

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE

Is the Bible God's Message to Man?

Is there anything really different about the Bible? Is it the message of man or the message of God? Is it, as some ~ an outdated book, having little if any real bearing on our day; or is it, as others claim, even more timely and vital today than ever before?

One thing is sure, if ever men and women needed the voice of divine authority, it is today. Many wonder what lies ahead. They fear the future. Gone are the days when future prospects sent the blood surging more joyously through the veins. The average forward look today, sees little but gloom. Says Professor C. E. Vullim: "Humanity is marching into the deadest of all dead ends. No-one has the slightest reason for supposing that human affairs are going to improve."- *Man and the Atom*, pages 25, 26.

We are living in "a world in which evil everywhere is prevailing over goodness, a world of decaying sanity."- *Ibid.*, page 12.

This tragic situation is all the more difficult to explain in the light of our advancing: knowledge. It was expected that scientific and educational advancement would bring a. added order. It was felt that the twentieth century, for sure, would bring enduring, tranquillity. But the past few years have brought disillusionment.

Many feel that science, in which men's hopes were centered, has gone too far. Carried away with its enthusiasms and the spirit of adventure, yet lacking moral impetus, it has become incapable of either foreseeing or handling the consequences of its own achievements.

Ordinary men and women are bewildered. Science seems to tell them one thing, theology something else, and philosophy provides a variety of theories and assertions. Furthermore, national leaders seem no longer able to command the confidence they once did, for it is generally recognized that this old world's problems have grown too large and, unwieldy for men to handle.

What the world needs today above everything else is the voice of authority and certainty. If only God would speak His mind so that all could hear and understand. If only He would tell us the way out of our perplexities. If only He would draw aside the veil which hides the future from our view, and light our perilous pathway here on earth as we journey onward; then would our troubled hearts be at peace, and we could walk with confidence.

Yet the world generally is like the victim of a deadly disease who longs for help and healing, but who ignores the only effective medicine which is within his reach. Instead he seeks the services of misguided quacks and charlatans, with disastrous results. Thus it is that the heavenly Physician so often has occasion to complain as He did to His people of old: "You will not come to Me, that You might have life." John 5:40.

The quest for that kind of knowledge which, by its very nature, cannot be obtained by normal means, has always been alluring and fascinating. Every conceivable process of divination has been resorted to in order, as the term implies, "to see like a god;" and to discover, if possible, the will of the Almighty. This ardent search for an authoritative voice has assumed the most fantastic forms, such as the inspection of animal livers, chicken bones, knuckle bones, bears' teeth, tee totums, etc., among such primitive people as the Pacific islanders and the wild men of Borneo. While among civilized races the palmist, necromancer, magician, medium, and soothsayer find themselves in even greater demand than they were in King Nebuchadnezzar's day. But God does not speak' through the divining rod, the planchette, the crystal, or any other such means. For they are but hopeless substitutes for the true revelation of God's will for man and for the world.

This revelation is contained within the Holy Bible. The Bible is open and frank in its claim to be the genuine Word of God. More than two thousand times in the Old Testament do we have such statements as: "Thus said the Lord," "The Lord spoke," The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me," "Moses wrote all the words of the Lord." The human writers of the Bible all claimed to be either recording God's messages or writing at His dictation. And one part of the Scriptures was so important as to have been actually written by God Himself. Our whole duty as responsible men and women who must one day face the final judgment, was outlined by God and written by His own hand on tables of stone. (Exodus 31:18) This great standard of conduct is the Ten Commandments. (Exodus 20:3-17; Ecclesiastes 12:13.)

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There is no mock modesty about the Bible. Its voice is authoritative, for it is the voice of the true God. One looks in vain for any such pious: "We may suppose that or "It may well be that or "It seems likely that." Such doubt-instilling statements abound in the writings of men, but the Bible is consistently dear and decided. It has confidence in what it says. Its claims are sweeping, its message is unmistakable. This in itself is one of the evidences we would expect to see in God's message to man.

The famous anthropologist, Sir Arthur Keith testified: "The Bible remained for me a book of books, still divine-but divine in the sense that all great books are divine which teach men how to live righteously." Such is the fallacious opinion of many well meaning folk. We do not deny that some human authors are helped by God in their work. But the very fact that their writings reveal so many and such great differences, of opinion, proves that the human element was very prominent as they wrote.

With the Bible this is not so. It dwarfs other books as completely as towering Everest dwarfs a humble hillock. The Bible is man's complete guide. Its inspiration is unique. It is the voice of God.

This must be so, or else the Bible is the greatest fraud. Its claims are either true or false. There is no possible way of getting around them or of explaining them away. There is no neutral position. Either we accept it as God's Word, or reject it as wholly untrue. But none could thus reject it, for the effect the Book produces and the influence for good it has wielded through the centuries, is one of the greatest proofs of its divine authorship. The generally accepted principle that "by their fruits You shall know them"(Matthew 7:20) applies just as logically to the Bible as to anything else. As an old Highlander once reasoned with Robert Buchanan: "I cannot argue with you. I cannot give facts and reasons. I cannot explain the philosophy of revelation. But this I know, that when I was a man of evil character the Bible got hold of me and quelled the tiger in me." Millions have likewise been able to prove that the Word of God is quick, and powerful." Hebrews 4:12.

Armed with the sacred Scriptures men and women of God have bravely entered the strongholds of heathenism, penetrating even the haunts of cannibals and head-hunters. The Bible's transforming power has driven "the tiger "from multitudes of those heathen hearts, and paved the way for a more civilized order. We have yet to bear of the writings of the ancient philosophers, or of such geniuses as Shakespeare or Dickens, or of such theorists as Karl Marx and Friedrich Nietzsche, making such complete and delightful transformations. The Bible has brought peace and happiness and freedom from the grossest sins, to thousands in every land. There is no safer, saner, kindlier, more wholesome company to be had, than that of men and women who love their Bibles.

One looks in vain for hospitals, orphanages, and old folk's homes in lands untouched by the Bible. Such institutions of mercy have come into being through Bible teaching. Not only for these but for whatever degree of decency, unity, and justice has been achieved by our modern civilization, the Bible must have the full credit.

The Bible's very persistence further demonstrates its divine nature. Through the centuries it has survived, shedding far and wide its benign influence, until today its circulation has reached an all-time peak. No book has been "disproved," "exploded," resisted, or ridiculed so many times as the Bible; yet the old Book lives on, sublimely doing its miraculous work of transformation in thousands of lives.

A man who built a wall wider than its height, explained his reason to be that should a strong wind blow his wall over, it would be even higher than it was at first. The Bible is much like that. Blow it over with the hurricanes of higher criticism, yet still it stands with undiminished power to protect and shelter those who read it.

Voltaire had no time for the Bible. He denied that any part of it was from God. He boasted that he would pave the way for its destruction, and that within a hundred years of his death it would be forgotten. Very few people read Voltaire today, yet added millions read the Bible. Within twenty-five years of Voltaire's death, his house was purchased by the Geneva Bible Society and used for storing Bibles; and his printing press was actually used to print an entire edition of the Bible.

Since that noted Frenchman's day, many Bible societies have come into being. Their presses have produced the Scriptures by the hundred million, and today the Old Book can be read in over a thousand languages. Since its inception, the British and Foreign Bible Society alone has produced over six hundred million copies of the Scriptures, being responsible for 808 of the 1,040 translations.

