

1. God's Message for Man

A Book From Heaven

1. WHAT terms applied to the Biblical record affirm its divine origin?

"The book of the Lord." Isaiah 34:16. "The gospel of God." Romans 1:1. "The oracles of God." Romans 3:2. "The good word of God." Hebrews 6:5. "The word of Christ." Colossians 3:16.

2. From whom do the Bible writers claim to have received their messages?

"God spoke all these words." Exodus 20:1. "The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was in my tongue." 2 Samuel 23:2. "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.

NOTE—"The prophets and psalmists were not mere impassive channels through whose lips or pens God poured forth an abstract doctrine. He spoke not only through them, but to them and in them. They had an intelligent share in the divine converse with them; and we can no more understand the divine word without taking them into account than we can understand a human conversation without taking account of both interlocutors."-W. Robertson Smith, *The Old Testament in the Jewish Church*, page 19.

3. How explicitly do they disclaim credit for their compositions?

a. They specifically disavow responsibility for their revelations. I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." Galatians 1:11, 12.

b. Sometimes they did not understand their writings. I heard, but I understood not." Daniel 12:8.

4. How do they acknowledge each other's inspiration?

I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolation of Jerusalem." Daniel 9:2. "Our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto YOU." 2 Peter 3:15.

5. What seal does Jesus set on the inspiration of the Scriptures?

"All things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning Me." Luke 24:44. "The Scripture cannot be broken." John 10:35.

6. Are there any evidences apart from the claims of Scripture that the Bible is an inspired Book?

Yes, its inspiration is revealed in (a) its marvelous unity, (b) its superhuman range of teaching, (c) its perpetual freshness and universal appeal, (d) its transforming power upon the individual, (e) the fulfillment of its prophecies, and (f) its indestructibility.

7. Why is the Bible's unity of doctrine so remarkable?

The Scriptures comprise sixty-six books written by some forty or more authors over a period of one and a half millenniums. Yet there is one system of doctrine, one rule of faith, and running from Genesis to the Revelation there is one dominant theme, redemption through the cross of Christ. The unity and plan exhibited on every page of the Scriptures testify to an activity more than human guiding the pens of the writers and guiding the church in gathering the books which had been so written.

8. How completely is human wisdom eclipsed by the teachings of the Bible?

"Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?" 1 Corinthians 1:20.

NOTE-The Scriptures offer a clear solution to all the problems of life. They treat upon God and man, the meaning of sin and suffering and death, of origin and destiny, in a manner that is simple and understandable, yet inexhaustible in profundity. They exhibit a coherence and a sense of proportion not

The Bible Speaks

found elsewhere. How did the Hebrews, surrounded by nations steeped in polytheism and nature worship, come to possess so unique a body of doctrine, if not by divine revelation?

9. What is notable about the perpetual freshness and universal appeal of the Scriptures?

“The word of God ... lives.” 1 Peter 1:23.

NOTE - Though this book has neither been added to nor detracted from for nearly two thousand years, it meets the needs of men today as fully as it met the needs of those who were contemporary with the original writers. It appeals not to one class of society, but to every sort and condition of men from highly civilized peoples to savages in the darkest corners of the earth. Nor is even this all. Its message never palls. The oftener it is read, the more it is enjoyed. The deeper the mine is dug, the broader grows the vein and the richer the ore. These are not the marks of mere human genius.

“In the Bible we have more than an account of God’s self-disclosure in word and deed. Here God speaks directly to men today in all the complexity of their need, in all the phases and aberrations of their human situation. In this Book, God meets men face to face.”-John A. MacKay, “Concerning Protestant Christianity,” *Theology Today*, vol. 1, No. 3, P. 291.

10. What remarkable power upon the individual does the Bible possess?

“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when you received the word of God which you heard of us, you received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectively works also in you that believe.” 1 Thessalonians 2:13. See also 1 Peter 1:23.

