

PRACTICAL LESSONS FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF ISRAEL

19. The Value and Inspiration of the Scriptures

“And that from a child thou has known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 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.” 2 Timothy 3:15-17.

THE PRESENT REGARD FOR THE BIBLE

SINCE it has been the desire of the author in these pages to call attention to the causes of the condition of the Jews, which led them away from the simple truths of the Bible, and therefore their failure to see Jesus as the Christ. And by this means to have the reader understand what must necessarily be the results to the church of Christ, and to the people everywhere today, if they fail to heed these valuable lessons, it would seem most fitting to close this work with a few thoughts on the value and inspiration of the Scriptures. It must be clear to every thinking person that the Bible is not prized nor appreciated today by the professed followers of Christ as it should be; its value is not correctly estimated. Its truths are not as highly regarded as they ought to be; and their relation to the individual and to the church is not as clearly understood as it must be, in order to know and to understand what God requires.

2. We read that Christ was not only a stumbling block to Israel at His first advent, but He would be a stumbling block to both the houses of Israel. [1] Should not the Israel of God today, [2] the church of Christ, know just how she is steering, what are her bearings, and to what she is anchored? Is it to the word of the living God, or to the traditions of men?

DO NOT KNOW THE BIBLE.

3. When Christ came to earth He said to the Jews:

“You know not the scriptures, neither the power of God.” [3]

This did not indicate that they were ignorant of the Bible; neither did it mean that they had not read the Bible. Nor did it mean that they were not familiar with its teachings. There were men at that time who knew every book, every chapter, every sentence, and every word from Genesis to Malachi. They were thoroughly conversant with the wording of the Scripture. [4] But the great difficulty with them was they understood it only in the light of the interpretation, explanation, and construction placed upon the Bible by the teachers and rabbis.

4. When the priests and rabbis were asked by Herod where Christ was to be born, they turned to the Scripture very readily, and said, in Bethlehem of Judea. [5] And why? Because the prophet said so. [6] But the difficulty was that at the very time they were reading this Scripture that very Messiah was lying close by them, but they did not appreciate the fact that He was the One in whom this prophecy was being fulfilled. “He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.” [7]

WHY THE BIBLE IS NOT UNDERSTOOD

5. The reason they did not know was because they did not rightly divide the word of truth. [8] Because many of the rulers of the Pharisees did not believe on Him, [9] it was taken for granted that the Scriptures could not apply to Him. As a result they were ensnared, entrapped, led away, by following the teachings of men. [10]

6. Is there not a striking parallel today with many of the professed religious people? They know not the Scriptures, neither the power of God. Not that they do not have Bibles not that they cannot read the Bibles, not that they are not acquainted with what the Bible says; but so much of the teaching of the Scriptures is believed according to the explanations and traditions of men. Human ideas are erected as standards for the interpretation of God’s word; and men follow as they are led. If matters thus continue, we must expect similar results will follow, unless the people of the present time will awaken to their opportunities and responsibilities, even as did the disciples of Jesus, [11] and personally read the word of

PRACTICAL LESSONS FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF ISRAEL

God, know what it teaches, and then with the courage of their convictions, follow wherever Jesus leads in the teachings of His blessed Word.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE? VARIOUS OPINIONS

7. It might be well right at this juncture to pause and inquire, "What is the Bible?" We very well know there are scores, yes hundreds, of current opinions as to what the Bible is, and how it should be regarded. Scarcely any two agree. It is held by some educators and theologians that the Bible is a good book, but not much better than many other books. It is said by others that the Bible is inspired, but so are the works of many men. It is claimed by still others that there are many errors in the Bible, as there are in other books. It is also claimed that the Bible must be judged by the science of the day, as modern science is the test of all truth. As a result it is maintained that the Bible is not wholly in agreement with science, as it does not stand the test of truth on many scientific phenomena. So after all, we return to the query, "What is the Bible?" Have we any definite knowledge? Can we be positive what it is? Have we absolute certainty?

8. Yes, there is certainty, positive proof, absolute authority, as to what the Bible is; and the answer comes directly and distinctly:

"It is the word of the living God;" [12] and "the word of God is quick [living], and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." [13]

THE SWEETNESS OF THE BIBLE WHEN UNDERSTOOD

9. It is not the purpose of the author to enter into any discussion to prove that the Scripture is the inspired word of God; neither does he wish to prove its inspiration from any logical or scientific standpoint. This the Lord is able to do Himself, by His own blessed Spirit; for it is written that the word which proceeds from the mouth of God shall not return unto Him void. It shall accomplish all that He wishes. [14] The one great desire of the writer is to call the attention of the reader to the value and inspiration of the whole Bible as the word of God, especially those scriptures which are so much neglected, and which are considered of so little value. When a proper estimate is placed on these great and neglected scriptures, then the Bible will be much more appreciated. The word of the Lord will be sweet as the honey and the honeycomb. [15] Men and women will then want to eat the words of the living God, [16] which they will find will be to their souls like the heavenly manna. [17]

10. Very few people who really believe the Bible to be the word of God ever think of doubting the New Testament, though we find today the tendency growing to discredit even some portions of this. But so large a number of professed religious people today, seem to have the idea that the Scriptures of the Old Testament, the writings of Moses and the prophets, were very well in their time, and served their purpose; but are very little needed in the church of Christ today. It is thought that not much in them is really desirable, and only few of them can be understood. As a result they do not receive the study and consideration which they ought to have.

