

The Bible,
The Inspired
Word of God

By
Earl B. Bliss

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE
P. O. Box 518
GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA 73044

THE BIBLE

The Inspired Word of God

Today, we are living in a world of ignorance and the unlearned. Oh, yes, I know we are living in a time when wisdom has increased, but what kind of wisdom? God said that He saw that every imagination of the thoughts of men's hearts was evil continually. Our scientists are making great strides, prying into the secrets of God. This alone should prove that we are living in the "last times." They want to see what God has up in the heavens. Thus far I cannot see where they have found out much more than what I was taught when a child in school. Astronomy is the oldest science known to man, and we were taught that the moon was a dead planet, there was nothing on it, and that it was put there for a light to shine down on this earth at night. This is according to the Bible revelation. Now you see how much money they have spent and the lives that have been lost, to find out something that former scientists have been telling us for years. They call this intelligence. But the only thing I can see that they have learned is how to get away from this earth, and, of course, this branches off into more complex things.

But I want to say right here that everything that man makes causes some kind of damage and has to be controlled. But what God has made works with precision. Take a look at the motor car. It is killing more people than all the wars and man is making stricter laws trying to combat the slaughter, but they never can control the individual that drives it. The H-Bomb is the most destructive thing that man has invented and they are all afraid of it, as they cannot control it, neither do they know how to get rid of it, now that they have it. All this wisdom is of Satan and not of God. The wisdom of God will not destroy man but will preserve him.

One does not need to go very far today, with the mini-skirts all around us, and sex on the rampage, to see where this nation is headed. Those who know past history have seen what happened to other nations that have gone after sex. God destroyed this world once with a flood because man was contaminating the earth with his sins. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by God's fire from heaven because of these same things. God is no respecter of persons. What He has done to them He will do to this nation. In God's Word we read, "Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee." (Deut. 32:18) "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." (Psa. 33:12) "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." (Prov. 14:34) "For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted." (Isa. 60:12).

God has exalted this nation above every nation of the world. This nation was known as a Christian nation. On our money our forefathers had inscribed, "In God We Trust." God honors righteousness, and will win every battle for a nation whose God is the Lord. But His wrath is upon them that do wickedly.

I heard a young man talking on the phone to a radio announcer. He asked if he thought the Bible meant what it said about adultery and fornication. I was glad to hear the announcer tell him that it meant just what it said. He then asked if he thought it was wrong for a couple to have sex relations before marriage. The announcer answered him something like this: "I'll agree with you that there is a lot of this done, but it is contrary to God's Word. You see, we have to live by certain rules, just like rules in a ball game, or any other game. If you think a fellow on the opposite side is cheating a little, you want to do something about it, so as to enforce the rules of the game. Now, God made rules for our own benefit, especially for our health's sake. He said, 'Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings.' (Prov. 31:3) When we go against God's rules, then some

time in the future we are going to pay, as God said, 'Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.' I believe this is the reason there is so much venereal disease in our land." I thought this was about as good an answer as I had ever heard over the radio. So God still has a few people who are holding up the standard. If He didn't, this world would be destroyed.

Now this is the condition of this world. People don't believe God's Word means what it says. Most think that it means what it says for the Christian, and the sinner can go free. But on the contrary, it was written for the sinner to bring him to God, and it was written for the Christian to direct his life to heaven.

Let us look into the inspired Word of God a little further and give some truths that will prove it to be God's Word, and that it is sure.

By the word "inspired" we mean that the prophets and apostles, in what they said and wrote, were guided by the Holy Spirit of God in a manner of much higher intelligence than that of any men of their times. Rightly to understand and appreciate this, we must be sure to bear in mind that these men wrote in times when in all the world there was idolatry, and polytheism everywhere. Before the birth of Christ, when the Old Testament prophets spoke and wrote, all the world, excepting the Jews, were polytheistic (that is, they worshipped many gods). Men worshipped beasts and creeping things, the sun, moon and stars.

In Egypt, where Moses was brought up and learned all the wisdom of Egypt, they worshipped Ptah, who, according to Egyptian belief, was the mind of the universe, who created all gods and men by thinking them into existence. They worshipped the sacred bull, "Apis." They built great temples for these idol gods. The Israelites were brought up under these conditions while they were making brick for Pharaoh. Even so when Jesus was born, and all through the times of the apostles, Greeks and Romans worshipped Jupiter, Venus, Mars, Saturn, and a host of false divinities.