NOTE-The Bible is something more even than a unique system of religion and ethics. It is possessed of a power which is not paralleled by any human composition. The Bible comes to men who are sunk in degradation and sin, arrests them in their downward course, and builds true character. Those who have experienced its transforming power have no need to be convinced by argument. They know that the Bible is not a human book.

I cannot argue with you,” said an old Highlander to Claudius Buchanan. I cannot present theological facts or reasons; I cannot explain the philosophy of revelation; but I know this, that when I was a man of evil character the Bible got hold of me and quelled the tiger in me.”

In moments of deep need when the common man yearns for freedom from life’s entanglements, when he seeks light for his darkness, food for his heart’s hunger, and quenching for his soul’s thirst, he turns to Scripture not for its charm as literature, nor for its artistic excellence, nor even for its contribution to his knowledge of history, or of law, or of social theory. He turns to Scripture for what it can do to lift him out of his earth-bound experience into the pure light of God. Here every man may behold not only the true image of himself as a human being, but also the true shape of his own destiny: what by the grace of God in Christ he may become.”-Howard Tillman Kuist, “Scripture and the Common Man,” *Theology Today*, vol. 3, No. 2, p. 208.

11. Who only could have inspired the marvelously accurate prophecies of Scripture?

I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done.” Isaiah 46:9, 10.

NOTE – “The revelations of prophecy are facts which exhibit the divine Omniscience. So long as Babylon is in heaps; so long as Nineveh lies empty, void, and waste; so long as Egypt is the basest of kingdoms; so long as Tyre is a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea. So long as the great empires of the world march on in their predicted courses, so long we have proof that one omniscient Mind dictated the predictions of that Book.”-H. L. Hastings, *Will the Old Book Stand?* page 20.

12. How has the Bible been able to survive the constant persecution to which it has been subjected through the ages?

“Heaven and earth shall pass away: but My words shall not pass away.” Luke 21:33. “The word of God . . . lives and abides forever.” 1 Peter 1:23.

NOTE-No book has lived through such fierce and relentless persecution. Antiochus Epiphanes vented his wrath against the Old Testament Scriptures, and the Roman emperors, especially Diocletian, against the New. In the subsequent centuries there has hardly been an hour’s cessation of attack upon it. Yet in spite of all the assaults of infidelity, pseudo science, and modernism, this wonderful Book is still the “best seller” of all. The reason can only be that the Mind which inspired its contents has also preserved it from every attack, that the world might never lack a sure Guide to this life and the life to Come.

The Bible Speaks

“The declarations of the sacred writers are confirmed by modern research. In spite of all the efforts of an ‘audacious criticism’-as ignorant as bold-the truth of the sacred narrative stands firm, the stronger for the shocks that it has resisted. . . . The ‘foundation of God’-the ‘everlasting gospel’-still ‘stands sure’-and every effort that is made to overthrow, does but more firmly establish it.”-George Rawlinson, *The Historical Evidences of the Truth of the Scripture Records*, page 228.

13. Surveying all these evidences, what must be our verdict concerning the Bible?

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.” 2Timothy 3:16. “Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” 2 Peter 1:21.

NOTE. – “To understand the meaning of the words of the Bible is not necessarily to understand the living word of God in the Bible. The Bible becomes the word of God to us only when it becomes the medium of God’s voice speaking a word which words cannot convey but can only suggest. We understand the Bible only to the extent to which we experience through it an encounter with the living God similar to that which the men had who produced it.”-Donald G. Miller, “Criticism, and Beyond,” *Interpretation*, vol. 1, No. 2, P. 224.

“personality was never surrendered as the prophet received his pronouncement. He was actively alert, conscious of the needs and problems of his people. He applied himself strenuously to the task of getting the message from God. In no sense was he passively open so that, without effort, the words could flow through him, without being colored by his own mind, background and personality. It was truly the message of God to the people, but it was stated in the language of the man whom God honored with the responsibility of translating His teaching to human minds.”-Kyle M. Yates, *Preaching From the Prophets*, page 6.

