, and they would expound on the Word, so, and how did they know this unless they studied it from the apologetic, and the apologetic is obviously to defend the faith point of view. I'm going to show you just in a couple of realms tonight. I was going to do a reenactment with Rachel, but she wasn't able to be here tonight, my daughter, and I don't want to embarrass anybody by calling you all to come forward and do this, but, there is a very common thing in Universities where they said, there is proof that God doesn't exist, and this is their logic. Remember, there is a pure logic to scripture. #1, there is sin in the world, do we all agree? OK, they're right. #2, if there was a God, now, this is where their logic begins to fracture, but if there was a God, he would have done something about it. #3, nothing has been done about it. In other words, we're still living in miserable lives in this planet, so therefore, there is no God. Do y'all follow the logic? It's impure logic, but it seems systematic. And, one of the things about logic is, it's like. Red is a color...do y'all agree? Therefore all colors are red. No, wrong. In other words, evidence, empirical evidence, is something that's critical in being able to prove either a supposition or presupposition, and what I wanted you to see is when you look back at #3, Ok, there's sin in the world, if there was a God he would do something about it, nothing has been done about it. The 3rd premise, nothing has been done about it, is not self-evident. Now, to a person looking at the world saying, the world's a mess, therefore God isn't doing anything. That's not truly self-evident. That's a deduction. Right? They're deducing that things should be better. But, now, watch this carefully, and I wrote this out as clearly as I possibly could so that it would be comprehensible. It needs inductive support. You need to be able to prove that God has done nothing to be able to have the thesis that God has done nothing. We don't have to prove He has done something; you actually have to prove that he has not done something, if that is your thesis. This is really the incorrect presupposition, though. If God existed He would do things MY way. Ah, now think about it. That's really what's going on, isn't it? Come on, it is. If God existed, MY logic presumes He would do A, B, and C, and this is how He would fix the world. Well, if you were God, you could part the red sea, but you're not and neither am I, so that probably means our presumptions need to go back to what the Word of God teaches who God is, rather than who we presume He should be. Remember when the Bible says in the book of Hebrews, it says that, you know, man created gods, you know, physical little gods, in their own image. Well, Imago Dei, which of course is a popular Latin phrase. In the 15th, 16th centuries, you know, the image of god. If you go back to the Bible, though, God created us in HIS image. Men not liking the way God

was doing stuff then said, well, let's redo God. Let's create him in OUR image. We'll make him a little guy with arms and legs and everything else, or make him a little goddess, you know, and have him, you know, have multiple breasts so that, you know, he...and that's our god. The dilemma is, in apologetics is, even when people debate, their actually trying to create god in their image to prove their point, so they can be satisfied with who they are and not have to deal with who they are. Does that make sense? That's why you deal gently with people, because there's no difference between those people you're ministering to, and you. And me. We were, and have come from the very same lost environment. Now, here's a correct argument. Just think this through; this is a correct argument on the existence of God. First, there is evil in the world, we start off with the same premise, right? Everybody agree? If there is evil, this is where you turn the corner, this is where you don't let them take you down this other pathetic path, if there is evil, then there must be good. Is that not logical? Now, that is pure logic. In other words, you can't have a reference. Even, you know, Buddhist, and Hinduists, and they've got ying yang, you know, if you look in Asian circles, there's gotta be good to have evil, there's gotta be evil to have good, that's how they think. So, you go ahead and you use that, you say, if there's evil, there must be good. Now, this is a problem for the atheist immediately. They suddenly see where you're going. 3rd of all, if there is good and evil, there must be a moral law on which to judge between good and evil. What is good? What is evil? Is that chair evil? Is his jacket good? Is that bottle of water evil? OK, so, if you say there's evil, and the moment that you, let me share something with you...ok? This is more than rhetoric, if a person will admit there's evil, and I've gotta tell you the truth, it doesn't matter if it's an agnostic involved in Green Peace, involved in PITA, and involved in the one world government, they're gonna say, at least somewhere there is evil, and the moment they've admitted that, you have a dialogue to Christ. Because, you first of all show if there's evil, there's gotta be good, and if there is good an evil, then, there's gotta be somebody who's a law giver, judge who judges between what is good and what is evil. And, therefore, if there is a moral law, there must be a moral lawgiver. In other words, "Thou shalt not kill", you know, there is so often, we don't want to get into this, but there's