When we consider that it was under these circumstances that we find one set of men uniformly preaching the truth of "one God, and He is a Spirit," we are forced to the conclusion that they did not invent, nor discover, this truth unaided by the Divine Spirit of God. An influence higher than anything human must have pervaded their thought and governed their speech and writings. The moment we compare what they said and wrote, with the so-called sacred writings of all other nations we see how immeasurably superior their utterances were. Take the Koran the book of the Mohammedan world, or the Vedas. the books of the Hindu religion, or the writings of Confucius, in whom the Chinese believe, or the Zend Avesta. the book of the sun-worshippers of Persia, and compare any of them with the Bible, and you will need no other argument to force you to believe that the Bible writers were moved by a power far above themselves, and that they received revelations from God as to the true nature of God and of the way of salvation. It is not in the power of man to save himself. Only through Christ was this made possible.

Now we will bring some truths regarding types of prophesy. It is beyond question that men had direct revelation from God. The mighty miracles of the Old Testament are evidences of that fact. The elaborate ritual and ceremonies of the tabernacle service were not the production of a people just out of slavery, nor of Moses, their leader, who was brought up in the courts of Egypt. Nor does Moses take any credit for it, but declares it was after the pattern shown him on Mount Sinai. Every part of it was a type pointing to a Kingdom 1,500 years later in the cross of Calvary. On the day of crucifixion, even the tearing of the great veil from top to bottom before the Holy of Holies, was a type that betokened the fact that the old had been fulfilled and from that time on, every man had access to the Father through Christ Jesus as the High Priest of God. This is a new dispensation in which Jesus said, "For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

This wonderful Book reveals more truth about God and the duty of man than any other book. Now take the book of Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress." It speaks much about both of these truths. But bear in mind that Bunyan got his truth from the Bible. This is true of all books that draw their truths from this Sacred Volume. Take the words of Moses when he proclaimed, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord, and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy might, and thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." At the time that this was uttered all the world was sunk in idolatry, and from whom could Moses have received this majestic truth if not from God direct? The gods of all nations at that time were for the most part represented as immoral, licentious. Yet Moses proclaims, "Ye shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy." (Lev. 19:2). Such perfect morality as this was to be found no where in the world at that time. It corresponds with what Jesus said when He commanded men to be, "perfect even as your Father in heaven is perfect." In those days such utterances were not found at all among men of other religions. In the midst of idolatry we find Jesus saying, "God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth." Such a saying calls for more than mere human intelligence. It is nothing less than a divine revelation from God through His Son.

The same is true with regard to what the Bible has to say about the duty of man. Here we find the loftiest kind of truth, and in addition to this, we find the way of salvation so clearly marked out that no one need fail of reaching it, if he so desires. John 3:16 is proof in itself of the inspiration of this Book, for here we find the gospel of salvation put in one sentence, the most precious sentence in the world, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Now we shall continue proving this is the inspired Word of God by the fulfillment of prophecy, uttered hundreds of years before. The first promise of the Bible for

the future was the promise of a Deliverer from sin. (Gen. 3:15). That prophecy runs like a golden thread down through the Old Testament times. God said to Abraham, "In thee shall all the families of the earth be blest." Jacob, in his last words, said of Judah, "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet till Shiloh come." David, Isaiah, and many of the other prophets, "told before of the coming of the Just One" and almost all of these prophecies are referred to by New Testament writers as having had their fulfillment in Jesus of Nazareth. Prophets told that Israel and Judah would be carried away into captivity, and the destruction of Jerusalem, as well as the deliverance of the Jews from exile, out of the land of Babylon. These things were prophesied years before they happened. Jesus Himself foretold the later destruction of Jerusalem when the disciples asked Him to look at the great stones and how beautiful the Temple was adorned with precious stones and gifts. Jesus said, "As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." This was forty years before it occurred and it happened with precision.

