

Giving the Bible Its Place

by Bill Crews

How much **power** does God possess? *"I know that thou canst do all things, and that no purpose of thine can be restrained"* (Job 42:2). *"There is nothing too hard for thee"* (Jer. 32: 17). *"But with God all things are possible"* (Matt. 19:26).

How much **knowledge and wisdom** does God possess? *"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past tracing out!"* (Rom. 11:33). God's thoughts and ways are said to be above man's thoughts and ways as the heavens are higher than the earth (Is. 55:8-9). The wisdom of this world (all of the wisdom of all men) is said to be foolishness with God (1 Cor. 1:20; 3:18-19).

For those who truly believe in God, to ask the following questions is to answer them: Is God able to reveal Himself unto man? Is God capable of revealing His will for man unto man? Does God want man to understand His will? Is God able to reveal His will in language that can be understood by man? Does God possess sufficient power and wisdom to provide man with a standard for all peoples and nations that would serve as an adequate guide for generations and centuries until the very end of time? **If** God is, and if God is God, all these questions would have to be answered with a resounding "YES." (Too many people want to believe in a God that fits their own concept of God, a limited God; they ought to spell "god" with a little "g.")

For those who truly believe in God, the Bible is the revelation of God's will to man and contains all of God's will for man. **It** is complete, perfect, adequate, understandable, authoritative and age-lasting. The Bible contains two great divisions, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament, whose books were written by men chosen by God and guided by the Holy Spirit, whose books were written in the period of time from 1500 B.C. to 400 B.C., was temporary and provisional as a binding standard. It contained the law given through Moses to the Israelites. That law and those people served as a means to a greater end -- the working out of God's marvelous plan to offer salvation to all men through His Son, Jesus Christ. The New Testament contains *"the truth"* or *"the gospel (good news) of Christ."* (It is described in John 1:17 as *"the grace and the truth"* in contrast to *"the law."*) It is true, as someone once remarked: **"The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed, and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed."** The Old paved the way for the New. The Old gave way to the New. The Old is inferior to the New. From the New one truly understands the role of the Old. A study of the Old will help one to appreciate and understand the New. Men today, in fact men since the days of the apostles of Christ, are under the New and not the Old.

Jesus promised the apostles that the Holy Spirit would be sent to them and would guide them into all the truth. *"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he shall guide you into all the truth"* (Jn. 16:13; but read also Jn. 8:31-32; 14:25-26 and 16:12). That promise was kept. Wrote one of the apostles, *"Seeing that his divine power hath granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that called us by his own glory and virtue"* (2 Pet. 1:3). Paul affirmed that unto the Ephesians he had declared *"the whole counsel of God"* (Acts 20:26-27). And he wrote that the Scriptures are able to make *"the man of God"* *"complete"* or *"perfect"* and furnish him *"completely unto every good work"* (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Jesus promised that His words would not pass away (Matt. 24:35). Peter spoke of *"the word of God which liveth and abideth"* and said, *"but the word of the Lord abideth for ever. And this is the word of good tidings (or the gospel) which was preached unto you"* (1 Pet. 1:22-25).

With these observations before us (all of which are substantiated by the very testimony of the Scriptures) let me ask you, dear reader, some questions: Do you have the reverence for and the faith in the Bible that you ought to have? Do you regard it as the word of God? as a perfect moral and spiritual guide? as all of the revelation of all of God's will for man? Do you believe that it contains all of the information on what God expects you to know, to believe, to be, and to do? Do you believe that it contains God's solution to every serious problem that man may have? Do you believe that it provides our every spiritual need and will promote perfectly our welfare, morality and happiness? Do you believe that everything taught, believed, and practiced in the realm of religion must be authorized by Bible teaching? No, this is not Bibliolatry or a case of exalting the Bible too highly, but a matter of giving God His rightful place **in** our hearts and lives. We cannot respect God without respecting His word, and we do not give God His place without giving His word its place.

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