

ENCOUNTERING GOD



Why You Can Trust the Bible

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Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him. Add thou not unto His words, lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar. Proverbs 30:5-6.



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New Life Mission

PO Box 258

Dover OK 73734

(877) 357-8773

(580) 822-4848

NewLifeMission1986

@yahoo.com

NewLifeMission1986.org

There is Something You Can Trust

By Pastor Aubrey Duncan

The Age of Mistrust

In a world that is characterized by uncertainty and disappointment, everyone is wondering, 'Is there anyone/anything we can trust?' The politicians are always making promises they never keep. Pastors and preachers continue to exhort theories and opinions that are totally contrary to and absolutely refute the Word of Almighty God, thereby deceiving their followers. This is not surprising since we have been warned that the greatest sign of the end of the world will be deception.

Deception is sincerely believing a lie and convincing oneself it is the truth. Perhaps the most hideous deception is the popular theory that there is no absolute truth. Everyone, as many claim, has their own truth. Is it any wonder why there is so much chaos and confusion in the world today?

At the end of His brief sojourn of thirty-three years on planet earth, of which three and a half were spent in the challenging task of public ministry, the most mysterious, impactful member of the human family declared, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me" John 14:6. Despite the overwhelming, irrefutable evidence of His claim, most of humanity, under varying disguises, has rejected Him. They have chosen deception.

It was a few days before His earthly demise. He visited His beloved place of worship in the metropolitan city of Jerusalem. The Jewish temple was the most magnificent structure in the city and was located at the center of this bustling crossroads, endowed with commerce and a culture of in-



ternational flavor. It was the religious capital of the world and was governed by the iron-fisted Roman empire. Jerusalem was strategically located at a point where travelers from the then-known world could pass through and get an opportunity to know the Truth. Many took it back to their various countries of national origin.

With this backdrop, Jesus Christ, in a profoundly passionate denunciation, confronted the leaders of the temple. He revealed to them the destructive destiny that awaited them because of their rejection of Him, the Truth. Despised and broken-hearted, He exited His house of worship for the last time, taking His closest disciples with Him.

With a sense of painful, unexplainable rejection, they began to ascend the Mount of Olives, situated not too far from the temple. This was a place where Jesus often resigned with that special company for moments of meditation and reflection. They came to a quiet spot that afforded a vantage view of the centerpiece of their lives, which they intensely adored. Gazing upon the glitter and dazzling splendor of the temple, which reflected the bright rays of the noonday sun, His disciples asked Jesus to further explain the meaning of His words, particularly those of the coming destruction of the temple and the end of the world.

The first words that proceeded from His lips were, "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." Then, as if He desperately wanted that thought to be riveted in their minds, He reiterated, "And many false



prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.” So deeply concerned, was He, about warning His disciples of this nefarious end-time phenomena, Jesus repeated with profound passion, “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect” Mat-
thew 24:4, 5, 11, 24.

His servant Paul, in full agreement with the Lord and Savior, re-

minded the church of his time and ours today, “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light” 2 Corinthians 11:13–14.

Endtime Deceptions

Nevertheless, deception abounds at an unimaginable level in Christendom. Christianity is manifesting itself in various forms, contrary to the original pattern laid out by Jesus and His early followers. Many are sincere about what they believe, say, and do, but sincere belief in error is very dangerous. Drinking a glass of Kool Aid mixed with cyanide will surely kill you, whether you sincerely believe it is poison or not.

There is the rapid ascendancy of Greek intellectual philosophy, replacing the simple gospel of salvation by God’s grace through faith in His Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Scholarly knowledge and higher criticism take the place of “A thus saith the Lord.” Ministers are no longer pastors but must have the right letters behind their names. Unfortunately, the more letters accrued, the swifter the dilution of the true gospel becomes.

Since at least the fourth century, with the purported acceptance of the Christian religion by the Roman Emperor Constantine, the church has been imbued with Paganism and Egyptian mythology. Currently, we are witnessing the rise of Eastern Mysticism in the Emerging Church movement, advancing contemplative meditations, centering prayer, and a plethora of feel-good delusions. The call “Let us all come together” is loud and getting louder by the minute. The constant refrain is, “We’re all serving the same God.” Christians, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, Evangelicals, Catholics, Muslims, New Agers, and every other belief system are coming together in the name of world peace and climate change. **The Prince of Peace, who is also the only Truth, is lost in this milieu of deadly deceptions.**

Added to the mix of religious fervor is the American-born brand of Christianity, the Prosperity Gospel with its name-it or claim-it doses of heretical poison and self-help theology. Then there is the widely-increasing promulgation of the social gospel. It looks great on the surface, but under close examination, it turns out to be nothing more than a rapid move towards Marxist Socialism, with the state and religion united and promising to bring about a better society. It always fails and only brings disastrous results. Ironically, all these are advanced in the name of Jesus Christ. The question is, where is the truth in all this?

But Jesus is asking, “And why call ye Me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to Me, and heareth My sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: he is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a

rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great” Luke 6:46–49. Interpreted loosely: Deception will destroy you.



The Only Thing You Can Trust

But how can someone be sure they are not being deceived? How do you get it right? How can you be certain that you do have the truth? There is only one way—and one way only—that is trusting and having faith in God’s Word, the Holy Bible. It is the only thing you can trust. It will never disappoint or deceive you.

And how do we get that faith? The Bible itself tells us. The learned apostle Paul declares, “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope” Romans 15:4. He continues, “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” Romans 10:17. He concludes, “The Just shall by His faith” Romans 1:17—as quoted from Habakkuk 2:4. Faith ultimately is simply accepting what God says in the Bible and acting upon it.

With this faith, let us take a closer look at the Holy Bible, the only thing we can decidedly trust.



The Word of God, the Holy Bible, is unlike any other book. In fact, it is a unique compilation of 66 books that reveal to man who the true God really is. The Bible testifies to God in a way that no other book does. It originates with God. The apostle Peter declares of the Holy Scriptures, “Knowing

this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation ... 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 Peter 1:20–21. **The Bible is its own expositor. It is truly the word of God. It needs no man’s philosophy, theology, or ideology to comprehend its teachings.** Its author instructs us, “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me” John 5:39.

As we examine the Bible, we will discover there are at least seven elements that prove it to be what it claims to be: the unerring word of Creator God. Therefore, unlike any other person or thing, it can be trusted.