In view of the persistent opposition it has faced, such a situation is but one further proof that the Bible is indeed God's Word to man. As Isaiah declared; "The grass withers, the flower fades: but the Word of our God shall stand forever." Isaiah 40:8.

We would expect God's Word to man to be simple enough for all to grasp. A merciful God would be unfair if He outlined His purposes in terms which none but the keenest scholars could understand. And

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truly even a child can grasp the Bible's basic teachings; while at the same time there are profundities which provide limitless scope for even the most fertile brains.

Thank God for such a book. In a world of uncertainty here is an unquenchable light that will show us the way, a sign-post that will safely direct us, a transforming power that will purify our hearts, a source of healing for sickly souls, an inexhaustible storehouse of wisdom, sanity, hope, joy, and gladness. "The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes." Psalm 19:8.

"O earth, earth, earth, hear the Word of the Lord." Jeremiah 22:29. "Do you know a book that you are willing to put under your ear for a pillow when you lie dying? That is the book you want to study while you are living. There is but one such book in the world "the Bible", God's Word to man.

Can Prove the Bible True?

GOD has given us reasoning minds, and it is these which most distinguish us from the unreasoning animals. Our human tendencies to question and to verify the "why" and "wherefore," are God-given. Our capacity to doubt is not without its divinely ordained purpose. Indeed, this very characteristic was designed by God so that our choice of Him as our Deliverer, and of His Word as our guide, should not be unreasoning and credulous, but a result of our conviction of the truth. God could have no pleasure in the adoration of automatons. No more than a mother or father could have pleasure in the embraces of a doll which could be wound up and automatically set to kiss, caress, and cheerfully respond, when given appropriate impulses. An acceptance of God, and of His Word, the Bible, which is blind and unquestioning, could give Him little satisfaction.

God expects us to choose Him and His Word not because we have been told to do so, but because we have a personal conviction that it is the only right thing to do.

Can we hope to obtain such a conviction? Is there some infallible test that we can apply and that will appeal to our reason? There is.

God knew that good moral teaching, wise laws, and reassuring promises, in spite of their undeniable influence for good, would not be sufficient in themselves to provide proof of inspiration. For after all, why couldn't these things be merely the work of men? There have been many philosophers, many lawgivers, many poets, and many teachers. Why shouldn't they just as rightly claim divine inspiration as the ones who penned the Bible?

To settle all doubts, God has put into His Word something which is beyond the capacity of even the greatest human genius to produce. He has given us prophecy. The Bible offers this prophetic power as proof of its divine inspiration.

Within its pages are hundreds of prophecies with thousands of details; prophecies not vague and ambiguous, but rather couched in the clearest language. Not just short term prophecies whose "fulfillment" could somehow be engineered by the "prophet," but many of them long-term panoramas covering thousands of years in their broad sweep. Most of them have already been fulfilled, though some still stretch on into the future, lighting the way for all who are wise enough to take heed.

Here is the crucial challenge in the Bible's own language: "Produce your cause, said the Lord; bring forth your strong reasons, said the King of Jacob. Let them bring them forth, and show us what shall happen: let them show the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; and declare us things for to come. Show the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that you are gods." Isaiah 41:21-23. Again, the true God, who claims to be speaking to us through the inspired writers of the Bible, says: "New things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them." Isaiah 42:9. This is not merely an attempt to awaken and satisfy human curiosity; but to offer to man the most convincing proof that there is but one true God, and that it is He who is speaking through the Bible.

There are, of course, sublimer things about the Lord than His ability to prophesy. His creative and redemptive power, His love and compassion, are of deeper importance to us than His prophetic power. But whereas the former may be falsely yet plausibly simulated by false gods, none can lay claim to prophetic power-nor have they ever done so. For prophetic power can so easily be put to a practical test.

Prophecy then, is the unique thing that God offers as a dissolver of doubts, and as a means of fortifying man's faith in the Bible as a true revelation of His purposes for mankind. We will here survey one or two of the minor prophecies, reserving certain of the greater ones for subsequent chapters.

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TYRE

In Ezekiel's day the seaport of Tyre enjoyed great prosperity, as it had done for many centuries. Tyre was "mistress of the seas," and commerce from the very ends of the earth flowed into the island city. The Tyreans preferred money-making to war, and their industry and enterprise enabled their merchants to take their place among the princes and noble of the earth. (Isaiah 23:8.) But the people left God out of their reckoning, and were guilty of great sin. They committed acts of cruelty against the Israelites whom they sold as slaves to the Greeks, and whose land they despoiled. (Joel 3:5,6)

Because of their failure to reform, God caused Ezekiel to prophesy against them. God said: "I am against thee, O Tyrus, and I will cause many nations to come up against thee.... And they shall destroy the walls of Tyrus, and break down her towers: I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock." Ezekiel 26: 3, 4. Thus was the destruction of a city which had successfully survived two thousand years, predicted by the prophet. The blow was to be complete, for the prophecy went on: "I will make thee like the top of a rock: thou shall be a place to spread nets upon; thou shall be built no more: for I the Lord have spoken it." Verse 14.

Doubtless the people either laughed, or ignored God's message entirely. They certainly were not perturbed by it. They had survived attacks from Shalmaneser, Sennachefib, Esarhaddon, and Ashurbanipal, and had recovered from each blow. Thus would it be in the future, they thought. The main city, situated as it was on an island, was of unusual strength.

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon vainly besieged it for thirteen years (585-573 BC) but Tyre was neither destroyed nor captured, nor was it seriously damaged, though the inhabitants eventually came to terms and agreed to acknowledge Nebuchadnezzar's overlordship.

Two hundred and forty years later, came Alexander the Great from Greece. He found Tyre still flourishing, and too proud to yield to the conqueror. Emboldened by the peculiar strength of their position as an island city, they resisted the Greek attack. But refusing to by-pass so stubborn a city, Alexander spent seven months building a mole from the mainland to the island, so that he could launch a full-scale assault. He built the mole by collecting all the building material which once formed old Tyre, and depositing it in the sea. The demand for material was so great that the site of the old city was literally scraped "like the top of a rock."

Thus was the causeway completed and the island converted into an isthmus, as it is even to this day. Alexander took Tyre, but again it recovered, and it was still a prosperous city at the time of our Lord, three hundred years later. The complete fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophecy was being delayed.

For over a thousand more years Tyre survived till the time of the Crusades. Furious battles were fought there between Christians and Moslems, and the city finally fell in 1291. This really was the end foreseen and described by the Bible prophecy. Tyre was reduced to a heap of rubble, which was mostly removed and carried away to nearby Beirut, Joppa, and Acre, for building purposes. The French skeptic, C. F. Volney in Travels, volume 2, page 212 tells of his visit to the site of Tyre, and how he saw the fishermen spreading their nets to dry on the few remaining ruined fragments of that proud city which once was "mistress of the seas."

How wonderfully true is God's Word. Tyre is now "like the top of a rock; "it is a place "for the spreading of nets." And though it is an ideal location for a city, in harmony with the final word of the prophetic message it has never been rebuilt. "Thou shall be built no more," said the inspired prophet.

And this prophecy of Tyre is but one of many which can be used as a means of testing the truth of the Bible.

