

The Bible Speaks

Christian gospel to preach, no Christian faith to declare. The resurrection of Jesus is the very center of the Christian view of history, shedding a transfiguring light back on all nature and history before Him and throwing forward a transforming radiance on our whole outlook for the future. In it lies the promise of a new humanity, of a 'new order' as we say so often in these days, a 'new heaven and a new earth wherein dwells righteousness' (2 Peter 3:13). J. M. Shaw, "The Gospel We Declare," Religion in Life, Volume 13, Number 1, pages 81-84.

8. What did the resurrection confirm?

Jesus was "declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead." Romans 1:4. See also Acts 13:33.

9. What did it also convincingly demonstrate?

"Now if Christ be preached that He rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?" 1 Corinthians 15:12.

10. As a result of His resurrection what did Jesus claim?

"I am He that lives, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." Revelation 1:18.

11. What proof of His power over death was given immediately after Jesus arose from the tomb?

"The graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after His resurrection, and went into the Holy City, and appeared unto many." Matthew 27:52, 53.

12. Of what may believers be assured?

"This is the will of Him that sent Me, that everyone which sees the Son, and believes on Him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:40. See also 1 Corinthians 15:23,52.

13. How vital is the resurrection in the plan of salvation?

"If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. You are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished." Verses 14-18.

14. What prominence did Paul give to the resurrection?

"Paul, as his manner was, reasoned with them out of the Scriptures, opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom, said he, I preach unto you, is Christ." Acts 17:2, 3, margin. See also Acts 26:22, 23.

15. What attitude to this truth should we share with Paul?

"I count all things but loss: that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection; . . . if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead." Philippians 3:8-11.

The Holy Spirit

1. WHO is associated with the Father and Son in the triune Godhead?

"GO you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and Of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 28:18.

2. What statements make it quite clear that the Spirit is a Person and not merely a divine influence?

a. He is capable of speech. "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit said unto the churches." Revelation 2:7.

b. He manifests emotions of pleasure, vexation, grief. It seemed good to the Holy Ghost." Acts 15:28. "They rebelled, and vexed His Holy Spirit." Isaiah 63:10. "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God." Ephesians 4:30.

NOTE - If we think of the Holy Spirit only as an impersonal power or influence, then our thought

The Bible Speaks

will constantly be, how can I get hold of and use the Holy Spirit. But if we think of Him in the Biblical way as a divine person, infinitely wise, infinitely holy, infinitely tender, then our thought will constantly be, 'How can the Holy Spirit get hold of and use me?' R. A. Torrey, in *The Fundamentals*, Volume 1, Page 55.

c. He has executive ability and is capable of purposive action. "All these works that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will." 1 Corinthians 12:11. "The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." Genesis 1:2.

d. He works wonders. "Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ." Romans 15:19.

e. He gives guidance. "When He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth." John 16:13.

f. He appeals to the Father on behalf of men. "Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered." Romans 8:26.

NOTE "Not only does the Spirit understand the unexpressed yearnings of our innermost hearts, but He passes them on to the Savior. Knowing just what we need, the Holy Spirit inspires our yearnings, then translates these yearnings and dictates our appeal to Heaven. From the completely surrendered soul who may ask amiss, not understanding what is best, but desiring to yield all to the guidance of the Spirit, He takes the requests and directs the results according to God's plan. What a wonderful helper He is!"-Lynn H. Wood, *Mysteries Unveiled*, page 229.

3. What part had the Spirit in the work of creation?

"The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." Genesis 1:2.

4. Since the entrance of sin how has God communicated with man?

"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." 2 Peter 1:21.

5. How was the Holy Spirit associated with the incarnation?

"The angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that Holy Thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Luke 1:35.

6. In what way did God manifest His approval of Jesus at His baptism?

"John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon Him." John 1:32.

7. How was Jesus empowered for His ministry?

"Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee; and there went out a fame of Him through all the region roundabout." Luke 4:14.

8. By what power was Jesus fortified to endure the cross?

"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" Hebrews 9:14.

9. What part did the Spirit have in the resurrection of Jesus?

"Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit." 1 Peter 3:18.

10. Who was appointed to take the place of Jesus at His ascension?

"I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth." John 14:16, 17.

