

TYPICAL EVANGELISTIC SERMONS

mountaintop, echo through the silent valleys, sweep across the wide and treeless plains, and pierce even to the remotest caves of old ocean.

We wait to see the effect of that voice as it rolls through the earth to strike the shackles from grim death, break open the tombs of the saints, and pierce even to their dead ears. We yearn to behold the sleeping ones, awakened by that commanding voice, feeling the thrill of life once more, raise their heads from their moldy pillows, toss aside the cover lid of dust, and spring joyfully into glorious life again.

A vast congregation they make as they gather to greet their Redeemer, coming from east and west, north and south, from height and depth, from land and sea, from torrid and frigid zones, to answer the call of the Master. They come in tremendous troops, guided by angels, and, sweeping upward together, take their stand on the glorious sea of glass before the great white throne of God.

And then, after a time, back they come to this earth, made new and clean and sweet. And on this regenerated earth, with the curse removed and under those new heavens, clear and bright, all the righteous, with Jesus, the Son of God and the Son of man, their blessed King and Redeemer, shall make their eternal home.

Far out over the plains of the new earth will flash wave after wave of glory. Fulfilled is the ancient oath of God, "As truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord." (Numbers 14:21.)

O morning of splendor, awake, and bring the promised deliverance!

And you, dear friend, who have with me been contemplating this blessed future, may I not press upon you the urgent need of being prepared for these things which are coming upon the earth and upon man? There is a way of escape from the appalling destruction of the last days. And Jesus is the way. In Him is safety. And in Him is eternal life, and an abundant entrance into his eternal kingdom of peace. Now while you have opportunity, become acquainted with Him.

Mercy's gates are still open, though they are soon to close. God's ear will yet hear the penitent's cry. The blood of Jesus will yet atone for sin, and cleanse whiter than snow. Make no longer delay. Now, now, go to God with all your sin, accept His sacrifice, believe His word, and He will graciously receive and pardon all your guilt.

And may "the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope." (Romans 15:13.)

4. THE ONE PRICELESS BOOK

(Inspiration of the Bible)

SERMON OUTLINE

1. Introduction: Making of many books. Ecclesiastes 12:12. Permanence amid transiency. Bible triumphs over all attacks.
2. A divinely inspired Book.
 1. Astounding claims. 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:21.
 2. The best or the most dangerous book.
3. A preeminently authentic Book.
 1. Its facts substantiated.
 - a. Definiteness of statement: names, places, princes, kings.
 - b. Archeology testifies.
 - c. Quotation from Orr.
 2. Its prophecies fulfilled: Jews, nations, Christ.
 3. Its scientific foreknowledge proved.
 - a. Written 2,000 years before age of science.
 - b. Light apart from the sun. Genesis 1:1-3.
 - c. Three kingdoms: mineral, vegetable, animal. Genesis 1:1-20.
 - d. Earth round. Isaiah 40:22; Proverbs 8:27; Job 26:7.
 - e. Empty space in the north. Job 26:7.

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- f. Forty marvelous anticipations. Job 38.
- g. Innumerable stars. Jeremiah 33:22; Genesis 13:16; 15:5; Isaiah 40:26.

4. A strangely unified Book.

- 1. Not one, but many writers.
 - a. A compilation of 66 books written by 40 men over a period of fifteen hundred years.
 - b. Men of varied environment, with many styles of writing.
- 2. Illustrations: "Three-color" process; grand orchestra; statue.

5. A miracle-working Book.

- 1. Its universal appeal: Understands needs of man. Inspires confidence. No unblemished heroes.
- 2. Its redeeming power. John 4:39-42.

6. Appeal: Make this book your guide. More to be desired than gold.

A lamp and a light. Psalm 19:7-11; 119:105.