BABYLON

We think of the lordly city of Babylon. In King Nebuchadnezzar's day it was not only the wonder of the world, it was the world's capital. Here were the gold-embellished royal palaces, the magnificent temple of Belus, and the famous Hanging Gardens. Here was a teeming city of two hundred square miles, filled with ornate buildings, and surrounded by gigantic protective walls fifty-four miles long, 344 feet high, and eighty six feet broad-wide enough for a four-horse chariot to ride along its top, and to turn. Through the city ran the great river Euphrates, flanked with busy quays. The golden city seemed to be here to stay.

Small wonder that Nebuchadnezzar was unable to suppress his pride as he looked upon this man-

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made beauty spot from one of the royal terraces. Said he: "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built ... by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty?" Daniel 4:30.

But God, through His servant, prophesied against Babylon. "Babylon shall become heaps" said Jeremiah, "without an inhabitant." Jeremiah 51:37. And the prophet added "It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation." He also declared: "Neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there." Isaiah 13:20. God visualized the time-and such declarations must have seemed utmost folly to the haughty Chaldeans-when this haughty city would be the abode of "wild beasts of the desert; "and owls shall dwell there." Isaiah 13:21. Jeremiah added that Babylon would be desolate forever," and a dwelling place for jackals [Moffatt]." Jeremiah 51:26, 27.

To the Chaldeans, such complete extinction was as absurd as it was unthinkable, and such sweeping statements seemed merely symptoms of the jealousy and envy of those who surveyed the unparalleled glory of this dream city on the Euphrates. Though undoubtedly the majority of the Babylonians never even deigned to consider the menage which came from the God of the despised Judeans.

God's prophetic Word, however, has always proved to be sublimely unaffected by the reactions and opinions of men. Prophets like Isaiah and Jeremiah might be imprisoned, persecuted, stoned, or "sawn asunder," and their messages resented and repudiated, but their prophetic utterances have always proved true.

What is Babylon today? Where is the golden city, the "beauty of the Chaldees' excellency?" Isaiah 13:19. Most of those two hundred square miles of human splendor lie deeply buried beneath the desert earth. The site of the city, and the few unearthed ruins, are left severely alone by the Arabs who believe that the place is the abode of evil spirits. Shepherds avoid the place, and no native dare pitch tent there because, as superstition has it, "of the multitude of evil spirits with which it is haunted."-Memoirs, Rich, page 27.

The only "dwellers "are as the prophecy said, jackals, hyenas, and other wild creatures. No human being now dwells there, and indeed such is the nature of the ground that no one could live there if he wanted to. "Ruins, composed like those of Babylon, of heaps of rubbish impregnated with nitre, cannot be cultivated."(Ibid. page 16) "The decomposing materials of a Babylonian structure doom the earth on which they perish to a lasting sterility."-Travels, Porter, Vol. 2, page 391. (Quoted in Will the Old Book Stand?)

Sit thou silent, was Isaiah's prophetic command to the haughty Babylon. (Isaiah 47:5), an unthinkable condition for so vast and busy a place. But today, the pride of the Chaldeans is nothing but buried heaps, as silent as the grave, and impressive only by its barrenness.

All this did not happen in a moment. There was no great elemental upheaval to fulfil the many prophecies. For hundreds of years the great city survived, and the complete fulfillment was delayed until centuries after the crucifixion of Christ. The founding of the nearby city of Seleucia, and the transporting of the bulk of the inhabitants, was perhaps the greatest cause of Babylon's material decay.

H. V. Morton tells of his visit to the ruins in the 'thirties. He was driven the sixty miles from Baghdad in an Arab taxi-cab. He says: "I knew we were drawing near when we crossed a single railway track running over the sand, and I saw a notice board bearing, in English and Arabic, the words: ' Babylon Halt.' Through Bible Lands, page 64.

Could humiliation be more complete? Once the world's mightiest metropolis, and certainly the most splendid city ever built by man, yet now "a place which even the local trains pass with a derisive whistle."-Ibid., page 64.

These prophecies of Tyre and Babylon, are but minor examples of the Bible's striking prophetic messages. Of far greater concern to us are the prophecies which focus on our day, and which throw their penetrating beam on the great events of the immediate future. These we will consider in later chapters. They are striking, convincing, awe-inspiring, and remarkably hopeful.

Wise is the apostle Paul's advice: "Never disdain prophetic revelations but test them all."1 Thessalonians 5:20,21 (Moffatt). For prophecy is the great means whereby the Christian knows that his Bible is different from, and superior to, the many other "holy--books of the world. It provides the conclusive answer to those who question. Prophecy proves that the Bible is superior to the Muslims' Koran, the Buddhists' Tripitaka, the Confucianists' Tao-Teh-King, the Parsees' Zend-Avesta, the Hindus' Vedanta Sutras, Puranas, and Tantras, for none of these "holy "books provides any such means of testing its genuineness. Prophecy is the unique feature which forever establishes the fact that the Bible is truly God's Word to man.

God has not forsaken the world. He seeks to guide man's faltering feet, and to lead him to conditions of bliss which baffle the descriptive powers of even the ablest writers. Wise are we if we heed

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the ancient admonition: "Believe in the Lord your God, so shall You be established; believe His prophets, so shall You prosper." 2 Chronicles 20:20.

Does Science Disprove the Bible?

SCIENCE does not disprove the Bible. In spite of a popular idea that the Bible is unscientific, the fact is that real science proves the Bible true.

The word "science" comes from the Latin word *scientia*, which means "knowledge." Now if we accept this as the meaning of the word, then there can be no doubt that science and the Bible are in perfect harmony.

The pity is that quite apart from known facts, there is a multitude of so-called scientific "theories which also pass as science. Some of these theories tell a very different story from that of the Bible; and because of this, it is wrongly assumed by some people that science and the Bible do not agree. The fact is that true science and the Bible do agree. It is the unwarranted theories which often differ. We must therefore, always be careful to distinguish between "science, falsely so-called" (1 Timothy 6:20) and genuine science. The former departs from the Bible story, but the latter never does.

The Bible does not claim to be a science text-book, but it does claim to be scientifically accurate. Indeed, if it could be definitely proved that any statement of the Scriptures were unscientific, then we could no longer accept it as the Word of God. For God is omniscient-He knows everything; and it is unlikely that in any Book inspired by Him, He would permit falsehoods or fables to be included. The God of heaven designed that a study of the facts of science should strengthen, not weaken, our faith in His Word.

CREATION

When we begin to consider the supposed conflict between science and the Bible, we think at once of the record of Creation. The Bible teaches that God made the world and all within it, including every living creature, in six literal days. (Exodus 20:11) This claim is so important that it is included in the one brief section of the Bible which was actually written by God Himself. (Deuteronomy 9:10.) In his prayer, Nehemiah acknowledged God's great act of creation. "Thou, even Thou, art Lord alone;" he said, "Thou has made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and Thou preserves them all." Nehemiah 9:6. Furthermore, the writer of the epistle to the Hebrews declares "The works were finished from the foundation of the world." Hebrews 4:1

Everything owes its being to God. All was made in six days. God spoke, and it was so, and "the works were finished." Of course, no-one can prove this. But not even the most learned scientist can disprove it. The very nature and time of these miraculous happenings makes proof impossible. It is "through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Hebrews 11:1 God required no pre-existing matter to produce the marvels of creation.