1) Internal Consistency

The Bible was written over a time span of about 1,500 years. It was written by approximately 40 men from three continents. Most of them did not know each other. They hailed from varied socio-economic backgrounds. They embraced different cultural heritages. They represented diverse life experiences. Despite these variables, all Bible writers relate one inescapable, enduring story: God’s boundless and matchless love for mankind. They all pointed their readers to the only, omnipotent, merciful God who seeks to restore man back to His (God’s) image from which we have fallen. Jesus, the Truth, sums up the story: **“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. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved”** John 3:16-17. **No other book remotely matches that record.**

2) Universal Relevancy

The teachings of the Bible are equally applicable to men and women today as they were when humanity first tread the earth. The foundation of not only civil society, but also of so-called uncivilized societies, is built upon the precepts of the Bible. The concepts of love, respect, obedience, forgiveness, mercy, and justice are all ultimately rooted in the Bible. You may go to the most depraved and uncivilized societies on the planet, and you will find a moral code based upon the foundational teachings of the Bible. The Bible’s doctrines of morality and decency are as relevant today as they were in Eden. Failure to follow those precepts always leads to moral decay, social degradation, and ultimately death. Look at contemporary society, and you will discover what it means to live outside of God’s moral standards as established in the Bible. There is always confusion, oppression, and finally destruction when men seek to live contrary to the precepts of the Bible. Think of the

Dark Ages. The Bible is the only thing you can trust, yet unfortunately, the majority of those for whom it is intended reject it.

3) The Testimony of Science

All true science is in perfect harmony with the Bible. Despite modern man's attempt to separate science from true religion, which is found only in the Bible, the evidence points unequivocally to the contrary. All scientists of renown have been Bible-believing Christians or Sabbath keeping Jews. Isaac Newton, Francis Bacon, and Louis Pasteur, to name a few, were all God-fearing men. Their contributions to science, which benefit us all, are undeniable. Long before modern science confirmed the earth was round, Isaiah declared, "It is He (God) who sitteth upon the circle of the earth" Isaiah 40:22. The patriarch Job had long established what the scientists later confirmed: "He (God) stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing" Job 26:7. Modern scientific research into the origins of the universe is moving closer and closer to the Biblical account. **The "big bang" theory is pointing ever so much closer to the fact that the universe and its order of operation are the works of an intelligent designer who skillfully puts and holds everything together. The God of the Bible is greater than science. He created science. All true science is in complete agreement with the Bible.**

4) The Testimony of History

The events, places, and personalities of the Bible, confirmed by historical facts, are today taken for granted. Take, for example, world history as foretold by the prophet Daniel in the 2nd, 7th, 8th, and 11th chapters of his book. These are now proven historical facts. The world reign of Babylon, followed by that of Media Persia, which was succeeded by Greece under Alexander the Great, is undeniable. Then the rise of the Imperial Roman Empire, its transformation into Papal Rome, and its ultimate amalgamation with the United States of America are all now a matter of documented history. In fact, we are players and, at the same time, spectators to the unfolding of that history.

5) The Testimony of Prophecy

Prophecy is simply history foretold. Therefore, the only test of true prophecy is that it must come to pass. Of all the prophecies in the Bible, none are more astounding than the prophecies concerning our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The prophet Micah prophesied the exact place of His birth—Micah 5:2. Isaiah foretold His virgin birth—Isaiah 7:14. Zechariah told us hundreds of years before the event happened that the Savior would be sold for thirty pieces of silver—Zechariah 11:12–13. The prophet Daniel foretold the length of Jesus' public minis-



try—Daniel 9:27. The Psalmist David assured us that Jesus' bones would not be broken and that men would gamble for His garments—Psalm 22:16–18. Those are but a few of the more than 2,500 prophecies about the Messiah. Every one, with the exception of His second coming, has come to pass exactly as the Bible predicted. **These prophecies were all fulfilled with uncanny accuracy and Divine precision. Isaiah writes on behalf of God, "I am the LORD ... new things I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them" Isaiah 42:8, 9.**

No so-called holy man or philosophical writer can truthfully utter those words. No other religious book can claim such credits. In fact, an examination of major religious writings outside the Bible would prove that element of prophecy is virtually non-existent. Only a God who knows the future can predict the future and make it come to pass.

6) The Testimony of Archaeology

There has never been an archaeological find in the Bible lands that contradicted the historical record of the Bible. Those finds confirm exactly what the Bible records.



Critics have repeatedly been proven wrong as new discoveries confirm Biblical people, places, and events. The classic case in point are the Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered over a period of 1946 to 1956. Excavations conducted and scientifically

examined proved to be in remarkable conformity with facts and events mentioned in the Bible. Part of the find was a precise, original rendering of the book of Isaiah. Archaeology has confirmed the existence of King David, whom historians had previously considered to be a mythical figure. The Hittites, a nation mentioned several times in the Old Testament, was also considered mythical until archaeologists discovered evidence not only of their existence but also proof of their power and prestige, just as recorded in the Bible. Every archaeological find in the Middle East confirms some fact, person, or event as recorded in God's Holy Word, the Bible.

7) The Testimony of a Changed Life

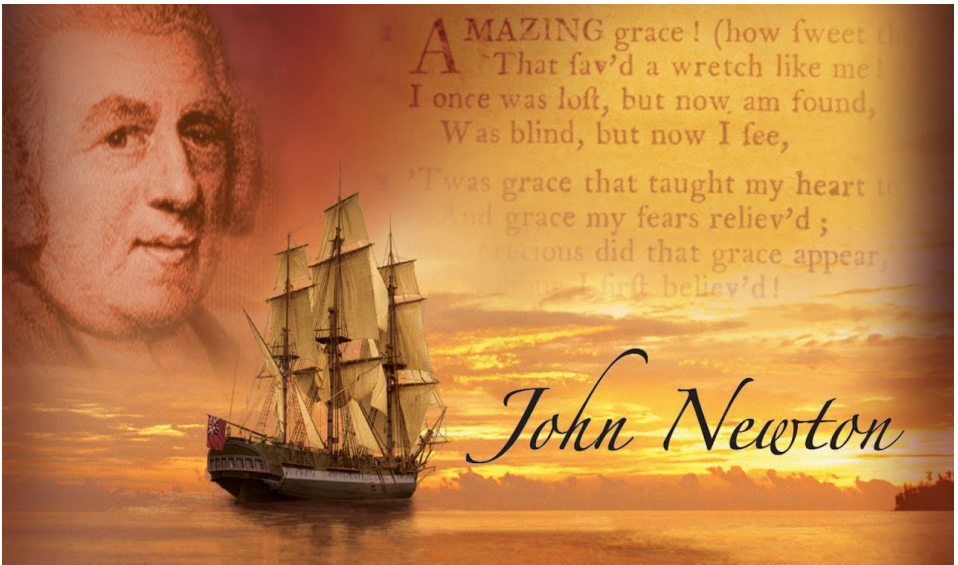
The greatest testimony to the authenticity and divine nature of the Bible is its power to transform the lives of those who accept and trust it. Many are familiar with that enduring hymn, "Amazing Grace." Few, however, know of the life-changing experience of its author that led him to pen those amazing words. John Newton was engaged in the most ignominious of human endeavors, the African slave trade. On one of his trips from Africa to England, the story goes, he heard a preacher speak the message of salvation. John Newton was so moved that he obtained a Bible, which he took with him on his voyage back to Africa. On one moonlit night, he came above the deck of his vessel with its stomach-churning cargo, innocent human beings reduced to despicable nothingness. He became intrigued by the awesomeness of God as revealed in the starry heavens as it blanketed the endless expanse of the majestic

ocean. Moved by the thought of the monstrosity of his trade and God's mercy towards him, he retired to his cabin and penned the words of that now-redeeming hymn, "Amazing Grace." Those words have brought unspeakable peace and comfort to untold millions around the world.