MOSES AND THE PROPHETS

11. It is to Moses and the prophets, [18] the Scriptures of truth, [19] that the attention needs to be directed, for in these is found a solution of the value of the Bible as the word of God. In fact the very foundation of all the truth of the gospel of Christianity is based on Moses and the prophets; and if these are not believed then the foundations of the gospel are discredited.

12. A fact most remarkable yet lamentable is the general tendency to cast discredit on these sacred volumes, whereas Christ used them as proof and demonstration of His mission and authority. If this authority can once more be reinstated in the minds of men, the same effect will be seen in the lives of the devotees as was demonstrated when these truths were believed and preached. Science, philosophy, scholarship, literary culture, and intellectual pursuits, seem to conspire against these precious and sacred volumes: nevertheless the foundation of God stands sure. [20]

13. Yes, Moses and the prophets are the inspired records of God, [21] proofs of the authenticity of the word of God, and bases for the fulfillment of God's blessed truth. [22]

PRACTICAL LESSONS FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF ISRAEL

WHAT IS INSPIRATION?

14. The question will naturally arise, however, as to what is inspiration? The answer is given as follows:

“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not at any time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” [23]

The Bible defines inspiration as the moving of the Holy Ghost upon the hearts of men; the Holy Spirit doing the breathing and speaking, (a) while having these men under its control. It is true there were times when men who spoke under the inspiration of God said things they would rather not have said, because by so doing they were losers of wealth and influence. But they realized they were mouth-pieces for God, and were obliged to say only those things which God placed in their mouths. This was especially true of the Prophet Balaam, who was called to curse Israel for the King of Moab. The king promised him a large sum of money if he would only come and curse the people. [24] He was told by the Lord not to go. [25] He finally insisted upon going; then he was granted permission. The Lord, however, told Him only to speak what he should be told. [26] Being brought to a certain place by the king, he went and asked God what to speak. On returning he said:

“How shall I curse whom God hath not cursed? Or how shall I defy whom the Lord hath not defied?” [27]

The king then remonstrated with the prophet for blessing the people instead of cursing them, to which Balaam replied:

“Must I not take heed to speak that which the Lord hath put in my mouth?” [28]

15. Several times the king endeavored to have Balaam curse the people; and as many times the Lord placed words in his mouth, which he spoke in blessing. [29] He could say only that which the Lord told him. This is inspiration. God speaking through men; God the speaker, the man the medium of communication. Thus the inspiration of the word of God is simply God talking to and through men. Oh, that men could but realize what it means to listen to God speaking to them. [30]

ALL SCRIPTURE INSPIRED

16. In view of this definition of inspiration the Apostle Paul makes this statement:

“ 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.” [31]

Thus we are told by this inspired man of God that all scripture is given by the breath of God; every part of it is inspired, all has been written by men, whom God selected. This of course does not imply that whatever is found in the Scriptures was directly spoken to the people by the Lord through His servants; as for instance the lie of Satan to Eve. [32] The serpent spoke to Eve but God told Moses to write the conversation, and He told Him just what the statement was. And the same with other things; God told the men to write those things which others may have said, and the inspiration of God told the writers what to insert and what to omit.

17. Can it be demonstrated, therefore, that every one of the books we now have, known as the Old Testament, are really the inspired words of God, and were written by the men who are regarded as their authors? As proof that it can we will let Christ, the Author of truth, [33] the fulfillment of Moses and the prophets, and the Apostles, the chosen men of God, reply. May it be that by a proper understanding of these facts we shall better appreciate the value and inspiration of the blessed Scriptures, which were not only

PRACTICAL LESSONS FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF ISRAEL

breathed into the lives of the men who wrote them, but may also be inhaled into the life of every man, who will receive them absolutely as they are, the living words of the living God. [34]

THE BOOK OF GENESIS

18. Perhaps there is no book in all the Bible that is less regarded as really inspired and literally true than the first book of the Bible. It is twisted, distorted, explained away, philosophized, criticized, and generally disregarded. [35] It is said that one person wrote the first chapter, while some one else wrote the second and perhaps the third. (b) Then it is claimed that it is rather indefinite who wrote the fourth and fifth chapters, and those following. Whereas many of the characters in the book are regarded as myths. Thus speaks man. But what do Christ and the inspired men of God say concerning it?

(a) Christ's testimony:

"Do not think that I will accuse you unto the Father; there is one that accuses you, even Moses, in whom you trust. For had you believed Moses, you would have believed Me: for he wrote of Me. But if you believe not his writings, how shall you believe My words?" [36]

"They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." [37]

"And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself." [38]

"These are the words which I spoke unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning Me." [39]

WRITINGS OF MOSES NECESSARY TO BELIEF IN CHRIST

19. It is thus evident that Jesus believed in Moses; He believed that Moses was inspired, that the writings of Moses referred to Himself. He believed and knew that Moses did write those things. The Savior, moreover, said that a basis of faith in Him as the Christ, the Anointed of God, were the writings of Moses. If they did not believe what Moses wrote, they could not believe His words. This being true, if people do not know what Moses wrote, how can they be prepared to believe what Jesus taught? The one is the basis for the other. If the Jews had only believed the writings of Moses, they would certainly have believed in Jesus. True, they claimed to believe in Moses, and went as far as to profess they were Moses' disciples; [40] but their faith in Moses was governed by their rabbinical traditions, instead of their personal faith and knowledge of the prophet's teaching. The church of today should bear that fact in mind; if the professed church desires to grow in faith and in the grace of Jesus Christ, [41] let her ascertain what Moses taught concerning the Lord.