EVOLUTION

But you ask: "Does not evolution disprove the story of creation and of the fall? (Genesis 1-3) Indeed, no. Evolution proves nothing whatever except the truth of the Bible prophecy which foresaw its rise in the "last days," and the reluctance of some people to give God His rightful place. (2 Peter 3:3-6; Romans 1:28.) Evolution is no more than a very interesting theory, and the so-called evidences for it can more easily be explained in the light of the Bible record of a special creation, and the subsequent flood. (Genesis 7) Furthermore, the fact that some of the most eminent scientists and thinkers have rejected evolution-like the late Sir Ambrose Fleming, F.R.S., who was a convinced believer in the Bible story of creation-shows that the so-called proofs are no proofs at all. They are merely facts which can just as easily, and often more reasonably, be made to harmonize with the Bible.

Professor Fleischmann, the noted zoologist of Erlangen, Bavaria, though formerly believing the evolution theory, later rejected it as unscientific. He said: "The Darwinian theory has not a single fact to confirm it in the realm of science. It is not the result of scientific research, but purely the product of the imagination." And Professor G. W. Wright, geologist of Ohio, declared that "the doctrine of evolution is

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one-tenth bad science and nine-tenths bad philosophy.” Even Charles Darwin, the greatest apostle of evolution admitted that “a recurrent tragedy of science is the killing of some beautiful theory by an ugly fact.”(Noah’s Flood: Fact or Fiction? page 22) The pity is that the ugly fact, not the beautiful theory, is usually the thing to suffer.

Evolution is so strongly established today, however, that those who reject it are looked upon as eccentrics. Yet many who teach it are themselves in doubt, but dare not express their doubts. To do so might easily cost them their positions. It would be “professional suicide for a biologist to attack organic evolution.”(Is Evolution Proved? page 8.) And as Dwight Parkman, Professor of Anatomy at Harvard University, wrote: “The tyranny of the Zeitgeist [the spirit of the age] in the matter of evolution is overwhelming to a degree which outsiders have no idea. Not only does it influence (as I admit it does in my own case) our manner of thinking, but there is oppression as in the days of the Terror. How very few of the leaders of science dare to tell the truth concerning their own state of mind.”-Thoughts of a Catholic Anatomist, page 20.

What precisely is this theory which seem to be so fashionable; and what exactly does it teach? Briefly, it teaches that the world and all within it slowly developed out of a very nebulous beginning, as a result of “mindless chance.” That somehow, when the world assumed a normal consistency, shape, and temperature, the first living cells were spontaneously produced, and that these single-celled creatures were actually the forerunners of all the insects, fishes, birds, animals, and human beings in the world today.

The evolution story of how man developed is a very interesting one. It is claimed that he began hundreds of millions of years ago as a diminutive speck of protoplasm, though how this came into being, no scientist can tell. The gap between the inanimate world and living beings cannot be bridged. Professor du Nouy is frank enough to admit that “it is totally impossible to account scientifically for all phenomena pertaining to life. “We are faced with a hiatus in our knowledge. There is a gap between living and non-living matter which we have not been able to bridge.”(Human Destiny, page 36.) And later this scientist warns us: “Let us not give in to the temptation of saying, many things can happen in a hundred million years. If nothing happens in a year, there is no reason why, by multiplying what has not happened one million or a hundred million times, something will happen at the end of that time.”-Ibid., page 76.

Undismayed by this fact, however, the story proceeds with an account of how this single-celled creature eventually grew into a sand worm. One of those early sand worm found himself the possessor of a kind of “creative instability,” and an urge to develop greater intelligence, dignity, and complexity. Such a one “may have been our ancestor.”(Human Destiny, page 89.) Centuries rolled by, and the progressive progeny of this ambitious sand worm is said to have developed into fish. Now, as the anatomical features of fish and men are basically the same, so the evolutionists feel free to teach that “man is a modified fish.” “To the fundamental fish, therefore, we owe a limitless debt,” claims Professor William Howells, in Mankind So Far.

The theory continues with a gripping story of how one branch of those early fishes developed a yearning desire to investigate the great land masses. According to Professor du Nouy, it was as though some great goal had to be reached, which was “the real reason, the inspiration of evolution.”-Human Destiny, page 74.

How all this came about is a question for which there is no explanation, and of course, not the slightest proof. Such questions seem in no wise to upset the story-tellers, however. This early ancestor by some miraculous means which no scientist can account for, grew legs and lungs, like the mud springer and other lung-fish of today. Professor Howells suggests that what really set things moving was the fact that certain of those fish which had the “evolution urge” found themselves isolated in evaporating lakes. Hence they were forced to struggle overland in search of other lakes, or die. (Mankind So Far, page 22) The unusual purpose for which their front fins were used at this time, is supposed in some miraculous way, to have begun in them a process of development which in a matter of a few hundred million years was to lead to the formation of the human leg!

Thus this “ancestor” reached an amphibious stage, able, like frogs, toads, newts, and salamanders, to live in water and on land. His next great step was to develop some means of depositing his eggs on land instead of in the water where they were so easily destroyed. The urge to take such a step led at last to the art of producing eggs which had shells around them so as to prevent dehydration in the sun. Having perfected-by some miraculous means-this art, our “ancestor “had reached the reptile stage; for eggs that could be safely deposited on land, and hatched, constituted the main difference between the reptiles and amphibians. This “reptile period” was supposedly the time when the mighty dinosaurs roamed this earth, one type of which-the pterodactyl even invaded the air.

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The story proceeds that owing to an unnatural habit of eating their neighbors' eggs which some of the dinosaurs acquired, the progressive "forebears" of the human race began to realize the need for an even safer means of producing young than egg laying. Hence the development of the mammal, with its unique method of bearing its young.

The reptiles had improved on the amphibians because they succeeded in providing a shell in which their young could develop before being hatched. But the mammals went a big step further in that they managed to postpone the time of "laying" so that it coincided with the time of "hatching" their young. The mammals furthermore succeeded in developing mammary glands which produced milk for the infant offspring, acquiring at the same time strong parental emotions which assured that the babies would not be prematurely abandoned by their parents.

As a reason for all this, scientists can offer nothing better than that of an "impulse toward achieving a high development." (Mankind So Far, page 34.) We may well ask: How was the actual change-over made between egg-laying and the advanced form of childbearing of the mammal? A continuance of the reptile practice of egg-laying while at the same time the mammal womb and breast and milk glands were being developed and prepared for action, is unthinkable. Yet such must have been the case unless some reptile genius, by means of a supreme effort, managed to produce a fully equipped mammal in one attempt. If evolution is true, one of these explanations is bound to be correct, yet the latter is even more unthinkable than the former.

Another major difference between the reptile and the mammal is the fact that mammals have warm blood. Reptiles and lower orders are incapable of retaining their body heat, but assume the temperature of their surroundings. It has been proved that all the biochemical processes necessary for high efficiency, muscular activity, and nervous co-ordination of the mammal, function best in a constant temperature of about 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Scientists suggest that it was to conserve his body heat that our early "forebear" developed the kind of legs which-unlike those of the reptile" lifted his body from the ground, at the same time and for the same purpose, growing a covering of hair.

But how did warm-bloodedness come about? No scientist can say. Howells says that it will probably "remain as mysterious as the reptile egg."-Ibid., page 33.