It [the Bible] is a book literally above praise: there is a kind of impertinence in praising it. The best praise we can render it is to use it; to read, and practice, and read again. It was written for our learning: let us take care that it finds us teachable, willing to learn, possessed with a deep feeling of needing its help. And how is it that it is able to give us such help? For two reasons: because it is, above all other books, the book of man, and because it is the book of God. It is the book of man, not only because it was written by man, but because it is full of the deepest thoughts, longings, desires, struggles, victories of men, their best work done on the earth, their most passionate cries to the heaven above. It is the book of God, because in it we hear what He spoke to other ages, and through every part of it He speaks to us now, telling us what He has done for men in the days of old, what He has done for all mankind in all times, what He is doing for us now. Pointing out the way to Himself, encouraging us to enter on that way, warning us of the dangers which beset us by the way, giving us gleams of light from above to cheer us and guide us on the way.”-Fenton John Anthony Hort, *Sermons on the Books of the Bible* (selected from *Village Sermons*), page 7.

Can We Believe the Bible?

1. WHAT claim does the psalmist make for the Scriptures?

“Thy word is true from the beginning.” Psalm 119:160.

NOTE- Modernists dispute this statement, declaring that they have discovered many historical, geographical, chronological, and scientific “mistakes” in the Scriptures. They contend that if the Bible is not accurate in details which can be tested by outside evidence, it cannot be “infallible” in its spiritual teaching.

2. How important is it that we be certain as to the basis of our faith?

“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” Psalm 11:3.

3. Why should Christians know and understand the teachings of the Bible?

“Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.” 1 Peter 3:15.

4. To what does the Bible direct us to turn for evidence supporting the truth of God’s love and power?

“Ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: or speak to

The Bible Speaks

the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee.” Job 12:7, 8.

5. How do the heavens witness to the Bible’s revelation of God and of His power?

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.” Psalm 19:1.

NOTE “Everything points with overwhelming force to a definite event, or series of events, of creation at some time or times, not infinitely remote. The universe cannot have originated by chance out of its present ingredients, and neither can it have been always the same as now.”-Sir James H. Jeans, Eos, page 55.

6. What witness do all created things give to their Maker and to the truth of the Bible record?

“For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead.” Romans 1:20.

NOTE. “All human discoveries seem to be made only for the purpose of confirming more and more strongly the truths contained in the Sacred Scriptures.” - Sir John Herschel, quoted by Howard A. Johnston, Bible Criticism and the Average Man, page 26.

“Science is compelled to accept the idea of creative power.”-Lord Kelvin, quoted by Bernard Heywood, This Is Our Faith, page 36.

“In our study of natural objects we are approaching the thoughts of the Creator, reading His conceptions, interpreting a system that is His and not ours.”-Louis J. R. Agassiz, Methods of Study in Natural History, 19th ed., page 14.

7. Mention some striking facts of the natural world which were actually anticipated in the Bible long before they were discovered by the scientists.

a. “He ... hangs the earth upon nothing.” Job 26:7.

NOTE-The suspension of the earth in space was described by Copernicus in 1543.

b. “He looks to the ends of the earth: to make the weight for the winds.” Job 28:24,25.

NOTE-Galileo, (1564-1642) was the first to affirm that air had weight.

c. “Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?” Isaiah 40:12.

NOTE-Only in recent years has it been realized how important are the proportions and balance of the land masses and oceans on the earth’s surface.

d. “They [the heavens and the earth] shall perish; but Thou remains; and they all shall wax old as cloth a garment.” Hebrews 1:11.

NOTE-Not until the twentieth century was the progressive aging and disintegration of matter by radioactivity discovered. Nature is going down. “The downward journey is easy, while the upward is either hard or impossible.”-Sir James H. Jeans, The Universe Around Us, page 306.

e. “For the life of all flesh is the blood thereof.” Leviticus 17:14.