this huge debate, well, you can't legislate morality. I've heard this phrase a lot. We're not going to get into all the various areas of it, but, of course you can. It happens every day. The reason you're not allowed to kill your neighbor, like if y'all went home and killed your neighbor tonight, the reason you'd be arrested, is because a moral decision has been legislated. That killing your neighbor is wrong. You can't steal from your neighbor either. That's considered wrong. Morality is being legislated at every turn. Now, what they're talking is about sexual morality. They're talking about legislating sexual morality, and other things which deal with everything from pedophilia to homosexuality in marriage and everything else, but, the phrase, 'you can't legislate morality' is really a misnomer that you should never let

get past you ever again. In the apologetic of the Christian faith, you say, but the government does it all the time, yeah, but they're wrong. So, is it ok if I kill you? I mean, if you were to come up with a phrase like that, they'd say "no", you'd say, why? You simply ask why? Why can't I kill you? It's wrong. Wrong? Oh. Are you legislating my morality? Well, no, I'm simply saying it's wrong to kill me. But, I don't think it is. Well, the law says it is. Oh, there's a law. Where did the law come from? The law came from the 10 commandments, frankly, the law that we have, which governs this nation, came from the 10 commandments. But, this isn't even a debate on the 10 commandments. This is a debate on just logically, if there is evil, there is going to be good, if there is good, there has to be some definition between good and evil, and if there's a definition between good and evil, who made it? Does that make sense to you? And so, that's why it's best, if you're talking with somebody, don't even go into the, almost the esoteric stance. "Well, we come from a world of..." No, just simply say, "Can I kill you?" You're not really wanting to kill them, but what you're simply showing is suddenly a reality of, you know what? Somebody better legislate morality, or you could die today. The moment you get them personally involved is when you have effectively begun to put into action the understanding of what the apologetic of the faith is. This is more than a philosophical issue, which will be put into a 200-page book. This is simply a personal conversation you have with them, so always remember that. Now, when it comes to where you're coming from...one thing, do you remember I said apologetics and the battle between good and evil is like a fortress, it is like a walled city, and in this walled city, there are people constantly trying to come over and breach this wall, and then they're pushed back. And when you look through history, you're going to find an attempt to breach the walls of the order that God has put on the earth. Now, gnosticism, and what I was calling for 4 studies, the DaVinci cult, for example, goes all the way back to the garden of Eden, goes back to Babylon, Assyria, all the whole Mesopotamian area, it is all through the world, and you will see, literally, there times in history, where you can dig up in archaeological digs, where there was a surge up against the wall of there is only One true God, this huge surge, this huge Gnostic surge as well, and it was fought back and it was beaten down. But, Satan doesn't quit the first time around. But there's always going to be one area, which is constantly, and consistently attacked, because they know if they can breach, if Satan can breach this one part of the wall, he's won the city. This is one, how can I say, Trojan horse, that you can never allow, that you never compromise on. It's the resurrection. It's called the capstone of the arch Christianity by the reformers because, a capstone, do y'all know what a capstone is? If you go to, well you can go to Rome today, outside of Rome, you can look at aqueducts, you can look at arches. An arch was really kind of an interesting archeological dynamic. Once they discovered how to make a curved arch without using cement, it became something that architects were using left and right. Now, let me just share this with

you, I don't have a drawing, but this is kind of how it is. OK? You've got, you know, you've got bricks going this way, and you've got bricks stacked up over here going this way, but the bricks have to kind of come around and go like that. One of the problems is, once they started going this way, they were sliding down hitting the builders on the head. So, they didn't want to be hit on the head. But there's a thing called a capstone, if you ever look at buildings, it's usually narrow on the bottom and wider on the top, that sits at the very top. They would build a wooden arch, put the bricks on it, and when they got to the capstone, they would wedge this capstone in, then put the weight of the other bricks on top of it, and when they pulled that wooden arch out that was a supporting arch, guess what happened. Nothing. The capstone, by way of tension, held everything together. But if you go to one of those walls today, which has stood for thousands of years, you can with one hammer, pull the wall down. You know where? The capstone. That's the key. They didn't, in fact, very often, they didn't put any form of cement there. It was simply tension held. So, the capstone of the Christian faith is the resurrection. Without it, we are without hope. We are all without hope without it. Paul says in the book of Corinthians, will