It will remain a mystery for those who neglect the simple record of the Bible which says that it was God who created all things, and who "made the bent of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creeps upon the earth after his kind." Genesis 1:25. Not one of the wonderful "developments" of the evolution story can be explained by science, and the few fragments of it we have here been able to survey, illustrate how unlikely the whole thing is. It is far more reasonable to believe that an intelligent God made everything, than that nothing at all made everything! Both the Bible story of creation and evolution require faith, but the latter demands infinitely more than the former.

Unperturbed, however, by the hundreds of problems which cannot be explained, the theory goes on to describe the development of man. In the process of time the story runs-the apes together with our supposed ape-like ancestors appeared. They differed from the monkey and other animal in that they were invariably upright in posture, and because of this they had-by some inexplicable means!-succeeded in readjusting their internal organs so that they were now suspended from the chest. For locomotion they depended mainly on their arms since they lived in the trees, and swung from branch to branch. Hence the highly developed hands.

In man's supposed ancestor, however, was a desire to free his hands. He came to depend less and less on them for locomotion, and more and more on his legs. This gave rise to one of man's specialized possessions-the human foot. At least, that is the theorists' view. The hands were now free for a huge variety of purposes, which led directly-of all things-to the reduction of the snout. For previously the snout had to do almost everything in connection with feeding and investigating, and needed, therefore, to be long in order to put enough distance before the eyes for satisfactory sight during investigation operations. The hands were now free to do all this, so the snout gradually became smaller, and in time developed the more acceptable size and shape which we have today! (Mankind So Far, page 89.) But man's specialties include not only his hands and feet, but also his brain. Whence came this wonderful mechanism which lifts man so completely above the beasts of the field? One story explains that the muscles of man's shrinking jaw relaxed their constrictive grip on the skull vault, thus giving the brain its chance. The brain at once became furrowed with thought, and the brow bulged with cerebration. (Apes, Men, and Morons, page 67.)

One scientist, baffled by the many problems of the evolution story, remarked that in investigating such things as brain development, "we, have simply landed again in the quagmires of why in evolution."-Mankind So Far, page 93.

THE "MISSING LINK"

But what about the "missing link"? you ask. The answer is that no "missing link" has ever been found. The hideous looking creatures we see in science text-books and museums are merely models which have been reconstructed from a few fragments of f~ bones. One of these, the pilthecanthropus erectus (erect ape-man), or Java Man, has forces been regarded as the greatest proof of the evolution theory; quoting Sir Arthur Keith in the Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol. 14, page 763. "The discovery which throws most light on the evolutionary progress of man was made in Java during 1891-92 by Professor Eugene Dubois." He describes the doctor's discovery as a "real missing link," and that "he actually caught the human brain in the act of evolving."

All Dubois found while working near the village of Trinil on the Solo River was a fossil tooth, and then, ten feet away, two or three small fragments of a skull. A year later he unearthed a fossil thigh bone forty feet removed from the place where he found the tooth. These fragments of bone were at once hailed as the "missing link"! Yet, as the Natural History Museum Guide declares: "The remains in this case are so fragmentary that they admit of more than one interpretation." Some scientists believe the bones to be those of a giant gibbon, an opinion later held by Dr. Dubois himself.

The surprising thing is that Dr. Dubois did actually discover two fairly complete fossil skulls in 1892-Amown as the Wadjak skulls. But because they were skulls of intelligent human beings, their discovery was kept secret until 1920. The reason was that they would have completely nullified the effect of the other fragments which were hailed with such delight by the theorists. Sir Arthur Keith applauds this well-kept secret, declaring that knowledge of these skulls "would have overtaxed the resilience of the anthropologists, like the chameleon that was put on a Scotch plaid."-Mankind So Far, page 191.

But the theorists say they have other fossil fragments that support their story. They enumerate the remains from Pekin, Njara, Piltdown, Heidelberg, and Rhodesia. But none of these provides any trustworthy evidence. As Professor Howells remarks: "Fossil men seem all to be touched with a curse worse than that of Tutankhamen, giving rise to endless arguments and indiscretions. - Ibid., page 136.

And commenting on the reconstruction of these "fossil men" "he says that" there is no possible way of judging what the soft parts were like, while at the same time these soft parts determine the whole impression which the thing creates. On the same skull two different and equally possible coverings of flesh can make the individual look brutal and apish or human and refined."(Ibid., page 128) This admission needs no comment.

Innumerable skulls have been found all over Europe, of the so-called Neanderthal man. Their structure is such as to suggest a forward leaning of the head"-distinct from our upright position. They have a rather pronounced brow ridge and a low forehead, but the fact is that they were endowed with larger brains than ours today.

Fossils of other men, who were obviously intelligent, well built, and highly civilized have been found in good quantities. These are known as the Cro-Magnon men. They don't help the evolution story much, for in many respects they were better specimens of humanity than are we today. It was thought at first that these were advanced types of men who lived long ages after the brutish Neanderthals. But imagine the theorists' consternation when remains of Neanderthals and Cro-Magnons were found together in the district of Mount Carmel in Palestine. Evidence of interbreeding was clear. Says Professor Howells: "It is difficult indeed to understand the Mount Carmel skeletons, and they are likely to remain a puzzle for some time."-Ibid., page 203.

Candidly there is no puzzle except for the evolutionist. The simple explanation is that the Neanderthals were a degenerate type who lived at the same time as the super intelligent Cro-Magnons. Sir Ambrose Fleming said: "We can regard the Cro-Magnons as the antediluvian men of the Bible narrative. The Neanderthals can then be explained as standing in the same relationship as the Australian bushmen stand to Europeans."

Thus we see that the evolution story, while a very intriguing one, is certainly not factual. Theorists claim that though they have no answers for any of such basic questions as have here been mentioned, one "proof" "that all creatures have developed from a common ancestor is the similarity in our bodily structure.

For instance, "the forelimb of a frog, the paddle of a turtle, the wing of a bird, the foreleg of a horse, the flipper of a whale, the wing of a bat, the arm of a man, exhibit in diverse guise the same essential parts, twisted into different forms for different uses, but always of the same fundamental type. There is essential similarity in the important bones, and considerable resemblance in the musculature, innervation,

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and blood supply.”(New Universal Encyclopedia, page 3,200, Art. “Evolution: The Shaping of life Forms.”) The writer later remarks: “It is difficult to understand this adherence to type except on the theory of the actual flesh and blood relationship of the back-boned animals.” These similarities are thus looked upon as some of the strongest proofs of a common ancestry. But such a conclusion is not justified.

If such a conclusion were really valid, then it could no longer be maintained that the Bible is true, for the record of Creation is clear that all the main types of animals and other creatures emerged from the hand of our great Creator on the fifth and sixth days of the world's first week. “And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moves, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.... And the evening and the morning were the fifth day. And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creeps upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them. And God saw every thing that He had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.” Genesis 1:20,21,23-28,31.

Such anatomical similarities as have been mentioned are very easily understood and explained in the light of this inspired record. They testify, not to a common ancestry, but to the one great Master Mind who worked to a master plan. The Creator made all back-boned creatures according to His basic plan, yet providing the needed modifications in each case so that there might be infinite variety in the world.