NOTE "A Comforter. The word is a wide one. It means one who comforts, or who pleads, or who exhorts; one who 'calls us to his side,' as a father does his child when he has some special thing to say. The

The Bible Speaks

Holy Ghost is all this to us. How little we use Him, or trust Him, or lean on Him, or love Him, or deal with Him. And how much we suffer loss by this neglect! How much do we grieve and vex Him! We might be so much more full of peace, and light, and love, and holiness, and strength, and comfort, did we but employ this 'Comforter' more constantly, more trustfully." - Horatius Bonar, Light and Truth, page 373.

11. How is the Spirit active in the work of redemption?

a. Convicts of sin, makes known divine righteousness, and warns of judgment. "When He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." John 16:8.

b. Regenerates. "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." John 3:5, 6.

NOTE. "We talk of reconstruction. That is outward. The New Testament talks of rebirth. That is inward. How much farther must we move in the wrong direction before the miserable heresy of humanism-that within man lies all the power he needs to transform himself and the world-receives its deathblow?" - Leslie D. Weatherhead, In Quest of a Kingdom, page 14.

"Being born, the first or the second time, is clearly not a duty to be performed by ourselves. No man can 'horn' himself. Turning to God, submitting himself to God-that is a duty. Being made a new man, being spiritually renewed, being given a clearer sight-that is a blessing from above. Turning, trusting-that is man's part. Renewing, regenerating-that is God's part. If we will do our part, God can be relied on to do His part. To doubt this is wrong and unjustifiable." H. Clay Trumbull, Our Misunderstood Bible, page 92.

12. In what further work is the Spirit engaged on behalf of the children of God?

a. Sanctifies. That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost!" Romans 15:16.

b. Illuminates. "Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak." John 16:13.

c. Empowers. "Then he answered and spoke unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, said the Lord of hosts." Zechariah 4:6.

NOTE-If we realize that God's Spirit is the guarantee for the success of work done for God, we shall escape the vulgar error of measuring the importance of things by their size. If we try to get so near God as to see things with His eyes, we shall be saved from many a false estimate of what is great and what is small, and may have our own poor little doings invested with strange dignity, because He deigns to behold and bless them."-Alexander Maclaren, The Books of Ezekiel, Daniel and the Minor Prophets, pages 299, 300.

d. Protects. "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him." Isaiah 59:19.

NOTE. "The Holy Spirit may help us, will surely help us, just as far as He can, even if we do not know His name or ever call upon Him. But there is so much more that He might do for us if we would only open our hearts and ask Him to come into them. Remember, He is God, and God is love. And no man ever asks God to come into his heart and holds his heart open to God, without God's entering." Phillips Brooks, The Candle of the Lord, page 230.

13. In what mighty way will the activity of the Spirit be manifest in the latter days?

"Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for He hath given you the former rain moderately, and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month." Joel 2:23. See also Hosea 6:3.

14. In what way will the work of the Spirit in the latter days correspond with that at Pentecost?

"With many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation." Acts 2:40. "Come out of her, My people, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues." Revelation 18:4.

What Happened at Pentecost?

1. BY what means was Israel instructed in the wilderness?

“Thou gavest also Thy good Spirit to instruct them, and withheld not Thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst.” Nehemiah 9:20.

2. Through whom did the prophets receive their messages?

“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.” 2 Peter 1:21.

3. How did the children of Israel relate themselves to these ministrations of the Spirit of God?

“They rebelled, and vexed His Holy Spirit.” Isaiah 63:10.

4. What attitude did the Spirit therefore adopt toward Israel?

“Therefore He was turned to be their enemy, and He fought against them.” Verse 10.

5. With what promise did God encourage the faithful remnant?

“It shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh!” Joel 2:28. See also Isaiah 44:1

6. What profound results would follow this new outpouring of the Spirit?

“I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in MY statutes, and you shall keep My judgments, and do them.” Ezekiel 36:27.

7. By whom was the promise of the Spirit renewed?

John the Baptist. “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that comes after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.” Matthew 3:11.

8. In what fuller way did Jesus tell the disciples of the coming outpouring of the Spirit?

“I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees Him not, neither knows Him: but you know Him; for He dwells with you, and shall be in you.” John 14:16,17.

9. After His resurrection how did Jesus assure His disciples that the promise was about to be fulfilled?

“And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, said He, you have heard of Me. For John truly baptized with water; but you shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence!” Acts 1:4,5.