My story is also a living testimony to the power of the Bible. The word reached me in a life of riotous living characterized by drugs, alcohol, gambling, thievery, and licentiousness. It has brought me to a life of devotion to God and dedication to the work of the ministry of Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul, in his usual forceful fashion, explains the power of the Bible: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also the Greek. For herein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith" Romans 1:16–17. He continues, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" 2 Corinthians 5:17. **You can trust the Bible.**

Princes and popes have banned it, but the Bible still exists. Atheists have burned it and abused it, but the Word of God still remains. Men have always denied it, but the message of salvation is more pervasive today than ever before in human history. Martyrs were burned, boiled, stoned, sawn asunder, and imprisoned for it, but faith in God and belief in the Bible, which reveals the true God and His plan for salvation for human souls, looms ever stronger.

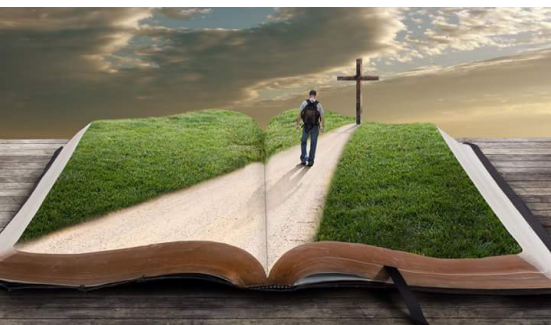
The Bible is humanity's only sure foundation, and it is something you can trust. It is the rock upon which the wise builder builds his house. It is a precious book. It is a unique book, truly unlike any other. It makes



the drunkard sober. It takes the liar and makes him truthful. It grabs hold of the lady of the night and makes her a jewel in the crown of its author. It makes the profligate honest.

The Bible has been translated into more languages, tongues, and dialects than any other book. The Bible is its own expositor. It is truly the Word of God. All human teachings are subordinate to it. It needs neither man's philosophy, theology, nor ideology to comprehend its teachings. Its teachings are equally applicable to all classes and cultures. Its timeless nature is beyond human comprehension. One writer declared, "The Bible is an anvil that has worn out many hammers." It is true to the assurance of its Author: **"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the Word of our God shall stand for ever" Isaiah 40:8.**

The Bible tells the greatest story ever told, the story of Jesus Christ. The story of His pre-existence and virgin birth, His sinless life, His sacrificial death on Calvary's cross, His bodily resurrection, His intercessory ministry in the heavenly sanctuary, and His soon coming are indelibly written on its pages. It is the drama of the ages. His story has served not only to build a great nation (Christianity), but it has impacted societies

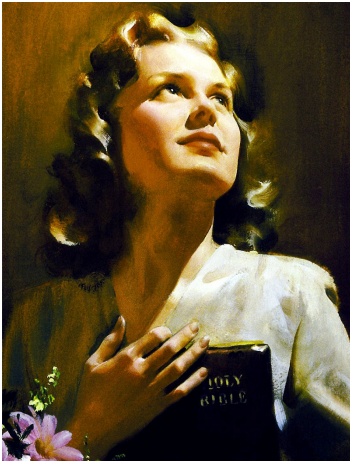


around the world like none other has. His story has transformed more characters than any legal concept or political device ever conceived. It is a story that ennobles the character, refines the taste, purifies the thoughts, and enriches the soul.

In this day of peril, evil, and uncertainty, the Bible remains the only solid foundation upon which you can stand. It is a Divine insecticide—a sin killer. The Bible gives the truest, most accurate account of human experience—past, present, and unlike any other book, the future.

Ellen G. White, the renowned 19th-century Bible commentator whom the *Smithsonian* magazine cites as one of the ten most influential religious leaders of all time, offers this insightful commentary:

"The Word of God, like the character of its divine Author, presents mysteries that can never be fully comprehended by finite beings. ... If it were possible for created beings to attain to a full understanding of God and His works, then, having reached this point, there would be for them no further discovery of truth, no growth in knowledge, no further development of mind or heart. God would no longer be supreme; and men, having reached the limit of knowledge and attainment, would cease to advance. Let us thank God that it is not so. God is infinite; in Him are 'all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge' Colossians 2:3. ...



“In the natural world we are constantly surrounded with mysteries that we cannot fathom. ... Should we then be surprised to find that in the spiritual world also there are mysteries that we cannot fathom? The mysteries of the Bible ... are among the strongest evidences of its divine inspiration. If it contained no account of God but that which we could comprehend; if His greatness and majesty could be grasped by finite minds, then the Bible would not, as now, bear the unmistakable evidences of divinity. ... The more we search the Bible, the deeper is our conviction that it is the word of the living

God, and human reason bows before the majesty of divine revelation.

“Christ will lead the redeemed ones beside the river of life, and will open to them that which while on this earth they could not understand. In the light that shines from the throne, mysteries will disappear, and the soul will be filled with astonishment at the simplicity of the things that were never before comprehended.” *The Faith I Live By*, p. 14.

Yes, **there is something we can all trust: the Bible.** But, will we?

Adapted from <http://adventmessenger.org/there-is-something-you-can-trust>

Global Scripture Access

LANGUAGES

Full Bible: 736

+ New Testament: 1,658

+ Portions: 1,264

= 3,658 languages with at least some Scripture

7.23 billion (up to 97% of all people)

PEOPLE

6 billion

824 million

449 million





A Safe Light in the Midst of Apocalyptic Darkness

“For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee” Isaiah 60:2.

Many will remember the tremendous power outages that struck the eastern United States a few years ago. The most extensive one occurred on November 9-10, 1965, in Ontario, Canada. Seven northeastern states, including New York City, were plunged into the deepest darkness for hours. The phenomenon affected thirty million people and covered a surface area of 50,193.3 square miles.

The same thing happened in New York City on July 13, 1967, when lightning struck a power plant, cutting all its lights and paralyzing the city for more than 24 hours. Thousands of people were locked in the metropolis subways. Thousands more became involved in criminal activities. They took to the streets, broke windows, and set fires. More than 2,800 individuals were jailed, and the value of the stolen items was estimated at millions of dollars.

It’s hard to imagine what happens in a situation you’ve never experienced. Elevators were stuck between floors, electrical equipment

stopped working, water purification facilities stalled, cooling systems quit, food decomposed, clocks stopped, and emergency lights in hospitals ran nonstop. It was as if New York had gone back to the beginning, in the days of creation when “the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep” Genesis 1:2.

New York only suffered a temporary loss of light, a lack of electricity, but the Bible describes a soul-destroying, catastrophic, spiritual darkness that will happen when people on earth show little regard for righteousness, truth, virtue, and faith—when people invalidate God’s commandments.

