

Lesson 1  
WHY I BELIEVE THE BIBLE CAME FROM GOD

Introduction

1. We are living in a time when the Bible is doubted by many. Even some religious teachers do not believe it came from God.
  - (1) Some years ago a poll was taken of 700 Protestant ministers. 48% of them denied the complete inspiration of the Bible, 24% rejected the idea of a blood atonement for sin offered by Christ, 12% rejected the resurrection of the body, and 27% did not believe that Christ would come to judge the world.
  - (2) One Virginia preacher said: "We are interested in human life and human destiny on earth. We don't know or care whether there is life beyond the grave. We presume there is a God, but we know that he will ever be a mystery to us. We do not know or care whether God possesses personality or not. He may be just an impersonal force...We are moving in the direction of eliminating prayer from our services entirely. We still include it, occasionally, to please those who are accustomed to it. Prayer is a sort of habit with folks. It takes time to educate them to a realization that it is a hangover from the superstitious past. We do not teach the Bible to our young people. (Emphasis mine. CWA) Our youth program is centered around recreation."
2. How can we know that what is in the Bible actually came from God and that the writers did not just write either from their own experiences or from handed-down fables? This serious question needs to be studied.
3. The Christian has nothing to fear from an honest investigation into the question. When all the facts are considered, his faith will be stronger.
4. In this lesson there are two fundamental issues to be considered:
  - (1) The Bible claims to be from God.
  - (2) The Bible contains within it sufficient evidence to support that claim.

BODY

1. The Bible Claims to be from God

A. The Old Testament

1. "The word of the Lord came unto Isaiah," "Thus saith the Lord," "The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord" (Jer. 7:1) - These and similar expressions are found over and over again throughout the Old Testament.
2. Claims of the book of Exodus
  - a. In 40 chapters it is said 161 times "God spake these words." That is an average of a little more than four times to every chapter.
  - b. There are 34,360 words in Exodus. It is claimed in the book that 15,750 words or 48% are a report of what God actually said himself. Moses simply reported them. The rest is an account of an eyewitness of the things described, an account in which he claimed to be guided by the Lord.
  - c. The account of Moses is vindicated in that the whole nation of Israel heard God speak to Moses and to them in preparation for the Law to be given. A whole nation was witness to the fact that God could and did reveal himself in understandable words. If the account of Moses in Exodus was not true, surely someone in that nation would have refuted it when he lived to read the report of what Moses wrote down. Not only did he write it down, but read it to Israel. (Exo. 24:4,7; Deut. 31:9-12; Deut. 17:18-20.)
3. The prophets not only claimed to be inspired to God, but recognized the works of other prophets as inspired. Daniel consulted Jeremiah's prophecy. (Dan. 9:2.) Zechariah recognized "former prophets." (Zech. 7:12.)

4. The New Testament also claims that the Old Testament scriptures were inspired.
  - a. 2 Pet. 1:19-21 - "holy men of old were moved by the Holy Spirit." The word "moved" means "to be borne along, impelled, driven, as a sailing ship by a strong wind."
  - b. Acts 1:16 - "which the Holy Spirit by the mouth of David spake concerning Judas."
  - c. Mt. 2:14-15 - "might be fulfilled...spoken of the Lord by the prophet."
- B. The New Testament claims to be from God
  1. 2 Tim. 3:14-17 - Scriptures said to be "inspired of God." Means "God-breathed."
  2. 1 Pet. 1:12 - "preached the gospel with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven."
  3. Nearly 50% of the four gospels are reports of actual words of Christ.
  4. The Holy Spirit was to come and guide the apostles into all truth. (Jno. 16:13-14.)
  5. I Cor. 2:9-13 - This passage claims that the very words used by the apostles were words chosen by the Holy Spirit.

## II Internal evidence to support this claim

### A. Importance of this consideration

1. If the Bible makes a claim which has no evidence within it to support that claim, then it is unworthy of our trust and confidence.
2. If the evidence supports its claim to divine origin, then we should make every possible effort to understand it and live by it.

### B. The evidences

1. The unity of the Bible - While written by 40 writers over a period of 2500 years, who had varied backgrounds and educations, and who lived under different social and political systems, there is a remarkable unity about it. While it contains law, history, geography, poetry, prophecy, biography and practical instructions for living, not one writer contradicted another. Yet they had no chance to all get together and plot what they would write. All these different forms became simply vehicles upon which one overall purpose of God was transported to the minds of men.
2. The complete honesty and frankness of the Bible - No effort was made to hide the faults of the most faithful characters in it. Consider Noah, Abraham, David, Peter.
3. The ethics of the Bible bring out the very best that is in man and suppress the worst in him. Such a standard of conduct had to come from a completely righteous being. We will devote a lesson in this series to why we believe the Bible standard of morals.
4. The historical accuracy of the Bible
  - a. The Bible is not a textbook on history but everywhere it touches that field, the Bible is proved to be completely accurate.
  - b. Gen. 14 and Hammurabi - Critics once held that Moses could not have written the book of Genesis because writing was unknown in his day. In 1901, M. de Morgan, a Frenchman, made excavations in Persia and uncovered a monument containing inscriptions of 248 laws formulated by Hammurabi, king of Babylon about 2,250 B.C. This was long before the time of Moses.
  - c. Egyptian evidences -

The city of Pithom has been uncovered, and the storehouses built by the Hebrew slaves have been found. The lower portions are of brick made with straw and the upper portions of brick without straw just as Exodus reports it.

5. Prophecy and Fulfillment

- a. Peter argues that prophecy and fulfillment is a more sure word, or higher form of evidence than the word of eye witnesses. (2 Pet. 1:16-21.)
- b. Prophecies about Israel
  - (1) The establishment of the nation - Gen. 12:1-3.
  - (2) Israel would be scattered but not consumed. Jer. 5:18; 30:11.
  - (3) Babylonian captivity for 70 years. Jer. 29:10.
- c. Prophecies about other nations
  - (1) Egypt
    - (A) Would be desolate in midst of desolations. Ezek. 29:12; 30:7.
    - (B) Would be ruled by foreigners and not Egyptian princes. Ezek. 30:13.
    - (C) Would be basest of kingdoms. Ezek. 29:14-15.
    - (D) Land to be less productive. Ezek. 30:12; Isa. 19:5-6.
  - (2) Nineveh
    - (A) To be captured when rulers were drunk. Nahum 1:10.
    - (B) Destroyed and would not rise up a second time. Nahum 1:9.
  - (3) Babylon
    - (A) Should never be inhabited. Jer. 50:39.
    - (B) Arab would not pitch tent there. Isa. 13:20.
    - (C) Wild beast of the desert would lie there. Jer. 50:39.
- d. Prophecies about Christ
  - (1) Place of birth - Micah 5:2.
  - (2) Virgin birth - Isa. 7:14.
  - (3) Circumstances of his death - Isa. 53 - Innocent as a lamb, judgment taken from him, death with wicked and grave with the rich.
  - (4) Resurrection from the dead. Psa. 16:10.
  - (5) Ascension to heaven. Dan. 7:13-14.
  - (6) Establishment of his kingdom (or house) at Jerusalem. Isa. 2:2-3.
- e. Only upon the premise of divine guidance can these prophecies and their exact fulfillments be explained. There are 332 distinct prophecies in the Old Testament which have been literally fulfilled in Christ. The mathematical probability of this happening is one over 84 followed by 97 zeros. Yet it did happen!

Conclusion

1. The Bible claims to be from God as we have shown.
2. The evidences we have presented from the Bible itself can only be explained on the basis of a divine source.
3. It is the teacher's hope that you will use this material, keep it handy and not only be strengthened in your own faith by it, but also be ready to help others whose faith may have wavered.

NOTE: There are a number of good books which can be obtained dealing with this subject and related matters. Here are some of them:

Why We Believe the Bible by George Dehoff

Therefore Stand by Wilbur Smith

Internal Evidences by Harry Rimmer

A System of Christian Evidence by L. S. Keyser

Alleged Discrepancies of the Bible by Haley

Internal Evidences of Christianity by Homer Hailey

by Connie W. Adams

1. INTRODUCTION:

1. How the Bible has come down to us is a story of adventure and devotion, of toil and faith by those, who sometimes at great personal cost passed down from generation to generation the words of life.
2. Bible did not just happen, nor had it been preserved through the years by mere chance.
3. In this particular course of study, it will be assumed that those in attendance believe the Bible to be a revelation of the mind of God, and accept readily the inspiration and authenticity of the Biblical text.
4. Therefore, the endeavor of this particular study will be to impart instruction as to the process by which the Bible was put into writing, collected by various ones, and through divine providence preserved to the present day. This will involve some study of the manuscript evidence, copies, versions and texts and a tracing of the English Bible to our day.