CHRIST'S BELIEF IN THE INSPIRATION OF GENESIS

20. Did Christ then believe in the book of Genesis? We are all aware that it is recognized that the Jews at the time of Christ believed that Moses wrote that book. In fact there never has been known any learned Jewish rabbi or teacher, all through the centuries and millenniums of the past, that ever questioned the authenticity of Genesis, or cast discredit upon it, as not having been written by Moses. It was always so recognized, and even is today by the orthodox Jews.

21. Christ quoted from the second chapter of Genesis, to prove the marriage relation. [42] He quoted from the sixth chapter to show the wickedness of the last days. [43] He quoted Abraham on several occasions, [44] thus showing His faith in a number of other chapters in Genesis. He quoted from the nineteenth chapter to show what will transpire just prior to his Second Coming. [45] Many other instances do we find in the teachings of Christ Himself, where He freely used and quoted from the first book of the Bible. It was of value to Him; He believed in it; He relied upon it; He closely followed it. His strength and power lay in receiving and believing it, and adhering closely to its teachings.

THE APOSTLES BELIEVED IT INSPIRED

(b) Matthew believed in it; for the very first sentence in his gospel refers to Abraham, [46] whose

PRACTICAL LESSONS FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF ISRAEL

life's record is contained in Genesis.

(c) Mark believed in it; for He refers to that book, as the sayings of Jesus, in His writings. [47]

(d) Luke believed in it; for He quotes from it freely, [48] and also mentions a number of places where Jesus spoke of it.

(e) John accepted it, as the inspired word of God.

(f) Paul believed in it, and took many a sermon, filled with the power of God, from the writings of the first book of the Bible. [49] Thus we find that all the inspired writers believed in that book, and believed that Moses wrote it.

22. Paul quotes from the first chapter, [50] the second chapter, [51] the third chapter, [52] the fourth chapter, [53] the fifth chapter; [54] in fact nearly every chapter of the book is quoted by the different writers of the New Testament, as well as by the Savior Himself. Thus we can see the importance the Savior and the Apostles attached to the first book of the Bible. There is a reason for this, and the prince of evil is aware of it.

DESTROYING THE HOUSE: AN ILLUSTRATION

23. If a man wished to destroy the house of an enemy, he would not begin by pulling out the nails, loosening the boards, or even removing the shingles. But the quickest and most effective way to destroy the house would be by loosening the foundation of the building. If he succeeded in accomplishing this, he is positive that the entire structure will soon go.

24. Thus it is with the work of God. The house of God, which is the church of the living God, [55] is built upon the foundations of the Apostles and prophets, with Jesus as the corner stone. [56] But the subsoil truth is the book of Genesis. If the basis can only be shaken. If men can only lose faith in the absolute inspiration of this book. If men can be led to believe that this book is not the word of God, the devil knows he has not a hard task to overthrow the superstructure of the building. But we are told that the foundation of God stands sure. [57] The Lord inspired the book. He created the world in six days, (c) [58] days of twenty-four hours each, the same kind of a day that we have at the present time. All the book is God breathed. Hence the book received into the heart of the believer will give to him power, life, and energy which only the Author of it can bestow.

THE BOOK OF EXODUS

25. Is the second book of the Pentateuch the inspired word of God? And have we authority that this book was written by Moses? We might quote much on this point; but a few witnesses must suffice.

(a) The Savior's evidence:

"And as touching the dead, that they rise: have you not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spoke unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?" [59]

The Master states plainly that Moses wrote this book, and if the third chapter of Exodus is read, the very words which are quoted here will be found. So this book is both inspired, and has for its author that faithful man of God, Moses.

(b) Paul's testimony:

"And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished." [60]

"Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle. For, see, said He, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed thee in the mount." [61]

(c) Stephen's testimony:

"The same dealt subtly with our kindred; and evil-entreated our fathers, so that they cast out their young children, to the end they might not live. In which time Moses was born, and was exceeding fair, and nourished up in his father's house three months. And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds. This is he [that is, Moses] who received the lively oracles to give unto us." [62]

We have at least three witnesses, and more can be produced, inspired with the Holy Ghost, that

PRACTICAL LESSONS FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF ISRAEL

testify to the truthfulness of Exodus, and Moses as its author.

THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS

26. How few people there are who seem much interested in this volume of the book. [63] And yet this is one of the best and most blessed of all the lively oracles. [64] In fact the book of Hebrews never could have been written, were it not for Leviticus; for the whole plan of God's atonement for the world is vividly portrayed in this book.