There are greater sources of spiritual light for our world. “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” Psalms 119:105. “O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles” Psalms 43:3. “For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life” Proverbs 6:23. When mankind turns their backs on the revelations of God and the light that is contained in His law and the Bible, then surely darkness will cover the earth, and dense darkness will cover the nations.

In order to secure additional light in these days of apocalyptic darkness, God has sent His people a special, safe light. “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined” Isaiah 9:2.

The inspired light that God has given to His people is the Spirit of Prophecy. God promised that the prophetic voice would be heard again among His people. “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out My Spirit” Joel 2:28, 29. This prophecy must have its fulfillment “before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come” Joel 2:31. This gift has, in part, arrived!



Many are familiar with Revelation 12:17, 19:10, and 22:9. According to these texts, we can conclude that the identifying marks of the church of the last days will be that they “keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” “The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy.” Just like the Bible prophets, Ellen G. White, one of the founders of the Seventh-day Adventist church, was also given light in the midst of the darkness for these last days. “Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper” 2 Chronicles 20:20. **NLM**

The Books of the Bible—Old Testament

In **Genesis** the world was made by God's creative hand;

In **Exodus** the Hebrews marched to gain the Promised Land;

Leviticus contains the sacrificial law;

While **Numbers** records many of Israel's flaws.

Moses, in **Deuteronomy** records God's mighty deeds;

Brave **Joshua** into Canaan's land the host of Israel leads.

In **Judges** their rebellion oft provokes the Lord to smite,

But **Ruth** records the faith of one, well-pleasing in His sight.

In **First Samuel**, Israel's king was Saul of Benjamin,

And **Second Samuel** tells of David, from Judah's kin.

First Kings tells about King Solomon, the wisest man we read,

In **Second Kings** ten tribes of Israel revolted from his seed.

First Chronicles reviews the history of the earth which God had made,

Second Chronicles tells of Judah's kings, which Babylon did raid.

After 70 years, for three full weeks, the prophet Daniel prayed,

And **Ezra** led a remnant back by princely Cyrus' aid.

The city wall of Zion, **Nehemiah** built as he led the laymen,

While **Esther** saved her people from the secret plots of Haman.

In **Job** we read how faith will live beneath affliction's rod,

And David's **Psalms** are precious songs to every child of God.

The **Proverbs** like a goodly string of choicest pearls appear;

Ecclesiastes teaches man how vain are all things here.

The mystic **Song of Solomon** exalts sweet Sharon's Rose;

Whilst Christ, the Saviour and the King, the rapt **Isaiah** shows.

The warning **Jeremiah** gives, apostate Israel scorns;

His plaintive **Lamentations**, their awful downfall mourns.

Ezekiel tells in wondrous words of dazzling mysteries;

While kings and empires yet to come, in vision **Daniel** sees.

Of judgment and of mercy, **Hosea** loves to tell;

Joel describes the blessed days when God with man shall dwell.

Among Tekoa's herdsmen, **Amos** received his call;

While **Obadiah** prophesies of Edom's final fall.

Jonah enshrines a wondrous type of Christ, our risen Lord,

Micah pronounces Judah lost—lost, but again restored.

Nahum declares of Nineveh, just judgment would bring doom,

Habakkuk's visions give a view of Chaldean's coming soon.

Next, **Zephaniah** warns the Jews to turn, repent, and live; then—

Haggai wrote to those who saw the Temple built again.

Zechariah prophesied of Christ's triumphant train;

Malachi was the last who touched the high prophetic chain;

And so, this Old Testament, which Jesus and apostles quoted

Is still important, according to the New Testament as noted!

The Books of the Bible—New Testament

Matthew was an eye-witness of Jesus ministry,

Mark tells what Peter saw of His divinity.

Luke gives the most complete view of events,

While **John** was with Him from beginning to end.

The four gospels give a brief review of Jesus life on earth

Describing how He lived His life, His death, His words of worth.

Acts proves how God gave signs in every place,

Then Paul, in **Romans**, teaches how man is saved by grace.

The apostle, in **First Corinthians**, instructs, exhorts, reproves;

In **Second Corinthians** he appeals: "before I am removed."

Galatians shows the cross of Christ no longer needs—ceremonial law;

In **Ephesians** Paul calls for unity among all without a flaw.

Philippians tells what Christians ought to be;

Colossians bids us live for God and for eternity.

In **First Thessalonians** we are taught the Lord will come from heaven,

Second Thessalonians warns of deceptive, mysterious leaven.

In **First Timothy** Paul counsels church leaders to preach the Word,

And in **Second Timothy** gives more warning of heresies he's heard.

In **Titus**, a bishop's rule is given and describes what is an elder's role,

Philemon marks a person's love, which only Christians know.

Hebrews reveals the gospel—prefigured by the law;

James teaches without obedience, faith is but vain and flawed.

First Peter points the narrow way in which the saints are led,

Second Peter calls for readiness and shares what God has said.

First John in his Epistles on love delights to dwell;

Second John gives praise to an elect lady; says her faith is swell.

Third John warns of false teachers which cause members to rebel,

Jude gives some awful warnings of judgment, wrath, and hell.

The **Revelation** prophesies of that tremendous day,

When Christ and Christ alone shall be the trembling sinner's stay.



The Stolen Bible

Deep in the forest of the dark Silesian mountains nestled a little cottage. It belonged to Grimez, the forester or keeper of the wild tract of woodland. Night fell, but a warm glow of candlelight shone out through the cottage windows.

Inside, Stephanie, Grimez's wife, sat sewing, her nimble fingers fashioning a coat for her husband. Her mother read by candlelight. The hours wore on and the darkness deepened. Stephanie's face grew anxious with the passing of time. Finally she broke the silence. "Mother, I wish he'd come. It's unlike him to stay out so late. The woods are not safe at night."