By FREDERICK LEE
Washington, DC

1. Introduction. Making of Many Books

OF making many books there is no end." (Ecclesiastes 12:12.) Well did the wise man express it in his early day. Long before the age of invention and the multiplication of printed matter by the electric press, men bent themselves to the task of recording their thoughts in some permanent form. First upon stone with chisel and hammer, then upon papyrus with pen and ink, and later with crude wood-block printing, the ancients produced a tremendous volume of literature.

Yet how much of this material has been of lasting and vital importance to mankind? Whole libraries have been lost and forgotten. The meager writings of ancient philosophers and sages which are left to us now create little interest. The endless stream of literature which floods the world today is demonstrating just as transient qualities as did that of former days. Even our "best sellers" are soon thrown into the discard by a fickle public, who wait for some new thriller or some new philosophy of life.

But the word of God—that preeminent Book which we call the Bible is like a Gibraltar standing securely and permanently upon the shore of time. This Book, which has been handed down to us from ancient time, and which speaks to us with greater power today than it did even in the day of its creation, may well be called the One Priceless Book. No Other Volume can compare with the Bible in human worth, in spiritual value, in holy essence, in marvelous wisdom, in divine accuracy, and in redeeming power.

Though many value this Book above all others, no book has ever been so hated as the Bible. No volume has ever sustained such attacks upon it. Voltaire once declared, "The Bible is an exploded book." But long after this famous agnostic had ceased to be an influence in the world, a Bible Society was located in the very building in which he had lived, and the Bible had become a great power in the world. Ingersoll, the famous American atheist, also declared, "In ten years the Bible will not be read." That boast, made more than fifty years ago, finds its answer in the fact that today thirty million copies of the Bible and Bible portions are being circulated every year in more than a thousand languages. It is estimated that since the first printing of the Bible by Gutenberg, around 1450, well over one billion copies of the Bible have been distributed. The American Bible Society alone has circulated, since its founding in 1816, 290,663,685 copies of the Scriptures.

Well might one ask, "What makes the Bible of such priceless worth?" The consideration of a few facts pertaining to this marvelous Book, a brief study of its own extraordinary claims, and an investigation into present-day evidences of its authenticity and power, will help us to understand why men place so much confidence in it, and why it has survived the ravages of time, as well as all efforts of men to overthrow it.

2. A Divinely Inspired Book

The first and foremost reason for the supreme and permanent value of the Bible is its divinely

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inspired message to man. This Book is in reality a serial letter from God. Throughout the warp and woof of the Bible are woven the silver cord of divine inspiration and the golden thread of redeeming love. In all its parts we find a common objective and a uniform hope. Beginning at Genesis, the first book, in which God's creative power is brought to light, grace, mercy, and truth unfold the glorious panorama as we turn from page to page. Passing on through the revelation of patriarchs, prophets, kings, and apostles, the plan of redemption grows brighter in prospect and understanding until it bursts forth in triumphant splendor in the final chapters of this Holy Word.

No writings of men have ever made such astounding claims as does this Book. No authors have ever uttered such stupendous statements. The Bible itself plainly declares that it has been produced under divine inspiration. Listen to these words found in 2 Timothy 3:16, 17: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." Just how this inspiration was brought about is revealed in 2 Peter 1:21: "The prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

We find in the Old Testament more than two thousand times, such statements as these, "The Lord spoke," "The word of the Lord came," "Thus said the Lord." Of Moses it is recorded, "Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord," "Moses wrote all the words of the Lord." Exodus 24:3, 4. "The Lord said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book." Exodus 17:14. "The Lord said unto Moses, Write ... these words.... And he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights." Exodus 34:27, 28. On fifty-one occasions we read, "Then the Lord said unto Moses;" and on seventy-one occasions we read, "The Lord spoke unto Moses and said." Again we read in 2 Kings 14:25, "The word of the Lord God of Israel, which He spoke 'by the hand of His servant Jonah.'" In 2 Samuel 22:2, David declared of himself, "The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was in my tongue." John says of the last book of the Bible, "The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, ... and He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John." Revelation 1:1.

