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IS THE BIBLE AN INFALLIBLE REVELATION?

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INTRODUCTION

And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount ... 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 1:18-21).

The statement was from an eminent pen, and it jarred me: "The Bible is not considered an infallible revelation. It is nothing more than a rich casebook of religious experience." There is a withering, soul-blighting, discouraging influence in those words. Science says much about an infallible law; Romanism boasts of an infallible pope and an infallible church; but here are words from a scholar which rob our Bible of its infallibility, and leave us without foundation for faith, and without a basic philosophy by which to guide our lives.

I determined to search out the truth, to find out for myself if the Bible is an infallible revelation from God to man. My studies have led me into several fields of research, but, by the help of many scholars and speakers, to whom I give due credit for the help they have been to me, I have emerged with a radiant faith in God's Book. It is God's unchanging, immutable, infallible Word to the world.

I hope to advance in the following pages conclusive proof of the infallibility of the Bible: first, in the light of science; second, in the light of history; third, in the light of prophecy; fourth, in the light of moral influence.

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01 -- IN THE LIGHT OF SCIENCE

When the Genesis story of creation is compared with other accounts of the world's existence it is easily seen which is the more reasonable.

* * *

The Cosmic Theory

This is the theory of a German named Strauss. His claim is that there is "a self-centered cosmos, unchangeable amidst the eternal changes of things," and this cosmos is the cause of every phenomenon in the universe of both mind and matter. In other words, an eternal nothing made an eternal self; and that when nothing was, this nothing centered itself in the center of an eternal something.

Dr. Edward Thomson, in "Evidences of Revealed Religion," admits the above theory for the sake of argument and says, "Reasoning on that assumption:

"Nature is a great architect. How insignificant all others are in comparison.

"Nature is an astronomer, for as far as the eye of the telescope can reach the laws of Kepler and Newton are found bringing the worlds above in their appointed station with the regularity of clockwork. No chronometer like that of the sky.

"Nature is a great chemist, for throughout the world the law of definite proportions prevails and every atom is weighed and labeled as by the hand of a manufacturer.

"Nature is a great physiologist, for no animal comes into the world all trunk or all extremities, all brain or all heart, but each has organs of life, of motion, of sense; and each organ has its proper place and relation.

"Nature is a great psychologist, for every man comes into the world with a well constituted mind. No man is all will or intellect or passion; but each is in himself perfectly constituted; government having reason to legislate for him, conscience to judge, passion to impel and will to execute.

"Nature is a great conservator. The sexes are properly balanced. In no island do we find all the children male or female. No two human countenances are alike; no two animals or vegetables. Were it otherwise the social relations and the rights of property would be disturbed.

"Nature is a great moralist, for in all ages and nations, men prosper and are happy in proportion as they keep the Ten Commandments.

"Nature is a great religionist, for everywhere and in all ages men have temples, priests, sacrifices and prayers. They act as though God regulates the world and interferes for His praying children. He is the truly contented man, living or dying, who is truly religious.

"Indeed Nature is but another name for God and we delude ourselves if we think to get rid of God by calling Him Nature. A mere abstraction cannot build even a hat-box."

* * *

The Nebular Hypothesis

This sounds like something. However be not disturbed for it is merely hiding itself behind a curtain of mysterious terms. Let me tell you where it comes from. A man by the name of La Place was responsible for its origin. He maintained that "the whole solar universe was at one time a mass of liquid matter, revolving in space with two laws in operation upon it; one centripetal tending to condensation, the other centrifugal tending to separation. From this seething mass of liquid matter, and by rapid motion planets, worlds and satellites were thrown off and in time became solid."

Now permit me to pull off the mask of mystery. "Nebular" means "a gaseous body." "Hypothesis" means "to conjecture a cause for known facts." Methinks when one compares this idea of "gas and conjecture" with Genesis the true account is not difficult to ascertain.

* * *

Evolution

This is the most generally accepted theory of the world's existence. Evolution within a species is certainly a scientifically proved fact. But the evolutionary theory generally understood

by the lay mind, that, something was made out of nothing through the process of adaptability is certainly an impossibility. Not even evolution can take nothing and make something of it. Before there can be evolution there must be creation. Someone has said, "To believe in evolution as generally accepted is to assume that nothing is something, and something is nothing; and that when nothing was, this nothing evolved out of nothing an immense something." This is a "nightmare of science" (falsely so-called), and I am still of the opinion held by the old colored lady who declared, "They's somethin' to everything, or there's nothin' to nothin'."

Rev. Raymond Browning in his poem on evolution has that theory quite well classified:

Back in the dark of intangible nothing,
Billions of years ere the earth gathered form,
Somehow the gloom changed to volume and substance;
Somehow came motion, came light and came storm.