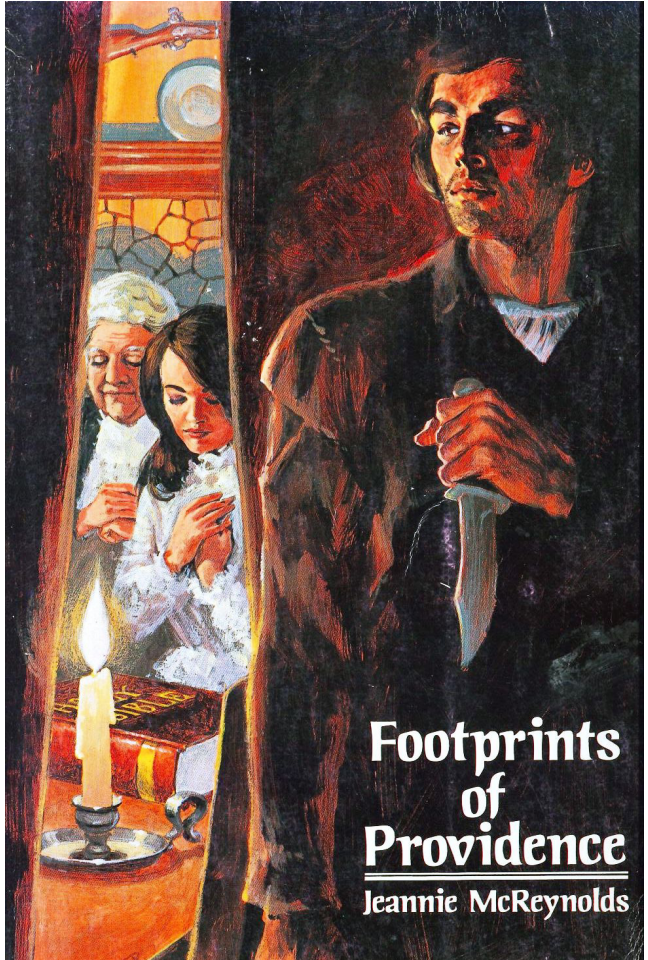
The grandmother looked up. "Are you worried, my dear? Grimez is a capable man. Don't you think he can protect himself from wild beasts?"

"It's not beasts I fear so much as men!"

"Didn't he capture the robbers that troubled people on the roads?" Grandmother queried. "I thought they were all safely behind bars."

"They are, except one. Their chieftain escaped. I try so not to think of it, but he's furious with Grimez for catching his band. They say he's sworn revenge. If it were not that I know the God of heaven is with us to protect us, I wouldn't be able to sleep at all. I only wish Grimez would pray too. All I can do is plead that God will have mercy on him, even in his unbelief and rebellion."

Grandmother picked up the big family Bible. "Let's worship together,



**Footprints
of
Providence**

Jeannie McReynolds

dear, and read the promises of God. Then you'll find peace for your soul. You can safely trust your husband to the care of our merciful Father in heaven."

Stephanie opened the big Book to one of her favorite passages: "In Thee, O LORD, do I put my trust" she read. "Be Thou my strong habitation....Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man...." (Psalms 71:1, 3, 4.)

Finishing the seventy-first Psalm, the two women knelt together. "O God, have mercy on my poor husband," Stephanie prayed. "Protect him, and may he come to trust in Thy almighty hand. Protect us as well, as we lie down to rest. And have mercy on this robber chieftain. Turn him from his wicked ways, and may he also find peace in serving Thee."

As they rose from their knees Stephanie's eyes shone with hope and courage. "Now, 'I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for Thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety,'" (Psalms 4:8) she repeated in firm confidence.

She was still quoting the Bible as Grimez opened the door. "My dear husband," she cried, "I'm so glad to see you. I wish you wouldn't stay out so late, especially with this robber at large. We were just praying for your safety."

Grimez laughed, sweeping his small wife into his burly arms. "Pray if you wish, my dear, but I'm glad my safety doesn't depend on your prayers. I'll put my trust in well-trained dogs and fine weapons."

He went to each window, examining the locks and making sure that all was secure. Then he checked his weapons. Having put his tired dogs in their pens and his defenses in order, he bade Grandmother good night and retired with Stephanie to their small loft bedroom.

Next morning Grimez came down as usual to build the morning fire. Seeing a window open, he exclaimed in amazement. Stephanie flew down the stairs. They scrutinized the window and lock, but nothing was broken. Something had simply opened it. Puzzled, they searched for anything else that might have been disturbed. Suddenly Stephanie cried out in terror. "Oh, look!" There on the table, where the old family Bible always rested, lay a gleaming dagger, and the Bible had vanished. Stephanie sank in a chair, half fainting.

The good Lord had mercy on us, or we would surely have been murdered in our beds, she gasped. "Oh, thank You, gracious Father, for Your protection!"

"I don't understand it!" Grimez muttered. "I just don't understand it. How could he have gotten in? Small good my weapons did me! What on earth did he want with the Bible? Let's look to see if he took anything else."

They searched carefully but found nothing else missing. They talked

and puzzled over the matter for weeks, but it remained a mystery.

Many months later the three of them sat together at a quiet evening meal. Grimez ate in silence, his face troubled. At last he spoke. "I fear I'll have to be gone for a time. You women will be all right. There's the money hidden in the cubbyhole that will keep you in food for some little time, and I've stored plenty of wood in the shed."

"Oh, Grimez, whatever can you mean?" protested his wife. "Where are you going?"

"War has broken out on the French border. I hate to leave you alone, but I'll have to go and help with the fighting. At least you should be safe. There's little or no chance the war will come this far, and we've had no trouble with robbers since the night the Bible was stolen. I should pack up and leave tomorrow. I don't know just when I'll be back, but the fighting shouldn't last long."

His wife clung to him in sorrow. "If you come back," she murmured. Then, with tears in her eyes, she gathered her courage to face the emergency. "May God, who protected us on that terrible night, go with you and keep you, and bring you safely back to me," she said.

For once, Grimez didn't laugh.

The days and weeks that followed were grim. Fighting was intense along the border. Step by step they drove the invaders back until the enemy made a last stand beside a sun-drenched lake.

All day the battle raged. The boom of cannon, the shouts of warriors, the cries of the wounded, mingled in terrible confusion. At last the sounds subsided, and the smoke cleared away. The few living were gone; evidently only the dead remained.

After a time of silence the soft splash of oars came over the water. Almost noiselessly a fisherman guided his small boat along the shore of the lake. As he neared the battlefield his ears caught a whisper of sound. He lifted his oars to listen. Yes, he heard it again—the low moan of someone in pain.

His eyes searched the shoreline for danger. Seemingly satisfied, he eased his boat up onto the sand. Walking with mournful steps among the dead, he examined each apparently lifeless form. Ah! This body was warm, and moaned softly at the fisherman's touch.

Standing, he put his hands to his mouth and shouted to his companions around the bend. In a moment two more small boats appeared. Together, the fishermen lifted the injured man—a captain by his uniform—and bore him gently to a boat. Two miles away, across the lake, stood a row of neat cottages. Into one of them the fisherman carried the wounded stranger.

"Katrina," he called softly, "we have a guest."

A pretty, round-faced woman appeared. Wiping work-worn hands on her snowy apron, she took charge immediately. "Here, bring him in and

lay him on the bed. I'll fetch water to wash his wounds. Poor man, he seems scarcely alive. We must work quickly."

With tender touch she washed him and bound his wounds. Her husband built a fire to warm the cabin. Together they nursed him through the long night. In morning light his pulse beat stronger, and by the afternoon he awoke.

"Where am I?" His eyes searched the simple cottage.

"I found you nearly dead on the battlefield and brought you home," the fisherman told him. "And who are you?"

"My name is Grimez," the captain answered. "I am a forester from the mountains. If you would send for my wife, she can care for me."

And so they arranged it. A messenger went for Stephanie, who came at once to nurse her husband. The fisherman and his wife moved in with a neighbor and told Grimez and Stephanie they might use their cottage until the captain was well enough to go home.