Thus we find this popular theory of evolution without any real proof, and it presents a quagmire of problems which no one can solve. As Paul Lemoine, editor of *Encyclopedie Franfaise*, remarks: “The theories of evolution constitute a dogma which all the world continues to teach: but each in his specialty, zoologist or botanist, comes to the conclusion that none of the available explanations are adequate. Evolution is impossible. It is necessary to say this in order that future generations may orient their researches in another fashion.” - Volume 5, pages 82-88 (1938 ed.).

WHAT REAL HARM IS THERE?

You may ask, “What real harm is there in evolution?” Just this. The teaching of evolution cannot exist side by side with the Word of God. It is not merely something which has no connection with the Bible; it contradicts the Bible.

The Bible gives man a noble, upright, perfect beginning (Genesis 1:26,27)-evolution traces man's ancestry back to a microbe in the primeval mud. The Bible tells of man's fall in the garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1-20) Evolution says this story is merely symbolic of man's evolving conscience. The Bible says that man is a sinner and that he must one day answer for his sins (Psalm 53:3; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8)-evolution says sin is merely a relic of our animal nature for which we are no more responsible than we are for the color of our eyes, and that the future judgment is a myth. The Bible tells of the Savior whose sacrifice on Calvary was essential to the redemption of man (John 8:24; Acts 4:12; 1 Corinthians 3:11)-evolution explains away sin as a perfectly normal state of development, and denies the need of any Savior. Evolution refuses to accept the possibility of such miracles as the incarnation (John 1:1-3, 14), the resurrection (Acts 2:23, 24; 3:14, 15; 17:2, 3; Romans 1:4), and ascension of Jesus (Acts 1:9), even though, as we have shown, the acceptance of its own theory requires an even greater credulity. Thus the teachings of evolution are the very antithesis of the basic doctrines of the Bible. The theorists have, though perhaps unwittingly, “changed the glory of the uncorruptible God [i.e. His acts of creation] into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things [i.e. the evolution theory].” Romans 1:23. Thus they “have changed the truth of God into a lie and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator.” Verse 25.

If the Bible is true, then the basic conceptions of the scientific theorists are false, and evolution is founded on shifting sand. If evolution is true, then all the basic teachings of God's Word are false. There is no compromise.

Fortunately, the Bible contains within itself overwhelming proof of its inspired nature. This we have already seen, and shall see much more dearly in later chapters. Once we are convinced that the Bible

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is authoritative, then we can accept by faith those biblical records which, by their very nature, we are unable to prove. Such a record is that of creation. "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God." Hebrews 11:3.

To understand scientific facts, we need to see them in the light of the Bible. Invariably they are in perfect harmony. Unless this is done, only barren theories will result. As someone has truly said: "Godless science reads nature only as Milton's daughters did Hebrew, rightly syllabbling the sentences, but utterly ignorant of the meaning."

Science does not disprove the Bible. "True science and inspiration are in perfect harmony." That which does conflict with God's Word is not science, but unwarranted theory. A safe rule when assessing the value of any teaching which runs counter to the Scriptures is: "Let God be true." Romans 3:4. We have ample reason for believing His Word.

Let us hopefully look up, recognizing that the marvels of nature in the heavens above and on the earth beneath, declare God's glory not the accidental out workings of mindless chance. (Psalm 19: 1.)

Is the Bible Trustworthy

A CHAIN is no stronger than its weakest link. If weak links could be found in the Bible record, we would rightly question its claim to being more than a human product. Any weaknesses would be regarded as proofs that the writers were little different from others.

But the Bible contains no such weak links as legends, myths, or fairy tales. The psalmist was inspired to write: "Thy Word is true from the beginning." Psalm 119:160. Trace back the chain of Bible history as far as you can, and you will discover no link anywhere of which it can be said: "This link is faulty, the historians and scientists have proved it so."

Of course, a great deal of the Bible's intensely interesting record has been questioned by the critics, and from time to time certain sections of the Scriptures have been "blacklisted" as myths. In fact, there is scarcely a chapter of the Bible which has escaped the gruelling criticism, and subsequent condemnation, of the skeptics.

But the Bible has a habit of outliving the skeptics and their criticisms, and as real knowledge advances, the list of biblical "mistakes" becomes smaller and smaller instead of bigger and bigger. This, truly, is a remarkable fact. Yet as Bible prophecy itself foresaw, such a fact by no means diminishes the enthusiasm with which some people maintain the view that much of the Bible—in fact, certain of its most vital parts—is legendary.

For more than a century archaeologists have been uncovering buried cities and buried remains of former civilizations. Especially has their interest centered around the ancient lands of the Bible, where they have worked with remarkable success. Places, peoples, and individuals, which figure prominently in the Bible, yet which earlier critics claimed did not exist because no other historical record made reference to them, have been brought to light by the spade of the archaeologist. Great mounds of debris have buried deeply and held fast for centuries their grim secrets in those Bible lands. Many of these secrets are today revealed for us to see. And the verdict every time is: "The Bible is true, after all." Not a single stone, pot, bone, building, inscription, or any other of the hundreds of thousands of relics which have come to light, serves to throw the slightest doubt on what the Bible says. Instead, their unanimous testimony is: "Thy Word is true from the beginning."

Few stories seemed more fabulous than that of how Joshua led the Israelites across the passage through the River Jordan into the promised land of Palestine, and overthrew that Canaanite stronghold, the city of Jericho. This beautiful palm tree city was strongly fortified. It commanded the fords of the lower valley of the River Jordan, and also the passes to the western hills. For Israel to advance, it was essential for them to conquer the city. Led by the unarmed priests with their trumpets and sacred ark of the covenant which contained the Law of God, the people of Israel were commanded by God through His servant Joshua to march around the city daily for a week, and on the final day to "compass the city seven times." Joshua 6:4. This was not a difficult task, since the walled part of the city was only 700 yards around. Finally they were to raise their voices in a mighty shout as the priests blew their trumpets.

Doubtless there were some who felt this procedure to be stupid and futile, and others would be discouraged by the "hopeless" prospects of conquering such a place. But Joshua urged them into action. God's commands were obeyed, and as, on that last day, the air was rent by the trumpet blast and the roar of

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a myriad voices, Jericho's walls staggered and reeled and completely collapsed. (Verse 20.)

Israel were commanded to destroy everything in the city, and to take no booty whatever—a hard command in view of the wealth of the place. Only Rahab “the harlot “(or innkeeper) who sheltered and fed the Israelite spies (Joshua 2), together with her family, were to be saved. Thus “they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein: only the silver, and the gold they put into the treasury of the house of the Lord.” joshua6:24. But they” saved Rahab the harlot alive.”

Such is the story, and because of its colorfulness, many of its details were questioned. It was thought unwise to regard the Jericho victory as sober history until the 1930's when Professor John Garstang, together with over a hundred helpers, declared war on the towering heaps of sand and debris which for centuries had covered Jericho's ruins.

His work has given us a dear picture of the city as it was, and of the completeness of the calamity which overwhelmed it. The walls have been found—double walls, the outer six feet, and the inner twelve feet thick, and originally about thirty feet high. In various places the walls have fallen outward, quite flat, precisely as the Bible indicated; and the outer wall gives the impression of having been pushed bodily over the brink on which it stood. Critics at one time suggested Joshua was guilty of a pious fraud in that he was supposed to have undermined the walls, and on the seventh day fired the timber which he had placed to hold up the foundations. Even Professor Garstang leaned to this view until he uncovered the wonderful truth.

