

You Can Trust The Bible!

by Wayne Goff

In recent years there has been another attack on the Bible in an effort to discredit it. This is a serious matter because the Christian's faith is dependent upon the veracity of the New Testament! The Devil and his co-workers understand this, so they attempt to destroy our confidence in the Bible as the Word of God. We should not be surprised. *"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Romans 10:17). Destroy the Word of God and you destroy the faith of men!

Is there credibility to the charges made against the Bible? Some say that we do not have all the books of the Bible. Others say that its transmission down to us has been corrupted. Still others say it has been improperly translated into our language. The truth of the matter is that each of these is a feeble attempt to discredit the Bible to those whom they hope will not check out the credibility of the Bible.

Sir Frederic G. Kenyon, who was the director and principal librarian of the British Museum and second to none in authority for issuing statements about manuscripts, says: ". . . besides number, the manuscripts of the New Testament differ from those of the classical authors, and this time the difference is clear gain. In no other case is the interval of time between the composition of the book and the date of the earliest extant manuscripts so short as in that of the New Testament. The books of the New Testament were written in the latter part of the first century; the earliest extant manuscripts (trifling scraps excepted) are of the fourth century — say from 250 to 300 years later.

"This may sound a considerable interval, but it is nothing to that which parts most of the great classical authors from their earliest manuscripts. We believe that we have in all essentials an accurate text of the seven extant plays of Sophocles; yet the earliest substantial manuscript upon which it is based was written more than 1400 years after the poet's death." [*Our Bible And the Ancient Manuscripts*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1941].

Kenyon continues in *The Bible and Archaeology*: "The interval then between the dates of original composition and the earliest extant evidence becomes so small as to be in fact negligible, and the last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed. Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established."

So the Bible is a well-established, translated, understandable text. Those who say otherwise are just "whistling past the graveyard"!

Is the Bible what it claims to be — the inspired Word of God the Creator? The answer to that question is likewise an unequivocal YES! There are numerous examples of internal evidence from the Bible — the scientific accuracy of the creation (Genesis 1), the prescientific knowledge found in the Bible (Job 38-39; Acts 17:26), the harmony between writers separated by hundreds of years and different backgrounds but who continued the "scarlet thread" of God's scheme of redemption (Gen. 3:15; 12:1-3; 2 Sam. 7:12-16; Matt. 1; Acts 2:34-36), and the three hundred prophecies all accurately fulfilled in Jesus Christ (Isaiah 2, Daniel 2, Joel 2, Acts 2, etc.). No human wisdom could have come up with all of that! So it leaves us with one and only one option — **God inspired the Book!**

There have always been and always will be naysayers to the Bible. It is the vain and foolish attempt by men and Satan to deny their responsibility to the God Who created them. In the words of King David, *"Why did the nations rage, and the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the LORD and against His Christ"* (Acts 4:25-26). Not only did they fail in their attempt to overthrow God, they unwittingly carried out His eternal plan! **Believe the Bible!**

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