CHRIST AND THE APOSTLES BELIEVED IT

27. Yes, and Moses wrote it. Since Moses wrote it, it is evident it must have been written before his death. But he died before the children of Israel crossed the Jordan to enter the promised land. Therefore this book of Leviticus must have been written before the people reached the land of Canaan. We find that there seems to be a growing tendency in these latter days toward advocating that this book was written after the people were settled in Canaan. (d) We give one testimony which must be considered prime authority to show that this was not so, but that it was written by Moses.

28. Christ's testimony:

"When He was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. And, behold, there came a leper and worshiped Him, saying, Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou can make me clean. And Jesus put forth His hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. And Jesus said unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, show thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them." [65]

Here the Messiah, the Messenger of God, the only begotten of the Father, who always dwelt in the bosom of the Almighty, tells us Himself that the command concerning the law of leprosy was given by Moses. The record of these laws we find in Leviticus.

Luke's testimony:

29. The evangelist Luke in writing the account of the Savior's birth and dedication to the Lord, plainly states that Mary complied with certain laws of purification, which were commanded by Moses. These laws we also find in the book of Leviticus. [66]

Paul's testimony:

30. As was previously mentioned, Paul, the author of the book of Hebrews, wrote that book largely as a result of the book of Leviticus. He freely quotes from the book, and gives many passages; [67] and clearly demonstrates from that third book of Moses the everlasting priesthood of the Lord Jesus. [68] Thus we have at least three witnesses concerning this volume, and more might be given.

THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

31. The word which is translated into the English, Numbers, in the Hebrew is mid wilderness. And it scarcely needs to be mentioned that Moses was the leader of the children of Israel all through the wilderness. He was with them from the beginning of their experience to the very time they were about to pass over. Who then was qualified as well as was he, to write the account of the dealings of God with the people. Many are the testimonies given by the inspired Apostles which conclusively show that this book is the testimony of the Lord. We can give but few.

32. Christ's testimony:

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." [69]

The account of the lifting up of the serpent we find in the book of Numbers. [70] This was done because of the murmuring of the people. Thus in this lesson from the book of Numbers we find an illustration of the work of Jesus, the Healer, the Messiah.

33. Matthew's testimony:

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is He that is born, King of the Jews? For we have

PRACTICAL LESSONS FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF ISRAEL

seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him.” [71]

The prophecy of this Star was given by direct inspiration to Balaam the prophet, mentioned in paragraph fourteen of this chapter. The prophecy is as follows:

“I shall see Him, but not now: I shall behold Him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Scepter shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.” [72]

34. Paul’s evidence:

The Apostle Paul gives repeated testimonies from the book of Numbers. [73] Most of the chapters of the book are quoted, several verses together sometimes. [74] But the faith of the apostle in this book was unbounded, and from its contents the Holy Ghost inspired him to select material to write the gospel of Jesus, the Son of God.

THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

35. We now come to the fifth and last book of the Pentateuch. The word Deuteronomy, comes from the Hebrew word, which means repetition. This is exactly what the book does. It repeats the whole history of the dealings of God with the Israelites from the time of their passage through the Red Sea, till the time Moses was called of God to lay down his life. The book itself, if it were only read, would clearly show that God spoke its contents, and Moses wrote the words. We find, however, several statements from this book quoted as evidence for the belief of the Apostles in Jesus as the Christ. The Savior Himself recognized that Moses was its author.

36. Christ’s testimony:

“They say unto Him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? He said unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your but from the beginning it was not so.” [75]

“The same day came to Him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked Him, saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.” [76]

37. In neither of these cases do we find the Savior denying that Moses was authority for the statements. He knew as well as did the Jews that Moses wrote them; and He repeatedly urged the people to believe and read His writings.

38. Peter and Stephen, men filled with the Holy Ghost, quoted from this book before the multitudes, [77] as their proof that Jesus is the Christ, and the great Prophet which God predicted should come. This truth we know cut the hearts of the Sanhedrin and many of the Jewish leaders, [78] thus demonstrating that these writings had power, and were essential to prove Jesus as the Christ.

THE ENTIRE PENTATEUCH

39. Thus we have clearly shown that the whole of the Pentateuch, the five books of Moses, was written by inspiration of God, by the mighty man Moses. Every book was necessary; every book had a mission; every book had salvation; every book was directed by the Holy Spirit; every book taught Christ. [79]

40. When Christ had risen from the dead and walked with the disciples on their way to Emmaus, He called their attention to those things in Moses which concerned Himself. Moses, He said, wrote these things. Moses told that they would happen. Moses showed you all about My life and work. The disciples afterward admitted that their hearts burned within them, as the Scriptures were opened to them by the way. [80] If that was done with the writings of Moses once, and was repeated by the Apostles later, will not the same results naturally and necessarily follow, if Moses is taught again? If the people can but see that Jesus, the Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed of God is in Moses’ writings, will not then these blessed Scriptures impart new life, light, and power to every soul?

PRACTICAL LESSONS FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF ISRAEL

THE CREATION

41. Moses said that God made this world in six days, of twenty-four hours each in duration. [81] God said when giving the law, amid the thunders of Sinai, that the reason why mankind should observe the seventh day as the Lord's own Sabbath, was because He did create the world in six literal days. [82] Modern science seeks to overthrow that fact the truthfulness of the Mosaic account of creation is much questioned and doubted at the present time; and it is not difficult, therefore, to see the cause for the dearth of spiritual energy and spiritual life. If God could make a world, and had power to create it, why could He not as easily create it in the time He specified in the Word? He could make it in a moment if He so saw fit; [83] but He declares that He made it in six days; and the word of the Lord endures for ever.