10. In what spectacular way was the promise fulfilled?

“When the Day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost.” Acts 2:1-4.

NOTE “The Pentecostal outpouring was Heaven’s communication that the Redeemer’s inauguration was accomplished. According to His promise He had sent the Holy Spirit from heaven to His followers, as a token that He had, as Priest and King, received all authority in heaven and on earth, and was the Anointed One over His people.” - E. G. White, The Acts of the Apostles, page 39.

11. What transformation did the Spirit work in the disciples?

“They began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:4.

12. What revolutionary results followed when they witnessed in the power of the Spirit?

“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the

The Bible Speaks

apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.” Verses 37-43.

13. How did Peter explain the miracle of Pentecost to the multitude?

“This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, said God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh.” Verses 16, 17. Read verse 18.

14. What promise was extended to all who responded to the gospel appeal?

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost!” Verse 38.

The Gifts of the Spirit

1. WHEN Jesus ascended to heaven, what did He receive from the Father on behalf of His disciples?

“Thou has ascended on high, Thou has led captivity captive: Thou has received gifts for men.” Psalm 68:18. See also Ephesians 4:7, 8.

2. Through whom are these spiritual gifts communicated to men?

“God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to His own will.” Hebrews 2:4.

3. How anxious was Paul that the church should understand the nature and purpose of spiritual gifts?

“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.” 1 Corinthians 12:1.

4. Is there more than one gift of the Spirit?

“Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.” Verse 4.

5. What are some of the gifts of the Spirit?

“He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.” Ephesians 4:11. See also 1 Corinthians 12:28.

6. Elsewhere what other gifts of the Spirit does Paul enumerate?

“To one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit. To another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits. To another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues.” 1 Corinthians 12:8-10.

7. On what basis are the gifts of the Spirit dispensed?

a. According to the will of God. “All these works that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will.” Verse 11.

b. Appropriate to the individual. “Every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.” 1 Corinthians 7:7.

8. How is the Christian’s experience enriched by spiritual gifts?

“I thank my God always on your behalf; that in everything you are enriched by Him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge.” 1 Corinthians 1:4, 5.

9. What may the Christian, therefore, legitimately covet?

“Covet earnestly the best gifts.” 1 Corinthians 12:31.

10. What, however, is even more to be desired than the gifts of the Spirit?

The Bible Speaks

“Though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.” 1 Corinthians 13:2. See also 1 Corinthians 14:1.

11. For what purpose are the gifts of the Spirit conferred?

“The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.” 1 Corinthians 12:7.

12. In what ways does the church profit from the exercise of spiritual gifts?

“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ!” Ephesians 4:12.

13. What responsibility, therefore, does the recipient have toward his gifts?

“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God gives: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 4:10, 11. See also Romans 12:6-8.

14. How did Paul encourage Timothy in the use of his particular gifts?

“Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.” 2 Timothy 1:6. “Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.” 1 Timothy 4:14.

NOTE “There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, by putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God. The Spirit of God, received into the soul, will quicken all its faculties. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the mind that is devoted unreservedly to God, develops harmoniously, and is strengthened to comprehend and fulfill the requirements of God. The weak, vacillating character becomes changed to one of strength and steadfastness.” - E. G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, pages 250, 251.

15. How long will the gifts of the Spirit be made available?

“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” Ephesians 4:13.

3. The Beginning

How the World Began

1. WHAT knowledge do we have concerning the origin of the earth?

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” Genesis 1:1.

NOTE It is a comparatively new experience that the church now has, this of seeing the great truths of the natural world arraying themselves for her help. A new experience this, for the church to be now the one to insist that the geologist and the biologist hold steadily to the exact working of their favorite textbook without any dodging or quibbling, and without any pleas of wrong translation or of interpolations or imperfections of the record. But such is the present situation. It is now the evolutionist’s turn to run for cover. For outside the divine Guidebook which she has brought with her down the ages, and outside the historic record of the holy work she has been constantly doing for individuals and for nations, the church of this twentieth century has no more convincing credentials of her divine origin, no truer friend, no more valiant helper or defender, than modern science has at last become in spite of those busybodies who have so long sought to keep these sisters apart by slandering the one to the other.”-George McCready Price, *Back to the Bible*, pp. 221, 222.

2. By what agencies did God create the worlds?