Though such destruction might normally be considered as a sufficiently fatal blow to any city, the Bible says that Joshua “burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein.” Joshua 6:24. Professor Garstang found ample proof that this was so. The city had been systematically burned—the Israelites had dearly gathered all the combustible material they could to transform the place into one huge bonfire. Even the charred remains of such foodstuffs as dates, grains, onions, and dough, were found in the houses—a fact which would be hard to explain since Israel needed all the food they could get, were it not that we have the Bible record that God ordered them to take absolutely nothing from the place: “The city shall be devoted . . . to Jehovah.” Joshua 6:17, R.V. As Professor Garstang says: “Every room in the palace area tells the same story of walls half fallen, reddened by fire amid layers of white ashes and masses of charcoal, rising through and above the ruins. The store rooms were filled with great pottery vessels ranged in rows and, though now crushed to fragments and their contents burnt, some of them may be seen to have been filled with grain and other foodstuffs, while some were sealed up and still show the dregs of their once fluid contents.” - Quoted in *The Bible Is True*, page 165.

Remains such as the dated scarabs found in the local tombs—the latest of which are seals of the Egyptian Pharaoh and overlord, Amenhatop III—proved that Jericho ceased to exist about 1400 BC. This was the very time at which Bible chronology places Joshua's invasion!

It is interesting that to the city's northwest is the great citadel whose walls are still nearly forty feet high. In this place, and the city walls hard by, seem to have suffered little from the upheaval which destroyed the rest of the city. Perhaps Rahab's house which we know to have been located on the wall, was built right here and thus was preserved in fulfillment of the promise given her by the spies. For, as *The New Commentary* remarks: “Had the walls collapsed entirely Rahab and her household could not have escaped.” (Page 194. See Joshua 2:12-14; 6:22, 23.)

It can truly be said that whatever solid evidence is unearthed by the archeologists in Bible lands, it invariably proves the sacred Record true. Jericho is a typical example of scores which could be cited as effective dispellers of the notion that much of the Bible is legendary, and not real history.

THE FLOOD

One of the greatest targets of the critics, is the Bible story of the Flood in Genesis, chapter seven. That the world could be so completely overwhelmed by water as the Bible claims. is a dismal thought which many find it hard to accept.

Bible prophecy foresaw exactly how some would think today. “Remember,” says Peter, “that, in the last days, men will come who make a mock at everything. For they are willfully blind to the fact that there were, heavens which existed of old, and an earth, the latter arising out of water and extending continuously through water, by the of God. And that, by means of these, the then existing race of men was overwhelmed with water and perished.” 2 Peter 3:3-6 (Weymouth). Here is a remarkable portrayal of those who regard the Flood story as merely a legend.

Yet of all the Bible records, this story has left us the most striking--and terrible--evidences of its

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truth. The stratified rocks with their entombed fossils, and the mighty mountains seemingly torn and rent and heaped up as if by some all-powerful Titan, give mute but stunning testimony that the world was at one time convulsed and overwhelmed by precisely the kind of flood that the Bible describes. "Speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee," is God's invitation and assurance in Job 12:8. When read aright, the earth's rock and fossil record tells of a surpassingly splendid world, compared with which our world today is quite impoverished, but a world that was brought to a sudden and horrible halt.

The mighty dinosaurs whose giant frames can be seen in our larger museums, disappeared suddenly—a fact which completely puzzles geologists. Some rather amusingly try to explain that possibly a certain species developed a mania for eating their own eggs and those of their fellow dinosaurs—though few regard this as a feasible solution. Henry Fairfield Osborn remarks that "this giant dinosaur dynasty "was cut off simultaneously the world over, and Charles Schubert speaks of this as "the most inexplicable of events." The universal Flood of Genesis, chapter seven, supplies the answer.

The gigantic molluscs likewise disappeared suddenly, though their fossil remains prove that they were at one time extremely abundant on land and in the water. The trilobites were suddenly extinguished, and many of the fossil specimens prove that they died instantly as if by suffocation. Fossil fishes, too, show evidence of catastrophic destruction. "Of one group, the Scottish geologist Hugh Miller describes their remains in an area 100 miles across, where the rocks are strewn thick with them. They exhibit all evidences of violent death. The fins are contorted, the body curved about so that tail and head nearly touch. The spines stick out as in a fish that had died in convulsions." (Creation Speaks, pages 48, 49) Scientists cannot explain all this, but Noah's Flood is the complete answer.

It is the same story with the animals. Perhaps the best of many striking examples is that of the mammoths of Siberia where millions met their death in a great cataclysm. At that time this great region with its drowned and buried mammoth was converted from a luxuriant hunting ground for tropical creatures "like the mammoths" into the frigid, relatively lifeless region which it is today. For centuries in Siberia, mammoth tusks have been "mined "and sold. In the north where the ground is always frozen and never thaws, the mammoths are perfectly preserved and their red meat is readily eaten by dogs. "Whole bodies are found in perfect condition, with eyes retaining the glassy stare of sudden death, and identifiable vegetation in the stomachs."(Ibid., page 52) Science is at a loss to explain this. Noah's Flood is the answer.

It is the same story in Alaska where bones of lions, mastodons, elephants, and other animals are excavated by gold-dredging machines. Such things as these, with the evidence of the coal beds and petroleum deposits, prove that God's Word "is true from the beginning," and that the Flood of Noah is no fairy legend but a somber fact.

There is remarkable unity among both Christian and non-Christian races on this subject of the Flood. We would naturally expect to find that a calamity so overwhelming would leave an indelible impression on the minds of the survivors and the races which sprang from them. This is precisely the case. The Eskimos have their record of it, and on this basis refer to the driftwood which has been frozen for ages in the ice as "Nosh's wood." Going to the far Pacific, we find the people of the Marquesas Islands have their own traditional record of the Flood, which is almost identical with that of the Bible. Likewise the Chinese and Japanese, the races of India, and the American Indians of north and south. all have their own Flood traditions which have been handed down from time immemorial.

The ancient Sumerians, Babylonians, and Assyrians likewise had their Flood stories. That of the Babylonians was written on the eleventh of twelve clay tablets which are known as the Gilgamesh Epic, and were discovered in the library of King Ashurbanipal (669-626 BC). The founder of the Babylonian race was Nimrod, the grandson of Ham who was actually one of the eight whose lives were saved by the Ark. (Genesis 11:1-9) It is natural therefore that this dreadful calamity should figure prominently in the Babylonian writings.

These traditional accounts differ in detail, but they have one common feature, namely, the Flood was completely overwhelming; only a remnant of men and beasts were saved; and the calamity was a judgment of God on the world. These traditions give further weight to the witness of the rocks and fossils, revealing the Flood of Genesis to be no mere story, but a true record.

Jesus Himself set His seal upon the truth of the story, and warned His followers to avoid the sins which led God to pour out so fearful a judgment. (Matthew 24:37-39; Luke 17:26, 27) The record is passed on to us not by a God who desires to alarm and terrify with His power, but by One who loves us and wants to save us. The great God of love is "longsuffering to us-ward," and is "not willing that any should perish. but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9.

No part of the Bible is legendary. It is "true from the beginning," and contains the only effective

remedy for all human ills.

Need We Read the Bible?