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. The Need For Such a Study

- A. Many of the charges of the sceptic against the Bible as to its genuineness, are based upon inadequate knowledge of the facts in the matter.
- B. Many Christians are totally uninformed on the subject and thus are unable to give an answer for their faith and hope.
  1. Col. 4:6 - to know how to answer every man.
  2. I Peter 3:15 - to be ready to give an answer.....
  3. It is my hope that some of these studies may better equip those of you who attend these classes, to satisfy questions which naturally arise from time to time in our minds and to successfully meet and overthrow the attacks of various sceptical people we encounter from time to time.
- C. All of the questions raised on the subject are not inspired by scepticism. Some are legitimate questions and the Christian should have no fear of making a thorough investigation into the matter.
  1. How and when did the books of the Bible have their origin?
  2. How and why are these books different from other books?
  3. Who collected these books into a unit?
  4. Why were some books readily accepted as inspired while other books by good men of the same period were rejected?
  5. What about the extra or apocryphal books of the Catholic Bible?
  6. How can we be sure that the texts of our English translations are exactly what the original copies said?
  7. How many manuscripts are in existence?
  8. Are there any errors in our translations and, if so, how serious are they?
  9. The very asking of these questions cries for answers which we hope to provide in the next few days in this class.

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D. I do not pose as a scholar on this matter. But there is a vast array of evidence to be had on the subject. I have drawn freely from several source materials and here and now acknowledge the help received from several works. I would recommend to you that if you can, you obtain a copy of the little book entitled How We Got The Bible by Neil Lightfoot. This sells for \$2.50. Also helpful to me in this study is an extensive outline called The Ancestry of the English Bible by E. V. Srygley, Jr., a book called History of the English Bible and also the material found in Halley's Bible Handbook. Also a work called The Dead Sea Scrolls by Charles Pfeiffer and Basis of the Christian Faith by Hamilton.

I. The Making of Ancient Books

- A. A natural starting place for whole history of Bible conditioned on:
1. The history of writing.
  2. History of materials used in making ancient books.

B. Early Writing and Materials Used

1. Some sceptics have argued that Moses could not have written the first five books of the Bible since writing was not known in his day. This exposed their ignorance.
  - a. Moses lived and wrote 1500 years B. C.
  - b. Earliest known writing carries us back to Egypt where written inscriptions date back to 4 - 5,000 B. C.
  - c. Inscriptions found in Babylonia date to time of King Sargon I who lived about 3,750 B. C. and Sumerian writing of that area dates back beyond that.
  - d. In Palestine, letters by governors of cities date as early as 1,500 B. C.
2. Early Writing Materials
  - a. Stone - This seems from every area to be earliest writing material. In Egypt and Babylonia earliest inscriptions on stone. Oldest portions of Hebrew writing found in Palestine on stone.
    - (1) The Moabite Stone erected by King of Moab about 850 B. C. telling of Moab's revolt against Jehoram, king of Israel, has been found.
    - (2) Siloam Inscription, 700 B. C. records the construction of a tunnel in Jerusalem adjoining the Pool of Siloam in the time of King Hezekiah.
    - (3) The Ten Commandments first written on stone. Ex. 31:18.
    - (4) After Israel had crossed the Jordan, they were to set up stones and write the law on them. Deut. 27:2-3; Joshua 8:30-32.
  - b. Clay - In Assyria and Babylonia this was the predominant writing material.
    - (1) Huge libraries of clay tablets have been unearthed in that part of the world including the library of Assyrian king Ashurbanipal, identified in OT.
    - (2) These tablets, usually oblong in shape, were written on when soft, then ovenbaked or allowed to dry in the sun.
    - (3) This meant in Ezek. 4:1 when prophet told to take a "tile" and sketch plan of Jerusalem on it.
  - c. Wood - Used freely in Greece. Some have been found in Egypt and Palestine. At Athens in 4th century B. C. wooden tablets were whitewashed to receive ink better and then used for official notices. Tablets mentioned in Isa. 30:8 and Hab. 2:2 were undoubtedly wooden.

d. Leather -

- (1) For hundreds of years leather or animal skins played important part in history of Bible.
- (2) Though leather not specified in OT, it was undoubtedly principal substance used by Hebrews. A scribe's knife, used for erasures, mentioned in Jer. 36:23, and offers evidence that the scroll used there was leather since a sharp instrument would not have been used on a more delicate writing surface.
- (3) Jewish Talmud, code of traditional laws, required that the scriptures be copied on animal skins. Likely, therefore that OT writings were regularly copied on animal skins sometimes known as parchments. Paul wanted the "parchments" brought to him in Rome. II Tim. 4:13.

e. Papyrus -

- (1) The role of leather for OT was played by papyrus for the NT scriptures. The use of this substance was so common in NT times that it is fairly certain the original copies of the NT were written on papyrus sheets.
- (2) Papyrus plant formerly grew in abundance along the Nile River in Egypt. Was used in Egypt as writing material as early as 3500 B. C. Spread to surrounding countries and its use became so general that it was universal medium for making books in Greece and Rome.
- (3) Herodotus in 4th century B. C. referred to those who did not use papyrus for writing purposes as "barbarians".
- (4) How made - from pith of papyrus plant, thin strips were cut and laid side by side to form a sheet. Second layer laid across the first and joined to it by moisture and pressure, then dried and polished and ready for writing use. Sometimes several sheets were joined together to make a roll. These rolls were the "books" of the ancient world until the first or second century AD.
- (5) Average roll about 30 ft. long and 9 or 10 in. across. Usually all writing done on one side. Writing arranged in columns average width being 3 to 4 in. Sometimes inner edge attached to wooden roller to aid in rolling or unrolling the scroll. Sometimes roll put in protective covering and placed for safe keeping in wooden case.
- (6) Not long after birth of Christ men began to put papyrus sheets together in form of a book rather than a roll. The early Christians, when making copies of scriptures used this, rather than rolls, as easier to carry and keep.

f. Vellum or Parchment -

- (1) Came into use about 190 BC by King Eumenes II of Pergamum in Asia Minor. He sought to build up his library and king of Egypt moved to stop him by cutting off his supply of papyrus, so Eumenes had to develop his own writing substance and did by perfecting an improved process in treatment of skins. Result known as vellum or parchment. Term used generally of all types of animal skins used for writing, though originally vellum denoted skins of calves and antelopes while parchment was obtained from sheep and goats.

- (2) Vellum used for more than 1,000 years in making copies of NT. First, animal skins stretched and dried - hair removed from one side and flesh from another. Both sides rubbed smooth with stone. Sheets of it were cut and folded in middle to form quires. Lines were ruled on it by pointed instruments. Writing done in columns at first 3 or 4 to a page and then later only 2 to a page.
- (3) The two most valuable NT manuscripts in existence today are high quality vellum. Sometimes for special effect, the vellum was dyed purple and inscribed with gold or silver letters. Most important feature about vellum is its durability. Papyrus by nature is fragile and subject to decay. Natural that vellum should replace papyrus. From 4th century through Middle Ages principal receptacle for written word of God was vellum.
- g. Paper was also known and used in ancient world. It was made from fibrous matter and developed by Chinese in 2nd century B. C. but not known to rest of world until about 8th century A. D. A number of Biblical manuscripts which originated in the East are on paper.
- h. Other materials - Wax, lead, linen, pieces of pottery, but those mentioned here are those of significance in history of Bible. Instruments for writing purposes varied some. If used clay or wax, sharp instrument known as a stylos was used. In case of papyrus or vellum, a prepared reed used as a pen. III John 13. Inks were of different mixtures but ink used on vellum permanent.

## THE BIRTH OF OUR BIBLE

### INTRODUCTION:

- . It is not possible to fix a definite date and place and say "here the Bible was born." The Bible is a collection of books written separately and under varying circumstances. Thus a collection of books.
- . But not an ordinary collection - it is the treasure-house of sacred books which has grown through the years until it had reached its completeness by the end of the New Testament. The Old Testament could not be collected into one whole until all the books were finished, likewise with the NT.

### BODY:

#### . The Birth of Our Bible

##### A. The early form of our Bible:

1. Patriarchal Age God's communication to man was oral - spoken directly to Adam, Noah, Abraham and Joseph.
2. Time came when necessary for the divine will to be put into writing for instruction of coming generations.
  - a. During time when men lived so long, it was possible for men to pass to next generation accurate accounts of what had happened. For example, Adam's life overlapped Methuselah's by 243 years. Methuselah's life overlapped Noah by 600 years. Noah lived until 2 years before the birth of Abraham. The account of the creation was likely told and retold by Adam, Methuselah and Noah up to time of Abraham.
  - b. But a written word was needed and God provided for it.