NOTE-The circulation and function of the blood was discovered by William Harvey in 1615.

“Prophecy and miracle confirm the word; science and revelation are co-witnesses to the same God; astronomy hints His eternity, immensity, infinity, natural philosophy tells of His omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence; physiology suggests His wisdom and goodness the beginnings of life, of consciousness, of intelligence and of conscience, are miracles which cannot be accounted for without Almighty power, and ought to make both atheism and pantheist alike impossible. While the heart of man and the history of man unite to witness to a need and a craving never filled except by Christ Jesus.”-Arthur T. Pierson, Many Infallible Proofs, page 19.

8. How have men spoken “to the earth,” and what has it taught?

Buried civilizations of earlier days have yielded their treasures to the spade of the archaeologist.

9. What are some striking examples of Bible facts once denied by the critics but which have been completely confirmed by modern archaeological discoveries?

a. They declared that Abraham was a half-savage nomad quite incapable of the activities credited to him in the Biblical record. Now it has been proved by Professor Leonard Woolley that a high state of civilization existed in the Near East long before the days of Abraham. Read his Ur of the Chaldees; also Sir Charles Marston, New Bible Evidence, pages 88-123.

The Bible Speaks

NOTE. It is evident that the background supplied by recent excavations for the period of Abraham corroborates the sacred narrative.” -Sir Charles Marston, *New Bible Evidence*, page 123.

b. They ridiculed the account of the capture of Jericho by Joshua until Professor J. Garstang of Liverpool University excavated the site and declared. “Set side by side with the Biblical narrative, the material evidence is seen to bear out in every essential detail the record of the capture and destruction of Jericho by the Israelites under Joshua.”-Quoted by D. E. Hart-Davies in *Journal of the Transactions of the Victoria Institute*, vol. 67, p. 84.

c. They once denied the existence of the Hittites. But Professor A. H. Sayce of Cambridge proved the existence and extent of the Hittite Empire by excavating thousands of remains from all over Asia Minor and northern Syria. Read *Monument Facts and Higher Critical Fallacies*, by A. H. Sayce; also Sir Frederic Kenyon, *The Bible and Archaeology*, pages 81-96.

d. They denied that there ever was a king of Babylon called Belshazzar. Today more than five hundred tablets mentioning his name are known. Read *Nabonidus and Belshazzar*, by R. P. Dougherty.

e. They asserted that the book of Acts was entirely untrustworthy in its history and geography. Sir William M. Ramsay, however, after years of travel in Asia Minor, conclusively declared: “You may press the words of Luke in a degree far beyond any other historians, and they stand the keenest scrutiny and the hardest treatment.” - *The New Testament in the Light of Modern Research*, page 166. Read A. T. Robertson, *Luke the Historian*.

10. What testimonies have noted excavators borne respecting the results of archaeological research?

NOTE. “The progress of archaeological research will be found to constitute a steady march in the direction of establishing the essential trustworthiness of the Bible narrative, and of greatly increasing our intelligent comprehension of it, and thereby our appreciation of its spiritual message, which constitutes its real value for mankind.”-Sir Frederic Kenyon, *The Bible and Archaeology*, page 30.

In the language of the British Law Courts, the ‘solemn nonsense,’ the insult to common sense,’ and the ‘fantastic hypotheses,’ of higher criticism, as applied to the Bible, will be remembered with shame by future generations of scholars.”-Sir Charles Marston, *New Bible Evidence*, page 237.

“The skepticism of the ‘critic’ has been proved to have been but the measure of his own ignorance, the want of evidence to have been merely his own ignorance of it. The whole fabric he had raised has gone down like a house of cards, and with it the theories of development of which he felt so confident.”-A. H. Sayce, *Monument Facts and Higher Critical Fallacies*, page 121.