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

42. The writers of the New Testament frequently mention this book, some even quoting therefrom to demonstrate the truthfulness of the work of justification through Jesus Christ. Paul believed it was the inspired word of God [84] and frequently quoted it. James, the brother of Jesus, believed it, and referred to it." The experiences of the people as brought to view in this inspired testimony of God's word may be read with profit and interest by all who are looking for that rest in the heavenly Canaan, where the great Joshua, Jesus, will give them rest from all their enemies round about.

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

43. One of the most powerful sermons that the Apostle Paul ever delivered while he was filled with the Spirit of God, had in it references from this book of God. [86] Some of the grandest illustrations of faith in God, which go to make up the great cloud of witnesses [87] for the church and the people of God at the present time, are drawn from this book. [88]

THE BOOK OF RUTH

44. The small books of the Bible are often passed lightly by, whereas we find them not only suggestive and helpful, but some of them contain much of the genealogy and life of Christ. It is particularly true of this book. That Jesus is the Son of David, from a genealogical standpoint, is taken bodily from the closing verses of the book of Ruth. [89] Matthew certainly believed it to be inspired, and realized it was of great value to him to prove to his Jewish brethren and to the entire church for all time, that Jesus was of the seed of David according to the flesh. [90] This same position was taken by Paul. [91] The blood relationship for the redemption of humanity, the reason why Jesus should be born of a woman and under the law in order to save the world, is all here contained. [92] It is helpful; it is important; its inspiration by the Spirit will give life to all who read and ponder its truths in the light of the Holy Spirit.

THE BOOKS OF SAMUEL

45. Beginning with the Prophet Samuel, we have what is generally considered as the first [93] of the regular line of the prophets. Samuel was certainly called of God, [94] and wrote much by the mouth and Spirit of the Lord. That the books bearing his name are the inspired testimony of the Spirit of God, and an absolute necessity for the church, is evidenced by a number of statements from the inspired Apostles.

PETER'S TESTIMONY

46. Peter, in that memorable sermon he delivered the day the man was healed at the gate of the temple, called Beautiful said:

"You, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days." [95]

From this testimony of Peter we learn that

PRACTICAL LESSONS FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF ISRAEL

1. Samuel predicted of the days of Christ's mission on earth, of Christ as the great Prophet like unto Moses, of the results which would come to those who rejected the Savior's words.

2. Samuel was not only a prophet of God, but that he was the first of the prophets, who next to Moses, spoke concerning Christ. That is to say, that not only is the book of Samuel the inspired word of God, but the very order in which it is placed is according to the plan of God. This shows us conclusively that Samuel was written under the direction of the Spirit of God, and the words of the book were absolutely essential to a better knowledge and understanding of Jesus Christ.

47. The great apostle to the Gentiles refers to this prophet quotes from his writings, and cites several experiences from the books to illustrate the wonderful working of true faith in God? [96]

THE BOOKS OF KINGS

48. There can be no question whatever concerning the inspiration of these books; for recent years have demonstrated repeatedly, that God has had witnesses buried beneath the ground for thousands of years which have been waiting to testify to their truthfulness. Recently they have been unearthed, and have been literally crying out that these books are true. The Savior said:

“If these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.” [97]

Men and women, who ought to have been giving the truths of the word of God to the world, have sought to conceal these truths, and to quiet the minds of the people; hence God has been raising these rocks to prove that His word is the truth, [98] and what the “volume of the book” records has the seal of divine inspiration.

49. The Savior quotes from these books; [99] the Apostles quote from them, [100] and use them as their authority for their teaching in the church of Christ.

THE BOOKS OF CHRONICLES

50. The word Chronicles is derived from two Hebrew words, meaning literally, the words of the days. That is, these books are simply a repetition of the words and deeds which had been written from the creation to this time; and are placed in these volumes as a reassurance that what had been previously done and recorded was faithfully and truthfully done.

EZRA, NEHEMIAH, AND ESTHER

51. These books were written by persons who lived near the same time, and they were all in Babylonian captivity. The Jews to this day are witnesses to their authenticity. The preserving of the record of the birth of Christ was due largely to their work [101] and the Angel Gabriel, who dwells in the very presence of God, [102] who announced the birth of Christ, is a witness to the authenticity of the words of these books. (e) And Luke had faith enough in the angel of God to record the incident. What wonderful witnesses God has given to the world whereby men may know that the blessed Scriptures of truth were written by men whom God selected.

THE BOOK OF JOB

52. Of this book, one of the most helpful, instructive, and encouraging letters from the Lord to a needy and hungry world, laden with words of cheerfulness and helpfulness, very little is studied or even read at the present time. Its authenticity is questioned, and the person represented by its title is considered a fictitious character. Much of its teaching is considered untrue, if not impossible; thus doubt and indifference cause many to fail in receiving the very help which God designs this book to impart to men.