3. Moses first one mentioned as writing by God's instruction. About 1500 B. C.
    - a. In early books of Bible 6 distinct things attributed to his hand:
      - (1) The memorial concerning Amalek - Ex. 17:14.
      - (2) Words of covenant at Mt. Sinai - Ex. 24:4.
      - (3) Ten Commandments - Ex. 34:27-28.
      - (4) Journeys of children of Israel in wilderness - Num. 33:2.
      - (5) Book of the Law to be kept in the ark of the covenant - Deut. 31:9, 24-26.
      - (6) The song found in Deut. 32:1-43; Deut. 31:22, 30; Deut. 32:44.
    - b. Moses recognized traditionally as author of Pentateuch. Other Bible writers and Jesus himself support this. Josh. 8:31; Judg. 3:4; Mal. 4:4; Lk. 24:44; Jno. 7:19.
  4. Joshua also wrote words "in the book of the law of God." Josh. 24:26.
  5. Samuel recorded certain events of his day in a book. I Sam. 10:25.
  6. David is credited with writing many things. Number of Psalms.
  7. Solomon
  8. Prophets later times engaged in writing books. Jeremiah 36:2
  9. Thus later generations in OT are found searching the books of former inspired writers to determine certain things - Dan. 9:2. This revealed that captivity was to last 70 years.
  10. When people assembled in rebuilt Jerusalem they read the law of Moses. Neh. 8:1-8.
  11. OT books assembled by Ezra the scribe (c. 400 BC). Historian Josephus writing in 1st century AD says no book was added to Hebrew scriptures after time of Malachi.
- B. NT came into being gradually also, though the books were written over a comparatively short period of time. (50-100 AD)
1. These books were simply letters penned by inspired men and addressed to different congregations or individuals. From first, however, they were looked upon as inspired and read in the assemblies. (I Thes. 5:27). Then came an interchange of letters among various congregations - Col. 4:16.
  2. Next step was writing of events in life of Christ by eyewitnesses. Luke 1:1-4; John 20:30-31.
  3. Then the history of the establishment and early growth of the church - Acts.
  4. Revelation gave assurance that the truth would triumph and the church would rise above all opposition and persecution.
- C. Present Form of our English Bible -
1. **OLD TESTAMENT** - Based on the Septuagint version (Greek translation of OT scriptures) - grouped thusly:
    - a. Five books of the law;      b. Twelve books of history (Josh. to Esther);
    - c. Five books of Poetry (Job to Song of Solomon);
    - d. Seventeen books of prophecy (Isa. to Mal.).
 The books in our English OT are precisely same as in the Hebrew OT in time of Christ.

2. NEW TESTAMENT - Five books of History (Matt. - Acts; 21 books of doctrine (Rom. - Jude); and 1 book of prophecy (Rev.).

I. The Languages of the Bible - 3 originally - Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek

- A. Hebrew - nearly all 39 books of OT written completely in Hebrew.
  - 1. Hebrew is of large family of languages known as Semitic.
  - 2. To us it is a strange language written backward - from right to left and has many sounds foreign to our ears. We can turn to Psa. 119 and see sections numbered according to Hebrew letters, and thus see something of Hebrew alphabet. (KJV)
  - 3. Further, a language without vowels.
- B. Aramaic - kindred language to Hebrew - after time of the exile (c. 500 BC) became tongue of common people in Palestine. Many take Neh. 8:8 to mean that the people after being in captivity so long did not know pure Hebrew and therefore needed a translation into more familiar Aramaic. II Kings 18:26.
  - 1. Aramaic sections of OT are: one word as place name in Gen. 31:47; one verse in Jer. 10:11; about 6 chapters in Daniel (2:4b-7:28); several chapters in Ezra (4:8-6:18; 7:12-26).
  - 2. The NT preserves for us Aramaic expressions of Jesus - Talitha Cumi (little girl, get up) Mk. 5:41; Ephphatha (be opened) Mk. 7:34; Eli eli, lama sabachthani (My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?) Matt. 27:46. Jesus habitually addressed the Father as Abba, an Aramaic word. Gal. 4:6 - abba Father; I Cor. 16:22 - Marana tha (Our Lord, Come.)
- C. Greek - Although the spoken language of Jesus was Aramaic, the NT books were written in Greek. That was the universal language of the first century. This was the common or Koine Greek spoken and written freely in that period.

THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

. Who Chose the Books of the Bible

- A. Old Testament Canon
  - 1. The Old Testament books were collected by Ezra the scribe, for whom the book of Ezra is named. This work was completed in the 5th century BC and nothing more has been added since then.
  - 2. The Septuagint version - This was a translation by 70 scholars of the original Hebrew scriptures into the Greek language. This was accepted by the Jews and this is the translation from which Jesus quoted when he quoted the Old Testament, showing he endorsed it. Written 100-300 years BC.
  - 3. What about the apocrypha? Doubtful origin. These were books which have been added to the Catholic Bible. There are 15 of them. Do they belong in the canon? For these reasons they do not:
    - a. None of these ever quoted or referred to by Jesus.
    - b. These books contain false doctrine and their history is questionable.
    - c. Certain passages in these books approve of lying, if done for a good purpose, and assassination if for a high purpose.
    - d. One of them teaches that suicide is honorable means of escape from defeat.
    - e. The Jews never accepted these books as inspired.

## B. The New Testament Canon

### Meaning of "canon".

1. "English word 'canon' goes back to the Greek word KANON and then to the Hebrew word QANEH. Its basic meaning is 'reed', our English word 'cane' being derived from it. Since a reed was something used as a measuring rod, the word KANON came to mean a standard or rule. It was also used to refer to a list or index, and when so applied to the Bible denotes the list of books which are received as Holy Scripture. Thus if one speaks of the 'canonical' writings, he is speaking of those books which are regarded as having divine authority and which comprise our Bible." (Lightfoot, How We Got the Bible, P. 81)
  2. Difference between canonicity and authority of a book.
    - A. A book by an inspired writer was authoritative from the time written.
    - B. It was not canonical until received into the list of inspired books. This has to do with the recognition and acceptance of its authority.
  3. No church council can make a book authoritative. Inspiration made it that. The Catholic claim that they gave the world the Bible ignores this fact.
- I. NT references to development of canon.
- A. Obviously no reference could be made to a completed canon, though Jude, writing late, spoke of the faith once for all delivered to the saints. (Jude 3).
  - B. But there are references exhorting brethren to read publicly the apostolic writings. (I Thes. 5:27; Col. 4:16; I Tim. 4:13; Rev. 1:3, 2:7, 11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, 22).
    1. Col. 4:16 bears special significance since it requires circulation of a letter to more than one congregation.
  - C. NT bears witness to something approaching a collection of books.
    1. In II Peter 3:15, 16 reference made to "all his epistles", which are called scripture. Since II Peter was a general epistle intended for a wide audience, this implies widespread knowledge of Paul's letters.
    2. In I Tim. 5:18 statement quoted from Deut. 25:4 and then one from Luke 10:7 with word scripture applied to both. Here, then, Paul recognizes Luke as scripture.
- II. Early references to a canon.
- A. Clement of Rome (95 AD) wrote to church at Corinth and not only quoted freely from OT but also quoted Paul's first letter to Corinth, showed familiarity with teaching of Christ and the book of Hebrews.
  - B. Polycarp's Epistle to the Philippians (Ca. 115) quotes words of Jesus often. Paul is quoted and when reference is made to Psa. 4:5 and Eph. 4:26, he adds "as it is said in these scriptures."
  - C. Justin Martyr wrote near middle of 2nd century that on Sundays in the assemblies, "the memoirs of the apostles" were read along with the OT prophets.
  - D. Frequent references to NT passages in writings of Ante-Nicene "fathers".
  - E. The Muratorian Fragment, discovered in 18th century, dates to last half of 2nd century. Part of this list of NT books is missing. The first book appearing in this fragment is Luke, but it is referred to as the "Third" gospel, indicating two others were before it. Then follow John, Acts, 13 epistles of Paul and other books. Only books not appearing in this list are Hebrews, James, I and II Peter and I John.

F. In 3rd century, Origen names all our NT books, but says that Hebrews, James, II and III John and Jude were questioned by some.

#### V. The Tests of Inspired Books

- A. Some books claimed to be inspired which were rejected by early church while others were received. Why?
- B. Every book in the sacred list had to be able to establish its own claim to inspiration. Each book in the Bible has been included because it could not be kept out. There were four tests for inclusion:
  1. Test of genuineness and authenticity.
    - a. Genuineness - opposite of forgery.
    - b. Authenticity - concerns authorship. A book only authentic if written by the one claimed as author. EXAMPLE: Pentateuch only authentic if Moses wrote it.
  2. Test of conformity to general trend of Bible doctrine. For a book to contain a doctrine or approve an action out of harmony with what taught in books unquestionably accepted, is to reflect on its source. God does not contradict himself.
  3. Each book must prove a reliable guide for conduct when translated into action.
    - a. While certain books in Bible reveal sin and failure of chief characters, they do not approve the sin or excuse the failure.
    - b. This one reason for rejecting the apocryphal books.
  4. Each book must bear within its own structure the evidence of inspiration.
    - a. True of every book in accepted canon.
    - b. Not true of those rejected.

### TRACING THE OLD TESTAMENT TEXT

#### INTRODUCTION:

- . Thus far have discussed how ancient books, including Bible were made, birth of our Bible, early forms and present form, languages of the Bible, who chose the books of the Bible, the tools of NT criticism, study of manuscripts, versions and writings of early church fathers which have given us and confirm our present text.
- . So far, we have said very little about the text of the OT. Our study is really not complete without a little more attention being given that matter.