Grimez suffered agonizing pain, but Stephanie nursed him day and night, soothing him in every way she could. On one such occasion he caught her hand in his while his eyes caressed her face.

"My dear wife," he said, "how often these days I think of your prayers for my protection. It's remarkable that anyone came to my aid when I lay wounded. My own friends had left me for dead. And then there was the night someone stole the Bible. Whatever happened that night, I'm certain that some stronger hand than mine was guarding us. I fear that you've been right, and I've been wrong. There is a God in heaven who has heard your prayers. He's had mercy on me despite my unbelief and wickedness. From now on I mean to serve Him."

Stephanie could only weep for joy.

At last Grimez was strong enough to return home. He and Stephanie went to find the fisherman and his wife. Grimez clasped his hand. "Friend, I owe you more than I can say. But for you I would not be alive today. I can never repay you sufficiently, but I do wish to offer you something for your trouble, Here is —"

But the fisherman could not let him finish. "No, no, I will take nothing. I'm only glad I could help you. Now, go to your home in peace."

But Grimez persisted. Again and again he urged him to accept the money he offered.

At last the man replied, "I can't take your money. I owe you much more than you owe me. In fact, I have a great treasure of yours that I want to return to you."

He went to a closet and came back with something in his arms. Stephanie cried out and took hold, hugging it to her heart, exclaiming with joy, "My precious Bible!"

The fisherman turned to Grimez. "I see that you don't recognize me," he continued. "I'm the robber chieftain whose band you captured. I

hated you bitterly and swore revenge. One day I crept into your home and hid, intending to murder you and your family during the night.

“You were late returning, but your wife read from this Bible. I had no choice but to listen. Never had I heard anything like it before. It made a great impression on my heart. Then she knelt and prayed for protection. She even prayed for me!

“After that I couldn’t carry out my plan. But I wanted that book. I took it, leaving my dagger in its place. For weeks I hid and did nothing but read. It made a new man out of me, and I’ve begun a new life. My wife, Katrina, is helping me. We’ve all we need for this life, and a hope for the life to come.”

Archeology Proves the Bible True

Here are a few of the discoveries of Ron Wyatt, which have been confirmed by many others and are accepted as fact by many Christians of numerous denominations. Therefore, we present a short review of three of his discoveries while he lived. Many souls have come to the Lord when they’ve seen the confirmation of Bible events in archeology.

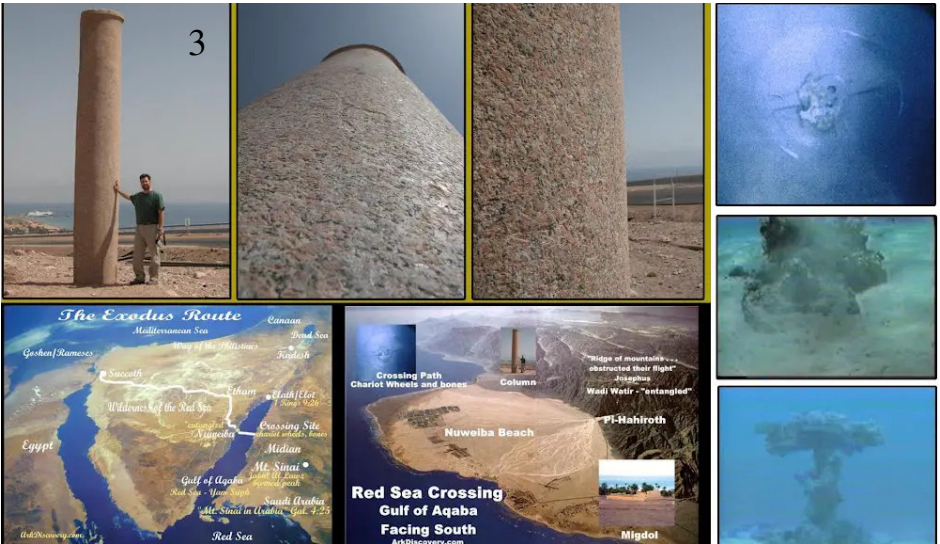


Noah’s Ark, found at the base of Mt. Ararat in Eastern Turkey. Also, the visitor’s center built by the Turkish government for those who want to see the site and do further research. Numerous scans have given confirmation that this is the remains of Noah’s Ark. The three-story structure has caved in after approximately 4,500 years. The flood story is found in Genesis 6-9.



The ashen remains of **Sodom and Gomorrah** in the Jordan Valley are pre-

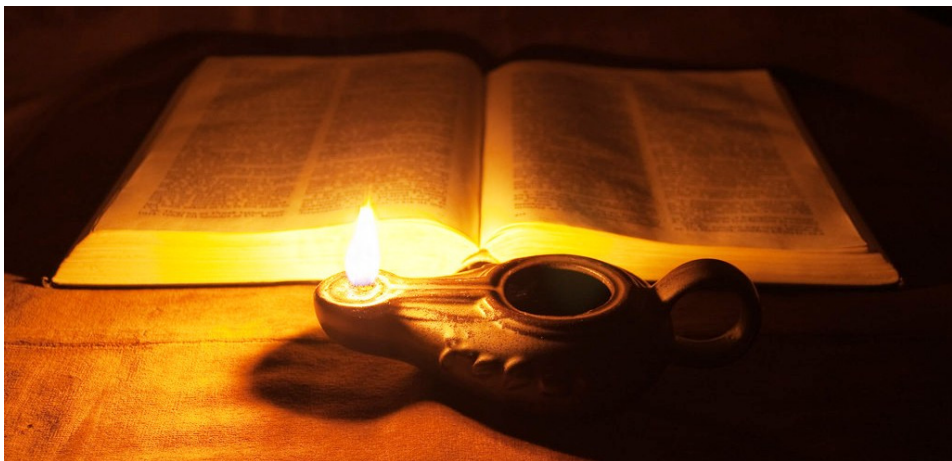
served as a testimony for us today. When we act like the people did in Sodom and Gomorrah, we deserve the same punishment. They were given the opportunity to repent, and turned against it—even the children of Lot. This story is found in Genesis 18-19.



The Red Sea crossing—ask for our magazine with this title, which shows much greater detail of this event.

The will of God is to be known and the rule of our faith is to be found in the Scriptures. Then why is the Bible so little studied...? To read the precious Book is not enough. It must be searched with a prayerful mind. Therein is found the pure truth. We must make this the most important, essential study in our families. Teachers must lift up the Bible and teach the Bible. We must bring our ideas to the Scriptures, not the Scriptures to our ideas. Compare everything with the Scriptures. We are to search for the truth in the Word of God as for hidden treasures.

E.G. White, 1890.



The Scriptures a Safeguard

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” Isaiah 8:20. The people of God are directed to the Scriptures as their safeguard against the influence of false teachers and the delusive power of spirits of darkness. Satan employs every possible device to prevent men from obtaining a knowledge of the Bible; for its plain utterances reveal his deceptions. At every revival of God's work, the prince of evil is aroused to more intense activity; he is now putting forth his utmost efforts for a final struggle against Christ and His followers. The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true, that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested.