“The trend of all this increased knowledge has been to confirm the authority of the books of the Old Testament, while it illuminates their interpretation. Destructive criticism is thrown on the defensive; and the plain man may read his Bible confident that, for anything that modern research has to say, the word of our God shall stand forever.” Sir Frederic Kenyon, in *Journal of the Transactions of the Victoria Institute*, vol. 73, p. 83.

11. In what Biblical terms may we therefore express our confidence in the trustworthiness and accuracy of the Scriptures?

“Thy word is very pure: therefore Thy servant loves it.” Psalm 119:140.

Why We Need the Bible

1. WHAT knowledge is unattainable by human wisdom?

“Can thou by searching find out God?” Job 11:7. “How unsearchable are His Judgments, and His ways past finding out!” Romans 11:33.

2. How only can we obtain the knowledge God has for us?

“The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever.” Deuteronomy 29:29.

NOTE. “I hold that the Bible is a book for everybody, in which God speaks for the purpose of being understood by everybody; that its language is conformed to the ordinary uses of speech. And that it is to be interpreted in the same common-sense way in which we would interpret the will of a deceased parent, or ascertain the meaning of a letter on business. It was not written to tax our ingenuity, or to test men’s skill

The Bible Speaks

at learned exposition. Its design is to instruct, and in the most familiar way to express to linen the mind and will of God.”-Joseph A. Seiss, *The Last Times*, page 27.

3. What confidence may we have in the knowledge which comes to us through the word of God?

“Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, that I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou might answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?” Proverbs 22:20, 21.

NOTE “There is no sure doctrine but such as is conformable to the word of God. This word is the only truth; it is the sure rule of all doctrine and of all life, and can never fall or deceive us.” Protest of the Princes, cited by Merle d’Aubigne, *History of the Reformation*, Volume 4, Page 75.

4. To a world alienated from God through sin, what assurance does the Bible bring?

“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes.” Romans 1:16.

NOTE-”The Bible finds us where we are, and, if permitted, takes us where we ought to go.... What the Bible promises is fabulous but not fable.”-Raymond Irving Lindquist, “The Word of God,” *Theology Today*, vol. 3, No. 2, p. 158.

“The multitudes go to the Bible, not for knowledge, but for power; they go to renew their sense of spiritual realities, and to catch again the vision splendid. This book passes beyond a classic and becomes to men a word of God, because it voices those ultimate truths which give to life its meaning. These are the truths upon which our faith rests, which bring comfort to our hearts, and keep burning the fires of hope. They are as final to religion as the primary colors are to painting, or the line and circle to geometry. The men who first expressed them endeavored to state them in the fullness of power; they were passionately concerned to have these truths produce their full effect in reaching men’s minds and hearts.”-Charles Allen Dinsmore, *The English Bible as Literature*, pages 102, 103.

5. What transformation is made possible through the word?”

“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which lives and abides forever.” 1 Peter 1:23.

6. How does the word bless the transformed life?

a. It gives understanding. “The entrance of Thy words gives light; it gives understanding unto the simple.” Psalm 119:130.

b. It keeps from sin. “Thy word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against Thee.” Verse 11.

c. It guides in the way of life. “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Verse 105.

d. It builds. “Now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.” Acts 20:32.

e. It gives hope. “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” Romans 15:4.

NOTE.-”The primary function of the Bible, then, is to serve as the spectacles which dispel the otherwise confused notions of God and bring us to a clear perspective. As Calvin also knew, the Scripture as spectacles not only brings the true God into our sight but also enables us to see and to understand ourselves, our true nature, and the nature of our history. We are thus enabled to see ourselves as persons.”-G. Ernest Wright, “The Christian Interpreter as Biblical Critic,” *Interpretation*, volume 1, No. 2, Page 151.

7. How completely does the Bible meet human needs?

“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 3:16, 17.