#### BODY:

##### . OLD TESTAMENT TEXT

- A. Principles followed in restoring NT text have also been used in restoring OT text.
  1. However, there is not as great an array of materials from which to work in determining the OT text.
  2. We have discussed the Septuagint version of the OT which was the Greek translation of OT scriptures completed between 100-300 BC and the version used by Jesus. That fact is significant, but it remains that it was a version.
  3. While our manuscripts of the NT date back to the early 4th century, our manuscripts of the OT do not date back that far, C. 1,000 in existence now.
- B. Earliest known manuscripts:
  1. Cairo Codex dated 895 AD
  2. Leningrad Codex dated 916 AD - Codex of Prophets
  3. British Museum Codex dates from 10th century, though has been found to be of much importance.

4. These others are fairly complete but oldest known manuscript of the complete OT is the Leningrad Codex dated 1008 A.D.
5. There are other manuscripts in existence, of course, but these are the basic witnesses to the text of the Old Testament.

C. Why the scarcity?

1. Since OT completed several centuries before first NT books written, why are not more early copies available?
2. Reason fairly easy. Jewish scribes looked upon their copies of the scriptures with almost superstitious respect, which led them to give a ceremonial burial to any copy which was old or worn. Their motive was to prevent improper use of the material on which the sacred name of God had been inscribed. However noble their intentions, such action has kept from us very early copies of the Hebrew manuscripts.

D. The Massoretic text

1. Until invention of printing, all copies of scriptures had to be made by hand. This process made it inevitable that some scribal errors would occur. This especially true with Hebrew OT, because of difficulty of language. Many of letters appear much alike. Example - Nebuchadrezzar and Nebuchadnezzar. R and N in Hebrew almost identical.
2. Recognizing this possibility of scribal errors, there grew up at various times schools among the Jewish scribes dedicated to preserving OT text pure.
3. Most famous of these developed at Tiberias about 500 AD, though there had been many before that time. These were the Massorettes.
  - a. These were so named because of their dependence on the authoritative traditions concerning the text. Their labors spread out over 400 to 500 years.
  - b. These devised a system of vowels and accents which helped greatly in making accurate copies of the text. Hebrew written without vowels. While this seems hard to us, it posed no particular problem during the time Hebrew was freely spoken in a wide circle. When it was no longer spoken widely, there was the danger that the words would be mispronounced or misunderstood. To prevent this, they inserted vowel points above or below the lines of the text. They did not bother the text itself - they only added this as a means by which the proper pronunciation would be kept in tact.
  - c. They concerned also in devising ways by which scribal slips could be avoided. So worked out intricate system of counting. They:
    - (1) Numbered the verses, words and letters of each book.
    - (2) Noted verses which contained all letters of the alphabet, or a certain number of them.
    - (3) They calculated the middle verse, middle word, and middle letter of each book. Some of these notations can still be found in some printed Hebrew Bibles.
    - (4) Scribes could then check his work for accuracy.
    - (5) The Hebrew manuscripts mentioned earlier in lesson were Massoretic texts.

E. Other materials on the Text.

1. Nothing can take the place of actual Hebrew manuscripts, though other materials can shed light on the text and its accuracy.
  - a. They tell us something of the text in use prior to time of Massorettes, for some of these materials go back centuries BC.

- b. When used properly, these other materials can even supply missing words of Massoretic text when it is found to be defective.
- c. These materials with their parallel readings most often substantiate the Massoretic text.

2. The Other Textual Authorities

- a. Samaritan Pentateuch - This not a translation, but a form of Hebrew text itself. Dates back to 400 BC when the Samaritans separated themselves from the Jews and built their sanctuary on Mt. Gerizim. They adopted their own form of the scriptures and accepted only the five books of Moses.
- b. Septuagint - Meaning 70 - Greek translation of OT. Tradition says Jewish scholars from Jerusalem were summoned to Alexandria by the Egyptian king to make translation from Hebrew to Greek. Translation was to be put in library at Alexandria. For a long time this version was only Bible for the early church. Text most often quoted by Apostles and inspired writers of NT and by Jesus.
- c. Aramaic Targums - These were translations or paraphrases into Aramaic from Hebrew. Two official targums had emerged by 5th century AD.
- d. Syriac Peshitta - Begun by middle of 1st century AD. Early part of it follows line of Massoretic text though later portions more like the Septuagint.
- e. Latin Versions - Vulgate work of scholarly Jerome who spent years 390-405 translating directly from Hebrew into Latin.
- f. Materials of lesser importance have been found which have some value in determining text.

I. Present Status of Our Text

- A. The space between end of OT age and time of earliest manuscripts now available would be cause for alarm were it not for the information which has come to light concerning the great care taken by Jews in copying their scriptures. The following excerpt from the Talmud (Jewish civil and religious law) illustrates their care in making copies of the Pentateuch for use in their synagogues:

"A synagogue roll must be written on the skins of clean animals, prepared for the particular use of the synagogue by a Jew. These must be fastened together with strings taken from clean animals. Every skin must contain a certain number of columns, equal throughout the entire codex. The length of each column must not extend over less than forty-eight, or more than sixty lines; and the breadth must consist of thirty letters. The whole copy must be first lined: and if three words be written in it without a line, it is worthless. The ink shall be black, neither red, green, nor any other colour and be prepared according to a definite recipe. An authentic copy must be the exemplar, from which the transcriber ought not in the least to deviate. No word or letter, not even a yod, must be written from memory, the scribe not having looked at the codex before him..... Between every consonant the space of a hair or thread must intervene; between every word the breadth of a narrow consonant; between every new parashah, or section, the breadth of nine consonants; between every book, three lines.

The fifth book of Moses must terminate exactly with a line; but the rest need not do so. Besides this, the copyist must sit in full Jewish dress, wash his whole body, not begin to write the name of God with a pen newly dipped in ink, and should a king address him while writing that name he must take no notice of him.....The rolls in which these regulations are not observed are condemned to be buried in the ground or burned; or they are banished to the schools, to be used as reading-books." Our Bible and the Ancient Manuscripts, by Sir Frederic Kenyon, PP. 78-79.

## II. The Dead Sea Scrolls

- A. The study of them-found in 1948 near Dead Sea by Arab boy who wandered into a cave looking for a lost goat. Inside cave were jars containing several old leather rolls, most of them fragmentary. In all, about 350 have been uncovered. These produced by deeply religious community of Jews who isolated themselves from others in the desert and were known as Essenes.
- B. Many of the scrolls concern only peculiar beliefs of this sect, but in addition were fragments or whole manuscripts of every OT book except the book of Esther, and all material has not yet been deciphered.
  1. Most important manuscripts are two rolls of the book of Isaiah. The first known as Isaiah A dates back to 100 BC while the second roll is of a little later date. So these scrolls are a thousand years older than the oldest previously known Hebrew manuscripts.
  2. This manuscript on Isaiah explodes another argument of the Modernist that Isaiah was written by two different men or possibly three.
- C. The Significance of these scrolls:
  1. They show that a community of Jews 19 centuries ago possessed a library of sacred writing which, in all essential details, is the same as the Bible we accept as authoritative.
  2. While they had other manuscripts of other writings, their regard for the OT was supreme for commentaries were written on only the OT books.
  3. Scholars examining them say the OT scriptures were written in a style distinctive from the rest as though to set them apart.
  4. These scrolls include every OT book or fragments thereof except Esther.

## V. Different Classes of Alleged Discrepancies

- A. Those due to lack of reading exactly what Bible says. EXAMPLE: Adam and Eve only people on earth, yet where did Cain get his wife? He knew his wife there. Gen. 5:4.
- B. Those arising from false interpretation of the Bible - Bible not responsible for our ignorance. EXAMPLE: Jesus in tomb 3 days and nights. Jews reckoned time any part of a 24 hour period spoken of as a day and night.
- C. Wrong idea of Bible teaching as a whole - God did not utter every word in the Bible, but inspired the account of what was said. "The fool hath said in his heart." Some things said by the Devil.
- D. Those due to fact that a writer may not have recorded in each case all that was said or that happened but what was necessary to the point he was making, while another writer may have recorded other things said or done. Superscription on cross. Matthew says there was written "This is Jesus the King of the Jews." Mark says "the King of the Jews" while John says "Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews...and it was written in Hebrew, Latin and in Greek."

- E. From lack of appreciation for purpose of author and method he used in writing.
- F. Discrepancies concerning chronology - most supposed discrepancy occurs here.
- G. Discrepancies pertaining to numbers.
- H. Those which concern doctrine - these supposed discrepancies are based on superficial methods of study. EXAMPLE: Paul and James on salvation by faith and works.
- I. Those based on use of same Hebrew words in different places with different meanings. EXAMPLE: Word "Yarash" means both "to possess" and "to dispossess". Word "Nakar" means both "to know" and "not to know."