Then, too, every day we see conditions and results which are in fulfillment of the prophetic teachings of God's Word. Jesus called them "the signs of the times." We will list a few. Jesus said, "And upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." Then Jesus told us, "Because iniquity [sin] shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Then another Scripture says, "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first." I think everyone can see how liberalism has taken the place of Christianity in the so-called churches. Some have gone so modern that you cannot discern between them and sinners. They seem to think they can improve upon God's Word, so the Spirit of God leaves them with an empty shell. Then Daniel prophesied, "And when he

[Satan] shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished." (Dan. 12:7). This should be enough evidence that these things are being fulfilled before our eyes, and this world is taking shape for His coming, as Jesus told us in His Word, "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Pet. 1:21)

We will now try to give some of the effects and influences this Book has had in the uplifting and purifying of men's hearts and human society. Our forefathers came to this country with a religious zeal to serve God in freedom. They stood firmly to preserve this freedom. They made the laws of our country according to the laws of God's Holy Word. This nation God has prospered and made the greatest of all nations around the world. God honors righteousness and His Word says, "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." We who have enjoyed God's blessings in this land of ours, would not want to live under the conditions of Russia and bring our children up under such teachings. There is only one God. "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else." (Isaiah 45:22) The Scripture says, "Every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess."

Our ancestors were idolaters. How did the change come about? Simply, because the Bible came to our forefathers, and, by the Holy Spirit's power, changed them, and made decent, law-abiding citizens out of them. Take from America all that has come to us from the Bible and the best part of our civilization would disappear at once. We can see this happening in our young people and a lot of the older ones, too. The fact is, that the best of all that we hold dear, and that makes this nation what we are, has come to us from the Bible. If this does not prove that it is a book of Divine origin, I do not know what would prove It.

Wherever this book is taught, in heathen lands or cannibal islands, it brings peace and prosperity. Did ever any other book produce such results? Read the history of the Jews. As long as they obeyed God, they prospered. when they forsook God for the god of this world, He let their enemies overpower them and carry them into bondage. But it was said of them that they were a "stiff necked people." Is it not true then that the more perfectly we obey the teachings of this Book the holier and more Christ-like our lives become? The fact remains that if you could find a city where everyone regulated his life perfectly by the teachings of this Book, there you would find a perfect communion between that city and heaven. The only difference would be that of the location. Both would be animated by the same Spirit. Thus we have stated briefly why we believe in this Book, the inspired Word of God. If you want one more proof of its inspiration, just try and regulate your own life completely by its teachings, and you will find that it is truly none other than the very Word of God to your soul.

I would like to bring to your attention as briefly as possible how fast our nation is going down. The United States Supreme Court in June 1962 declared unconstitutional the use of a brief, voluntary, nonsectarian prayer by children in public schools. This was mistake Number One. A nation that has been known as a Christian nation around the world, whom God has exalted to the position we hold today then pass such judgment is nothing more than a slap on the face to the Almighty. Then one year later another decision outlawed Bible-reading and recitation of the Lord's prayer in classrooms. This was mistake Number Two. Since the beginning of our nation this has been a custom in our schools and has helped many a man to become great. These two decisions aroused a storm of protests in our land and over the radio that still shows no signs of abating. There has been no controversy in the long history of our country that has evoked such emotional backlash and anger. The question is: How long will Americans stand for their schools being denuded of all emphasis on America's religious heritage? For the first time in his-

tory, "the state is firmly committed to a position of neutrality," in regard to the religion question. This is surely a doctrine foreign to a nation whose founders regarded religion as the bulwark of the state, who saw themselves accountable to "the Supreme Judge of the world," and whose citizens' rights to freedom and self-rule were "endowed by their Creator." Without religious study, one's education is not complete, and this alone is "opening the doors for communism."

Now our government has taken the Bible out of the schools and replaced it with sex education. This is mistake Number Three. The Bible says, "The little foxes spoil the vine." Another old saying is that one rotten apple will spoil the whole barrel. These things are true and cannot be overlooked. When any nation begins to drift away from God, then God turns them over to their own lusts, and with every move they gain momentum downhill.

