

Biblical Heritage Center's
FACTS & BELIEFS
REPORT

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Facts, Beliefs, Truths & Memes

By Jim Myers

Welcome to the first issue of BHC's new *Facts & Beliefs Report*. It has been added to our newsletter publications, along with *Discovering the Bible*. If you are familiar with BHC, then you are probably very familiar with our Primary Guideline:

"Our belief systems must be large enough to include all of the facts; open enough to be tested; and flexible enough to change when we become aware of errors or new facts."

I created this guideline in 1988 and it has directed the course of my work since that moment. The ability to identify and distinguish between facts and beliefs will make a tremendous difference in your life. Let's begin by defining three very important words:

(1) **FACT** - The quality of being actual; something that has actual existence; an actual occurrence.

(2) **BELIEF** - A state or habit of mind in which trust or confidence is placed; something believed. A state or habit of mind in which trust or confidence is placed; something believed.

(3) **TRUTH** - A judgment, proposition, or idea that is true or accepted as true (in accordance with a standard).

Our minds do not automatically distinguish between facts and beliefs. Both are lumped under the umbrella term - TRUTH.

Facts are the things that we can perceive through our senses; they actually exist and that existence can be witnessed by multiple observers.

Beliefs take place completely within the human mind. They can be communicated from one person to another, but their presence cannot be sensory perceived externally.

Beliefs may be called TRUTHS when they are in accordance with a standard that is held by a group of people. The problem comes when two or more groups hold TRUTHS that completely contradict one another.

People use the word BELIEVE when they do not KNOW. If you look outside and see water falling from the clouds you say, "Did you KNOW it is raining?" But if someone says, "I BELIEVE it will

Rain," you KNOW that it is not raining at that point in time.

Welcome to the world of MEMES*

Human beings are genetic memetic beings. The DNA that makes up our physical bodies came from our mother and father. DNA is a FACT that can be identified by individuals with the proper training and equipment.

A **MEME** is the unit of cultural heredity analogous to the gene. It is the internal representation of knowledge. A meme is a unit of information in a mind whose existence influences events such that more copies of itself get created in other minds.

BELIEFS are MEMES and they combine to make up our BELIEF SYSTEMS. They influence our decisions and we receive them from someone else and pass them on to others. Our parents, families, and cultures provide the vast majority of the MEMES that make up our BELIEFS.

The universe is full of stuff. However, anything we say about that stuff is purely a concept – a set of MEMES – invented by human beings. All concepts are composed of memes. Names are MEMES, i.e., "concepts." We have the ability to sensory perceive something, but to process it in our minds and communicate its existence to another requires a NAME MEME.

If you are familiar with more than one language you have different MEMES for the same thing. For example, what I call a "snake" is called a "nachash" in

Hebrew. If two people with different languages both see a snake, they can point to it and share their names for it. However, when we deal with BELIEFS, they are not sensory perceivable, so we have to share MEMES when we communicate about them.

Many of our BELIEFS are made up of multiple MEMES that are linked together. If we discuss the meaning of the word "God," it quickly become apparent that it takes many MEMES to convey the thoughts that are in our minds.

BELIEFS are MEMES of persuasion and trust. We have been persuaded that they can be trusted. We most easily acquire new MEMES from people or sources we trust. Many times, because we trust certain sources, we do check them for accuracy.

In this series of newsletters we will be discussing FACTS & BELIEFS, but in order to do this we must use MEMES. You will understand this much better as you read future issues.

My goal in this first edition is simply to make you aware of the terms FACTS, BELIEFS, TRUTHS and MEMES. Please keep this edition handy so you will be able to refer to the definitions in the future. Knowledge is power and Informed Believers are empowered believers. **BHC**

*If you would like to learn more about MEMES I would suggest that you read the book from the above information was taken: [Virus of the Mind: The New Science of the Meme](#) by Richard Brodie.