### TRACING THE NT BACK TO FIRST CENTURY

#### I. Where we stand.

- A. We do not have the original autographs, but this does not mean we cannot know what the text of those autographs said.
  - 1. Have NT in Greek, in printed form back to 1514. Prior to age of printing, all books in manuscript form, prepared by hand.
  - 2. Until beginning of this century, we had no manuscripts of NT before 4th century. Had other sources (versions, patristic writings), but no manuscripts.
    - a. Emperor Diocletian in 302 ordered all sacred manuscripts destroyed, in attempt to destroy Christianity. Possible that original manuscripts perished then. But when Constantine requested any copies yet in existence, reported that 50 copies were brought to his scribes to be copied.
    - b. Our King James version based on these copies back to 5th century.
    - c. Can now carry the demonstration back to 150 A. D.
- B. Proliferation of manuscripts
  - 1. When translators of KJV worked on their text, had for their guidance approximately two dozen manuscripts of NT in Greek.
  - 2. By 1901, eleven more fragmentary manuscripts of NT discovered, less than a dozen in 300 years.
  - 3. Today, the NT scholar has over 4,500 manuscripts, some fairly complete, others fragmentary, from which to work.
  - 4. A study of these older manuscripts in comparison with copies of 4th century show amazing accuracy maintained over centuries.
- C. Eminent scholars say that in such texts in Greek as those by Nestle, and Westcott and Hort, we have such accuracy that there is no question at all as to 999 words out of every 1,000, less than half a page of the NT if all put together and in these cases no point of doctrine affecting the salvation of the soul is involved.

#### I. Tools of the Translators

- A. Manuscripts - Von Soden, German scholar, in 1902 catalogued 2,328 NT manuscripts. 40 contain in whole or in part all books of NT. 1,716 contain certain portions of the gospels. 581 of Acts, 628 of Paul's epistles, and 219 of Revelation. These manuscripts of two kinds:
  - 1. Uncials - of greatest importance because of earlier date. Written entirely in capital letters without punctuation. They are all dated prior to 9th century. 300 uncial manuscripts now in possession, with 100 of them before 4th century.

2. Cursives - less important due to later date, after 9th century. Written in flowing script.

B. Important Uncial Manuscripts

1. Vaticanus Manuscript - dates from 4th century and considered most important single manuscript. In Vatican Library in Rome. Contains in Greek nearly all of OT and NT. Part of the front has dropped off as well as a few leaves on the back.
2. Sinaitic Manuscript - Dates from early 4th century before Council of Nicea in 325. The NT is intact.
3. Alexandrian Manuscript - Dates from 5th century. This is text on which KJV is based. Few leaves missing at various points.

C. Versions - translations of NT into other languages. From study of these versions, possible to determine the text underlying it.

1. Syriac - dated around 400 but is copy of a translation made into Syriac about 150, within 50 years of apostolic age.
2. Other Syriac versions - Tatian's Diatessaron, about 170 AD. This a harmony of the gospels. Also, the Old Syriac Version dating from 2nd century. The Peshitta Syriac dates from 425 AD.
3. Coptic (Egyptian) Versions - As gospel penetrated into Egypt, translations began to be made into Coptic. These are considered very reliable. The oldest Egyptian versions go back to about 200 AD.
4. Latin Versions - These prepared especially for the lower classes who were not as conversant with Greek as the higher and more privileged class. Most important Latin version was the Vulgate by Jerome in latter part of 4th century. This is basis for Duoyay version of Catholic Church.
5. Other versions of later periods, therefore not as important.

D. The Patristic Writings - writings of influential Christians in the first 300 years. These sometimes called Ante-Nicene Fathers since they wrote prior to Council of Nicea. Some wrote in Greek, others in Latin.

1. Their Value - As these men wrote letters to churches or individuals or defenses of the faith against heresy, they quoted as scripture various portions of the NT. From their writings alone, all of the NT could be replaced except a few verses.

## II. History of English Translations

A. Early English Versions

1. Caedmon, an unlearned laborer of 7th century arranged in verse form stories of Bible on subjects ranging from creation to work of apostles. These verses not actually translations, but did mark first attempt to put Bible accounts into English.
2. Aldhelm (c. 709) brought out first actual translation of any part of Bible in English. Later translated book of Psalms.
3. Bede (735) finished near end of his life a translation of gospel of John.
4. King Alfred led people in religious reform (901) which resulted in translation of Psalms and other sections of scripture.
5. In 10th century Abbot Aelfric translated additional portions of OT. These all fragmentary efforts and whole Bible still not in hands of common people.
6. Wycliffe and Tyndale
  - a. John Wycliffe (1330-1384) - Oxford scholar and teacher, arose as champion of the people in battle against oppression of the Pope. Made translation from Latin into English, though he alone may not have done all the work. In 1388 John Purvey, close friend and associate corrected and revised the Wycliffe translation and this revised Bible held sway until 16th century.

- b. William Tyndale was true father of English Bible. Erasmus in 1516 had issued the first printed NT in Greek, and Tyndale set about to translate it. Completed in 1526, in Germany where Tyndale had fled because of opposition in England. First copies had to be smuggled into England but were bought eagerly. Catholic Church opposed it and burned it in public ceremony. By 1530, published the Pentateuch, in 1531 Jonah, 1534 a revised Genesis, and two additional editions of NT 1534-1535. Tyndale was strangled and burned at the stake for his trouble and died crying "Lord, open the king of England's eyes."
- 7. Other 16th century translations
  - a. Coverdale translation - first to circulate in England without official hindrance. 1535.
  - b. A flood of translations and revisions followed. Notable was Matthew's Bible, 1537. Taverner's Bible, 1539, was revision of Matthew's Bible and made improved renderings in NT.
  - c. In 1539 - The Great Bible, edited by Coverdale, first authorized to be read in the churches.
  - d. Most popular Bible of century was Geneva Bible of 1560. Printed in readable type, in small form with commentary and illustrations, it became Bible for the family as Great Bible was used by churches. This was Bible of day of Shakespeare and the one pilgrims brought to America.
  - e. Bishops Bible in 1568.
- 8. King James Version - 1611
  - a. First translation suitable for both public and private use. Work was ordered by King James, thus called "authorized version." King James himself suggested there be no notes or comments except those essential to the text.
  - b. 48 choice Greek scholars and Hebrew scholars selected and divided into 6 working groups. Each company was assigned selected books to translate and work of each company was sent to and reviewed by the others.
  - c. In 1613 a new edition was issued with 400 variations from first edition. Soon established as THE Bible among English speaking people.
  - d. Weakness of KJ Version:
    - (1) Text rests on late manuscripts (Alexandrian, 5th cent.)
    - (2) Contains many archaic words whose meaning now obscure or else reversed. "let" for "hinder", "prevent" for "precede", "conversation" for "conduct." "Do you to wit", "wot".
    - (3) Some instances failed to show distinction between some Greek words. EXAMPLE: Hell rendered for both Hades and Gehenna, though different words used in Greek.

### C. Reliability of present English translations.

- 1. Function of a translator - to put into our language as nearly correct as possible, the text of the Greek NT, and Hebrew OT. Not the place of a translator to interpret the text.
  - a. This a glaring fault of Revised Standard Version, New English Bible and Today's English Version (TEV).
  - b. Translators of RSV, in explaining need for new translation, criticized the KJV and American Standard Version for their "literal accuracy." What is wrong with that? Don't we need to know exactly what the Lord said?

- c. Nearly all the men involved in translation of RSV and other recent modern English translations were modernists of the deepest dye who did not believe in inspiration, miracles, or deity of Christ. This shows up in several passages.
2. American Standard Version (1901)
    - a. First prepared in 1888 for English people. Work done by committee of over 100 of ripest scholars of the time, both British and American. Due to certain colloquialism, thought wise to bring out the same translation but adapted to American speech. This done in 1901. It is not out of date in language at all. Since that time it has been the best translation available.
  3. The New American Standard Version (NASB). NT came out in 1963 with OT expected before long. In my judgment, this is the best NT translation available. It is especially helpful with verb forms. EXAMPLE: Mt. 16:19
    - a. Safe-guard in KJV, ASV, and NASB is that all words supplied by translators are italicized.
    - b. Another safe-guard is that these translations were made by men working on committee, rather than being individual translations, and they were men who respect inspiration.
    - c. One might think the language easier to understand in modern speech translations, but remember that infidelity shows through in some of them, and what might seem to simplify a passage may only serve to pervert its meaning in your mind.

