

seeks to harmonize the passages in question and is a thorough treatment. It continues to go unanswered by Bible skeptics. God is not the author of confusion but of peace (I Cor. 14:33).

The Purity of its Ethics

Matthew 7:12 records what someone once called the golden rule, "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." The meaning of this wise instruction from the Bible is quickly grasped and yet profound in its implications for the good of society. Is it any wonder that this teaching relating to human behavior and ethics written almost 2,000 years ago is well known today?

Its Relevancy to Human Needs

The Bible answers your questions and questions your answers. It claims to completely furnish one to every good work and satisfy all of one's spiritual needs (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Its contents give all truth that man needs pertaining to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). It is the spiritual bread that one must have to fill the hunger for truth (Mt. 4:4). It deals with man biggest problem, that of sin (I Jn. 3:4; Acts 2:38). It teaches man the correct morals in order to be right with God (Tit. 2:11-12). It answers the questions of origin, purpose of existence and destiny (Gen. 1:1; Eccl. 12:13-14; Jn. 5:28-29; 2 Cor. 5:10). It answers the question concerning death (Gen. 2:16-17; 3:1-6, 19; Rom. 3:23; Rom. 6:23). There is no other book which answers life's greatest questions.

Its Historical Trustworthiness

In matters pertaining to geography the evidence shows that the Bible is always accurate in its statements. If the Bible says that someone went "up" to Jerusalem, then even if that person on one's flat map traveled south to the city, the Bible is still right to say the traveler went up. Why is this the case? Because Jerusalem was a four-walled city sitting on a hill and to enter into the gate of the city the traveler was always forced to go up the ramp leading into the city. While Bible critics may scoff in judging the statements in the Bible by appearance, upon further investigation the Bible is vindicated. (For more study see Thomas Eaves, chp. entitled, *The Inspired Word*, GREAT DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE, East TN School of Preaching

lectures, 1980. p. 235).

Its Scientific Accuracy

In Isaiah 40:22 the fact that the earth is round is taught. Yet, this statement made by the inspired writer was made at a time when men thought the earth was flat! There are many other evidences which reveal facts of science before men discovered these truths. The Bible does not purport to be a science book, yet it contains facts relating to science in it. It does not contradict true science and warns to avoid "vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called" (I Tim. 6:20). Thus, the theory of evolution should be avoided.

Its Fulfilled Prophecy

There are literally hundreds of prophecies in the Old Testament which have found fulfillment in the New Testament. Isaiah prophesied 750 years before the fulfillment that the Messiah would be a suffering Messiah (Isa. 53:7-8). The preacher, Philip, applied the prophecy to Jesus (Acts 8:32). Truly, as someone once said, *The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed, while the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed.* This is evidence that the Bible is of divine, not human, origin.

HOW MEN BENEFIT FROM THE BIBLE

The Bible tells man of his origin, his purpose of existence and his destiny (Gen. 1:1; Eccl. 12:13-14; 2 Cor. 5:10). The Bible is the only book that deals sufficiently with the subject of death. It prepares us for the afterlife by offering heaven to gain and hell to shun (Mt. 25:31-46; Jn. 14:1-6). The Bible reveals God's plan for saving man from his sins (disobedience of God's law, I Jn. 3:4). Through the sacrifice of the sinless Son of God, Jesus Christ, man is told in the New Testament how to be freed from the *power*, *pollution*, *pleasure*, and the *penalty* of sin (Col. 1:13-14; 2 Tim. 1:7; Heb. 10:25; Rom. 6:23). Finally, it will have freed us from the *presence* of sin in heaven in eternity (Rev. 21:27).

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Having obtained an accurate, reliable translation of the Bible, may we study, believe and obey God's divine precepts. (see John 14:15).

Last eve I passed beside a blacksmith's door,
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;
When looking in, I saw upon the floor,
Old hammers worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had," said I
"To wear and batter all these hammers so?"
"Just one," said he; then said with twinkling eye,
"The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."

And so, I thought, the anvil of God's word
For ages skeptic's blows have beat upon;
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,
The anvil is unharmed--the hammers gone!

—John Clifford

ENDNOTES

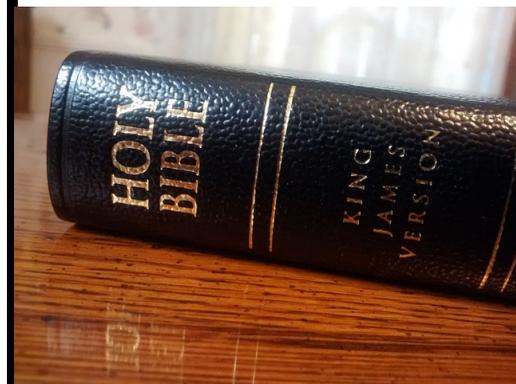
- 1 Holman Bible Dictionary for Windows. Under: *LIBRARY*. No author's name given. (Hiawatha, Iowa: Holman Bible Publishers, 1994).
 - 2 Ibid., David S. Dockery. Under: *SCRIPTURE*.
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 - 10 W. Ray Ellis. Holman Bible Dictionary. Under: *Greek Language*.
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 - 13 H. S. Miller. General Biblical Introduction. *Test Divisions*. (The World Bearer Press, Houghton, N.Y., 1960) p. 10.
 - 14 Ibid., p. 11.
- * Much of the material in this tract is the author's material which was first published in *A HANDBOOK ON BIBLE TRANSLATION* — The Ninth Annual Shenandoah Lectures. Terry M. Hightower, Editor. May be ordered from the Shenandoah Church of Christ, 11026 Wurzbach Rd., San Antonio, TX 78230. (210) 696-5532. All Bible quotations are from the King James Version.

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The INSPIRATION OF The BIBLE



By

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