How guilty these authors of the Bible must be of gross deception if these statements are not true. The Bible is either the most pernicious of human falsifications and hence the most dangerous book ever written, or else it must be what it claims to be, a book of divine revelation. If it had been a book produced in sin and deception, or even blind superstition, how could it have withstood the attacks made upon it for two millenniums, and how could it have so greatly influenced the world for good as multitudes fully testify?

3. A Preeminently Authentic Book

The Bible is all that it claims to be. This has become more and more evident as one generation has succeeded another. The accuracy of its statements and the correctness of its prophecies attest to it in many ways that cannot be contradicted.

The Bible contains a record of the most ancient facts of earthly history. No author would have dared to write with such definiteness and detail, naming places, princes, and kings, unless he was sure that the facts were true. The evidences of authenticity of these facts are multiplying with the years. Every prop of Biblical criticism is collapsing under the weight of evidence being piled up by the records that have been unearthed from forgotten cities.

James Orr in his book, "The Problem of the Old Testament," pages 395 and 396, says:

"Nothing in the whole course of the last century is more remarkable than the recovery of the knowledge of ancient civilizations through the labors of explorers and the successful decipherment of old inscriptions. . . . It must be accounted a wonderful providence of God that, at a time when so much is being said and done to discredit the Old Testament, so marvelous a series of discoveries, bearing directly on matters contained in its pages, should have been made."

The astounding claims of this Book are authenticated by the wonderful fulfillment of its prophecies. The history of the Jews for the last three thousand years is a marvelous fulfillment of a prophecy recorded in the twenty-eighth chapter of Deuteronomy. The trend of history from the days of Babylon to the present day was foretold by Daniel in the early days of Babylon. The exact name and the remarkable work of Cyrus the Persian were foretold many years before his birth, and more than a century before he overthrew Babylon as the prophecy had predicted.

Detailed and specific prophecies concerning Babylon, Nineveh, Tyre, and Egypt, as well as other

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cities and peoples, have met accurate fulfillment. The Old Testament contains more than three hundred specific predictions concerning the Messiah which were fulfilled in the person of Jesus. We are told that according to the law of compound probability, chances of these prophecies concerning Christ coming true is represented by a fraction, the numerator of which is one and the denominator 84 followed by nearly one hundred ciphers. Any honest student of Biblical prophecy and sacred history cannot fail to be greatly impressed by the stupendous evidence of the divine authority of this Sacred Book.

The Bible was written two thousand years before the age of science; yet none of its statements have been proved unsound by modern scientists. Though scientific knowledge has greatly increased in the last hundred years, it has in no way undermined the scientific truths which the Bible anticipated. The remarkable scientific foreknowledge of the Bible attests to its divine authorship.

Men long held to the idea that light is but an emanation from the sun and other luminous bodies, but scientists now agree that light existed before the sun, which harmonizes with the record of Moses in Genesis one. Scientists now divide the earth into three kingdoms, the mineral, vegetable, and animal. This was not recognized by the ancients, although Moses' record of creation strictly conforms to this scientific truth, which is of comparatively recent discovery.

The ancients believed that the world was flat, and not until the days of Magellan and his men, who sailed round the world, was it proved otherwise. Yet Isaiah said, "It is He [God] that sits upon the circle of the earth." (Isaiah 40:22.) And Solomon wrote, "He that sets a circle upon the face of the deep." (Proverbs 8:27.) At the same time the learned men of the world believed that the earth rested on poles or was held up by the neck and shoulders of Atlas. But the writer of the book of Job knew better, and declared, "He . . . hangs the earth upon nothing." We may well ask, How did this writer know the law of gravity long before it was discovered, and how did he know numerous other things which were not generally known in his day? The only answer is that he wrote as he was moved upon by the Spirit of God, who knows all things.