THE PERSONALITY OF JOB

53. While much is said today against the existence of such a person, the word of the Lord plainly

PRACTICAL LESSONS FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF ISRAEL

teaches that such a man actually did live, and the experiences and trials through which he passed were indeed true. One or two testimonials may be of help on the question:

“The word of the Lord came again to me, saying, Son of man, when the land sins against Me by trespassing grievously, then will I stretch out Mine hand upon it, and will break the staff of the bread thereof, and will send famine upon it, and will cut off man and beast from it. Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, said the Lord God.” [103]

Here the Lord not only recognizes the personality of Job, but compares him with such men as Daniel and Noah, great and true men of God. In other places in this same chapter, they are again mentioned; while at the same time we are told that Ezekiel spoke by the word of the Lord. [104]

AN EXAMPLE OF PATIENCE

54. The following is from James, the Lord’s brother:

“Behold, we count them happy which endure. We have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.” [105]

55. This man of God is held up as an example of Christian courage and patience for the men and women of today, and is regarded as one through whom God revealed His wonderful grace and mercy. Can the men and women of the present time not find much help, comfort, and grace in the reading of this blessed book, and in knowing what his experiences were?

QUOTATIONS USED BY NEW TESTAMENT WRITERS

56. The writings of the book are frequently referred to in the New Testament, and are used as God’s authority in teaching men the way of life and salvation, and encouraging them to a better knowledge and understanding of the Work of God.

57. That they have been used by the New Testament writers we have an abundance of proof, but perhaps a few citations will be sufficient:

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap. For he that sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that sows to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” [106]

If the fourth and thirteenth chapters of Job were read, it would be clear where Paul got his basis for the remarks just quoted in the text.

58. Here is another:

“For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written He takes the wise in their own craftiness.” [107]

The apostle quotes this text from the fifth chapter of Job. Many more texts might be cited, but these must suffice.

59. Other of the New Testament writers have quotations from this book, the Savior Himself quoting from these writings. [108] They offer admonition, instruction, courage, and faith in God. Should then a book like this not be studied and pondered, that help might be received to find out more of the right ways of the Lord?

GREAT TREATISE ON SCIENCE

60. While some scientists and theologians consider this work as of little value, it is nevertheless a fact that this book contains some of the greatest scientific truths that the world has yet produced. If scientists would devote more thought and study to this blessed book, they would know more of the works of God than they now know, and would at the same time strengthen the weak in the word of God. Perhaps it may be placing the matter in a somewhat strong light. Nevertheless history and facts demonstrate that

PRACTICAL LESSONS FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF ISRAEL

scientific knowledge has been hindered in its progress thousands of years because of a lack of the knowledge of these great scientific truths as revealed in this and in other of the books of God.

THE EARTH'S REVOLUTION

61. Take for instance the discovery of the revolution of the earth on its axis. When this thought was first given to the world, the learned and scholarly were rather skeptical, then shocked, then surprised; but after facts and demonstrations were presented, they believed. That this great mundane sphere hung in space only, and constantly revolved, seemed preposterous to believe. But if men had read the book of Job and studied its truths, they would have discovered that God inspired this truth to be written thousands of years ago. **[109]** And many of the great men of God knew this, since the time God had it written.

62. Just so with other astronomical truths, as the opaqueness of the moon, and the great empty space in the north. **[110]** All these God had caused to be written for our admonition upon whom the ends of the world are come, **[111]** that we might have comfort and hope in the Scriptures. **[112]**

THE BOOK OF PSALMS

63. Very few people cast discredit on the Psalms, nevertheless their value and helpfulness are not appreciated as they might be. The Psalms were written by the Holy Ghost, **[113]** and the very numbering of them is of God. **[114]** Jesus showed that His life and death were foretold in them; **[115]** and all things which happened in His eventful life were portrayed in Moses, in the prophets, and in the Psalms. The writers of the New Testament all use them as the Scriptures of truth which must be fulfilled, and which cannot be broken. **[116]** Neither time nor space would permit the quoting of many of them in the text; but there are very few Psalms written but what are quoted in the New Testament.

THE WRITINGS OF SOLOMON

64. In the inspired writings of the wise man are found some of the most precious truths concerning Jesus Christ. **[117]** Some most glorious and divine principles have blessed every believer who has received them and they are spoken of by the inspired Apostles as the very truths which the church and the world need, **[118]** in order to know of the great and essential truths necessary to a better knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ, whom rightly to know is eternal life. **[119]**

THE REST OF THE PROPHETS

65. Thus each book of the Old Testament might be considered separately; their writings shown to be freely quoted in the New; and all would be found inspired of God for the church of today, as well as for the Jews of old. Pentecost, with its mighty power, was brought about by the Spirit, as a fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel, **[120]** and the prophecy of the sixteenth Psalm; **[121]** the great revivals in the early Christian church were brought about through the teachings of the prophets and their prophecies. **[122]** We not only find that every book is given by inspiration of God, but many of the expressions in the different chapters are brought out individually and alone. Were it riot for Isaiah, what could John the Baptist have done in preaching the first advent of Christ? **[123]** Were it not for Hosea, how could the Apostles give the Gentiles hope as being part of the true Israel of God? **[124]** Were it not for the book of Amos, how could the Apostles at that first conference which gathered at Jerusalem **[125]** have decided the great question which came before them? **[126]**

CHRIST'S WORK PROVED FROM THE PROPHETS.