Nebulous fire floated up out of nowhere,
By some strange movement suns rolled from the flame;
Then by the millions came stars, moons and comets,
Found their own courses and rolled in the same.

This tiny earth, like a dark lonely dust mote,
Wandered about for some million years more,
Gathered some atmosphere, rivers and mountains
Made the land stable, set sides on the shore.

Then came the cell, or the small protoplasm
Perhaps an amoeba--just happened you know
Stirred from the shapelessness, took form and motion
Learned from experience, just how to grow.

Thus as the ages dragged by it ascended,
Through all diversified forms that we see,
Till by environment, made ape or monkey,
Scratched, grinned and chattered -- then climbed up a tree.

Now if some son of an ape will come forward
And kindly remove the mysterious veil,
Perhaps he can tell how his nimble ancestry
Succeeded in shedding the fur and the tail.

This the weird fable he puts above Genesis;
This gruesome myth of man's climb from the clod;
Maniac's dream in exchange for our Bible;
Nightmare of science instead of our God.

* * *

Oriental Philosophy

They declare that, "Millions upon millions of years ago this world came to be. It was made a flat, triangular plane, several stories high, and the whole mass rested on the heads of elephants who had their feet standing on the shell of a great tortoise, and the tortoise on the coil of a huge reptile; and when the elephants shake themselves, or the snake rolls its coils, that makes the earthquakes."

Some Chinese say that their god, Pwangu, carved the heavens out of a huge granite block.

Three hundred years before Christ, Zeno and Epicurus taught that the universe came, by its own inherent energy, from a fortuitous concourse of atoms.

In Moses' day the Egyptians taught that both earth and heaven were made of pulp, and man was generated in the slimy mud of the Nile River.

Place beside these stories the Genesis account of how God made earth and man; how He provided a plan, a method, a government, called the "kingdom of God," with by-laws by which man can live happily, radiantly, victoriously, and note the difference. One is weird, a conglomeration of fairy tales, while the other, God's way, is intelligent, right, having cohesion and point and purpose.

Leading scientists of modern times declare the Bible account to be true.

Sir William Dawson, one of Canada's greatest scholars, says, "The Genesis order of creation is faultless in the light of modern science."

The great American geologist, Dana, says, "I believe the first chapter of Genesis and science are in accord." And again he said, "When one reads the creation story of Genesis, the first thought that strikes the scientific reader is the evidence of divinity. There is so much that the most recent readings of science have for the first time explained, that the idea of man as the author becomes utterly incomprehensible. Proving the record true, science pronounces it divine." -- "Bible Theology and Modern Thought" by Townsend, pp. 247-250.

Prof. A. H. Guyot says with regard to Genesis and geology, "It is evident that the grand outlines sketched by Moses are the same as those which modern science enables us to trace; The same hand which lifted up before the eyes of Daniel and Isaiah the veil which covered the tableau of the future, also unveiled before the eyes of Moses the ages of the past, making Moses the prophet of the past, as Isaiah and Daniel were the prophets of the future."

Some Facts Recently Uncovered Proving the Bible an Inspired Book

In the heavens --

"The heavens declare the glory of God ..." (Psalm 19). "When the morning stars sang together" (Job 38:7). The stars in the heavens give forth sounds. This has been proved to be true. In 1915 Dr. Lee Deforest discovered it, and caused electric lights to play music.

In the Scientific American, November, 1924, Fred M. Delano, Jr., wrote an article on "Listening to the Stars." He said in substance, "The time for France is fixed by a star. You can hear in your radio a clear musical note. It is the music of a star, telling when to set your clock. Two Frenchmen, both radio experts, General Gustave Ferrie and Monsieur R. Jouaust, devised an apparatus which converts the light of stars into an electric signal, and then into the radio wave. A star literally goes 'under the wire' for France." How did David know the heavens preached, and how did Job know the stars sang? God told them.

In the earth --

Job knew 1500 B. C. that the air had weight, but scientists did not find it out until 1630 A. D. Galileo made the discovery. Job said 3,130 years before Galilee, "To make the weight for the winds" (Job 28:25).

Solomon knew 900 B. C. that clouds are evaporated water. Scientists did not know that until 1630 A. D., and 2,530 years after Solomon's time. Galileo discovered that too. How did Solomon know? God told him.

Critics of the Bible say that the long day of Joshua's time could not have been, but Mr. Collett in "All About the Bible" states that China, Egypt and Greece, all three history keeping nations, have record of a long day during Joshua's period.

Job knew 1500 B. C. that there is an empty space in the northern sky where all is darkness. There are no stars there. "He stretcheth out the north over the empty space" (Job 26:7). The modern world did not know that until Rosse invented the great telescope. God told Job about it.