NOTE. “The object is not merely to convince and to convert him; it is to furnish all the instruction needful for his entire perfection. There is no deficiency in the Bible for man, In any of the situations in which he may be placed in life. And the whole tendency of the book is to make him who will put himself fairly under its instructions, absolutely perfect.” - Albert Barnes, Notes, comment on 2 Timothy 3: 17.

8. What value, therefore does Job place upon the word?

The Bible Speaks

“Neither have I gone back from the commandment of His lips; I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.” Job 23:12.

NOTE-“The book that men most need to study is the book of which they know little and understand less. That book is the Bible.” - John A. MacKay, “God Has Spoken,” Theology Today, Vol. 3, No. 2, P. 145.

9. What supreme gifts come to us through the word of God?

“These things have I written unto you; that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13.
“He called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Thessalonians 2:14.

10. Where will the Bible lead those who take it as their guide?

“O send out Thy light and Thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto Thy holy hill, and to Thy tabernacles.” Psalm 43:3.

NOTE “All manner of persons, of what estate or condition so ever they be, may in this book learn all things what they ought to believe, what they ought to do, and what they should not do, as well concerning Almighty God as also concerning themselves, and all other[s]. Briefly, to the reading of the Scripture none can be enemy, but that either be so sick that they love not to hear of any medicine, or else that be so ignorant that they know not Scripture, to be the most helpful medicine.”-Thomas Cranmer, in the Preface to the Great Bible, 1540.

11. On the other hand, what dire results will follow its neglect?

“Who so despises the word shall be destroyed.” Proverbs 13:13.

12. What, then, should be our attitude to the word?

- a. Seek after it. “Seek you out of the book of the Lord, and read.” Isaiah 34:16.
- b. Give earnest heed to it. “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.” Hebrews 2:1.
- c. Obey it. “Be you doers of the word, and not hearers only.” James 1:22.

How to Understand Your Bible

1. WHAT is the apostle Paul’s desire for all believers?

“I cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.” Ephesians 1:15-17.

2. How early in life may one study the Bible with profit?

“From a child thou has known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation.” 2 Timothy 3:15.

3. How constant should be our study of the Book of books?

“These [in Berea] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” Acts 17:11.

4. In what spirit should we approach the word?

a. As God’s word to us. “For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when you received the word of God which you heard of us, you received it not as the word of men but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectively works also in you that believe.” 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

NOTE. “Do not believe me simply unless you receive proof of what I say from Holy Scripture.”-Cyril of Jerusalem, in Catechumen, 4, 17, 33 (AD 348).

“God has spoken. This is the message of the Bible. There is a word from the Lord, an authoritative account of His relations to the world and to man. The eternal silence has been broken. Light has shone upon the mystery of man’s life. A divine answer has been given to the problem of his sin.”-John A. MacKay, “God Has Spoken,” Theology Today, vol. 3, No. 2, p. 145.

The Bible Speaks

b. Ready to obey its precepts. If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine.” John 7:17.

5. What attitude is fatal to profitable Bible study?

“You reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your own tradition.” Mark 7:9.

NOTE. “I would advise you all that comes to the reading or hearing of this book, which is the word of God, the most precious jewel and most holy relic that remains upon earth, that you bring with you the fear of God, and that you do it with all due reverence, and use your knowledge thereof not to vainglory and frivolous disputation, but to the honor of God, increase of virtue, and edification of yourselves and other[s].”-Thomas Cranmer, in the Preface to the Great Bible, 1540.

6. Is lack of education a bar to the understanding of the word of God?

“I thank Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because Thou has hid these things from the wise and prudent, and has revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in Thy sight.” Matthew 11:25,26.

7. Why is human wisdom not enough in studying and comprehending the word?

“The natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” 1 Corinthians 2:14. See also verse 11.

NOTE. “Spiritual things are spiritually discerned, and the Bible student needs an attitude Of spiritual receptivity, an eagerness to find God that he may yield himself to Him, if he is to pass beyond his scientific study into the richer inheritance of this greatest of all books.”-H. H. Rowley, The Relevance of the Bible, page 19.