you read this out loud with me? "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, you are still in your sins. If only for this life, we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men." In other words, man, it's pitiful. Without the resurrection, what do we have? I've gotta tell you, what are we sitting here tonight for without the resurrection? I wouldn't be here. Would you? Why? Why would you be? If you think you're just going to die, and it's all over past that point, man, I'd find a party somewhere. I mean, you know, really, I mean, if none of this mattered, and none of this would matter without the resurrection. Without God having intervened and showing himself literally to humankind and says, I do care, I am here, and then raised from the dead, and said even death won't stop you. I tell you the truth; we would be pitied as Paul says, so that's critical. It's of absolute strategic importance. Never let this side of the wall of your faith be breached. Never. And I emphasize that tonight because as simple as it may seem, many Christians are releasing the resurrection, and the value of the resurrection. Many people who have been raised in the Christian faith, I'll say, have been releasing the value of the resurrection. Now, I'm going to use some little tricks to hopefully help you memorize two little groupings of words. We've done one, which of course, shows the major doctrines, which is colors, which are? The red is the blood. Without the blood there is no remission of sin. The white means sinlessness of Jesus, the blue means he's deity, he is from heaven, and of course, the purple means he is the only mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus. Those are your four cardinal doctrines. Now, we've learned those, and for those who are new here tonight, I'm not teaching it that quickly. We did spend a lot of time on it, I'm just referencing it. OK? Feat. F-E-A-T, and I put the feet there, and I do know that that's not the way you spell feet. I do know it's F-E-T-E, but, we go here, alright? These are 4

letters, which hopefully, will help you remember these key issues. First of all is, what gives me confidence as a believer? First of all is the facts. Now, we have looked at the evidence of the resurrection, but it's an undeniable fact of history, we have looked at, there are eye witnesses, geography, society, history, archaeology shows that the resurrection is one of those undeniable facts, the evidence does bring in a verdict. Even through Josephus who is a non-believer of the appearance of Christ, and the appearance of those in history who wrote and taught about having seen Christ after the resurrection. F-We do have FACTS on our side. E-is the EMPTY tomb. Even the enemies of Christ admitted the tomb was empty, which is really ironic if you think about it. It wasn't just us claiming as believers that the tomb was empty. The Romans, the Sanhedrin, they all admitted the tomb was empty, which is a major issue. And we know that because of what would have happened. Now, here's the logic. People say, well, maybe Christians emptied the tomb. Don't forget. First of all, they tried to bribe the roman soldiers to say that the body was stolen. Now, understand how tombs had rolling stones. That stone could have weighed u to a couple of tons. You've got Roman Soldiers on duty who are professionals. These guards make their living protecting as body guards, as well as fighting in battles, staying awake for 4 days on end if they need to, and by guarding to make sure that nobody steals or breaks into vaults where there's money or anything else, those guards are the ones who are put on duty, and we're supposed to believe that within feet of that stone, that stone, a bunch of guys came, grunt and groaned and leveraged and moved a multiple ton stone, which would have made a pretty loud sound almost like in a cavern beating drums, and they wouldn't have awakened. The second thing is the Romans, always, without ever, that we know in history, any grace shown, put to death any soldier who not only let somebody go, but even fell asleep. It doesn't matter...if a Centurion walks by and sees one of his soldiers asleep, he was executed. He wasn't told, "this is your third time, Bob", no, it was like, he was just simply killed. And when the rest of them saw it, they had a tremendous motivation to stay awake. Because, the Romans were there to win and to control, they were not there to kind of be a variable government. They were there to win and control. So, they were also tortured before they were put to death many times. The third thing is, on the logic of, well, Christ was crucified, put in the tomb, somebody stole his body, but maybe what happened is he really didn't die, and they kind of resuscitated him, they gave him some kind of drug and woke him up. You're going to have to understand how the nails went into the feet, the fine bones in the feet as they were being split through by the nail. I don't know if you've ever had an injury on the arch of your foot or the top of your foot, but I'm going to tell you it's extremely painful, but if you've had a nail, a 1 and a half inch nail driven through the top of your feet, and through the other foot, and you're hanging there, you're not going to be up walking in 3 days. Even if Jesus hadn't died on the Cross, the very fact that he appeared to hundreds and that there are