Those who endeavor to obey all the commandments of God will be opposed and derided. They can stand only in God. In order to endure the trial before them, they must understand the will of God as revealed in His Word; they can honor Him only as they have a right conception of His character, government, and purposes, and act in accordance with them. **None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict.** To every soul will come the searching test: Shall I obey God rather than men? The decisive hour is even now at hand. Are our feet planted on the rock of God's immutable Word? Are we prepared to stand firm in defense of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus?

Before His crucifixion, the Saviour explained to His disciples that He was to be put to death, and to rise again from the tomb, and angels were present to impress His words on minds and hearts. But the disciples were looking for temporal deliverance from the Roman yoke, and

they could not tolerate the thought that He in whom all their hopes centered should suffer an ignominious death. The words which they needed to remember were banished from their minds; and when the time of trial came, it found them unprepared. The death of Jesus as fully destroyed their hopes as if He had not forewarned them. So in the prophecies the future is opened before us as plainly as it was opened to the disciples by the words of Christ. The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented. But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed. Satan watches to catch away every impression that would make them wise unto salvation, and the time of trouble will find them unready.

When God sends to men warnings so important that they are represented as proclaimed by holy angels flying in the midst of heaven, He requires every person endowed with reasoning powers to heed the message. The fearful judgments denounced against the worship of the beast and his image [Revelation 14:9-11], should lead all to a diligent study of the prophecies to learn what the mark of the beast is, and how they are to avoid receiving it. But the masses of the people turn away their ears from hearing the truth, and are turned unto fables. The apostle Paul declared, looking down to the last days: "The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine" 2 Timothy 4:3. That time has fully come. Multitudes do not want Bible truth, because it interferes with the desires of the sinful, world-loving heart; and Satan supplies the deceptions which they love.

But God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines, and the basis of all reforms. The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority,—not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith. Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain "Thus saith the Lord" in its support.

Satan is constantly endeavoring to attract attention to man in the place of God. He leads the people to look to bishops, to pastors, to professors of theology, as their guides, instead of searching the Scriptures to learn their duty for themselves. Then, by controlling the minds of these leaders, he can influence the multitudes according to his will.

When Christ came to speak the words of life, the common people heard Him gladly; and many, even of the priests and rulers, believed on Him. But the chief of the priesthood and the leading men of the nation were determined to condemn and repudiate His teachings. Though they were baffled in all their efforts to find accusations against Him, though

they could not but feel the influence of the divine power and wisdom attending His words, yet they incased themselves in prejudice; they rejected the clearest evidence of His Messiahship, lest they should be forced to become His disciples. These opponents of Jesus were men whom the people had been taught from infancy to reverence, to whose authority they had been accustomed implicitly to bow. "How is it," they asked, "that our rulers and learned scribes do not believe on Jesus? Would not these pious men receive Him if He were the Christ?" It was the influence of such teachers that led the Jewish nation to reject their Redeemer.

The spirit which actuated those priests and rulers is still manifested by many who make a high profession of piety. They refuse to examine the testimony of the Scriptures concerning the special truths for this time. They point to their own numbers, wealth, and popularity, and look with contempt upon the advocates of truth as few, poor, and unpopular, having a faith that separates them from the world.

Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain "Thus saith the Lord" in its support.

Christ foresaw that the undue assumption of authority indulged by the scribes and Pharisees would not cease with the dispersion of the Jews. He had a prophetic view of the work of exalting human authority to rule the conscience, which has been so terrible a curse to the church in all ages. And His fearful denunciations of the scribes and Pharisees, and His warnings to the people not to follow these blind leaders, were placed on record as an admonition to future generations.

The Roman Church reserves to the clergy the right to interpret the Scriptures. On the ground that ecclesiastics alone are competent to explain God's Word, it is withheld from the common people. Though the Reformation gave the Scriptures to all, yet the selfsame principle which was maintained by Rome prevents multitudes in Protestant churches from searching the Bible for themselves. They are taught to accept its teachings as interpreted by the church; and there are thousands who dare receive nothing, however plainly revealed in Scripture, that is contrary to their creed or the established teaching of their church.

Notwithstanding the Bible is full of warnings against false teachers, many are ready thus to commit the keeping of their souls to the clergy. There are today thousands of professors of religion who can give no other reason for points of faith which they hold than that they were so instructed by their religious leaders. They pass by the Saviour's teachings almost unnoticed, and place implicit confidence in the words of the ministers. But are ministers infallible? How can we trust our souls to



their guidance unless we know from God's Word that they are light bearers? A lack of moral courage to step aside from the beaten track of the world leads many to follow in the steps of learned men; and by their reluctance to investigate for themselves, they are becoming hopelessly fastened in the chains of error. They see that the truth for this time is plainly brought to view in the Bible, and they feel the power of the Holy Spirit attending its proclamation; yet they allow the opposition of the clergy to turn them from the light. Though reason and conscience are convinced, these deluded souls dare not think differently from the minister; and their individual judgment, their eternal interests, are sacrificed to the unbelief, the pride and prejudice, of another.

Many are the ways by which Satan works through human influence to bind his captives. He secures multitudes to himself by attaching them by the silken cords of affection to those who are enemies of the cross of Christ. Whatever this attachment may be, parental, filial, conjugal, or social, the effect is the same; the opposers of truth exert their power to control the conscience, and souls held under their sway have not sufficient courage or independence to obey their own convictions of duty.

The truth and the glory of God are inseparable; it is impossible for us, with the Bible within our reach, to honor God by erroneous opinions. Many claim that it matters not what one believes, if his life is only right. But the life is molded by the faith. If light and truth are within our reach, and we neglect to improve the privilege of hearing and seeing it, we virtually reject it; we are choosing darkness rather than light.

“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” Proverbs 16:25. Ignorance is no excuse for error or sin, when there is every opportunity to know the will of God. A man is travelling, and comes to a place where there are several roads and a

guideboard indicating where each one leads. If he disregards the guideboard, and takes whichever road seems to him to be right, he may be ever so sincere, but will in all probability find himself on the wrong road.

God has given us His Word that we may become acquainted with its teachings, and know for ourselves what He requires of us. When the lawyer came to Jesus with the inquiry, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" the Saviour referred him to the Scriptures, saying: "What is written in the law? how readest thou?" Luke 10:25, 26. Ignorance will not excuse young or old, nor release them from the punishment due for the transgression of God's law; because there is in their hands a faithful presentation of that law and of its principles and its claims. **It is not enough to have good intentions; it is not enough to do what a man thinks is right, or what the minister tells him is right. His soul's salvation is at stake, and he should search the Scriptures for himself.** However strong may be his convictions, however confident he may be that the minister knows what is truth, this is not his foundation. He has a chart pointing out every waymark on the heavenward journey, and he ought not to guess at anything.