## WHY WE BELIEVE THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT OF CREATION

### INTRODUCTION

1. The Bible teaches that God created vegetation, animal life and human life. Read Gen. 1:1-2, 11-12, 20-22, 24-28.
2. These verses teach:
  - (1) That God is the source of all life.
  - (2) That the various "kinds" were separate from the beginning.
  - (3) That each thing created reproduced its own kind.
  - (4) That man was higher than the animal kingdom from the beginning.
3. Other passages teach:
  - (1) That God made male and female in the beginning. Matt. 19:1-4.
  - (2) That there is a difference in animal and human blood. Acts 17:26.
  - (3) That there are four different kinds of flesh. 1 Cor. 15:39.
4. There was a time when the Bible was so highly respected that very few dared to call it in question.
  - (1) Now, it is a common thing for college, high school and even grammar school classes to be taught, in one form or another, the theory of organic evolution.
  - (2) In many cases it is simply assumed rather than argued. This assumption underlies not only science studies, but courses in social science or the "humanities philosophy, world history and others.
  - (3) The seriousness of the issue at stake is seen in the fact that the theory poses a direct threat to the faith of the Christian. If one cannot believe the first chapter of the Bible, then he cannot believe any of it.
5. In this study we shall:
  - (1) Define the theory of evolution and cite various textbooks which show the prevalence of it.
  - (2) State briefly and answer briefly the major arguments being used to defend the theory of evolution.
  - (3) Cite evidence from leading men of science, some of whom are evolutionists, to show the doubt and uncertainty which surrounds the conclusions of the evolutionist.
  - (4) Discuss the fruits of the theory of evolution in terms of human relationships.

### BODY

#### I. Just what is the theory of evolution?

- A. "The theory of organic evolution has been defined as the hypothesis that millions of years ago lifeless matter, acted upon by natural forces, gave origin to one or more minute living organisms which have since evolved into all living and extinct plants and animals including man." Evolution, published by International Christian Crusade.
  1. Note: We are not studying whether living things evolve in the sense of changing. Living things do undergo changes. The theory we are studying involves the idea that all living things came from the same source guided only by natural causes.
  2. Theistic evolution is the view that God made the first cell and then used the evolutionary process to bring it to its present state. This is completely contrary to the account in Gen. 1.
- B. The prevalence of the theory:
  1. "All reputable biologists have agreed that evolution of life on earth is an established fact." Biology For You, B. B. Brance and D. F. Miller, published by J. B. Lippencott Co., 1950, page 580. (This is used as a text in biology courses.)

2. "No one has discovered a single fact to disprove the theory of evolution, and the facts that establish its truth are abundant." Exploring Biology, Smith, published by Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1949, page 488. (Also used as a text.)
3. In High School Biology (the blue book, produced by the 1960 and 1961 Summer Writing Conferences of the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study, used as a text in a three year preparatory course for special biology students in preparation for college level studies) we have these statements:
  - a. "All this large body of fact is accounted for by the modern theory of evolution and none of it has counted as evidence against the theory." (page 37.)
  - b. After a series of the usual arguments to sustain the theory, climaxing in the argument on the evolution of the horse, it is said: "There is no longer any reasonable doubt that evolution occurs." (page 57.)
4. The President of the Science Teachers Association of Texas, Marjorie Behringer would refuse to let anyone teach who did not accept the theory of evolution if she had her way: "To the teacher who denies the evidence of evolution I can only say that either he lacks the ability of comprehension, or he is deceiving himself and others. For me, this teacher has no place in the classroom." (The STATellite, October, 1964, page 3.)
5. With such dogmatic statements as these, one would think that there must be an abundant array of evidence in favor of evolution. Let us take a look.

## II. Arguments made to defend evolution

### A. Similarity proves relationship

1. This argument rests on comparative anatomy of certain animals.
2. It is argued that the skeletons of fish, frogs, snakes, birds and cats have certain similarities.
3. Then the muscular, digestive, circulatory and nervous systems are studied in the same way.
4. The evolutionist concludes that the nearer alike they are in structure, the more nearly related they are in evolutionary descent.

#### THE ANSWER

1. All agree that there are similarities in living things. But the same facts may be interpreted to show special creation, that these living creatures were all made after a common plan, devised in the mind of God.
2. Where are the missing links between the major categories?
3. While there are similarities between certain animals, there are also great differences. The evolutionist has stressed the similarity of the Tasmanian wolf and the dog and has implied that they are related to each other in the evolutionary chain. Yet the Tasmanian wolf is a marsupial, carrying his young in a pouch, while a dog does not.
4. Sometimes internal structures are quite similar while the external features are vastly different.

- ### B. Argument from geology - We are told that many fossils have been found and this is true. We are also told that geologists can date the age of these rocks, and therefore the fossils in them, that the deeper one goes into the crust of the earth, the simpler the fossils become. It is argued that simple plants and animals developed first, and that present forms evolved from them.

#### THE ANSWER

1. Sometimes evolutionists have employed circular reasoning and have therefore made arbitrary deductions. They have said that a certain fossil is known to be so old because of the strata from which it was taken. Then out the

- other side of their mouth they tell us they know how old the strata is because of the fossils found there.
2. They have been known to construct a whole skeleton from a very small finding. On March 22, 1962 a British anthropologist announced that he had found a "new type of primate" which he claimed was the earliest link in the chain of evolution leading directly or indirectly to modern man. He said this "fills one more of the important and major gaps in our story of human evolution." What did he really find? Two pieces of upper jaw containing teeth, and a lower tooth!
  3. The so-called Neanderthal Man was constructed out of the evolutionists' head with similar small pieces of bone.
  4. At the Museum of Natural History in Chicago, brochures admit that they have "schematized" the displays they have set up purporting to be a chain of evolution.
  5. There are no fossil remains found of links between one class and another.
  6. The fossil remains appear suddenly in the crust of the earth which indicates that life began suddenly, as Genesis indicates.
  7. With all the fossil remains, the missing links between plants and animals, and animals and humans are all still missing! Even those fossils said to be the oldest, have been readily classified. Fossils of dragonflies, snails, jellyfish and crabs look much the same as those creatures do now.
  8. Even in the earliest fossils found, all parts of plants and animals are fully formed - arms, legs, wings, eyes, etc. Not only are the missing links with reference to the whole organism missing, but even the parts show no evidence of evolution.
  9. CAUTION - Many Bible believers have injured the cause of truth in arguing that the earth is only 6,000 years old. Bishop Ussher (in 1650-54) published a Biblical chronology which was used in some reference versions of the King James Bible. This is the source of the idea that the earth is only 6,000 years old. There is abundant evidence that the earth is much, much older than that. Discuss Gen. 1:1-2. This passage leaves room for a long period of time between the time the earth was "without form and void" and the time when the "spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." It should not be assumed, however, that a divine being with all wisdom and power, could not have made a fullgrown tree, or a mountain, or strata of earth with a mineral deposit in it.

- C. Argument from vestigial structures of the body - Most of the more knowledgeable evolutionists have abandoned this argument, yet it continues to appear in high school texts and is often heard. This is the idea that the body has some members which are not used, and that after a long period of disuse, these members tend to drop off. (They say that is why we don't have a long tail like a monkey, that when we didn't need it anymore and quit using it, it gradually dropped off and we have left only a tail bone.) In a still used high school text High School Biology, page 59 (this text was a part of the BSCS material prepared in Denver, Colorado in 1960-61 and which is used now throughout the country, including schools in northern Ohio) we have a chart presenting this argument.

#### THE ANSWER

1. They used to tell us we had 180 such organs in the body. They have now reduced the number to 6. They used to say the appendix was in this number of vestigial organs. They no longer think so. It has been found that a person with his appendix can receive much greater radium treatment than those without it.
2. Man's ignorance of the use of various members of the body does not argue that they have no use.

D. The evolution of the horse

1. This has been considered the best argument for evolution as far as a demonstration goes. There are fossils of an animal evidently in the horse family, but very small. Then we are shown a picture of a modern horse sixteen hands high. It is then concluded that evolution is demonstrated.
2. This argument is subtly made in books ranging from stories for pre-school children (From Then To Now, page 19, a Little Golden Book) to high school and college texts. This argument is diagrammed on page 56 of High School Biology, the BSCS blue book now in use throughout the country. Then on page 57 this statement is made: "There is no longer any reasonable doubt that evolution occurs."

THE ANSWER

1. This simply demonstrates change within a species. It does not show change from one "kind" to another.
2. "Eohippus" or "dawn horse" was still a horse. So is "equus" of the larger variety. Even now, there is much variation in size in the horse family. Look at the difference in size between a Shetland pony and a Percheron horse.