8. Whence may we obtain the necessary spiritual discernment?

“We have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.” 1 Corinthians 2:12. See also verse 10.

9. Is all Scripture equally understandable?

“Our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him bath written unto you; . . . in which are some things hard to be understood.” 2 Peter 3:15, 16.

10. How then should we begin our Bible study?

“Desire the sincere milk of the word.” 1 Peter 2:2.

11. Having mastered the fundamental principles of the gospel, to what should we proceed?

“Strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” Hebrews 5:14.

12. How did the apostle Paul reprove certain believers for their lack of progress in study?

“When for the time you ought to be teachers, you have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.” Verse 12.

NOTE-How many are there today in the same condition, old in association with the faith and yet babes in understanding! Such is not the Father’s plan for His children. The Christian life should be a growing day by day in grace and in the knowledge of God.

13. What admonition is given to those who have failed to dig deep into the mine of truth?

“Leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection.” Hebrews 6:1.

NOTE-Not forsaking or abandoning them, but leaving them as a child leaves the letters of the alphabet, or as a plant lifts its head above the ground and presses upward toward the sun, yet ever drawing sustenance from its root.

14. What principles should govern our study of the word?

a. Associate relevant scriptures. “Comparing spiritual things with spiritual.” 1 Corinthians 2:13.

b. Synthesize and build up. “Precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line,

The Bible Speaks

line upon line; here a little, and there a little.” Isaiah 28:10.

NOTE. “The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself; and, therefore, when there is a question about the true and full sense of any Scripture (which is not manifold, but one), it must be searched and known by other places that speak more clearly.”- Westminster Confession of Faith, 1647.

15. How much of the Bible may we profitably study?

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” 2 Timothy 3:16. “Beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” Luke 24:27.

NOTE. “No investigation of Scripture, in its various parts and separate texts, however important, must impair the sense of the supreme value of its united witness. Partial examination will result in partial views of truth which are necessarily imperfect; only careful comparison will show the complete mind of God.” - Arthur T. Pierson, *Knowing the Scriptures*, page 214.

16. To what portions of Scripture should we give special attention?

“Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though you know them, and be established in the present truth.” 2 Peter 1:12.

NOTE.-The message of Noah was urgent “present truth” to the generation before the Flood. The books of Daniel and the Revelation, together with other prophecies of “the latter days” and “the last time,” are equally urgent and important to Christians today. See Daniel 12:4; Revelation 1: 1-3.

17. What beneficial results come from a diligent study of the word?

a. It points the way to personal salvation. “The Holy Scriptures . . . are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” 2 Timothy 3:15.

b. It equips one for the service of God. “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed.” 2 Timothy 2:15.

c. It gives to every person who believes, a certain hope for the future. “The hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel.” Colossians 1:5.

NOTE- “The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the doom of the impenitent, and the eternal happiness of believers in Christ. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts binding, its histories true, its decisions immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you. It is the Christian’s charter. Christ is its subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end.”-G. W. McPherson, *The Modern Conflict Over the Bible*, page 68.

2. The Godhead

Can We Know God?

1. IN what tragic state of ignorance did Paul find the people of Athens?

“As I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, To the unknown God.” Acts 17:23.

2. In contrast to their uncertainty what striking affirmation did Paul make at another time?

“I know whom I have believed.” 2 Timothy 1:12.

NOTE. “The heart of religion is not an opinion about God, such as philosophy might reach as the conclusion of its argument; it is a personal relationship with God.”-William Temple, *Nature, Man and God*, page 54.

“Our condition through sin is unnatural, and the power that restores us must be supernatural, else it has no value. There is but one power that can break the hold of evil from the hearts of men, and that is the power of God in Jesus Christ. Only through the blood of the Crucified One is there cleansing from sin. His grace alone can enable us to resist and subdue the tendencies of our fallen nature.” E. G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, page 428.