It is the first and highest duty of every rational being to learn from the Scriptures what is truth, and then to walk in the light, and encourage others to follow his example. We should day by day study the Bible diligently, weighing every thought and comparing scripture with scripture. With divine help we are to form our opinions for ourselves as we are to answer for ourselves before God.

The truths most plainly revealed in the Bible have been involved in doubt and darkness by learned men, who, with a pretense of great wisdom, teach that the Scriptures have a mystical, a secret, spiritual meaning not apparent in the language employed. These men are false teachers. It was to such a class that Jesus declared: "Ye know not the Scriptures, neither the power of God" Mark 12:24. The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning, unless a symbol or figure is employed. Christ has given the promise: "If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine" John 7:17. If men would but take the Bible as it reads, if there were no false teachers to mislead and confuse their minds, a work would be accomplished that would make angels glad and that would bring into the fold of Christ thousands upon thousands who are now wandering in error.

We should exert all the powers of the mind in the study of the Scriptures, and should task the understanding to comprehend, as far as mortals can, the deep things of God; yet we must not forget that the docility and submission of a child is the true spirit of the learner. Scriptural difficulties can never be mastered by the same methods that are employed in grappling with philosophical problems. **We should not engage in the study of the Bible with that self-reliance with which so many**

enter the domains of science, but with a prayerful dependence upon God, and a sincere desire to learn His will. We must come with a humble and teachable spirit to obtain knowledge from the great I AM. Otherwise, evil angels will so blind our minds and harden our hearts that we shall not be impressed by the truth.

Many a portion of Scripture which learned men pronounce a mystery, or pass over as unimportant, is full of comfort and instruction to him who has been taught in the school of Christ. **One reason why many theologians have no clearer understanding of God's Word is, they close their eyes to truths which they do not wish to practice.** An understanding of Bible truth depends not so much on the power of intellect brought to the search as on the singleness of purpose, the earnest longing after righteousness.

The Bible should never be studied without prayer. The Holy Spirit alone can cause us to feel the importance of those things easy to be understood, or prevent us from wresting truths difficult of comprehension. It is the office of heavenly angels to prepare the heart to so comprehend God's Word that we shall be charmed with its beauty, admonished by its warnings, or animated and strengthened by its promises. We should make the psalmist's petition our own: "Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law" Psalm 119:18. Temptations often appear irresistible because, through neglect of prayer and the study of the Bible, the tempted one cannot readily remember God's promises and meet Satan with the Scripture weapons. But angels are round about those who are willing to be taught in divine things; and in the time of great necessity they [the angels, who are messengers of the Holy Spirit according to Hebrews 1:6-14] will bring to their remembrance the very truths which are needed. Thus "when the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him" Isaiah 59:19.

Jesus promised His disciples: "The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" John 14:26. But the teachings of Christ must previously have been stored in the mind, in order for the Spirit of God to bring them to our remembrance in the time of peril. "Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee" Psalm 119:11.

All who value their eternal interests should be on their guard against the inroads of skepticism. The very pillars of truth will be assailed. It is impossible to keep beyond the reach of the sarcasms and sophisms, the insidious and pestilent teachings, of modern infidelity. Satan adapts his temptations to all classes. He assails the illiterate with a jest or sneer, while he meets the educated with scientific objections and philosophical reasoning, alike calculated to excite distrust or contempt of



the Scriptures. Even youth of little experience presume to insinuate doubts concerning the fundamental principles of Christianity. And this youthful infidelity, shallow as it is, has its influence. Many are thus led to jest at the faith of their fathers, and to do despite to the Spirit of grace. [Hebrews 10:29.] Many a life that promised to be an honor to God and a blessing to the world, has been blighted by the foul breath of infidelity. All who trust to the boastful decisions of human reason, and imagine that they can explain divine mysteries, and arrive at truth unaided by the wisdom of God, are entangled in the snare of Satan.

We are living in the most solemn period of this world's history. The destiny of earth's teeming multitudes is about to be decided. Our own future well-being, and also the salvation of other souls depends upon the course which we now pursue. We need to be guided by the Spirit of truth. Every follower of Christ should earnestly inquire: "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Acts 9:6. **We need to humble ourselves before the Lord, with fasting and prayer, and to meditate much upon His Word, especially upon the scenes of the judgment. We should now seek a deep and living experience in the things of God. We have not a moment to lose.** Events of vital importance are taking place around us; we are on Satan's enchanted ground. **Sleep not, sentinels of God; the foe is lurking near, ready at any moment, should you become lax and drowsy, to spring upon you and make you his prey.**

Many are deceived as to their true condition before God. They congratulate themselves upon the wrong acts which they do not commit, and forget to enumerate the good and noble deeds which God requires of them, but which they have neglected to perform. It is not enough that they are trees in the garden of God. They are to answer His expectation by bearing fruit. He holds them accountable for their failure to accomplish all the good which they could have done, through His grace

strengthening them. In the books of heaven they are registered as cumberers of the ground. Yet the case of even this class is not utterly hopeless. With those who have slighted God's mercy and abused His grace, the heart of long-suffering love yet pleads. "Wherefore He saith, Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, ... redeeming the time, because the days are evil" Ephesians 5:14-16.

When the testing time shall come, those who have made God's Word their rule of life will be revealed. In summer there is no noticeable difference between evergreens and other trees; but when the blasts of winter come, the evergreens remain unchanged, while other trees are stripped of their foliage. So the false-hearted professor may not now be distinguished from the real Christian, but the time is just upon us when the difference will be apparent. **Let opposition arise, let bigotry and intolerance again bear sway, let persecution be kindled, and the half-hearted and hypocritical will waver and yield the faith; but the true Christian will stand firm as a rock, his faith stronger, his hope brighter, than in days of prosperity.**

Says the psalmist: "Thy testimonies are my meditation." "Through thy precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way" Psalm 119:99, 104.

"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom." "He shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit" Proverbs 3:13; Jeremiah 17:8. (*The Great Controversy*, chap. 37.)



GIVE ME THE BIBLE



Priscilla J Owens
1822-1899

Give me the Bible, star of gladness gleaming,
To cheer the wanderer lone and tempest tossed;
No storm can hide that peaceful radiance beaming,
Since Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

Refrain

Give me the Bible—holy message shining;
Thy light shall guide me in the narrow way;
Precept and promise, law and love combining,
Till night shall vanish in eternal day.

Give me the Bible when my heart is broken,
When sin and grief have filled my soul with fear;
Give me the precious words by Jesus spoken,
Hold up faith's lamp to show my Savior near.

Give me the Bible, all my steps enlighten,
Teach me the danger of these realms below;
That lamp of safety, o'er the gloom shall brighten,
That light alone the path of peace can show.

Give me the Bible, lamp of life immortal,
Hold up that splendor by the open grave;
Show me the light from Heaven's shining portal,
Show me the glory gilding Jordan's wave.