III. STATEMENTS OF NOTED MEN OF SCIENCE

- A. Teachers of evolution have often generalized by saying "all noted scientists believe this", or "all reputable biologists" accept the theory of evolution. Biology For You, page 580. This leaves the impression that one cannot be a noted scientist without accepting the evolutionary theory without question or doubt.
- B. This is contrary to the truth as the following quotes indicate:
  1. Prof. Claude Tresmontant, who lectures on the philosophy of science at Sorbonne in Paris was interviewed for the international magazine Realities and was quoted by United Press International. In his interview he exposed the idea that the universe and what is in it resulted from mere chance. He said that such an idea made chance itself a God. Said he, "We are now aware of the extraordinary complexity of the large molecules which enter into the composition of the living cell. Calculations have been made to discover what likelihood there would be of hitting on the simplest of these large molecules through the operations of chance from an initial primitive chaos, and the conclusion is that the length of time and the amount of matter needed for the chance creation of a single molecule would be out of all proportion to the known age of our galaxy."
  2. Dr. Austin H. Clark, of the United States National Museum, Washington: "Thus so far as concerns the major groups of animals, the creationists seem to have the better of the argument. There is not the slightest evidence that any one of the major groups arose from any other. Each is a special animal complex, related, more or less closely, to all the rest, and appearing, therefore, as a special and distinct creation." Quarterly Review of Biology, Dec., 1928, page 539.
  3. Dr. George Gaylord Simpson, the leading evolutionist in America today, said: "This regular absence of transitional forms is not confined to mammals, but is an almost universal phenomenon, as has long been noted by paleontologists. It is true of almost all orders of all classes of animals, both vertebrate and invertebrate." (He then said the same thing applied to plants. At the time he made that statement in Tempo and Mode of Evolution, page 107, 1944, he was connected with the American Museum of Natural History.) For the leading evolutionist in the country to admit that there is a "regular absence of transitional forms" is quite damaging.

4. Edgar Chance, British ornithologist, said: "Personally I find it far easier to believe in a Divine Creator than in any hazy theoretical automatic beginning and development of everything from nothing." The Truth About the Cuckoo. 1940, page 197.
5. Numerous other men of science could be mentioned who either believe in Divine Creation or else have admitted the great difficulties in the theory of evolution.

#### IV. The Fruits of Evolution

- A. A tree is known by the fruit it bears. This is true of the theory of evolution. Much harmful fruit has come from that tree.
- B. A look at some of the fruit:
  1. The Darwinian Code of Ethics. Darwin's theory assumed that man's present state emerged from the brutal struggles of the past. In the struggle the weaker perished and the stronger survived. Such an idea makes fear, animalism, ferocity and brutality the origin of progress. This is the idea that might makes right. This is the law of the jungle. The spirit of lawlessness and total disregard for one's neighbor, which is so evident in many now, is but natural and right, if the idea of the survival of the fittest is true. If man reached his present state by biting, clawing and devouring, then he should not be blamed for continuing the same thing.
  2. Militarism. This is the natural extension of the survival of the fittest from the individual to the group or race. The full title of Darwin's famous work is "On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle for Life." Such exponents of militarism as Nietzsche claimed that it is the biological law for the strong nations to crush the weak. Adolph Hitler was a student of the works of Nietzsche and applied what he said to the German race, teaching that it was the super race and therefore entitled to rule the world. Two World Wars are sufficient evidence of the folly of such a concept.
  3. Atheism. Evolution is the very cornerstone of atheism. Charles Smith, former president of the American Association for the Advancement of Atheism, said, "evolution is atheism." Woolsey Teller of the same organization said: "The God idea cannot be reconciled with our knowledge of evolution." Evolution erodes the faith of those who are taken in by it, and for what? Does one become a better biologist, chemist, geologist or space technician because he subscribes to this theory?
  4. Immorality. If we decide that man is nothing more than the product of evolution, then there is no reason to expect him to subscribe to any standard of morals except what pleases him. Don't entirely dismiss the prevalence of the theory of evolution with the alley cat morals which have gripped so many of this "mod" generation. Let one decide that he was not made by a Divine Creator and he then feels no sense of responsibility to any standard which that Being imposes.

#### Conclusion

1. There is no reason for the Christian to fear a study of such matters as these. His faith is justified. The theory of evolution is an unproved hypothesis. Before one accepts it, he needs to count the cost. It takes courage to stand up for Divine Creation when teachers and fellow students ridicule us.

2. "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." Psa. 14:1.
3. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork." Psa. 19:1.
4. Evolution was born and has been fostered by some who "did not like to retain God in their knowledge." Rom. 1:28.
5. "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; so that they are without excuse." Rom. 1:20.

- *Connie W. Adams*

# IS THE BIBLE SCIENTIFIC

The Bible is not a text book on science. The chief aim of the Bible is to bring man to God, and not to discuss the problems nor the phenomena of science. However, we do find incidental references to various branches of science in the Bible. Our study is this: *When the Bible makes a scientific statement, is that statement in harmony with modern science?* To this question your attention is now invited.

## WHAT IS SCIENCE?

Science is a French word which came from the Latin word "scientia" which means "knowledge" or "to know". Webster defines it: "Knowledge; any department of systematized knowledge". We conclude then that a thing is scientific WHEN IT IS KNOWN. We are now ready to make this positive assertion: **THERE IS NO SCIENTIFIC STATEMENT IN THE BIBLE THAT CONTRADICTS ANYTHING THAT IS KNOWN.** There are theories that contradict the Bible, but those theories must first be proved TRUE before they can set at nought the Word of God. For example, the theory that man descended from monkeys, or that monkeys and man came from the same "family tree", contradicts the Bible, but the theory has NOT been PROVED to be true. All who believe the Bible declare that such a theory is NOT TRUE. Furthermore, science, itself, declares that such a theory is not true. In 1935 Brother W.L. Oliphant of Dallas, Texas met in debate Mr. Charles Smith, the president of the American Association on the Advancement of Atheism, of New York City and publicly debated the theory of evolution and the Bible account of creation. It is needless to say that the theory of EVOLUTION was shown to be UN-SCIENTIFIC. And if any Evolutionist today would like to try his hand at proving the theory, I would be glad to arrange such a discussion with him. The debate between bro. Oliphant and Mr. Smith was printed in book form and is available today.

## FIVE FUNDAMENTAL SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES

Herbert Spencer first announced that there are only five "manifestations of the unknowable in existence -- time, force, action, space and matter -- and that all else is based on these fundamentals. As if in anticipation of modern science, Moses put all five of these scientific fundamentals in the first verse of Genesis and in the same order as announced by Mr. Spencer. Moses wrote: "In the beginning" (time) "God" (force) "created" (action) "the heavens" (space) "and the earth" (matter). How could Moses do this? God told Moses what to write!!

## LIGHT BEFORE THE SUN

All men once held with Sir Isaac Newton the idea that light is an emanation from the sun and other juminous bodies, but in recent years men think they have proved that light existed before the sun. There are many theories concerning light but all scientists are apparently agreed that light existed before the sun was made its governor. On this point, the Bible reads, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and the earth was without form and void and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and God said, Let there be light and there was light..." (Genesis 1:1-2). Then one can read on to verses 17 and 18 where God later made the sun, moon and stars to "rule" or control this light and to act as our chronometers or time keepers. How did Moses know this important scientific fact thousands of years before others discovered it?

THE THREE KINGDOMS

Scientists now teach that there are three great kingdoms -- mineral, vegetable and animal. This scientific division is a comparatively recent introduction, yet Moses, in the first chapter of Genesis, used the first ten verses telling about the mineral (material) kingdom, the next nine verses telling about the vegetable kingdom and the rest of the chapter telling of the animal kingdom. How was Moses able to make this division?

THE EARTH IS ROUND

When the Bible was written it was universally believed that the earth was flat. Magellan sailed around the world in the 16th century A.D. But Isaiah wrote in 712 B.C. (2200 years before Magellan's voyage), "It is he (God) that sitteth upon the CIRCLE of the earth" (Isaiah 40:22). Again, in Proverbs 8:27 we read, "He setteth a CIRCLE upon the face of the deep" (Revised Version reading). Furthermore, we read that Christ is coming in the daytime and at night also. It will be day on one side of the earth and night on the other, when Jesus comes. (See Luke 17). That the writers of the Bible wrote of the rotundity of the earth cannot be questioned. They could have learned of this only from God.

SUSPENSION OF THE EARTH IN SPACE

The ancient Greeks and Romans were the most advanced peoples of their times, yet they believed that the earth was held in place by poles, or by the neck of Atlas. It remained to modern science to prove the statement made by Job in the long ago, "...he...hangeth the earth upon nothing" (Job, 26:7).

EMPTY SPACE IN THE NORTH

Astronomers have discovered that there is a great empty space in the North. It contains no moving planets and shining stars. By turning their telescopes to the South, the East and the West, men may behold countless millions of stars invisible to the naked eye, but when the telescope is set exactly to the North, there is a great empty space. For this astronomers have been unable to account. They did not know until recently that there was such an empty space, yet Job declared, "He stretcheth out the north over empty space, and hangeth the earth upon nothing" (Job 26:7). Job could not have known this short of inspiration.

LIGHT IS VOCAL

Modern physics has taught us many things about the tonal value of light. Light and color and sound are fundamentally the same. Waves rush through space; some reach the eyes as light, some as color and some reach the ears as sound. There are rays of color (from the infra-red down) so slow and so long that our eyes cannot see them. There are rays of color (from the ultra-violet up) so short and so fast that we cannot see them. But every light and color likewise has its SOUND value. All of this has been discovered by modern science, yet Job said, "When the morning stars SANG together" (Job 38:7). How did Job know that the light of the sun or the light of the stars speeding through space carries with it a note of sound?