Moses knew that the blood circulated through the human body 1400 B. C., but science did not know it until 1615 A. D. "The life of the flesh is the blood" (Leviticus 17:14). How did Moses know? God told Moses about it

1500 B. C. Job predicted the use of a high explosive for a "time of trouble, and a day of battle," but man did not use it until the Germans produced it in the last World War. Job even knew how to transport it safely 1,500 years before Christ, but men had to learn that from experience, bitter and expensive. The United States made some of it, attempted to ship it to Europe, but it exploded at Hoboken. America tried it again, removing more impurities but it exploded at Halifax. Finally some scientist took snow water, which was pure, froze it into ice cubes like hailstones, and packed the explosive called T.N.T. in the ice cubes and safely shipped it to the battle front. Job knew that "Secret of the Snow" for he said, "Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail? Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?" (Job 38:22-23). How could Job know that centuries before any gun was fired? God told him.

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02 -- IN THE LIGHT OF HISTORY

There are two kinds of history; outside history, or archaeology; and the Bible. When the modernist speaks of outside history he usually means Josephus, or Herodotus, or Berossus, all ancient historians, or archaeology.

It is marvelous to relate the things that history has uncovered proving the Bible to be an infallible revelation.

In 2 Kings 18:14 we find, "And Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria to Lachish, saying, I have offended: return from me; that which thou putteth on me will I bear. And the king of Assyria, appointed unto Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver, and thirty talents of gold." Sennacherib's own account of this transaction has been unearthed by archaeologists, but it stated that the demanded and received sum from Hezekiah was 800 talents of silver and 30 talents of gold. Here was a contradiction, and therefore the Bible account must be wrong. Later, however, documents have been found that show the standard for a talent of silver in Judah to be different from the talent of silver in Assyria, but the gold standard was the same. Mr. Collett in his book, "All About the Bible," page 87, shows that it is now known for a certainty that it took exactly 800 talents of silver (Assyrian) to equal 300 talents of silver (Hebrew) . The Bible proved to be true again.

Again, Ur, the ancient city of Abraham, could not be found. Therefore it was concluded that it never did exist and the Bible surely must be wrong. Abraham was a mythical character. Now Mr. Rawlinson excavated the city of Ur, found a library that proved that Abraham not only lived in Ur, but that he could write.

Some modernists decided that Moses did not write the Pentateuch because men did not know how to write at that early time. Then in 1887, F. Petrie came to northern Egypt to dig. At Tel-el-Amarna he found letters written by persons both in Palestine and in Egypt long before Moses' time. The Bible still was right.

Again there are some skeptics who have challenged the Bible for saying that Belshazzar was king when Cyrus captured Babylon. History says it was Nabonidus, father of Belshazzar who was then king, therefore the Bible contains an inconsistency and a contradiction. But Mr. Wilson in his book, "Daniel in the Critic's Den," shows that archaeological discoveries now have proved conclusively that Belshazzar ruled in partnership with his father Nabonidus.

Once again, they say there never was a race called Hittites, for no trace of them is found outside of the Bible (Gen. 25:9). They are, in fact, mentioned again and again in the Bible, but not in secular histories. The Bible had to be wrong. Then down the corridors of time came Winckler in 1906. At Boghoz-Koi, in Asia Minor was found a treasury of Hittite hieroglyphics. Mr. Kyle tells of the discovery in the Sunday School Times, Aug. 3, 1914. God's Book, the Bible is true.

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03 -- IN THE LIGHT OF PROPHECY

Prophecy and the Jew.

1400 years B. C. it was predicted, "The people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations" (Num. 23:9) . See its fulfillment! The Jew has penetrated the earth, north, east, south and west; and, unlike other peoples, he lives alone. Whether you find him in Singapore, London, or Boston, he is the same hook-nosed son of Abraham. He never loses his identity, nor is he assimilated among and into other races. They dwell alone.

1400 years B. C. it was predicted that, "The Lord shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone. And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest; but the Lord shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing eyes, and sorrow of mind; and thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life." See how it came to pass. The Jewish nation driven from border to border, no home, no citizenship, flotsam on the restless sea of time. They are persecuted in Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, and Spain; in France, Holland and the Scandinavian countries.

One more! "And the Lord shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships, by the way whereof I spake unto thee. Thou shalt see it no more again; and there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you" (Deut. 28:68). Did this happen? Was there none to buy them? Did they go back in ships? Turn to Josephus and see that when Jerusalem was captured by Titus in 70 A. D. the Jews over seventeen years of age were taken by ships to Egypt. The slave market was so gorged that no one wished to buy. Exactly as Moses told them it would be 1400 years before (Bettex' "The Bible the Word of God," p.110.)

Prophecy and Jesus.

One thousand years before it came to pass it was predicted that "False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not." Now open your New Testament to Matt. 26:59, and read, "Now the chief priests and the elders sought false witnesses against Jesus to put him to death."