Again we read in Job, "He stretches out the north over the empty place;" yet it was left until our day for astronomers to prove this. They now discover a great empty space on the north where there are no moving planets and shining stars. This is even now a wonder to these students of the skies. This book of Job is filled with a marvelous range of scientific truths, many of which have only in comparatively recent years been proved by scientific observation. One has stated, "Scientists today know much that Job never dreamed of, but there are forty anticipations of physical science in Job, thirty-eight which are marvelous questions even for today." – "Bible and Scientific Foreknowledge," Religious Digest, July, 1940.

The ancients believed that there were only a few stars in the sky. They counted about three thousand of them in the whole heavens. It was not until the seventeenth century, when Galileo made his telescope and scanned the heavens that men learned that there were many more stars in the heavens than could be seen with the naked eye. Yet Jeremiah wrote of the stars as being innumerable (Jeremiah 33:22), and Moses recorded the promise of God to Abraham which challenged his being able to number the stars. (Genesis 13:16; 15:5.) Isaiah portrayed in a beautiful way the order of the heavenly bodies as they moved in their orbits of space. (Isaiah 40:26.)

4. A Strangely Unified Book

When we consider the remarkable unity and harmony of the Scriptures, we must admit that there is no other book like it in the world of literature. No one could conceive of producing a book in the manner in which this one was produced and having much more than a jargon of unrelated ideas and facts. The Bible is a compilation of sixty-six different books written in three different languages by some forty different men over a period of 1,500 years. The men who wrote came from varied walks of life and lived at vastly different periods in the world's history; yet they produced writings which, when brought together, formed a book of marvelous unity in concept and teaching. One who reads through the Bible is impressed with the sameness of the message that runs through it from beginning to end.

Note who some of these writers were. There were Moses, adopted son of a famous princess of Egypt; David, shepherd boy of Judea who 'became king of a great nation; Solomon, his son, the wisest of ancient sages; Ezra, the careful scribe and godly scholar in the days of Cyrus the Persian. Daniel, the prime minister of two great universal kingdoms; Joshua, the freed slave of Egypt; Amos, a herdsman of Tekoa. Matthew, the tax gatherer. John and Peter, the fishermen. Luke, the physician; and Paul, the learned Pharisee.

The style of their writing was as varied as their environment. They wrote in prose, in poetry, in

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epic, in drama, in epigram, and in allegory. They uttered the loftiest idealism, the deepest knowledge, and the widest range of ancient facts. Though this is the most ancient book, yet it is today the most vital and influential book in the world. It is still the world's "best seller."

This Book is like a "three-color" process, showing up the story in different colors, but combining to make a beautiful whole. Again, it is like a grand orchestra with many playing different parts, but all playing one part of the music composed by one person.

Hastings asks the question, "Suppose that thirty or forty men should walk in through that door. One man comes from Maine, another from New Hampshire, another from Massachusetts, and so on from each State, each bearing a block of marble of peculiar shape. Suppose I pile up these blocks in order until I have the figure of a man, perfectly symmetrical and beautifully chiseled, and I say, 'How did these men, who have never seen each other, chisel out that beautiful statue?' You say, . . . 'Each man working by the pattern, the work fits accurately when completed.'" – "Will the Old Book Stand?" pp. 21, 22.

What is your answer to the beautiful harmony of the writers of the Bible? We must accept the word of the Book itself: "Holy men of God spoke [and wrote] as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

5. A Miracle-Working Book

The Bible appeals to men of every age and every clime. The scholar stands in awe of its mysteries, and the child loves to hear its simple stories. The views of ancients revealed no understanding of the position or the need of man. They gave him a position lower than the animals, which he was compelled to worship. The Bible placed a proper estimate upon man. It made him a leader in the animal kingdom, and made him feel his dignity by telling him that the first man was created in the image of God.

The Bible inspires confidence, for it speaks sincerely. The biographies of its heroes are honestly written. No man is exalted above another; all are alike imperfect, though some walk along the way of righteousness somewhat more perfectly than others. However, the Book speaks of only one absolutely perfect man, and He is the One who came to lead all men to perfection, whether they be slaves or princes.