66. Were it not for Zechariah, how could the Savior have ridden through Jerusalem triumphantly, as the fulfilling of the Scripture? **[127]** Were it not for Daniel, how could Jesus have proved that He was the Christ, in direct fulfillment of the prophetic time when the Messiah ought to appear? **[128]** And were it not for the book of Daniel, what would the early disciples have done to save themselves from being slaughtered in that awful destruction of the temple and of the city of Jerusalem in AD 70? **[129]** Yes, and if the writings

PRACTICAL LESSONS FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF ISRAEL

of this prophecy Were more studied at the present time, how much better the church of God would be prepared for the solemn and stirring events the world has yet to see? [130]

GOD'S GREAT ADMONITION

67. The one great admonition of God, through Jesus Christ, and through His holy prophets and inspired Apostles, has been for men to believe the word of the living God, [131] to search the Scriptures, [132] to know what the prophets and Moses have written, [133] to teach none other things save What Moses and the prophets did say should come, [134] and to preach, believe, and teach, the word of the living God. [135] God admonished the Jews prior to, and at the time of, Christ's coming, to search the word of God as for hid treasure; [136] there they Would find the Pearl of great price, [137] and the truths of salvation. The Word would keep them from the errors and snares of the evil one. [138] This counsel the people rejected [139] this they, refused to do. [140] The result is apparent to all. [141]

THE TESTIMONY TO THE CHURCH OF GOD

68. What was true of the people of God at the time of our Lord' first advent is true with equal, if not with greater, force at the present time. The writings of Moses, the prophets, the Psalms, the Scriptures, need to be studied, to be searched, to be diligently sought after. In them is salvation from sin, [142] the power of the Holy Ghost, [143] the knowledge of God to the human heart. They are eternal life. [144] They are the salt of the earth they are the light to the World. [145] The Old Testament is God's great treasure-house of truth, in Which is locked up the riches of the wisdom and of the knowledge of God's plans and purposes for every human soul. In Moses and the prophets are found nuggets of the most precious divine truth, which the heavenly Merchantman is seeking to freely bestow upon all who desire these gems of heavenly light.

69. The New Testament is God's key which, by the power of the Holy Spirit, unlocks the treasures of the Old Testament, and enables the searcher to discover rich mines of light, grace, and salvation. When these blessed truths are freed from the rubbish of tradition and of human philosophy, [146] and are cleansed by the power of God's Holy Spirit, then the searcher, who receives these inspired testimonies as the breathings of God's own Spirit, will indeed shine as a star in the firmament of glory, [147] and as a diadem in the glorious crown [148] of Jesus Christ.

Great God with wonder and with praise,
On all Thy works I look;
But still Thy wisdom, power, and grace,
Shine brightest in Thy Book.

Lord, make me understand Thy law,
Show what my faults have been,
And from Thy gospel let me draw
Forgiveness for my sin.

Here are my choicest treasures hid,
Here my best comfort lies;
Here my desires are satisfied,
And here my hopes arise."

Isaac Walls.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Paragraph 14.

(a) A very forcible illustration of the condition of people when under the direct inspiration of God

PRACTICAL LESSONS FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF ISRAEL

is seen in the Prophet Daniel. He spoke and moved, yet he did not breathe. God breathed for him, and in him. What he said was God-breathed. Daniel **10:7,16-18**.

Paragraph 18.

(b) Within a number of years there has arisen a tendency among scholars and critics to claim that the first and second chapters of Genesis must have been written by different persons. The specific reason given is that the term God, in the first chapter, is Elohim; whereas the element used in the second chapter for Lord is Jehovah. Hence these two chapters have been regarded as the Elohistic and Jehovistic. This view of these two chapters has been growing with marked rapidity, so that it has come to be accepted as *lux et veritas*.

But the author must take exception to this view, for these reasons

1. It is a perversion of the truth.
2. It is misinterpreting the Scripture.
3. It is doing for the church today, exactly what the Jewish rabbis did for the Jews anciently,- hiding Jesus Christ from their sight.

4. Because by a proper understanding of the relation of these two chapters, and the three chapters following, we have one of the grandest proofs of the preexistence of Christ, and His association with the Father as co-Creator. In the first chapter the only term used for God is Elohim, literally Gods. This has been fully considered in paragraph thirteen, chapter nine. This is why the first chapter is known as the Elohistic view of God.

In the second chapter of Genesis the term Lord is introduced; this in the Hebrew is Jehovah. See paragraph twenty-one, chapter nine. Therefore the second chapter of Genesis is known as the Jehovistic view of God. But one thing has been overlooked in the second chapter of Genesis, and that is that the word Lord = Jehovah is never once mentioned unless it is used in conjunction with Elohim, except in the first three verses, which rightfully are part of the first chapter. If this fact has not been overlooked, it is scarcely ever mentioned.

That this is a fact can be demonstrated by the reading of the following texts: Genesis **2:4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22**. These are all the verses in which the term Lord, or Jehovah, is used; and never once unless in connection with Elohim. This of itself would indicate that the writer of the second chapter knew something of the opinion of the writer of the first chapter. It would clearly show furthermore, that the same person wrote both; only in the second chapter another term is applied to God, in addition to the one given in the first chapter.