witnesses, and that there are historical writings about the appearance of Christ afterwards, he was walking perfectly fine, and he was showing the imprints. Even the simple logic of having gone through what He went through, how could He be walking? You've got a pierced arch, you've got no flesh and muscles on his back, basically, because when He was flogged, what he was flogged with, if you've seen the, I just saw it for the first time, it took me a year and a half to get up the heart to be able to see the passion of the Christ, because I just thought it would be too emotional, and I still was anyway, but, you know, those nails, those needle sharp nails that went into his back with weights attached to them, and pieces of metal, I mean, they would attach like a fish hook, and then gouge out the flesh, and gouge out the muscles. You're not going to have a man walking around after that happening, not even counting the crucifixion part. He's not moving around town, but here we have Christ who appears, of course, He's not even limping. And so, and also, how could Christ, I've said this to people, how could Christ, they say, well, they went out and as He kind of died he swooned but then he reappeared he walked into the room, he snuck into the room. Wait a minute. This is a man who has holes all through his body, his entire back ripped off, his feet have been drilled though, he has hung on a cross, he has had a spear go in his side, and pierced probably the area at least around the heart where the water, you know, came gorging out, and he is so agile, he's gonna sneak into a room unnoticed? You see, I've gotta tell you the truth, not believing the gospel takes more faith, at this point, in understanding history, than it takes to believe. It actually takes more effort for me to not believe. To come up with these stories. When New Agers come up with these stories, I'm like, which part of this are you working so desperately to avoid? They're desperately avoiding the resurrection, because a true resurrection demands a true purpose for a crucifixion, and a true purpose for a crucifixion means that there's true sin, if there's true sin, it demands real repentance, if it demands real repentance, it means dealing with God. And, Satan doesn't want to deal with God, you know, the old thing I did the very first week with the chair. Satan believes in God, he believes that God raised from the dead, Jesus raised from the dead, he believes that God is the ruler over heaven and earth, he's not going to heaven...why? It's not just believing about God. But, it's by submitting oneself to God. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ...That preposition "on", "en" is actually, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, in Greek it's "en", so you can be saved. It's talking about submitting, believing in the realm of who Christ is, which is Lord and Master. I mean, that He is the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords. That's what it is to believe. Now, next thing. Appearances. OK? Do y'all remember what graphic we're talking about here? Remember the graphic? So, this is the 3rd letter of what? OK. Is Appearances. There's a wonderful historic writing here...about 500+ eyewitnesses, there were many convincing proofs of His resurrection, of course, we know that there were people who came to life, who, there are 2 Roman historians who actually

write about these people who were dead, and they came back to life, and they told everybody that Jesus was the Lord. His resurrected body was actually touched, so it wasn't just a spirit, and the reason I'm going to make this point right now is this...the New Age is, you know, the proponents of the New Age of cults say, well, he just raised in Spirit. Mary Baker, Patterson Eddie, you know, says he just raised in our minds, but he didn't really literally raise. Fine, if you don't have a literal physical resurrection, you don't have the gospel once again. But he, his hands, his feet were touched. He even challenged His disciples, He physically appeared. Now, I'm going to go "T", and what we're going to do is go into the next 25 minutes, but it's "T" is Transformation. One of the evidences that the gospel is true is the transformation of these men. Now, this novel that I'm writing, I always get a huge chuckle out of going back through these verses about the thief on the cross. He understood more doctrine than all the disciples. He knew that Jesus was king, that he was going into an invisible kingdom, that he was sinless, I mean, to tell you the truth, there's a tremendous amount of doctrine from the thief on the cross. Meanwhile, back at the ranch, the disciples are hiding in a corner. Y'all remember this? These men have absolutely given up. They are cowards, and they go from cowards to lions of the faith. Now, how does that happen in 72 hours? And this, would you read this quote with me, is extremely important when you share the gospel with people. Say this out loud. "People will die for what they believe to be the truth, they will not die for what they know to be a lie." If they had taken the body and hidden the body, these guys would not have gone out and been crucified upside-down and tortured for the faith if they had known that they were dying for a lie. Why bother? Why bother? So, we're going to go ahead and close out, we want you to come back next week next well, and we greet you in the name of Jesus Christ, and though we may be thousands of miles apart, our hearts are with you, and we celebrate the fact we have the same spirit in Jesus Christ, and so we will see you next week at the same time. Lord Bless you.