The message of the book speaks to the heart of men. All are sinners, says the Book, and every man in his sober moments knows that he is a sinner and needs deliverance. The Bible offers salvation to every man, and offers it freely. It shows a man how he may climb out of the pit in which he finds himself, how he may escape the snare in which he is entangled, how he may find life even in the hour of death, how he may have hope when the dangers thicken and clouds gather.

When a man reads the psalms or the parables, he says, "That was written for me." When he scans the record of Jacob, David, and Peter, he says, "These were men just like me." Yes, the Bible is the most understanding book ever written. God knew what was in man, and He had men write as He knew. This is the secret of the tremendous appeal of this Book.

The greatest testimony in behalf of the Bible is found in the life of those who have been changed by its redeeming power. As some testified of Christ to the woman of Samaria, so many today may testify what they themselves have felt concerning this Book of God. They said, "Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard Him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world." (John 4:42.)

Many men and women have been lifted from degradation by the message of this Book. Whole nations have been raised to a higher plane of living because of the influence of the Bible. A new civilization has risen with the dissemination of the Scriptures. All that is good and true in this world today can be credited to the influence of this word of God.

6. Appeal-Make This Book Your Guide

Millions now hail the Bible as the One Priceless Book. Many hearts respond to the word of the psalmist, who wrote:

"The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart. . . . More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is Thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward." (Psalm 19:7-11.)

Friends, make this Holy Book the guide of your life and the source of your counsel. Search its pages as for lost treasure, and you will find priceless pearls of truth. Go to it in your hour of perplexity, and

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you will discover an answer for every problem. Make it the rule of your faith, and it will direct you safely through the perplexing maze of difficulties that now are arising in the world. The Bible has a message from God for you today. This Book may be old, but it is kept fresh by the breath of heaven. God knew what men needed in a day like this. In a time when thick darkness gathers over the world, happy is the man who can say, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105.)

5. THE TRUTH ABOUT HEAVEN

(Heaven)

SERMON OUTLINE

I. Introduction: A future reward the belief of mankind In all ages. Happy hunting grounds of American Indian. Tomb of King "Tut," with its food and furniture. Christians generally believe in a heaven, but have vague and uncertain beliefs regarding it.

2. What the Bible teaches about heaven.

1. Christ's promise to "prepare mansions" for His people. John 14:1-3.

2. Heaven a real place in the starry heavens. Occupies space.

3. The New Jerusalem, the metropolis of the new earth.

a. Shown to John the revelator in vision. Revelation 21: 10.

b. Dazzling splendor and transcendent beauty.

c. Vast size.

d. Walls of jasper and streets of gold.

e. Twelve gates of pearl.

f. Throne of God and Lamb in midst of city.

g. River and tree of life.

4. No more tears, sickness, pain, deformity, death, war.

5. A mansion for each one who dwells there.

6. Blessed privilege of companionship with patriarchs and prophets of the ages, and with Jesus Himself.

3. Appeal: How to get a passport to heaven and its glories.

By ROBERT S. FRIES
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1. Introduction

A HEAVEN of bliss and happiness after death has been the belief of mankind from the remotest ages of antiquity. When the tomb of the Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamen was opened, they found in it the royal couch, his chariot of gold, furniture of all kinds, and an abundance of embalmed food, placed there with the hope of making the king happy in the future world.

The American Indian was buried with his bow and arrows, and his favorite horse was slain at the burial spot. All this was done so that nothing would be missing that might add to his joy in the happy hunting grounds beyond.

It was almost a universal belief that the future home for those who died was a real place, a place where life would continue under almost the same conditions that prevail on this earthly sphere.

Most Christians have vague and uncertain ideas as to the nature of the heaven in which they expect to dwell after death. They are taught that they will have a "spiritual body," so ethereal that it will be like a vapor-nothing real, nothing tangible. Heaven is to be located in the "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere"-just where, nobody knows. The occupation of these "spirits" will be to sit on a cloud, playing on harps of