OF all correspondence, love letters cause the deepest heart stirrings. Few thrills compare with that of the lover who recognizes his fiancée's handwriting on a letter. How eagerly he devours every word, reading, re-reading, almost memorizing the expressions of affection.

The Bible is God's love letter to us, and He wants us to read it. "Search the Scriptures," said Jesus. (John 5:39.) - Study to show thyself approved unto God," Paul exhorted. (2 Timothy 2:15.) And again: "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you." Colossians 3:16. Time given to the reading of the Bible's sublime messages will help to lift life's burdens and drive away all gloom.

Since the Bible is God's Word, divinely inspired from beginning to end, to neglect it is to deprive ourselves of the most essential things in life. For health and strength we need to eat. Meals must be regular and good. Bad food, or too little food, results in weakness, sickness, and death. For spiritual health-for the development of those virtues of goodness and mercy, hope and courage which all folk love to see-we need to feast on the Word of God.

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God," said Jesus. (Matthew 4:4.) Notice that we need "every word." If we pick and choose, accepting this and rejecting that, an unbalanced diet will result, with consequent loss and disaster. The whole Bible is needed to enable us to live "abundantly." Our testimony, like David's, will then be: "How sweet are Thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (Psalm 119:103.)

Our need to read the Bible is all the more apparent when we consider its great purpose. First it was written that we might believe on Jesus Christ as man's only Savior, and as the ultimate Deliverer not alone from the power but from the very presence of everything evil. (John 20:31) It was written to banish gloom, to cheer, and to give as hope. (Romans 15:4.) Its records of saints and sinners, victories and failures, virtues and vices, are given as examples and warnings. (1 Corinthians 10:11) It was written to reveal the eternal certainties which lie before us. (1 Corinthians 2:9; 1 John 5:1-3) It was written to chase the dismal shadows from our hearts, providing in their place the dear, shining light that will enable us to walk safely in a precarious world. (Psalm 119:130.)

Unwise it surely is to neglect this wealthy source of the things we most need! A rich mother died, and bequeathed her many possessions to various relatives. Her son George, seemed to have been almost forgotten. One striking-and to George, disappointing sentence in that mother's will, referred to him: "To George, it ran, "I bequeath my Bible and all it contains." Disgustedly, George dumped the great Bible on the top of his bookcase, and forgot it. Years later, on opening the neglected Book, he was almost stunned to discover that between its pages had been hidden valuable banknotes. They represented thousands of pounds.

Our Bibles may have no banknotes thus concealed in them, but they do have infinitely greater treasure, the way to happiness and abundant joy, and the promises to those who faithfully follow its precepts of imperishable riches hereafter. If we search our Bibles' pages as for hidden wealth, with open hearts and sincere desire, we will, without fail, be more than satisfied.

Thus will our lives be purified and brought into harmony with God. (Psalm 119:9; John 17:17) Such lives are the world's greatest need. Humanity is languishing neither through lack of silver or gold, nor food or clothes, nor homes or possessions; but for want of that inner goodness, and unselfish regard for others, which only God's Word can give. Never was the need more urgent, that we study and read the Bible for ourselves.

Life is a constant battle against evil. (Ephesians 6:12.) This battle gets fiercer with the passing of time. Personal sins and evil tendencies are our greatest foes, for these can blunt our consciences, mar our inner peace, and destroy our future hopes. These, above all, must be fought and subdued. Hence the apostle Paul describes in detail the Christian's armor. (Ephesians 6:10-17.) He portrays the armor, the breastplate, the shield, and the helmet, but in this whole list there is but one weapon of attack: "The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God." Verse 17.

We have read tragic stories of soldiers who were thrown into battle without adequate arms. Brave and unquenchable though the spirits of such men were, and no matter how unwilling they were to submit to the foe, such men were doomed to defeat.

Thus it must be with the man or woman who fails to take and use "the sword of the, Spirit." This sword is "the Word of God" the Bible. If given the chance, it will never fail us. It will provide for us "above all that we ask or think." Ephesians 3:20.

QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD

Who Is God?

HELEN KELLER WAS only nineteen months old when she was stricken with scarlet fever, which left her deaf, blind, and without a sense of smell. Since she was unable either to hear or see, the difficulty of teaching her to read and to speak can be readily appreciated. This great task was undertaken by Miss Anna Sullivan. The story of Helen's education and rise to greatness as a writer and lecturer in spite of her enormous handicaps, is a stirring record indeed. When she was still quite young, her teacher was anxious to let her know about God. How could she do it? She approached the task with dubious feelings, and prayed that somehow Helen might be given understanding. Laboriously the patient instructor tried to direct her blind pupil's thoughts to heaven above, where God dwells. Imagine her surprise-and joy-when Helen smilingly replied, "Oh, I have always believed there was a God."

How did she know? Because of the deep-seated realization that is instinctive in everyone, that there must be a Supreme Being controlling and sustaining the world, and the vast universe. Voltaire once said : "If there were no God, then it would be necessary for us to invent one," because our very reason insists that an all-powerful God is the only answer to all the wonders around us. As David said, it is only "the fool "who bath said in his heart, There is no God." Psalm 14:1.

There are many false gods whom men worship, but there is only one true God. "The Lord He is God; there is none else beside Him." Deuteronomy 4:35. God is the Creator of all things. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Genesis 1:1.

Out of nothing He made everything. (Hebrews 11:3.) He spoke, and it was so. (Psalm 33:6,9.) Though this may be hard to understand, it is more reasonable than the teaching that out of nothing, no-one made everything, and that the splendors of the heavens, the superb beauties and wonders of nature, and all the hosts of complex creatures on the earth just came by chance, without any intelligent planner or designing mind to produce them. Such a notion is even more unreasonable than would be the foolish suggestion that a delicate watch planned and made its component parts, and assembled itself; or that a picture resulted from paints that sprang spontaneously into being, threw themselves onto the canvas, and arranged themselves artistically. A watch presupposes a skilful watchmaker, and a beautiful picture tells of the artist who made it. Thus it is with the things of nature.

God is the Creator. He says: "I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even My hands have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded." Isaiah 45:12. (See Isaiah 48:13.) When we consider the heavens which God has "stretched out," we are more than ever impressed with His great power. For the vastness of the universe "is suggested by the statement that there are probably like as many stars in the universe as there are grains of sand on all the seashores of the world."(The Stars In Their Courses, page 115, by Sir James Jeans.) Yet with all these stars the sky is not crowded. It is, in fact, emptier than we can imagine. "I have only three wasps alive in the whole of Europe, and the air of Europe will still be more crowded with wasps than space with stars."-Ibid., page 115.

And the vastness of these stars is hard to imagine. Our own sun is only a very small star compared with others. Look up at the constellation of Orion, and in its top left corner you will see Betelgeuse faintly twinkling. Yet this mere speck is actually so vast that it could contain many millions of our suns. If it were as near to this earth as the sun is, its gigantic glowing sphere would fill the whole sky. Yet Betelgeuse is one of multitudes of stars which are its equals.

Other spheres are like the dazzling dwarf, Van Maanen's Star, companion of the brilliant Sirius, which is so tightly packed that one cubic foot of the substance at its center weighs several thousand tons. (Ibid., page 74.)

There is the Great Bear, apparently standing still, yet actually tearing through space at sixty miles a second. Though hurtling forward at incredible speeds, the gigantic stars are precisely controlled by the great God of heaven.