But when we come to the third chapter we find the terms, Elohim and Jehovah, both used. Some of the time Elohim is used alone; at other times it is used with Jehovah. See verses **1, 3, 5**, when Elohim is used alone; verses **1, 8, 9, 13, 14, 21, 22, 23**, where Jehovah is used in conjunction with Elohim.

Then in chapter four we find the term Jehovah is used alone, and Elohim used by itself. See verses **1, 25**. This is also true of chapters **6**; etc. See chapters **5:1, 29; 6:2,3**. This certainly proves beyond the shadow of a doubt that one and the same writer penned all these chapters; but he wanted to show what was involved in the Elohim and in the Jehovah.

Now we have already shown that Elohim refers to the Father and the Son. See paragraph thirteen, chapter nine, of this book. It has also been demonstrated that Jehovah is a term applied to the Son. See paragraph twenty-one, chapter nine. Then why do we have the Elohim and Jehovah brought into the Scriptures in the manner Moses presented them? NO doubt, because God wanted the human race to understand that there existed a plurality in the God-head, Genesis **3:22**; and that the Jehovah was always with the Elohim, as equal with Him, partner with Him, very part of Him. And this Jehovah is the Christ.

Therefore the current teaching of the first two chapters is certainly hiding Jesus Christ from the minds of people today; and naturally will cause the light of the gospel to go out in darkness. But the word of the Lord endures forever. Isaiah **40: 8; 1 Peter 1:25**.

Paragraph 24.

(c) The reason which God gives that He is the true and the living God is that He is the Creator of the heavens and the earth. Jeremiah **10:10-13**. But He says He created the heavens and the earth in six days. Genesis **2:1-3**; Exodus **20: 8-11**. If, therefore, the idea which is gaining ground so rapidly that God did not create the world in six literal days, continues to prevail, it is easy to see how people will lose faith in God, in Jesus, and in the Bible. But let God be true, even if every man speaks to the contrary. Romans **3:4**.

PRACTICAL LESSONS FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF ISRAEL

Paragraph 27.

(d) It is claimed by some that the book of Leviticus could not have been penned by Moses, because it was not written until after the people entered into the promised land. But by reading the twenty-third chapter of Leviticus it is evident that the laws were given before they entered the land, as the commands were to be carried out after they reached Canaan. Moses never entered Canaan; he died in Mount Nebo. Deuteronomy 34:5, 6.

Paragraph 51.

(e) The reader is referred to chapter six, paragraph sixteen, of this work; also, chapter seventeen, paragraph forty.

FINISH

APPENDIX

ADDITIONAL LAWS TOUCHING THE SABBATH

(a) THE LIGHTING OF LAMPS.

1. There are at least eight sections devoted to the kinds of material which may be used to light lamps on the Sabbath, and which may not be used. They may not be lighted with moss which grows on cedars, or with undressed flax, or with sea-weed, or with pitch, or with tallow, or with sacred oil. They may be lighted with the dregs of pitch, with all kinds of oils, such as nut oil, seed oil, fish oil, naptha. Some of the rabbis, however, would not permit the use of these. Others would permit some, and refuse certain others.

2. A person must not take an egg, and bore a hole in it, and put oil therein, that it might drop into a lamp to keep it burning; but if, when the lamp was made, the regular feeder of a lamp was an egg shell with a hole in it, this was permissible; for the rabbis claimed it was but one vessel.

It was not permitted to put oil into a dish and set it beside a lamp, and set the wick into the oil to draw the oil to the lamp; this would be contrary to the law.

4. If a lamp was lighted before the Sabbath it was allowed to burn all through the Sabbath, but it must not be extinguished. It might go out of itself. But if the person wished it to bum all through the Sabbath, he would be allowed to fill it, as long as it was burning; this was not considered exactly to be work, it was regarded a matter of necessity.

5. A person was allowed to extinguish a lamp on the Sabbath, if he thought he were going to be robbed, or to be attacked by an evil spirit, or that an invalid might be disturbed in his sleep; but if it were to save his oil, wick, or lamp, he must not extinguish it under any circumstances, for then he would be guilty of Sabbath breaking.

(b) THE LAWS OF COOKING.

6. Food may not be placed in double range just prior to the Sabbath, if it is heated with ordinary wood, or with olive kernels. But if it is heated with brush-wood or stubble, food may be cooked. The school of Shammi claimed thaz only water might be heated by such a stove, and not food; but the school of Hillel claimed that both might.

7. An egg must not be placed close enough to hot water on Sabbath to be affected by the heat; neither must an egg be placed in hot sand on the Sabbath, because this, to-, might cook an egg.

8. Many laws are made wherein guile is used. Putting food in a certain relative position to heat is lawful; putting the same kind of food in another position, as related to heat, is unlawful. These laws were very burdensome. The above laws, with many others on this topic, are found in tractate "Sabbath," and tractate "Youm Toy," or Holy Days.

ADDITIONAL LAWS CONCERNING DIVORCE

9. If a person should bring a divorce to the wife of another man, and this messenger should say this divorce was written in my presence, then the divorce is lawful, and the husband and wife are dissolved