If our ears were tuned to hear these melodies, we too could enjoy the music of the stars. Where light is, sound accompanies it. Dr. Harry Rimmer tells of

the famous "color organ" operating in the dining quarters of Radio City in New York. Not only do the diners hear the music of the organ, but they see the color value of each note as it flashes across the dome above them. These brilliant rainbows are produced by transmitting the sounds of the organ into the equivalent color value of each note of the scale. The tone value and the color value of a given note never vary. IT IS UPON THESE FACTS THAT TELEVISION IS MADE POSSIBLE.

### GEOGRAPHY OF THE BIBLE

Geography is a comparatively modern science. Not many years ago the maps of much of the world were mostly blank and the mistakes in geography books had to be corrected every generation. This is not true of the Bible. No one has to revise it and bring it up to date. It is correct in every instance. When the Bible says, "They went UP to Jerusalem" it is literally uphill. The same is true of "down". The cities, towns, plains, deserts, hills and mountains mentioned in the Bible have been found exactly where the Bible locates them.

### PATHS OF THE SEA

Before Matthew Fontaine Maury lived there were no sailing lanes and no charts of the sea. One day, when he was ill, his son read to him from the eighth Psalm. He read that God had put under man "...the fowls of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through *the paths of the sea*". "Read that again", he said. Upon hearing it the second time, the venerable scientist said, "If the Word of God says there are paths in the sea, they must be there. I will find them". Within a few years he had charted the principal lanes or paths of the sea and these are followed by ocean-going vessels to this day. How did David know of these paths of the sea? God must have told him!!!

### THE TREASURES OF THE SNOW

In Job 38:22 we read, "Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail". Of course Job did not know, or understand, about the "Treasures" in the snow and hail. but Dr. Frank T. Shutt of the Canadian Department of Agriculture has shown in comparatively recent times that the action of snow and hail centrifuging through the air collects nitrates, free ammonia and albuminoid ammonia. These are all valuable fertilizers. He explains that an average winter's snow and hail is worth about fifteen dollars per acre to farm land.

### LIGHTNINGS THAT TALK

Job 38:35, says, "Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go and say unto thee, Here we are?" Job could not do this but we are able to do so today as we talk on the telephone, radio, or send our messages by telegraph. Truly the lightning goeth and saith for us.

### WHO SHUT UP THE SEA ?

In Job 38:8-11 we read, "Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it, and brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors, and said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further; and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?" Here the ocean is pictured as a new born baby. God is pictured as sitting down and taking upon His lap the newborn ocean. With one hand He grasped thick darkness to make a flannel band for the new baby's tummy, and with the

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Time forbids that we mention more. In concluding this study of the Bible and Science let me say that the Research Science Bureau, Los Angeles, California offers \$1000 for one scientific contradiction found in the Bible. If anybody thinks that they of know of one, let them speak up.

## THE BIBLE AND HISTORY

Did you ever know of a man who could write history in advance? Can men record the history and destiny of nations before they are founded? Can men mention the names of men, and foretell what they will do before they are born? Can men pronounce certain destruction and desolation upon cities centuries ahead? Men have no such omnipotent vision and power -- yet the Bible is replete with instances of all such. Moses wrote the history of the Jews BEFORE they became a nation, while they were yet only an emancipated race of slaves in the wilderness of their journey to Canaan. He revealed their type of government, and its many changes timed to their history; the character of their kings and the events of their administrations, good and bad; their final conquering by the foreign nation that subdued them; and their permanent end as a nation in their scattered state, yet not a mongrel race, for they would not be consumed, though their name should ever be a hiss and a byword. The fulfillment of it all is so obvious that no argument is needed to sustain it, yet some of these events were named by Moses as far as fifteen hundred years before they even BEGAN to take place.

The prophets of the Old Testament predicted the destruction of certain cities -- Tyre and Sidon; Avalon, and Babylon -- centuries ahead, and with the accuracy and boldness that only an inspired man of God could muster. Their destruction came according to the word of these prophets -- and to this day they remain in the dust of their ashes. Besides all this, God's prophets called the names of kings and rulers before they were born. Isaiah named Cyrus, the Persian king, a hundred years before he was born and cited his proclamation liberating the Jews from their Babylonian captivity, and even referred to his benevolence in supplying the money and material with which they should lay the foundation for the rebuilding of their temple in Jerusalem. *These and other similar facts are the undeniable evidences of the Divine inspiration of the Bible.* The man doesn't live that can overturn such a bulwark of proof and authenticity!!

But in matters of prophecy, the Messianic prophecies excel all. From Genesis to Malachi, in the Old Testament, these prophecies occur, and from Matthew to Revelation, in the New Testament, their fulfillment is recorded. Every event of His life from Bethleem to Nazareth, and from Nazareth to Calvary are matters of Old Testament prediction and New Testament fulfillment. *It furnishes the climax of all evidences that the Bible is the inspired Word of God,* and is the most bewildering array of evidence of the divine inspiration of the Bible that ever an unbeliever, or infidel, has attempted to dispose of. Why should men oppose God?? "Here, O Heaven, and give ear, O Earth: for the Lord has spoken".

### THE BIBLE IS IN HARMONY WITH ITSELF -- THE BIBLE DOES NOT CONTRADICT ITSELF

This study has to do with THE HARMONY OF THE BIBLE IN DOCTRINE. The Bible does NOT teach contradictory doctrines! The Lord Jesus Christ, Himself, said, "A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF CANNOT STAND". Infidelity and unbelief are on the increase. There is more preaching, more people hear the Bible taught than ever before, yet infidelity runs rampant. Some people are unbelievers because they think that the Bible and Science do not harmonize; others, because they think that the Bible and History are not in agreement; but the vast majority of unbelievers are such because THEY THINK THE BIBLE CONTRADICTS ITSELF IN DOCTRINE.

There was a man in a community in which I lived who was very irreligious. He was an infidel, and denounced the church and religious people in very hard and ugly terms. One day I called on the man that I might reason with him about his conduct toward the church. He told me that he didn't believe the Bible and he thought all preachers

were knowingly deceiving the people into thinking that the Bible is the Word of God. When I asked him why he felt this way about it, he replied that one preacher preached one thing and another preached another, and they both read what they preached right out of the Bible. He said that he had gone to many different churches and studied with them all -- they all claimed to be right and to preach the Bible, yet they taught different and contradictory things. Upon failing to find an explanation for this divided and contradictory state of affairs, he decided that it was all a farce.

When I heard the troubles of the old infidel, the words of the Saviour came to me, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one...that the world may believe that thou hast sent me". (John 17:20-21). There are 260 different churches, each teaching a different doctrine from the others, yet all claim to be teaching the Bible. Christianity has become the laughing stock of the world. Think of it -- 260 different doctrines, contradictory one to another, taught by preachers of different "faiths" and all of them found in the same book, the Bible!! Believe it who can. All preachers claim to be "called of God" to preach, yet they preach conflicting doctrines. Does God call one preacher to preach one thing, and another to preach just the opposite?? Of course not!! Such confusion is contrary to the spirit of love which the Heavenly Father has, it robs the church of her glory and makes her subject to ridicule, and it all results in driving more good honest people into INFIDELITY. This must be the work of the Devil. He knows that a "house divided against itself cannot stand", so as long as he can divide "the Kingdom of God" and make people think that they are in the kingdom of God when they are not, and that they are serving Christ the King when they are not, he has done a wonderful job for himself. Of course when some preacher raises his voice against such division and points out the errors of the many denominations, he is immediately branded as "narrow minded", a "fighter", and a "bigot". Nevertheless, I unhesitatingly say to you good people, and challenge a study of the point, that such confusion, division and contradiction as is characteristic of denominationalism is, not only NOT OF GOD, but is clearly CONDEMNED BY GOD. Jesus Christ said in Matthew 15:9-14, "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men...Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch". Again, Jesus said in his wonderful Sermon on the Mount, preached to the multitudes, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity". (Matt. 7:21-23).

But, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am glad to affirm that the BIBLE DOES NOT CONTRADICT ITSELF in any such manner. If all doctrines were right, then, of course, the Bible would have to contradict itself, but *all doctrines are NOT right, and the Bible does NOT teach them all*. There can be no two opposing views of ANY one thing and BOTH be right. TRUTH DOES NOT CONTRADICT ITSELF. All truth, whether it be scientific, historical, or religious, must agree. If any of them contradict, then there must be an error somewhere, because all truth must agree. So it is with doctrines taught by the different churches -- when any of them contradict, then there must be an error somewhere. Paul said, "there is ONE FAITH" (Eph. 4:5). Again he said, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto ANOTHER GOSPEL: which is not another, but there are some that...would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed" (Gal. 1:6-8). When two preachers are preaching different doctrines, I know that one of them is not preaching the gospel which Paul preached. Paul did not contradict himself!! Jesus said, "...false prophets shall arise", and John said, "...try the spirits". Don't let division destroy your faith, or error to cause you to lose your soul.