The communists are working hard to gain control of our government. They have made their boasts that they will bury us and take over without a war. The officials of our government are supposed to be highly intelligent men, but they are being blinded to the tricks of the communist, through the social standing of so-called intelligent men. These are the ones the communists work through because of their high intellectualism. There is a recently formed organization called, "Sex Information and Education Council of the United States." This organization is relentlessly promoting sex education in the schools, from kindergarten through high school. They are offering this under a false cloak that it will "improve society." We will all agree that our society needs improving, but teaching five-year-old children the entire story of sex, in an extremely lewd and vulgar manner, would scarcely seem to contribute to the improvement of society. The government has granted one million dollars to this organization. Some of the officials of this organization have been associated with communist fronts. Some are editors of sex magazines. One is known to be communist, and another took the fifth amendment when questioned about his communist activi-

ties. Anything that causes the destruction of the moral fiber of the youth of the nation is used and exploited by the communists. If they can get the morals in our youth at a low ebb, it will not be hard for them to gain control of our government. It is their goal to control the minds of men, thus making the total defeat of any nation by communism comparatively easy. What would be almost impossible to achieve by a frontal attack is now being accomplished by gaining control of the minds of children and young people through methods used in sensitivity training. These methods, as is well known, were used on prisoners of war in Korea, with the result that many of the morals of many of the men were shattered completely.

Children do not need sex training. During the past 25 years, doctors have accumulated undeniable evidence demonstrating that it is a great mistake to interfere with the latency period (6 to 10), of children when the major portion of sexual energy and curiosity is normally re-directed into learning academic subjects and physical skills. The body development leaves the young child in peace—nothing special is happening. He is not preoccupied with his body and the temporary repression of sexual curiosity and activity leaves him free to learn in school and behave in a reasonably controlled manner. Explanations long in advance only cause the child to worry ahead of time. The period when the sexual drives are worrying the young person is the appropriate time to provide him with information about them. And then not in front of the opposite sex, as this violates the child's age needs by forcing him to consider this inappropriate material in the presence of the opposite sex. But this is all done to lower the morals and harden children's hearts that the communists may control their thinking and make atheists of them. Then it will not be hard for them to gain control of our government. Our young people are sex-mad, as it is. And no wonder, at the filth of the sex magazines found in most super markets and magazine counters readily available to them.

If their object were really to the interest of "improving society," then teaching them the Word of God and His laws would be instruction in the highest degree. Then God would again help this nation with all her problems. Now we realize we are living in the last days and in a time of disbelief. Jesus told us these times were coming upon the earth, and men would become "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." So if you are one who does not believe, then you are as the one Jesus was telling Nicodemus about. "He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." Destruction and death are awaiting all those who do not believe. In Rev. 21:8 we read, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Jesus said when He returned again this world would be as in the days of Noah, when wickedness became universal and it repented God that He ever made man. The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. "And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth." (Gen. 6:11, 12). No man knows when God will send Jesus again, but these are the "signs of the times," that He told us about, that we might know His coming was near at hand, even at the very door.

We will close with this one thought. It seems one generation would learn from the preceding generation of the pitfalls of man. But this is not the case, for down through history we notice that every nation that God has exalted has fallen. Man seems to get puffed up and begins to think in his heart, "Look what we have done." Jesus said, "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." (Matt. 23:12). The reason for their fall is because they leave God out and do not give Him the honor. In Isa. 25:1 we read, "O Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things;

thy counsels of old are faithful and true. God has promised He would exalt the humble, but after He does, man seems to proud feeling and begins to think, Look what I have done. This happened to the great King Nebuchadnezzar. God exalted him, but one day as he walked in his palace, he said. "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty? While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee." (Dan. 4:30. 31). God drove him from men and he ate grass with the beasts of the field for seven years, until he knew that the "MOST HIGH" ruleth in the kingdom of men, and He giveth it to whomsoever He will.

In Rev. 17:17 it reads, "For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will . . ." Now, our nation God has exalted around the world, not because we are a superior race, but because past presidents have prayed to God to guide them in their ruling of our nation. They realized their weakness and their dependence upon God. In times of war they set aside days for the nation to call upon God in prayer to deliver us from the hand of our enemy. Now they are turning their back to God, and taking things in their own hands. They seem to feel they can govern this country without God. So watch what is coming upon our nation. They are already having troubles they do not know how to cope with, and every new thing they try seems to be another mistake.

"Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." James 5:19, 20.

So read your Bible, and turn to the true God who formed you, for in so doing you will have life the hereafter. May God's blessings be upon you. —Earl B. Bliss

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