One thousand years B. C. the psalmist said, under the direction of God, "My knees are weak through fasting; and my flesh faileth of fatness" (Psalm 109:24). "And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; him they compelled to bear his cross" (27:32). His knees gave out and Simon carried the cross for him.

One thousand years before it happened they said, "I became also a reproach unto them; when they looked upon me they shook their heads" (Psalm 109:25). "And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads" (Matt. 27:39).

"All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted in the Lord that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him" (Psalm 22:7). "Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the king of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God" (Matt. 27:41-44). Fulfilled to the letter.

"They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture" (Psalm 22:18). See the fulfillment. "Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat; now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be; that the scripture might be fulfilled" (John 19:23, 24). There can be only one answer to all of these predictions made so many years before fulfillment -- God.

"And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death" (Isaiah 53:9). Here it was predicted he would die with criminals and be buried with the rich. "The thieves also which were crucified with him" (Matt. 27:44). Numbered with the wicked. "When the even was come, there came a rich man, of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple. He went to Pilate and begged the body of Jesus ... and laid it in his own new tomb" (Matt. 27:57-69). How did Isaiah know? God told Him.

Amos predicted 800 B. C., "And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord God, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon and I will darken the earth in the clear day." "Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour" (Matt. 27:45). Here is the fulfillment. No wonder it turned dark. The number one crime of all time was being committed; a crime that only God could twist around to make it work out for the salvation of the world.

Prophecy and the Last Great War (1914-1918).

Isaiah predicted, "As birds flying, so will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it" (Isa. 31:5). Now read about Allenby's entry into Jerusalem. Allenby prayed to God beseeching Him to overrule so that the Holy City might not be damaged in the capture. He then sent great numbers of airplanes "as birds flying" over the city, and God used the planes to inspire the Turks to relinquish their hold on Jerusalem. How did Isaiah know? God told him.

These prophecies have come to pass just as God said they would. Now what about the prophecies yet to be fulfilled? The Second Coming of Jesus? The Great Judgment? The Battle of Armageddon? The Great Tribulation? Never doubt it! They will happen under the hand of God just as certainly as the prophecies of the past came true.

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04 -- IN THE LIGHT OF ITS MORAL TEACHING

What the Bible teaches about life and living must be true. To reject it is to reject the verdict of a higher court of appeals within one's own breast.

"Thou shalt not commit adultery." -- Old Testament That command is right; right under the pressure of any test. To reject it is to reject the verdict of a higher court within one's own breast. The man who tries to go against that command, then attempts to assimilate the evil actions of an adulterer into his own life, finds the sentence written within him. In fact one is compelled to go farther than the Old Testament command, and say with Jesus in the New Testament, "To look with lust is guilt."

"Thou shalt not steal."

"Thou shalt not covet."

"Thou shalt not murder."

"Thou shalt not bear false witness." -- Old Testament.

Where in the world, outside the Bible, can be found such teachings? This way certainly and obviously is not the way of the world. No, it is God's way. It is the Bible way.

True it is, that ever and anon can be found in the Bible stories of an Ahab or a Jezebel or a Manasseh, or a Judas Iscariot, but these dark spots on the sacred pages are there, not to portray an ugly scene merely, but to keep other feet from the same paths They are like the dark and ugly buoy, placed in evidence along a rocky shore to keep stray ships off the rocks. God cries, "The soul that sinneth it shall die." Then lest man fail to be warned by that call, He inserts on the sacred page the tragedy of Ahab to show that He means just what He says.

There is no other book that I know of that can pry open the eyes and compel one to see himself as he really is. The Bible does that very thing. But it does not stop there, it goes on to reveal the compassion and mercy of God toward the sinner, and shows the only way out of sin, the pardon of God.

A Chinese Christian giving his testimony to the saving grace of God said, "Once I was sinking in a pit of miry clay. The more I struggled to free myself the more tightly I was held in the mire. Looking up I saw one coming who looked like Buddha. He stopped and told me the glories of the Buddhist religion and passing by left me stuck in the mire. I saw another coming, he looked like Mohammed, and told me the glories of the Mohammedan religion, but passed by and left me stuck in the mire. Despairing I cast about for another to help, and saw coming One who looked like the Son of God. He turned to me and said, 'Come unto me ... I will give you rest.' Then I cried, 'Lord, I cannot come. I am held fast by sin.' And then, unlike the others who passed me by, He stooped and taking my hand said, 'I'll help you come,' and with one mighty pull He lifted me from the mire and the clay. That is all it took from Him, a mighty, saving, cleansing tug, and all was well."

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THE END

What a message! What a Book! The Bible is God's revelation to man. Let us live by its direction, eat of its nourishment, relax in its restfulness, remember its warnings, rely on its promises, hold it to our bosoms in life, pillow our heads on it in death, and go sweeping through the pearly gates shouting, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth."