

Mighty

NOAH'S
ARK?

CREATION?

RESURRECTION?

SATAN?

"MYTHS"

FALL OF MAN?

THE VIRGIN BIRTH?

TOWER OF BABEL?

CROSSING THE
RED SEA?

of the

JONAH AND
THE WHALE?

JOSHUA'S LONG DAY?

Bible

BY REV. C. HUTCHINSON, PRINCIPAL, BEREAN BIBLE COLLEGE



CALGARY,
ALBERTA,
CANADA



Mighty MYTHS of the Bible

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Mighty MYTHS of the Bible

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The reader will not peruse many lines of this book without realizing that the term "Myths" used in its title is employed in an ironic or satirical sense. The might of the Scriptures lies in their accuracy. Their authority derives from their literal truth. The Great Author of the Bible, none other than God the Holy Spirit, is the God "that cannot lie," and is thus not the source of myth or legend or fable.

The term "myth" is used to relate the material here presented to the constant and persistent attempts being made to modify or lessen the supreme and absolute authority of the Word of God, by declaring certain portions to have no real historical basis, but to consist of that which is mythological in nature. The first eleven chapters of Genesis have been especially assailed in this way, together with other records of God's miraculous interventions in the affairs of men.

Why is this being done? Why are men in high ecclesiastical positions seeking to break down the faith of the very people to whom they are called to minister? This used to be the business of the militant atheist. Does it really matter to us if the story of Adam, or Noah, or of such events as the Flood, the Tower of Babel, or the crossing of the Red Sea, are literal or mythological?

In this book we shall endeavour to answer such questions, clearly, simply, and yet without rancour. For God calls us today, as He called Jude long ago, to "contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." May God show us the issues involved, and lead us into the truth, not founded on the wisdom of men, but as God has revealed it through His infallible Word.



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CHAPTER 1. CREATION - THE HOSPITALITY OF GOD

Nineteen centuries ago Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, faced the sublime, Divine Prisoner, Jesus of Nazareth, looked into those soul-searching eyes, and in impatient despair turned away, crying, "What is truth?" Whether this was the frustrated cry of one who had honestly searched for truth, or the bitter cynicism of one who believed in nothing at all, we do not know. Was he seeking the truth, or dodging the issue?

Men have not changed much in the nineteen centuries that have marched into eternity since that momentous day. There are still some brave, sincere souls who honestly search for the truth. But many more are still dodging it, especially in moral, ethical and spiritual realms. There are many who simply do not want the truth, because it hurts!

The prophets foresaw this very clearly. Here is I Timothy 4:1-2, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils, SPEAKING LIES in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron." And in II Timothy 3:1-2, 5, 13 we find these words: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy...having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof...But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, DECEIVING AND BEING DECEIVED." Again in II Peter 2:1 and 3:3 we read: "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be FALSE teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even DENYING the Lord that bought them...Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days SCOFFERS."

Those prophesied days are here. The switch to truth-denial is becoming ever more pronounced. No longer are many concerned with: "What is truth?", but the endless search seems to be to find what is NOT truth. Denial is the watchword! In our universities ungodly professors tell immature young people that, "There is no absolute truth. All truth is relative. There is no absolute right or wrong. There is no such thing as conscience. There is no absolute moral law. Do as you please!" And now, in our RELIGIOUS institutions, the seminaries, the churches, and now even in the Sunday schools, it is being taught that the Bible is not the infallible Word of God; but, especially in the first eleven chapters of Genesis, there is simply a collection of "myths." In the hearts of even the little children there is being

laid a wicked and frightful foundation for a later denial of all Scriptural authority, and an utter defection to the ranks of the agnostic and the atheist. Every father and mother ought to face this question today: AM I CONTENT FOR MY CHILD TO BE SO TAUGHT?

Begin with me an honest examination of the subject, - honest enough to make us face this question: "What is truth?" What about the first part of the Bible? Is this mythical in nature? Shall we believe this new group of "theologians?" Why should we? Is the Bible story of creation literal fact? Or not? Let me propose four vital questions involved in this subject:-

QUESTION 1. Why should this part of Scripture ever be considered other than literal? Why THIS part? Let me suggest three very vital reasons. First, because men try to blot out the thought of God. That is an extremely difficult task, for all men are God-conscious. But the Communist, and his right-hand man, the Evolutionist, never cease trying. Their propaganda is everywhere today, in the highest class of magazine; and in the lowest, God-blaspheming rag printed by the guttersnipes of the publishing trade. Men want a vague, little God, one who scarcely merits man's worship, and his implicit obedience not at all!

The second reason men want to call parts of the Bible "mythical" is that they might then discredit the whole. In II Timothy 3:16 we read: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine..." The whole Bible is tied together in this statement. It is all or none! If Genesis 1 is not inspired, then this statement of Paul is false, and also not inspired, and so on.

Thirdly, this denial of the literal accuracy of Genesis 1 to 11 is an attempt to deny the miraculous, and reduce all to the realm of the natural. The stories of Creation, of the Flood, of Babel, of the crossing of the Red Sea, of Jonah or the Virgin Birth of Christ all savour of the miraculous, and concerning all of these, the critic cries "Myth, fairy tale, not literal history." Why should this be done? If God is God, is He not able to do all these things? But again let me say, men do not want a great mighty God, with all power, and one who thus has all authority over mankind. Man's wicked heart cries, "Cut God down to our size, and then we will not have to obey Him, or His word." The stubborn, proud and rebellious heart of man wants a God like an idol that he can discard, reject, and throw away if he wishes to.

QUESTION 2. On what authority is this section of the Bible, the first eleven chapters of Genesis, being discredited as history, and reduced to the realm of myths? ONLY AND SOLELY ON

THE WORD AND OPINION OF PREJUDICED, DECEITFUL AND FALLIBLE MEN, PRESUMPTUOUS AND SELF-WILLED. There are no other grounds. Surely such men are adequately described in II Peter 2:10, 12, "Them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. . . These . . . speak evil of the things that THEY UNDERSTAND NOT: and shall utterly perish." And today such men ask us to believe them rather than the Bible! "But," cry some of them, "there have been new discoveries, new archeological finds that give us new evidence for our conclusions." Let me challenge that statement. What new finds? Let us hear about them. Where are they? This claim is extremely suspect! Sir William Ramsay, a man of unimpeachable character and sterling erudition, was reared in an atmosphere of scepticism, and took it as his life task to prove the Bible to be fraudulent through the findings of archeology. He chose to investigate the Book of Acts, as this historical narrative named so many places and people, and could thus be checked most carefully for error. But after fifteen years of digging in Bible lands, Sir Ramsay wrote that the Book of Acts was accurate to the most minute detail, and he became a devout Christian, believing the whole Bible to be the literal Word of God. His books on this subject have never been refuted. What then are these so-called "new discoveries"? They have not been produced!

QUESTION 3. How does the denial of the literal accuracy of the first eleven chapters of Genesis affect the authority of the rest of the Bible? Can we accept this proposition, and still believe and trust the rest of the Scriptures? The answer is clearly and plainly this: ON NO ACCOUNT! There are, from Genesis to Revelation, over ONE HUNDRED OTHER SCRIPTURES that tell us GOD CREATED all things, literally and miraculously! Space forbids a listing of all these, but let me select here and there a few typical examples.

Listen to Moses, as he speaks in Exodus 20:11, "In six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is." Hear him again in Deuteronomy 4:32, "Ask now of the days that are past, which were before thee, since the day that God created man upon the earth." Can anyone doubt that Moses treated the Creation story literally? Listen to Hezekiah, in II Kings 19:15, "And Hezekiah prayed and said. . . O Lord God of Israel. . . thou art the God, even thou alone. . . Thou hast made heaven and earth." And here is another King, David, the man after God's own heart, in I Chronicles 16:26, "The Lord made the heavens." In the Book of Job we read about God creating all things, this

fact being recorded eight times. Here is one example in Job 33:4, "The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life." Eighteen times we read about Creation in the Book of Psalms, as in Psalm 8:3, "When I consider the heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained; what is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" Shall we throw out all these books along with the first part of Genesis?

But there is far more. Nehemiah speaks of creation once, Proverbs speaks of it three times, Isaiah records it ten times, Jeremiah declares it seven times. Ecclesiastes, Amos, Jonah and Zechariah all speak of God creating the earth, the heavens, and life itself, in literal style. And in the New Testament here are some of the many references. In John 1:3-4 we read: "All things were made by him (God); and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men." Is that true? Paul believed it, for he said in Romans 11:36, "For of him and through him, and to him, are all things.", and in Ephesians 3:9 he said, "The fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ." And again in Colossians 1:16 we read the Apostle's words: "For by him (God the Son) were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in the earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him." The Book of Hebrews speaks of creation four times, James records it once, and the Book of Revelation contains at least two references to creation by God. And finally let me present the testimony of GOD THE SON, as found in Mark 13:19: "The beginning of the creation which God created." Did he? Our Lord said so! All these references treat the creation story as literal fact. No man can pick and choose of the Bible. It stands as a unity.

QUESTION 4. How does this matter affect each one of us? Have we really a Heavenly Father who created all things? To whom do we render thanks for every benefit that is ours? The evolutionist must have to say, "Thank you, blob of protoplasm!" Spurgeon said: "If evolution is true, we ought to pray, "Our Father, who art up a tree." How fine it is that men can pray, "Our Father, who art in heaven." But how big is our God? Is He big enough to create, from His own infinite power, the universe all about us? The Bible tells us He is an hospitable God, who made the heavens and the earth to create for us an hospitable home. This is the basic reason for this world, stored with every provision for human life, with its multiplied, intricate,

interesting and compensating factors that make such life possible. This is not the product of blind chance. The most elementary reasoning shows us this. This is the hospitality of God, and we are His creatures, His guests here on earth. Is our God big enough to do all this? Or is He only able to make the first molecule, or the first blob of protoplasm? Only a fool would believe in the nonsense of evolution, were it not for man's innate desire to get rid of a great God!

"In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. . . . In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him? . . . Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundation of the earth? It is he that sitteth on the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in. . . . To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by name by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth." THIS IS GOD! And I am a creature of the dust, into which He breathed the breath of life! Let all creation worship and adore and serve Him!

CHAPTER 2. TEMPTATION - IS THE DEVIL A MYTH?

"The Devil is voted not to be,
And, of course, the Devil's gone;
But simple folk would like to know:
Who carries his business on?"

In this chapter we take a second look at the Genesis record, paying special attention to Genesis chapter three, one of those portions that some today would relegate to the status of "myth," meaning very simply, in spite of all the smoke-screen of elaborate "definitions", that the stories contained therein are not LITERAL HISTORY. They are said to be simply literary inventions made up as illustrations of some spiritual truth, but NOT a true record of history. And when the Bible speaks of Satan, and his subtle temptation of Eve, coming to her in serpent form, the so-called "intellectuals" of the theological world put on their most superior airs, and pronounce it all a "myth." Is it? What say you? No, that does not really matter. What says God? Examine this problem carefully. You see, no matter what man may say about the devil, and his personal existence, the PRODUCT long attributed to his activities still remains. Thus we began with the above stanza of poetry that well expresses this indisputable fact. EVIL IS WITH US! Far and wide the world is filled with inexplicable examples of senseless viciousness. Men steal to gain, ravish to satisfy their lust, and murder for both these reasons. But even beyond these crimes there is an area of useless and senseless wickedness. Men will smash property, or inflict pain, or even kill unoffending human beings, with no personal reward at all, except the satisfaction of their lust for evil-doing, and the unholy pleasure of sheer perversity. And all this sets squarely before every philosopher, high-brow or low-brow, the great question, "WHENCE COMES EVIL?" The Bible answer is clear, in Genesis 3:1, "Now the serpent. . ."

Is the Devil a myth? If creation is of God, and the evidence of God's power, what is temptation? It is here! Every one of us has known, again and again, the inherent urge to do evil, in word or thought or deed. Why should it be there? What is this frightening growth of social and moral deterioration and decay that is so evident in today's world? Why does death come to every living

creature? Why do men fight wars? These are very pertinent questions, and the only answers worthy of the name are the Bible answers. Here are some questions and answers in James 4:1-2, "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your own lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not." And in Romans 6:23 we read these words: "The wages of sin is death." Sin came into the human race, somehow, from somewhere. And that points us right back to the author of sin, called in the Bible Satan, or the Devil. And if that is just a myth, he is certainly a very busy one! Busy indeed! And, by some strange perversion, the very people, the ungodly of this world, who claim to believe in neither hell nor devil can't stop talking about them! These two words seem to run through sentence after sentence of the world's conversation! Strange! Well, not so very strange after all, for God's Word declares in unmistakable terms, that the Devil is real, a literal personality.

Can we deny the literal accuracy of Genesis 3, and thus banish the Devil from existence, or put him out of the Bible? By no means! Listen to the record. His story runs all through the Bible. He is called Lucifer, our adversary, the accuser of the brethren before the throne of God, a roaring lion, the god of this world, perdition's king. Eight times he is called the wicked one; seven times he is named as the prince of this world's evil; seven times he is called Beelzebub; twelve times he is the serpent; fourteen times he is designated as the dragon; 33 times his name is Devil; and 54 times we find him as Satan; he is named at least 132 times, all the way from Genesis to Revelation, from one end of the Book to the other, and he is ever shown to be an active, intelligent, speaking, observing, tempting, real being, with every facet of a literal, mighty personality. These wishful thinkers cannot get rid of the Devil by trying to make Genesis 1 to 11 mythical! Face these facts! Evil is real, and inexplicable from the human point of view. It is totally irreconcilable with the views of the evolutionist. Some terrible, vindictive power lies behind the fearful sin and crime stalking through our world! Let me set before you some Bible answers to three very common questions about Satan. The first is this: "FROM WHENCE DID SATAN COME?" The answer is clear, and straightforward. God created him. He did NOT create him as Satan, but as a mighty archangel called "Lucifer, the day star, son of the morning, the anointed cherub that covereth," to name some of his resplendent titles. (See Ezekiel 28:14). God created this great angel with a perfectly free will, able to turn to God or from

Him. AND IN HIS CHOICE SIN WAS BORN. Here is Isaiah to tell us about it, in verses twelve to fifteen, of the fourteenth chapter: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning. . . how art thou cut down to the ground, which did weaken the nation! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit." Lucifer, because of his pride and rebellion against God, was cast down, and became the devil we know, and who works his will in so many parts of the earth, and in so many human hearts everywhere.

The second question is this: "CANNOT THE IDEA OF A DEVIL BE EXPLAINED AWAY BY SAYING IT IS JUST NATURAL EVIL WITHIN MEN?" Not at all. That would be begging the question; how did evil get into man, who was once made perfect, in the image of God? No, this explanation will not do. Satan is repeatedly shown acting as quite separate from man, as an individual entity. Here is one such clear record, in Job 1:6-7, "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them. And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it." That is the record of a heavenly scene, before the very throne of God. Satan roams the earth constantly. And he has power to talk to God in heaven, there to accuse His servants of evil-doing, and to attack them in every possible way. Do you think that is also a myth? Wait a moment! In Matthew 4:1-3 we read this story from the life of the Son of God himself. "Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. . . And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." Does any man dare to say the "devil" in this case was simply the evil that was in Jesus Christ, God the Son, the sinless One, the Holy One of Israel? God forbid that any man should so blaspheme the One he must some day meet as Judge of all the earth! Jesus was and is the sinless One. Read it in Hebrews 4:15, "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, YET WITHOUT SIN." In II Corinthians 5:21 it is said of our Lord, "who knew no sin." Satan, a personality utterly apart from our Lord, met Him in the wilderness, and suffered bitter defeat.

Satan brought down the first Adam, but could not seduce or overcome the last Adam! It is thus evident that temptation is more than an inner feeling or desire. It is the wicked enticement of Satan and his forces, all the demons of hell, attacking men and women, attacking YOU AND ME, day after day. His business is to soil and spoil and defile human beings, to curse them, to make them more the children of hell, to damn their souls, to lock heaven against them, and to cause the very wrath of almighty God to be directed against the creatures He made, because of their sin. For Satan looks upon man as the dusty usurpers of the world that was once his! HE HATES MANKIND, with a bitter, vindictive hatred!

My third question is almost obvious: "WHY THEN DO MEN TRY TO DENY THE EXISTENCE OF A PERSONAL DEVIL?" Why do they try to shut out Genesis 3, and wave it away as a myth, even though the same story runs through the Bible? Let me suggest two potent reasons. First, because Satan wants it that way, and unsaved men are under his control. Think of this in II Timothy 2:24-26. "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those who oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." Satan, like a crafty fox, like every evil worker, hates the light, and loves darkness, the cover-up of the ambush and the trap. He hides under many disguises, and uses his aliases to conceal his real identity. Like a cunning hunter, he snares his unwary prey. Like a sneak-thief, he attacks from behind. He has planted a strange caricature of himself in the minds of men, as one with a red skin, and horns, and hoofs, and a forked tail, so that everybody naturally thinks of him as a sort of myth or bogeyman. BUT LISTEN! Just the very opposite is true! In II Corinthians 11:13-15 we read: "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. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." Satan is a clever imposter, a wolf in sheep's clothing! And in our day, he preaches in hundreds of our pulpits, in the guise of the clergyman. The second reason why men deny the existence of Satan is that of FEAR, STARK TERROR! It is so dreadful to think of a mighty, implacable enemy, seeking to drag the soul to hell! So men try to shut out the idea! They hope that somehow it will all go away

if we don't think about it. May God help us all to face the truth! How foolish it is of a man to see a cancer growing, and then to ignore it, to refuse the help of the doctor, and hope it will somehow fade away. Yet men do this in the spiritual realm, because they are afraid to face reality. Men are afraid today, afraid of hell, a real hell after death; afraid of an offended God, in whose nostrils sin stinks! Men are afraid of a devil, and seek relief in persuading themselves that it is all a myth. The frantic cry goes up, "There is no hell, no devil, no judgment." But God says these things are as real as today.

Well, all this does not reduce the temperature of hell one degree, nor blunt the viciousness of our great enemy, Satan. Isn't it time we all faced the Bible facts God has revealed to us? And is it not time to listen again to our Lord's gracious words of comfort: "Fear not. . . Be not afraid. . . I am thy God, I will be with thee." Fear not! Why not? Because our Lord has already conquered death and hell and Satan. Listen to this, in Revelation 1:17-18, "And when I saw him (the Lord Jesus), I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." He holds the very keys of hell. He rose triumphant over death. He ever lives to save to the uttermost all who come to God by him. Thank God, the Master of the devil is our Saviour!

CHAPTER 3. DEPRIVATION - DID MAN FALL DOWN OR UP?

Creation without a Creator! Temptation without a tempter! Fallen humanity without a fall! "Give us a little god to whom we do not have to render either worship or obedience! Banish the concept of Satan, lest our fears overwhelm us! Declare the fall of man to be a myth, lest our arrogant pride be humbled to the dust!" These are the cries of our morally decadent society! And how utterly childish they are. "If some fact of life does not please me, I will ignore it, and deny it, and hope that it will be so no longer." These are not the ways of sober and sane men and women.

Are the first eleven chapters of Genesis real history, or mythical? These records speak of such people as the "shemitic" or Semitic race, and the Hamitic race, and the Japhetic people. Genesis 5:32 says: "And Noah begat Shem, Ham and Japheth." Are the Semitic people a myth? Are the Hamitic people just a fancy? The world is full of them! Or read again, in Genesis 10:1-3, "Now these are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham and Japheth: and unto them were sons born after the flood. The sons of Japheth; Gomer, and Magog, and Madai, and Javan, and Tubel, and Meshbech, and Tires. And the sons of Gomer; Ashkenaz, and Riphath, and Togarmah." Is that statement true? Look at but two examples. "Meshbech" is the root of our word Moscow. And "Ashkenaz" is a very modern term. The Ashkenaz Jews come from Germany! This is prime, incontrovertible evidence of the LITERAL records of Genesis!

I hereby make a very serious charge. This modern movement to deny the literal accuracy of Genesis 1 to 11 is a subtle form of neo-atheism. Basically there is only one objection to these records in the Bible. Here it is: "These chapters contain such stories of the miraculous, that my logical, natural mind cannot accept them as true." That is the totally natural, human viewpoint. And the natural, unregenerate man can be expected to think that way. But what of the person who PROFESSES Christianity and faith in God? Does such a one not believe in miracles? Isn't God strong enough to overrule His own natural laws? What shall we do with the rest of the Bible, for it is full of stories of the miraculous? Shall we throw it all away? Certainly miracles are impossible to men, but the Bible begins with the words, "In the beginning, God..." And with God all things are possible. This denial of the miraculous is actually a denial of God. It is the new atheism, subtle and deadly.

What of the fall of mankind? Is this a myth? Let's call up

the evidence! Any man can know there has been a wonderful, orderly creation by the evidence of created things. To say that this evidently planned universe, governed by exact and beneficent laws, came by chance, is to strain human credulity and gullibility to the utmost. We might as well, or better, say that the Encyclopedia Britannica could result from an explosion in a type foundry, as to say the universe came together by chance! Here is intricate, marvellous DESIGN, that tells of an omniscient DESIGNER. Similarly, the evidence of the existence of the tempter is found in the fact of temptation. And what of the fall of mankind? The evolutionary idea, invented by men with atheistic desires, as a means of shutting Gos out of human thought, is in entire disagreement with the clear Bible record that man FELL from a high estate into his present weakened and sinful and dying condition. The evolutionist seeks to displace God by the idea of a bit of protoplasm that grew to be a man! Thus man is made to be the crown of the universe, his own God, as the highest possible form of life anywhere. Then of course, the FALL of man must be denied, for the evolutionary course is supposed to have been all UPWARD! Any idea of the FALL of man disrupts the whole idea, and brings down the pride of man to the dust.

God's Word is specific and exact about this matter. This is what we read in Genesis 3:6-8, 16-19 and verse 23, "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day; and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. . . . Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast harkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. . . . Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden,

to till the ground from whence he was taken."

This I have called: "The Great Deprivation," for man has been deprived of so much that he once enjoyed, and has lost it forever. Is this story true? Every single part of what God said then is with us today! Look at it! It is eight-fold in nature.

First:- Man lost the pristine glory that clothed him, and his wonderful innocence. He became the one truly naked creature on earth, and utterly ashamed of his nakedness. Whence comes this sense of shame, found in all of us? Whence came all the sexual perversions that have sprung from this? SOMETHING HAPPENED!

Second:- Man lost his fellowship with God. It was replaced by fear, and man hid from God. Why do men today instinctively fear God, and run away from Him? Why do they fear the supernatural, and even fear the sight of the Bible? Why do all men have a guilt complex, an innate sense of sin? SOMETHING HAPPENED!

Third:- Women lost the happiness of pain-free child-birth, just as we read, "in sorrow shalt thou bring forth children." That is still true. Why should it be so? SOMETHING HAPPENED!

Fourth:- Woman lost her status, her equality of relationship with man. God's Word says, "He shall rule over thee." Through the centuries women have been treated as slaves, as drudges, as inferiors, in spite of every effort to rise above that state. Only through Christ's redemption is woman restored to an honoured position. Why has this been the case for so long? SOMETHING HAPPENED!

Fifth:- The world lost the blessing of God on the soil's fertility. We read this: "Cursed is the ground... thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to thee." Why should these conditions yet prevail? Why are so many weeds noxious and persistent? SOMETHING HAPPENED!

Sixth:- Man lost his unburdened life. Now he eats his bread in the "sweat of his face." And life became difficult, full of labour and grievous problem. SOMETHING HAPPENED!

Seventh:- Man lost his immortality. The pronounced sentence on him was this: "Unto dust shalt thou return." He is still returning to dust. Why do men die? Why should they not keep on "evolving" and growing forever? SOMETHING HAPPENED! And the monster death came into the world, "death by sin."

Eighth:- Man lost his right to paradise. He was driven out of Eden, and then barred from its portals. And he still is. In John 8:21 we read: "Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come." SOMETHING HAPPENED!

Man is not what he was, or what he might have been. The great deprivation has certainly taken place. Mankind has FALLEN from high estate. And Plato and Aristotle are but the rubbish of Adam. Athens was but the degeneration of the Garden of Eden! Modern science agrees. Amram Scheinfeld, one of today's leading geneticists, in his book "You and Heredity," discusses the so-called "black genes" of the human cell-structure. These genes contain hereditary traits that are productive of serious abnormalities, mental retardations, etc. THEY ARE NOW IN THE HUMAN RACE, and scientists fear they are on the increase. Is THIS evolution? From whence did these come into being? This is devolution! These genes came by some disastrous breakdown. SOMETHING HAPPENED! Dr. Scheinfeld also records the results of some careful questioning of many people, concerning their personal deeds. He says that, in confidence, 99% of those questioned admitted to something or other that was probably indictable under our laws. The Bible says more on that! In Romans 3:23 we read, "For ALL have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." That other 1% either forgot their sin, or else covered it up! All men have sinful natures. SOMETHING HAPPENED!

Dr. Scheinfeld goes along with the idea that mankind evolved in fits and starts by the process of mutations, sudden changes in the hereditary patterns, but he then admits that ALMOST ALL SUCH MUTATIONS ARE HARMFUL AND DESTRUCTIVE IN NATURE! In other words, man is evolving by going downhill, backwards, and by breaking up! Well, the Bible says so. Here is II Timothy 3:1, 13, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come... Evil men and seducers shall wax WORSE AND WORSE, deceiving and being deceived." All through the Bible, the exact record of Genesis 3 is upheld as literal FACT. Man fell into sin, and death followed as a consequence. That is a very dark picture of humanity, and men do not like it. Nobody likes to hear that he is a fallen creature, sinful in nature, and condemned before God, unclean and unfit for heaven. But it is true! And we had better face it. Thank God there is the bright side. These things show us the Bible is true, and the bright side is Calvary. Something happened to plunge men into sin and sorrow and despair, but SOMETHING ELSE HAPPENED. Man fell, but Jesus Christ can lift him back again, to be a child of God, and an heir to heaven! "The blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanses us from all sin." Thank God! Calvary is the cure! Be sure your personal faith is in Him, the One who lifts the fallen back to God!

CHAPTER 4. DEGRADATION - THE DAYS OF NOAH

Of all the stories in the first part of the Book of Genesis, the story of Noah and his ark has called forth the utmost scoffing of the unbelieving Bible "critics." And no wonder, for this story occupies no less than four chapters of the now-disputed first eleven chapters of Genesis. This is openly declared to be a myth, a made-up story, and not in any sense real history. Thus it behooves us to examine this matter most carefully, weighing well the mass of evidence involved. Some make a big joke of this. Let's make a careful investigation, and see where the joke really falls! It is time we challenged these wiseacres clearly. Who says the story of Noah is a myth? On what authority? Again let me make this clear. There is not a scintilla of evidence for the claim that this story is a myth. Quite the contrary, the evidence is all the other way.

Examine with me three areas of investigation that are pertinent to this matter. Look with me at the three involvements, the ARK, the RECORDS and the PEOPLE AFFECTED. First, look at the ark itself. It is mentioned six times in the Bible, twice in Genesis, and four times in the New Testament. Two of the New Testament references were made by our Lord Himself. That makes it a bit awkward, doesn't it? Especially if a man claims to worship the Lord Jesus Christ. These references all speak of the ark in a very real and literal sense, with not the slightest hint that it was mythical. Listen to Matthew 24:38, "For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark." And here is Luke 17:27, "They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all." That is clearly the Genesis story, isn't it? The ark was mentioned by the writer of the book of Hebrews, in that clear, historical list of the heroes of faith. It is in Hebrews 11:7, "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house." Did he? Who dares deny it? Peter adds his corroboration in I Peter 3:20, "Which sometimes were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water." These writers accepted the story of the ark in exact literal fashion. This is beyond question. Do you think the modern professors are wiser than Peter, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, or wiser than Jesus Christ, God the Son?

But there is far more to investigate about the ark. History is NOT silent about it. The Bible says that the ark rested on the slopes of Mount Ararat, and certainly so great a structure must have remained there, for it was far too big to move. Then, as the water level fell, and the rarefied air, with its accompanying cold closed in, it must have soon been deserted by humans, and left there, IS IT STILL THERE? We might well expect it to be. And here are the records.

In 260 B.C. Berosus the Chaldean wrote: "It is said that there is still some part of the ship in Armenia, at the mountain of Corydaean (Ararat), and that some people carry off pieces of bitumen to use as amulets for averting mischief." Nicolaus of Damascus wrote in 30 B.C., "There is a great mountain in Armenia, called Beris. One carried in an ark came on shore here after the flood. Remains of the timber were a great while preserved here." In 90 A.D. the great Jewish historian Josephus declared that the remains of the ark were still to be seen in his day, in a place called "the place of descent." These are the ancient records of SECULAR historians. Noah's ark seems to have been a very substantial "myth", does it not?

In 1883 an earthquake shook Mt. Ararat, shaking loose great masses of ice which buried a whole village at the foot of the mountain under the avalanches so caused. The outcome of this was reported in the Chicago Tribune of August 13th, 1883. Turkish commissioners, investigating the avalanches, saw a structure of very dark wood protruding from a glacier. Climbing up to it, they found a huge, broken ship, made of ancient gopher wood, an imperishable wood that grows ONLY on the plains of the Euphrates. Effecting an entrance, they found the interior divided by partitions fifteen feet high. They could only enter three of these rooms, because the others were full of ice. How far back the ship extended into the glacier, they could not tell.

In 1939 Rev. Frederick G. Coan published at Claremont, California, his book entitled "Yesterdays in Persia and Kurdistan." In chapter 16 he tells of the meeting with Archdeacon Nouri of the Nestorian Church of India, a man widely read and travelled, whose reputation withstood the closest scrutiny. Mr. Nouri said he made three attempts to scale Mount Ararat, and finally succeeded. On this third ascent he saw the old Ark, wedged in the rocks, and half filled with snow and ice. Entering, he reported the same conditions as those reported by the Turkish Commissioners.

During the first world war the Russian aviator Vladimar

Roskovitsky and a companion were circling around Ararat, when they saw, on the south side, a tiny blue lake, partly frozen. On the overflow end they saw, to their utter amazement, a ship with stubby masts and a rounded deck, with a flat catwalk across it. It was a huge boat, as long as a city block, and lying half under water. There was a doorway some 20 feet square in the side. The other side was partly dismantled. Roskovitsky declares that, following this report, the Czar sent an expedition to this place, and that they found the ark. The description brought back told of numerous rooms inside, some with fences of timbers across them, and others with small tiers of cages with rows of small iron bars along the front, and all coated with a wax-like paint resembling shellac. On the peak of the mountain an altar was found. About that time, the Bolsheviks took over Russia, and nothing has been heard of this matter since. But again, in July, 1954 the Istanbul newspaper claimed that a Californian, identified as John Libby, ascended the 17,160 foot mountain, and came back to say he had found remnants of the ark. Other expeditions have been formed, but have run into bitter opposition from the Russians, who make the claim that these expeditions are a cover for espionage!

These are the reports, and I leave you to weigh the evidence. We leave the myth-makers to explain all this. It is too bad that the money being spent trying to reach the moon, had not been put to the investigation and careful exploration of this intriguing area here on earth! Perhaps some day we shall hear much more of this. But perhaps not. God expects us to believe His Word, wholly and completely, by FAITH.

In the second place, look at the records concerning Noah and his ark. There are plenty of them. Are they all myths? How can we account for them if this is so? As we look first at the Bible records, we find Noah named some fifty-four times. He is quite a lively myth, apparently! He is named forty-one times in Genesis, in six chapters of that book. He is named in I Chronicles, as part of a careful, genealogical record. He is found twice in Isaiah, twice in Ezra, twice in Matthew, mentioned there by our Lord, once in Luke, as a genealogical figure, twice in Luke, named by our Lord, once in Hebrews, in the great record of actual men and women who lived by faith, and twice by Peter. Surely that establishes him beyond a mere myth! But there is more. The flood is mentioned twelve times in Genesis, twice in Matthew, and once more in Luke, in our Lord's words, and twice by Peter, in recounting history, a total of seventeen times. Did the flood really happen? Again we see that a rejection

of these Genesis truths involves a rejection of the whole Bible, and a discrediting of the word of our Lord.

Then the science of Ethnology takes up the matter. This science has to do with the customs and traditions of all living races. And here is the record. The American Indians, probably of Asiatic origin, have a record of a great flood. There is also an amazing Polynesian record, to be found in the Fornander Collection of Hawaiian Antiquities and folklore, published by the Bishop Museum, Volume 6, No. 2, Third Series, Part 2. There is a Chinese record of the flood to be found in the book of Li-Ki. In India the "Descent of Manu" gives an account of the great flood. British East Africa carries the same story, and so do the legends from South American jungles. And in the islands of the sea, the primitive Malays have this same story of a flood. It is thus abundantly evident that a great flood came; it affected all nations, and left its imprint on all humanity.

Now examine the third, intriguing part of this story, dealing with the people involved. Here we are! Where did we come from? Are we the descendants of eight people who survived the flood? Is that true? First of all, this is true mathematically! In what way? There is a discernable, normal rate of increase in the human population of the world. That rate can be projected into the future, and often is, to forecast the approximate world population for any given time. But it can be used to HINDCAST also! This is just as easy and as possible as forecasting. The same mathematics can be used either way. Then how long, with normal increase, would it take the human race to reach its present proportions? JUST ABOUT AS LONG A TIME AS THERE IS FROM NOAH'S DAY TO OURS, reckoning on a beginning with three families! By the way, if the human race is as old as some foolish speculators claim, the earth would be stacked miles deep by now, with human beings! Mathematics, the most exact science of all, tells us we have come from Noah's day.

The second science that tells us we come from Noah's family is the science of genetics. Dr. Amram Scheinfeld, one of today's greatest geneticists, and author of a most valuable book, "You and Heredity", says that today's scientists divide humanity into three great groups, from a genetical standpoint, the black race, the yellow race, and the white race, with the Australian aborigines as yet unclassified, but probably Hamitic in origin. And with that before you, READ THE BIBLE! This Book of God declares that the human race divided from the flood into THREE groups, from the three sons of Noah, into the Hamitic, Shemitic and Japhetic races. Let me pick out these potent words from the

10th chapter of Genesis: "Now these are the generations, of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham and Japheth. . . The sons of Japheth. . . And the sons of Ham. . . Unto Shem also. . . These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood." And so here we are, members of these three great races, living evidence of what happened in Noah's day, literally and exactly as the Bible records it. The people of that day have LITERAL descendants, Was Noah a literal figure, or a myth? Does a myth produce human progeny?

One more question is indirectly related to this subject, and is of great interest in our day. How could these three differing groups of people, the Hamitic, the Semitic and the Japhetic races, come from the same parents, Noah and his wife? Is it possible for Negroes, Asiatics and Caucasians to come from the same source? In this regard there is both scientific and Bible evidence to be considered. In the realm of science, the declaration is clearly, unequivocally made, that all the human race has to come from the common source. Even the evolutionists are sure of this, and still search for that elusive "missing link." The blood types of all humanity are alike. Every human being can breed with any other human being, of any race, and produce offspring in perfectly normal fashion. This proves that there has been a common origin. But science also tells us that changes are possible, through the process of mutation, and that these mutations may be quite extensive. This fact is often used to bolster the tottering theories of evolution. No longer do evolutionists teach that evolution is a steady, slow, gradual process. That has been proved to be impossible. Darwin was totally ignorant of the findings of the geneticists of today, and his theory was wrong. The new theory says that living things evolve by sudden changes in the hereditary pattern of the genes and chromosomes, through some exposure to unusual and intense radiation. Such radiation breaks the genetic pattern, and produces "sports" and abnormalities that can be then passed on from generation to generation. Unfortunately for the theory of evolution, scientists now acknowledge that AT LEAST 95% of such mutations are BREAKDOWNS, PRODUCING HARMFUL DEGRADATIONS! So this means that we are DEVOLVING 95% and evolving only 5%! Which way is the human race headed? No wonder scientists are fearful of an increased atomic radiation in our atmosphere. They KNOW it will NOT help us to evolve, but may well produce frightful monstrosities. On March 15th, 1960 came a report from Tokyo of a baby born without a brain, the child of a couple who were exposed to radiation from the

atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki. Thirty-six such babies are known to have been born like this since that day in 1945.

Now look at the Bible evidence. What changes came on earth in the days of Noah? Is there Bible evidence of cosmic change, that would produce more radiation, more cosmic rays, and thus extensive mutations in the human race? Was there a degradation and breakdown in humanity? YES! The Bible declares there were tremendous changes. Four matters are mentioned.

First, it RAINED! Until that day no rain is mentioned in the Bible. In Genesis 2:5-6 we read: "The Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground." The skies screened out the harmful rays. When Noah told men it was going to "rain," they scoffed at him, and laughed at this strange idea, and at his boat built on dry ground. But it finally rained.

Secondly, we are told in Genesis 7:11, "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month. . . ." Note the exact chronological record, given in LITERAL fashion. "The same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened." What was that like? Evidently there were great upheavals on earth, and in the depths of the seas. This was almost certainly a time when radiation poured through from the hitherto screened shies onto the unconditioned sons of Noah. That certainly affected everything on earth, and began a process of corruption hitherto unknown.

Thirdly, Noah got drunk! The record is in Genesis 9:20-21: "And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard; and he drank of the wine, and was drunken." In a minimum of words, God outlines a vast change of conditions. Don't blame Noah for getting drunk. God didn't. Something had happened, something new. It is evident that Noah knew nothing of wine fermentation before those days. At least, this process had quickened and intensified, into a breaking down of vegetable matter in unprecedented fashion.

And fourthly, the span of human life immediately and drastically shortened. Instead of living for many hundreds of years, some men almost reaching the one thousand mark, the span quickly fell to less than one hundred, until seventy years was old age, a pitiful span in the light of what was before the flood. The days of DEGRADATION came upon the earth, the human race

mutated, and these conditions have been with us ever since. And great differences appeared in the sons of Noah, with Ham and Japheth probably mutating the most. The Semitic race, generally brown in coloration, is probably closest to what Noah and Adam were like. And of this race, God chose Abraham, to be the father of God's chosen people of Israel. Our Lord Jesus said this, in Matthew 24:37, "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be." What did He mean by that? Two important things. First, that in the midst of all the chaos of the last days, with abounding sin, sexual excesses and every conceivable perversion of that which is right and pure and holy, there could well be this also that prevailed in Noah's day, some very unpleasant and horrible mutations in the human race. Like Noah's day, ours is the day of an intensified radiation, that men fear more and more. That radiation is not going to "evolve" us, as scientists well know. It is more likely to "eliminate" us! It's time to throw out the evolutionary farce for ever. It is time to fear God.

The second matter inherent in our Lord's prophecy is the fact that judgment is very near. The flood was the evidence of God's wrath upon a sinful humanity. Surely such wrath is impending again. Is not this why men would like to deny the reality of the first part of Genesis? Yet that does no good at all. It will not fend off the wrath of God upon the filthy sin of our day, but rather accelerate it. How much better to face the truth, and then flee to the Saviour for His great, provided, free and full salvation! God grant that all of us are wise enough to appropriate this that the love of God has provided through the shed blood of His own beloved Son!

CHAPTER 5. CONFISCATION- WHY DO THE GREEKS SPEAK GREEK

The answer that the Greeks speak Greek because they are Greeks, will hardly do! As, beyond doubt, all the human race came from a common source, how does it happen that these related men speak so many languages, most of them utterly foreign to the rest, and widely divergent in nature? This is an interesting question! And the Bible has the answer to it.

The record is found in the last of those eleven chapters of Genesis so "despised and rejected of men" in many ecclesiastical circles today. Let me quote from this chapter somewhat extensively. "And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech." This is verse one, and accords perfectly with the scientific facts that prove the oneness of the human race in its beginning stages. Now read on. "And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.... And the Lord said, Behold the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth." That is the Bible story. Is it true. or a myth? Well, at least its premises are correct, and its conclusions are self-evident today. Here is the human race, "scattered abroad" on the "face of the whole earth," and with its "confounded" languages. Why should any man doubt this record?

There is no slightest vestige of any Biblical, archeological or scientific authority for any rejection of this story. But in the minds of men here is a two-fold psychological reason. The first difficulty that men find is that this is very evidently a record of the miraculous. And men do not want a miracle-working God, one who is quite unpredictable, and who cannot be confined to physical laws. Natural men much prefer to have a God that they can explain! A miracle-working God is too big, too powerful. Such a God can demand obedience and worship, and makes man so small by comparison. Let me ask the man who refuses to believe in miracles, "How big is your God? Do you worship a God

able to make a man, a complete man? Or is He only able to make a monkey? Or can He just make a lower order of mammal? Or is His skill just sufficient to form a lesser vertebrate, or only a jellyfish, or a worm? Is He simply the God of the amoeba, the protoplasm, the molecule, the atom or the electron? How far down the line do you begin to worship?" If any man will tell me that, I will tell him what his worship means to him. To what shall I give my heart's allegiance? Shall it be to the god of the jellyfish, or to the God of the human race?

The second psychological difficulty men have, concerning the story of Babel, is that here is a clear record of God INTERFERING with men, and such a thought as that is completely abhorrent and horrifying to sinful men. So they cry, "Away with it! It didn't really happen! It must not happen! Is it all a myth!" Let me ask the nature man again, "Is your God so powerful, so concerned, so intelligent as to be able to effectually interfere in human affairs? Is He able to thwart the braggard will of boasting man? Or is He some vague, remote, blind, automatic, chance-driven whisp of influence? Has your God ever interfered with mankind?" To this last question the Bible record answers "Yes," with clarion tones, in literal and exact language. Do not be misled by theories of the unregenerate, who hate this story.

But there is one apparently valid claim made by these who would deny the literal accuracy of this record. Genesis 11 is the ONLY PLACE in the Bible where the story is to be found! There is no other direct reference to this story. Jesus never mentioned it. There is apparently no Biblical confirmation of it. So men conclude it can be rejected. When I was a boy I soon learned that when my father said something ONCE, he really meant it! How many times must God say something before we believe what He said? But, if more evidence is needed, examine this matter with me.

Was there actually a literal tower of Babel, and a literal confusion of tongues? With creation mentioned over one hundred times in the Bible; Satan one hundred and thirty two times; the fall of man recorded all through the Book; Noah and the ark and the flood spoken of eighty seven times; what shall we say of the lone mention of the Tower of Babel and the confusion of tongues? Does this fact of just one mention discredit the record and make it "mythical"? Let me first dispose of an obvious question. Why is this story not mentioned elsewhere in the Bible, and not referred to as an illustration of some truth? The answer is clearly this. Men have NEVER SINCE tried to repeat this folly of UNIT-

ING AGAINST GOD. Not yet! Even the great world empires of Babylon, and Medo-Persia, and Greece and Rome always tolerated, and sometimes fostered, the religions of the people they conquered. The days of the coming antichrist, and his false prophet will be quite different. Read Revelation 13:11-18 in this regard.

Now examine with me a fragment of the vast evidence that exists concerning Babel. Volumes of material exist, and we can only give an extract here and there. Josephus, in his "Antiquities of the Jews," Book 1, Chapter 4, speaks of Noah and his sons descending from the mountains onto the plains. He says that God commanded them to send colonies abroad, and then he names Nimrod as their leader, exciting the people to "an affront and contempt of God." (This Nimrod is named in Genesis 10: 8-10, "Nimrod, the mighty hunter before the Lord. . . The beginning of his kingdom was Babel. . . in the land of Shinar." The footnote says "Babylon.") Josephus tells us that the people deemed it a piece of cowardice to submit to God, so they built a tower of burnt brick, cemented together with mortar, made of bitumen. He says, "When God saw that they acted so madly, he did not resolve to destroy them utterly, since they were not grown wiser by the destruction of the former sinners (i. e. in the flood); but caused a tumult among them, by producing in them divers tongues; and causing that they should not understand one another. The place where they built the tower is now called Babylon." He says further, "The Sybil also makes mention of this tower, and of the confusion of languages, when she says that when all men were of one language, some of them built a high tower, as if they would thereby ascend up to heaven; but the gods sent storms of wind and overthrew the tower, and gave every one his peculiar language; and for this reason it was that the city was called Babylon." Surely it is evident that these ancients were satisfied that there was a very literal tower!

Moses Chareneses, an Armenian historian, states that God overthrew this tower by a terrible storm. And Hestiaus clearly mentions Shinar of Babylon. It was a real place! It would take many books to record all the references to Babel. But here is a bit more. Dr. Unger says this: "The Babylonian ziggurat was a gigantic artificial mound of sun-dried bricks. The oldest extant ziggurat is that at ancient Urak, the Biblical Erech (Gen. 10:10), dating from the latter part of the FOURTH MILLENNIUM B.C. And despite divine judgment on the first, more than two dozen

such later ziggurats are an imitation. Illustrated is a salient difference between the stoneless aluvial plains of Babylonia, and those of Palestine and Egypt. Sun-dried bricks were used for stone, and slime (bitumen), which was abundant in the general regions of Babylon, was used for mortar. The original tower of Babel was probably constructed prior to 4,000 B. C. The name "Babylon" is from the Hebrew word "Balal," meaning "to confound," and has reference to the confusion of tongues at the tower (Gen. 11:9). Note the added identification of this area where the "bitumen" was found, in the fact that today this is the land of great oil-wells.

And there is much more evidence. It would do us all good to read H.V. Morton's splendid book "Through Lands of the Bible." Mr. Morton went to Babylon. Of one spot he says, "It was the site of the great ziggurat of Babylon, the temple tower called E-temen-an-ki, which archeologists say was the traditional tower of Babel." He speaks of bricks stuck together by asphalt, still so firmly joined that they have to be broken apart with a pick-axe. He adds this significant word; "What better account is there than that found in Genesis 11." What say you? In his book, Mr. Morton publishes an actual photograph of the Ishtar Gate of old Babylon. IS THIS ALL A MYTH? Babylon is there, and the site of the tower remains. The sciences of History, Geography and Archeology unite in declaring the absolute, literal accuracy of the eleventh chapter of Genesis.

Look at yet one other science regarding this matter, the science of Etymology. This is that branch of philology that treats of the derivation of words. It tells us very little about the ORIGIN of languages, this very pertinent matter that is before us. Let us remember that both the scientists and the unscientific evolutionists claim that all human beings have come from ONE source, from one original pair. How there came to be a PAIR at just the right time, they do not try to explain! But in the light of this indisputable fact, WHENCE CAME ALL THE LANGUAGES? Have you heard the feeble explanation? It goes like this: "O, as people spoke, various dialects developed, and gradually these became different languages. They just evolved!" Such an "explanation" is totally insufficient to meet the case. It takes a great deal more faith to believe the "explanations" than to believe the truth! When and how did some people begin to write from left to right, while others from right to left? Whence came the vastly differing alphabets, with variation in every letter and symbol? Whence came the vast gulf between the Latin letters and the Chinese pictographs? By some variance in dialects of the same language?

THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE. Only by some SUDDEN, DRASTIC CHANGE could this take place. Etymology simply tells us what we all know. The different languages are all here, a barrier and a trouble and a difficulty to all the nations. And what does God's Word say about this? It speaks of Babylon, derived from the original word "Babel," no less than 296 times! This is quite a "myth," isn't it? The Bible speaks of strange tongues fifty-eight times, as far back as Deuteronomy 28:49. This was no slow change over the centuries. The languages were there in the days of Moses, and the fact of Babel is confirmed. The Bible speaks of the differing languages thirty-three times. These have been with the human race since Babel, and are with us today. And they are here with only ONE explanation, and that is that God INTERFERED in human affairs.

Surely God would have us learn three lessons from this true record. First, that God is in control of human affairs. He allows men to have a free will, and yet he still rules the universe through powers and means that are entirely beyond the control of men. Secondly, that man's understanding, the very operation of his thinking powers, are dependent upon God. And He can take away any of those powers, as He did at Babel, confiscating them from sinning humanity. Thirdly, that God will interfere in the affairs of men when He sees fit. Ignorant men do not think He will. They forget that He did interfere at the flood, and again at Babel. And He will again, when the nations finally unite against God. That union is prophesied in the second Psalm, in these words: "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure." Are we near this? Today the great masses of people are uniting, religiously and nationally, and finally it will all be AGAINST GOD. And THEN God will interfere again. God grant that every one of us will be found as God's children through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ!

CHAPTER 6. SEPARATION - HOW TO DROWN A PHARAOH

Where shall men go to find absolute truth? Is there such a thing? Not according to many of our university professors. They seek to tell us that all truth is relative, never absolute, and thus leave us on the sinking sands of changing circumstance and human opinion. But long ago our Lord said to God, "Thy word is truth." Was he right? Where must men go to find truth? Some go to science; but true science makes very little claim to absolute truth, because it is conscious of very limited knowledge. Tomorrow's discoveries will be certain to change today's opinions and theories. We know almost nothing "fôr sure" from the scientific viewpoint. Other men seek truth in philosophy, but philosophy is scarcely sure that we even exist, and endlessly argues the many theories about the reality of matter and personality. "But the Bible stands like a rock undaunted, 'mid the garing storms of time. Its pages shine with the truth eternal, and they glow with a light sublime!"

In this chapter the nature of our discussion changes. We have finished our examination of the first eleven chapters of Genesis, and now we face a different method used by the Bible critics. The subtle attack of the skeptics does not stop at Genesis 11, but the nature of the attack changes. In stead of making an outright denial of the literal accuracy of the records, calling them myths and legends, the strategy changes to that of making a naturalistic explanation of anything that is seemingly miraculous. This is being constantly and consistently done in the so-called "modernistic" circles, by the liberal theologians.

Again we ask, "Why is this done? What is the sense in it?" And the answer often given is this: "We do it to make the Bible more CREDIBLE. If we explain these things in the natural realm, people will be more apt to believe the Bible." But this sort of thing will never, never lead men into a saving faith in Jesus Christ, learning to trust Him wholly for His salvation; for that salvation, through His shed blood, is a wholly miraculous matter, and must be received as such. Truth is always truth. If a miracle-working God works a miracle, He then calls people to believe in His miracles. It is as clear an issue as that. But is there not a more subtle reason for this naturalism? Is it not again evident that men want a little God, a remote God who is always predictable, working only through natural laws, with which natural man can learn to cope naturally? Unregenerate men are AFRAID of a miracle God, for He is too big for them. They fear Him with an unhealthy fear!

The first of these "naturalized" miracles that calls for our attention is the story of the crossing of the Red Sea by the people of Israel, as they left the land of Egypt. And perhaps the best presentation will be by way of contrast, to show first what men are saying today, and then look at what God said long ago. What are MEN saying about this? As we examine this, let us remember that these are MEN, mere men, mere fallible humans, no matter how ecclesiastically exalted. Quoting from the New Sunday School Curriculum, in the Junior Department pupil's book, page 60, we find this statement: "The Hebrews had reached the reed-land when they realized that Egyptian troops were in pursuit. They seemed to be trapped. In terror they fled. The soggy marshes were nearly always covered with water. But the steady wind had made them passable for people on foot. As they reached the eastern shore, the Egyptians arrived at the western bank. The high-spirited horses plunged forward with their rumb-ling chariots, crushing the reeds and digging their hoofs into the slimy marsh. The heavy chariot wheels made deep, watery tracks, and soon the spokes were clogged with mud and sand. Drivers in the lead tried to turn back, but in the darkness others came on, adding to the confusion of broken axles, tangled harness, and heavy weapons. By early dawn the water had risen again, and the doomed Egyptian charioteers, struggling with their panic-stricken horses, brought on themselves terrible confusion and destruction."

That's it! What a story! What a vivid, appealing piece of description! How attractive to eager young minds! But as I read this, I miss one thing above all else. WHERE IS GOD? Where is His voice to Moses? Where is the outstretched rod? Where is the divine command? Where is the almighty act? Could not the rankest atheist accept this story without a qualm?

Look at the other side. In sheer relief, let us listen to what God has said, in Holy Writ. Read it from Exodus 14:9, 19-31, 15:4-5, 8-10. "But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the SEA, beside Pihahiroth, before Baal-zephon. . . . And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went before their face, and stood behind them; and it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud of darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night. And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east

wind all that night, and made the sea DRY LAND, and the waters were DIVIDED. And the children of Israel went into the MIDST OF THE SEA upon the DRY GROUND: and the waters were a WALL unto them on their right hand, and on their left. And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them into the MIDST OF THE SEA, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, and took off their chariot wheels that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians. And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the MIDST OF THE SEA. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them. But the children of Israel walked upon DRY LAND IN THE MIDST OF THE SEA: and the waters were a WALL unto them on their RIGHT HAND, AND ON THEIR LEFT. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead UPON THE SEA SHORE. And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses. . . Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast INTO THE SEA: his chosen captains also are DROWNED in the Red Sea. The depths have COVERED them: they SANK INTO THE BOTTOM as a stone. . . And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods STOOD UPRIGHT AS AN HEAD, and the depths were CONGEALED in the HEART OF THE SEA. The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them. Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them; they sank AS LEAD IN THE MIGHTY WATERS."

That isn't a description of a reed-patch! What a contrast between these two pictures, one the imagination of men, and the other the Word of the Living God. Here is the story of the miraculous moving of God; the fiery, cloudy pillar, moving at God's command; the dry land and the divided waters; the walls of water on either side, standing upright as an heap, congealed

by the power of God; and Israel in the MIDST OF THE SEA. This shows us a totally supernatural and miraculous event, brought about by our almighty miracle-working God!

Which shall we believe? Has this truth faded away? But a greater question than this is involved. Shall we believe the rest of the Bible? For this story is NOT alone in these chapters of Exodus. Here it is again in Deuteronomy 11:1-4, "Therefore thou shalt love the Lord thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments. alway. And know ye this day: for I speak NOT WITH YOUR CHILDREN which have not known, and have not seen the chastisement of the Lord your God, his greatness, his mighty hand, and his stretched out arm, and his MIRACLES, and his acts, which he did in the midst of Egypt unto Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and unto all his land; and what HE DID unto the army of Egypt, unto their horses, and to their chariots; how he MADE THE WATER of the Red Sea to OVERFLOW them as they pursued after you, and how the Lord hath destroyed them unto this day." That is the testimony of actual eyewitnesses. And yet some modern professor, born 3500 years too late, dares to deny it! And again, here in Numbers 21:14 is valuable evidence, for reference is in this Scripture, made to a secular writer of those days: "Wherefore it is said in the book of the wars of the Lord, 'What he did in the Red Sea and in the brooks of Arnon'." This mighty event was certainly known to all the people of that day. Listen to the record of Joshua 2:10, "For we have heard how the LORD DRIED UP the water of the Red Sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt." The people of Jericho had heard of this great event, and remembered it forty years later. Over and over this story is repeated. Read it again in Joshua 4:23 and 24:6-7. The same story is found again in Nehemiah 9:9-11. It is seven times in the Psalms. (Psalm 66:6, 74:13, 78:13, 78:53, 106:9-11, 106:21-22 and 136:13-15.) Three times it is found in Isaiah. (Isaiah 43:16-17, 51:10 and 63:12.) Once we find it in Nahum 1:4. And in the New Testament the record is the same. With all the Hebrew doctors of the law listening to Stephen, he said this, as found in Acts 7:36, "He brought them out, after that he had shewed WONDERS AND SIGNS in the land of Egypt, and in the RED SEA." Those men knew Stephen spoke the truth. And Paul said, in I Cor. 10:1-2, "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed THROUGH THE SEA: and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and IN THE SEA." And again, the letter to the Hebrews has this in Heb. 11:29, "By faith they passed THROUGH THE RED SEA as by DRY LAND: which the Egyptians assaying

to do were DROWNED." (Not mired down, but "drowned"!)

In every case in the Scriptures, this event is described and accepted, not in naturalistic terms, but in terms that describe it as the miraculous work of almighty God. Shall we believe the Bible, or these "johnny-come-latelys" who worship a futile god of their own imagining? Did our great God divide the Egyptians from the Israelites, by His judgments? CERTAINLY HE DID! And is this not the reason men do not like this vital record? It tells us that God divided mankind, separating the God-disobedient Egyptians from the obedient Israelites. He has, and will separate the evil from the good. And the natural man does not like that!

You have surely heard teaching like this: "All people are really saved. We are all going to heaven. All religions are good; simply different roads to the same place. There is no hell. God is too good to damn anybody. We believe in one ecumenical religion that can include everybody, whether they believe in Christ, or Mohammed or Buddha, or what have you. We proclaim the wonderful fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. We are all children of God." And so men object to this story of the crossing of the Red Sea by an ACT OF GOD, for this true record shows us that GOD HIMSELF separates man from man, the wicked from the righteous, the believer from the unbeliever.

Our Lord said: "No man cometh unto the Father, but by me." In Luke 16 we read of the death of two men, a rich man and a beggar, and of their two different, eternal destinies, with a GREAT GULF FIXED between them. That is perhaps the most unpopular passage in the Bible today! In Matthew 25 we are told of a day when God will divide people, like a shepherd dividing the sheep from the goats. In God's plans evil must finally be separated from the good. Isn't it time for all of us to face this fact, and make sure, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the atonement He made for us in His own blood on Calvary, we are found on the right side?

CHAPTER 7. STOP THE CLOCK! - THE STORY OF THE DECELERATION

Don't you often wish you could stop the clock? We can't do it, so we seek to beat it by acceleration. This is the age of the speed up. Planes must be supersonic or they are old-fashioned. Missiles must be so fast that they hit the target before the enemy knows what did hit him! But every one of us has at some time wished for the opposite, a little time of deceleration; perhaps some blissful moment that we wished would last for ever. How often we say, "I wish I had more time." And life hurries away, and is soon gone. But it is totally, completely beyond any human power to stay the hand of time, or to ever reverse it. We are bound, through all of life, to the present moment, moving irresistably on the stream of time... unless... Is there an "unless" in the matter? Is DECELERATION, a slowing down of time possible in human experience? This is the story that we shall set before you in this chapter!

Yes, it is a true story, from God's perfect, inspired Word. And we discuss it because of the modern uprising of scepticism that has long been propagated far and wide, but which is now being inexorably pressed into the hearts and lives of unsuspecting Sunday school children. This is surely a challenge to every rightminded person to investigate, and to protest. Shall we allow our little children to be deliberately told that much of the Bible is not literally true, and this done in the guise of religion? Shall they be told that the Bible includes many myths and fables, and that miracles did not really happen as acts of God, but have some natural explanation? The effect on their minds will be to believe that God isn't very much of a god after all. They will be "informed" that God is merely a vague, ethereal power that we can call Nature, Force or Natural Law, and junk the old idea of almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

Here is the story, then, of the Great Deceleration, a story that many would like to relegate to the realm of myth or fable, or somehow explain it away naturally. The latter course is a bit difficult in this case! Heed this record of Joshua 10:12-14. "Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon: and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is it not written in the book of Jasher. So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day. And there was no day like that before it

or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel."

What a tale! What a staggering claim to make! Who would dare write such a thing? Is the story true? As one reads this, it seems to be true. It is clearly and carefully recorded, in some detail, and includes a calling of our attention to the confirmatory records of a contemporary secular historian of that day, the well-known Jasher the Upright, a man of unquestioned integrity, as implied by his name. The writer of this record well knew the startling, miraculous nature of his story, and that some people would question it. Thus he authenticated it from the very beginning.

Is this the true story of a miracle? Did God really decelerate the sun? The critics have a very difficult time with this record. Some raise the old cry of unbelief, saying, "This is a myth, invented to make Joshua a great hero." But if one reads the story carefully, it is very evidently a sober record of events, and Joshua is not even the hero! The fact that "the LORD fought for Israel" is central in the story. There are others who try to say that this was an optical illusion occasioned by the refraction of the sun's rays! Isn't it strange that the sun never behaved like this for any of us who have been short of time! Still others deny the whole thing because it is scientifically impossible. And these people are a good deal nearer to the truth as to its impossibility, for the writer clearly attributes all this happening to GOD alone, with whom nothing is impossible.

Examine with me the evidence of reality in the story. Joshua was real enough. He is named just 200 times in five Old Testament books, and twice in the New Testament, under the New Testament equivalent "Jesus," (Acts 7:45 and Heb. 4:8). True, this record, in detail, stands alone in the Bible. One other Old Testament writer refers to it, in Habakkuk 3:11, "The sun and the moon stood still in their habitation." The battle was real enough, for it was one of history's most important conflicts. Every nation on earth has been affected to a vast extent by Joshua's victory at Beth-Horon. It is little wonder that God fought for Israel, and performed this miracle. He overrules the affairs of nations, and was determined that this battle must be completely won. In this battle Joshua crushed a league of five powerful nations that opposed Israel's entrance to the land where Messiah must be born. So the war was real and vital, and in no sense a myth. Then, is just a PART of the story a myth, the part about the sun and moon?

Let me link up some of the evidence found in the story itself

with the findings of three separate sciences, Geography, Astronomy and Ethnology.

First, here is the geography of the story. The Bible declares that the sun stood still "in the midst of heaven." The Hebrew word for "midst" is "chatsi," and carries the very definite meaning of "half" or "bisection." The sun was at the bisection of the heavens, and then stood over the city of Gibeon. This city is in latitude 31 degrees 51 minutes north. The moon was in the valley of Ajalon, a depression in the hills like a gunsight. This means that the moon was in the third quarter on the day of the battle. This is the geographical setting. At this point astronomy joins in, and from this data is able to set the exact date for us! The sun and the moon went into this particular conjunction on the 22nd day of the 4th civil month in the Hebrew year 2555 Anno Mundi, or July 22nd by our calendar, in midsummer. Note that latter fact for future reference. That day was a Tuesday, and by reckoning from the first recorded solstice in ancient Egyptian records, this day is clearly settled as a Tuesday. BUT, when we reckon back from the last solstice, that day is a WEDNESDAY! Something happened!

Ethnology says something certainly did happen. Such an event would naturally affect all the world. It did! In ancient Chinese writings there is a record of a long day. The Incas of Peru and the Aztecs of Mexico, who took great care to produce an elaborate calendar system, also have a like record of a long day. There are Babylonian and Persian records of a day miraculously extended. Herodotus tells how the priests of Egypt showed him in the temple records a strange account of a day twice as long as usual. The Polynesians have a long story of this day, with a fanciful interpretation of how it all came about. IT REALLY HAPPENED!

In some marvellous way, God shifted the relationship of our solar system, disturbed the even tenor of what we call time, and made one day twice as long as usual. Then here is a natural question, "Would not that create great disturbances on earth?" True, it would, and it did. Read this in Joshua 10:11, "And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, and were in the going down to Beth-Horon, that the Lord cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: they were more which died with hailstones than they whom the children of Israel slew with the sword." Great storms swept the heavens, mighty hailstones crashed down, and killed many. And all this happened in MIDSUMMER, at the season when it is never known to even rain in Palestine!

Do you doubt that God is able to do this, and thus to supercede His own law? Has God no reverse gear in His universe? Yes, of course He has! Think of this: the law of satellites states that "All satellites advance from west to east around their primary bases." So the earth travels in this way around the sun; the moon around the earth, and so on. BUT SIX MOONS OF URANUS ADVANCE IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION! And by the way, this totally discredits man's theory that all the solar system was thrown off the sun like great blobs of rotating gas or molten matter, all spinning the same way. That is a farce! These six moons insist on spinning the OPPOSITE way! Good for them! No man can explain how these moons are so travelling. But it simply demonstrates that God has a reverse gear in His physical universe!

And God can reverse time, even though man is completely impotent in this regard. The idea of a "time-machine" is a fantasy of the comic papers! God reversed time again many years after Joshua's day. Listen again to an interesting story. Scientists have long sought to find an explanation for this long day, but have never even formulated a theory about it. That twenty four hours has been lost out of our solar time is known very clearly. Sir Edwin Ball, the great British Astronomer plainly declares this, Another scientist of high standing, Professor C.A. Totten of Yale wrote of this phenomena in 1890. He therein told of a fellow professor who also discovered this strange loss of just twenty four hours. Professor Totten then challenged this man, an unbeliever, to examine the Bible in order to find an explanation. The man began to read, and finally discovered the story of Joshua's long day. But on checking his figures, he discovered that just twenty three hours and twenty minutes were lost at the time of Joshua, and so he decided that the Bible was still wrong. Then Totten pointed out to him that the Bible says the sun stood still for "about" a whole day, and advised him to read on. At last he came to Isaiah 38, and read the story of Hezekiah's sickness, his cry to God for help, and his subsequent healing. And at that time, God gave him a sign that his time on earth would be lengthened. It was a very fitting sign. Here is the record, in verse 4-8 of that chapter: "Then came the word of the Lord to Isaiah, saying, Go, and say to Hezekiah. Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years. . . . and this shall be a sign unto thee from the LORD. that the LORD will do this thing that he hath spoken; behold, I will bring again the shadow of the degrees, which is gone down in the sun dial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward. So the sun returned ten degrees

by which it was gone down." Here we find the amazing record of God actually REVERSING time, by ten degrees, or forty minutes by our reckoning. When that agnostic professor saw this, he bowed his head and worshipped the Writer of so marvellous a Book. This Bible is truly His infallible Word!

There are two confirmatory accounts of that lost forty minutes. You can read them in II Kings 20:1-11 and in II Chronicles 32:24. Are these all myths? Such a thought is ridiculous. The records are before us. God, our MIGHTY GOD, moved to direct the affairs of nations, and decelerated time.

And this serious word in conclusion. The Psalmist said, "My times are in thy hand." God gives time; God can take away time. We depend on Him for every moment and for every breath we breathe. There is a prophecy about some shortened, dark days before our Lord returns. In Amos 8:9 we read, "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." Mankind is rapidly becoming completely unworthy of God giving any more time for repeated sin. God is coming to the end of His patience and longsuffering. He is going to call time. God grant that all of us might be sure of our personal salvation through Christ, and then be up and doing all we can for Him in the time that yet remains to us!

CHAPTER 8. THE FISH THAT WENT MANNING - AND THE RUNAWAY'S APPREHENSION

There is no middle ground for a man's opinion of Jesus Christ. He was either God incarnate or man psychopathic. Some try to deny His deity, and yet call Him good, a great Teacher, a sublime Example. That is impossible. Jesus Christ was and is totally unique. He never confessed a single sin, never apologized for a single mistake, never revoked a statement, corrected himself, retracted a claim, admitted a wrong, asked advice of anyone, or changed his mind. Was He the Son of God, as He claimed to be? If not, then he was a wicked deceiver of others, or at best an ignoramus, a schizophrenic self-deceiver.

Peter refused to allow Cornelius to worship him, saying, "I also am a man." Angels in heaven rebuked John as he fell at their feet to worship them. They utterly refused his worship, and said "Worship God." But Jesus Christ RECEIVED THE WORSHIP OF MEN freely, and never rebuked anyone for this act. WHO WAS HE? He was either God in the flesh, or the most blatant blasphemer of the ages, and, if the latter, the Hebrews did right to utterly reject Him. What do YOU say?

Jesus Christ claimed to be "the way, the truth, and the life." The first and second of those claims can only be proven experimentally, as we follow the WAY He opened to God, and on that Way find life eternal. But concerning His claim to be the Truth, we can do some testing and investigation. Here is one sphere for such testing: He clearly said that He would be put to death, and that three days later He would rise from the dead. Is that true, or was He a liar? What a test He set for Himself! And with what results? In I Corinthians 15:3-4 we read: "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures." Paul then goes on to quote the testimony of between 500 and 600 eye-witnesses of these facts. Luke quoted the words of two shining angels, in Luke 24:4-7, as the first visitors came to the tomb of the crucified Saviour, "And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: and as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." Jesus told the truth, and fulfilled His own word.

Now look at the amazing illustration He used when He made the prophecy of His own death and resurrection. Here it is in Matthew 12:38-40, "Then certain of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: for as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Jesus said that. Is it true that Jonah was actually swallowed by a whale, and then lived again to serve God? Was it true that Jesus rose from the dead after three days and three nights? Indisputably so. And thus, as our Lord puts these two things together, each one must be as true as the other. This whole statement was made by the same infallible, holy, almighty God the Son!

I have tried to set this clearly before our minds, that we might be indelibly impressed with one great fact. It is this: When someone today, with totally unwarranted and pompous self-assertion, scoffs at the story of Jonah and the whale, he calls Jesus Christ either a liar or self-deceived, and in either case denies His deity at once. He rejects Christ as Truth. The issue is as clear and plain as that. Not only is the denial of the story of Jonah another attempt to remove the miraculous from the Bible, to make it an ordinary book, and give us a little god, but it is a not-so-subtle denial of the resurrection of Christ, and His supreme deity. Evil men want God in the man-level, and Jesus Christ down there too, so that there will be no obligation whatsoever to obey Him, or His Word.

But what about this Jonah story, sometimes scoffingly referred to as the "Big Fish Story"? Has science discredited it, and thus discredited Jesus Christ? Take time to examine the evidence carefully, for it is vitally important.

First, here are the BIBLE FACTS, the story, not of the man who went fishing, but of the fish that went manning! Does anyone not know the story? Read it in the Book of Jonah, a book of four chapters, totalling some 48 verses; it can be read in little more than five minutes. It is written entirely in HISTORICAL STYLE, even though it is rightly listed as a prophetic book. From the plain way in which the facts are clearly stated, nobody would ever think to discredit it under ordinary circumstances. It would be totally accepted by the modern critic, if we could expurgate three verses from its pages. Those verses are Jonah 1:17, 2:1 and 10. "Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and

three nights. Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly. . . . And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land." This is the so-called "fish story" that scoffers delight to deride, and this despite the firm, clear confirmation by God the Son. Yet how clear, historical and real is this record! Jonah is a thoroughly historical person. Here he is in II Kings 14:25, "He (Jeroboam) restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant JONAH, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gath-hepher." Jonah's parentage, occupation and birth-place are all recorded here. He is named 19 times in the Old Testament, and nine times in the New Testament by our Lord, referring in every case back to the Book of Jonah as historical fact. Nineveh was a real city, named 20 times in the Bible. The term "whale" is used four times in the Bible. Both the Hebrew word "Tannim" and the Greek "Ketos" mean "A monster of the deep. . . a sea monster," a general term used of all large fishes. "Ketos" comes from a root meaning "a gaping chasm," referring to the vast, open mouth of the sea monster involved. The Hebrew word used in this story for "fish" is "dag," which literally means "rapidly moving," like one of these sea monsters, rushing through the water to engulf all in its path. These words give us a very vivid picture of the creature involved in Jonah's experience. Thus the Bible facts tell us exactly what happened. Jonah ran away from God. And God overtook the runaway with judgment, and then restored the repentant sinner. In Jonah 1:14 we read: "Wherefore they cried unto the LORD, and said, We beseech thee, O LORD, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood; for thou, O LORD, HAST DONE AS IT PLEASED THEE." God was in action! And modern men don't like this idea of God chasing a man down. They feel like this: "Maybe He is chasing me!" That's a thought to scare any man. And we need to be scared of sin and judgment and all the consequences thereof.

Those are the BIBLE facts of the story. Now examine the evidence from other historical sources. Again there is too much to quote in full, but let me extract, subtract and contract enough of this to bring it clearly before us, and perhaps encourage the reader to further investigation. The writings of the well-known historian Josephus again are very relevant. In his "Antiquities of the Jews," Book 9, chapter 10, column 2, he recounts the story of Jonah's prophecy to Jeroboam (which we have already quoted), and then he tells the story of Jonah fleeing to Tarshish; all about the great storm that overtook him, and how the sailors

were so reluctant to throw Jonah overboard. Then he says: "When they were animated to do it, by the prophet himself, and by the fear concerning their own safety, they cast him into the sea; upon which the sea became calm. It is also related that Jonah was swallowed down by a whale (or large fish), and that when he had been there three days, and as many nights, he was vomited out upon the Euxine Sea; and this alive, and without any hurt upon his body; and there, on his prayer to God, he obtained pardon for his sins, and went to the city Nineveh." Thus far is the record from Josephus, including a remarkable reference to the sea monster as both a "whale" and a "large fish." Note that. I let me quote from the writings of a well-known scholar of recent days, Dr. M. F. Unger, ThM, ThD, PhD. He says this: "Critics commonly view the book (of Jonah) as legend, myth or parable. The book is correctly evaluated as history. There is not the slightest reason to stumble over the miraculous and to brand it as legend or myth. The book is certainly designed to be viewed as historical. There is nothing in it to suggest otherwise. Ancient Jewish opinion looked upon the account as historical." As to what swallowed Jonah, he continues: "Since the days of Bochart it has been a common opinion that the fish was of the shark species, Lamia Canis Carcharias, or the "sea dog." Entire human bodies have been found in some fishes of this kind."

And one of the handmaids of ancient history is the science of archeology, and from that source we obtain further information. The city of Nineveh was spoken of as a myth until its discovery by Sir Austen Layard in the 19th Century. You see, this notion of calling Bible truth a collection of myths is not new! But such farcical claims are eventually proved to be totally false. The site of Nineveh has now been extensively excavated. So huge is this city that a modern village now covers the area once occupied by just ONE of the larger palaces! A nearby mound, containing the old palace of Esarhaddon, (named in the Bible), is called "The Mound of NEBI YUNUS," that is, "The Mound of the Prophet Jonah." The very name of this runaway prophet is enshrined in the city of Nineveh, no doubt honouring him as the man who turned them from destruction by his preaching.

Finally, look with me at some outstanding facts of science, facts that I am afraid are too often suppressed and even denied. The only objection of the infidel that has been given any credence at all, is the contention that no whale has a throat large enough to swallow a man. In this regard, let me quote largely from the writings of Dr. Harry Rimmer, late President of the Research Science Bureau of Los Angeles. I well remember his visit to the

City of Calgary some years ago. He talks much about whales, the Genus Cetacea. This genus is divided into two groups. The first one is called the Denticete, and, as the name indicates, they have teeth. They chew their food, but they have a very small throat. Hence the necessity of chewing! The nature of this particular whale has given rise, (or excuse) to the claim that no whale can swallow a man. Isn't it amazing that the Bible-denyer only talks about this kind of whale, knowing full well, if he has real scientific knowlege, that there are other kinds of whales? So you think this is honest? I don't! Truth has been deliberately and wickedly suppressed by some who know better, but who hate the Word of God. Another whale of this type, called Tiphiiide has a throat large enough to swallow a man, but he also chews his food, perhaps as an aid to digestion! He is ruled out of the Jonah story, for Jonah certainly was not chewed up! The other group of whales is called the Mysticete, and these have no teeth, but balaena instead, which strain out the water before the creature SWALLOWS WHOLE whatever it takes into its capacious maw as it rushes through the water at terrific speed. These whales wander all over the seven seas, and the very largest whales are found in this order. They feed on anything that floats on the surface. The largest one is Balaenoptera Musculus, and this one would have NO DIFFICULTY WHATSOEVER IN SWALLOWING A MAN. Its stomach is complex, with four to six compartments, each one large enough for a small colony of men. It is, of course, an air-breathing mammal, and in its head there is a storage chamber often 14 feet long, 7 feet high and 7 feet wide. Dr. Ransome Harvey says: "If the whale takes into its mouth any object too big to swallow, it thrusts it up into this air chamber, swims to the nearest land, lies in shallow water, and ejects it." Dr. A. C. Dixon tells of a white shark of the Mediterranean that swallowed a whole horse. There is another shark, the Rhinodon Typicus, that is usually called the WHALE SHARK. So called, it can be named as either a whale or a fish. It is called a whale because of its oral cavity that is similar to that of a whale. It has no teeth, and it feeds like a whale. Its great throat can readily swallow a man. Thus expires the myth of no whale being able to swallow Jonah!

Has such a creature ever swallowed a man in recent years? YES! Off the island of Oahu, Japanese fishermen shot a Rhinodon. Inside it was the complete skeleton of a six foot man. The United Press in Honolulu reported this in its issue of September 2nd, 1927: "Mystery surrounding the disappearance several days ago of Sadao Nakatus, Honolulu merchant, was cleared up Wednesday, when fishermen found his body inside a huge shark they caught

off Barber's Point."

Here is another authentical instance. The Literary Digest some years ago carried the account of an English sailor who was swallowed by a gigantic Rhinodon in the English Channel. While trying to harpoon this monster, he fell overboard. The shark turned on him, engulfed him, and then sounded and disappeared. The entire trawler fleet put out to hunt this whale-shark, and 48 hours later it was found, and killed with a deck-gun. The men opened it in order to give their companion a Christian burial, but they were amazed to find the man unconscious, but still alive! They rushed him to hospital suffering from shock, but found to be otherwise unharmed. Dr. Rimmer personally met this man at a later time. The man's body was devoid of hair, and had patches of yellowish-brown colour over his entire skin. But for two days and nights he has actually lived in that monster of the deep. In London he was called "The Jonah of the 20th century."

Thus we sum up the matter briefly in this way. This story of a man being swallowed by a whale-shark could have happened: it has happened again: Scripture says it did happen: Jesus Christ, God incarnate, confirmed the story. What do you say about it? Who is brazen enough to cry "Myth"?

But when all this is examined, let us turn back again to what God said. It is simply this: "GOD PREPARED a great fish." That settles all controversy. The God who made the whales conditioned a special one to receive Jonah, and to preserve him. And the lesson is so very clear. Jonah ran away from God, as sinful men do today. God pursued him with a STORM, and with the CALL OF THE CAPTAIN, and with the LOT that fell on him, and with the fish that was PREPARED to swallow him. And God brought him back again. God is in pursuit of men, even as they run from Him. He will bring every man either to repentance or to judgment. He will never let any man go. The end of it all is foretold in Revelation 20:12, "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged. . . ."

But never forget the other side. "As Jonah. . . so the Son of Man." Our Lord Jesus Christ, God the Son, died in the sinner's place. He was swallowed up by death. And after three days and three nights in the "belly of hell," He was restored in resurrection. And now, as Jonah preached to Nineveh, our Lord preaches grace to the world. He is able to save to the uttermost all who come to God BY HIM, for He has paid the price of sin, and offers

His loving pardon to all who will believe His Word, and receive Him as Saviour. Friend, the records are TRUE, and they are for YOU! Be sure you trust this great Saviour.

CHAPTER 9. GOD'S BIGGEST PROBLEM-THE INCARNATION

I do not believe in peace at any price. I do not believe in church union at any price. There are some things that are too precious to surrender, some vital truths that cannot be compromised. I remember that day when Mr. Chamberlain, Prime Minister of Great Britain, went to Munich, umbrella in hand, and returned after sacrificing Czechoslovakia to the mad and insatiable greed of Hitler. The crowds cheered as he said, "This is peace in our time." Mr. Winston Churchill rose in the House of Commons, and said: "We have sustained a total and unmitigated defeat. This is only the beginning, the first sip, the first foretaste of the bitter cup which will be proffered to us year by year." How right he was! And yet the members of the House of Commons howled him down.

Let us understand our position today. Where there is a vindictive enemy, real men are forced to fight. And this is the position of the Christian today. The attack on us is constant, although unsought and unwanted. The enemy of our souls presses in. The late Dr. Donald Barnhouse said: "The world will laugh today at one who keeps the Word of God. We are asked to abandon Genesis to 'science,' salvation by redemption to anthropology, the life of the Spirit to psychology, and the very Word itself to higher criticism."

If the Bible never referred to Satan or the devil, our adversary, we would very soon deduce the fact of his reality. There is an evil power that always opposes every right thing, seducing men from an honest life, destroying men's faith, and ALWAYS casting doubt on the infallible Word of God. He fights truth and true Christianity. He betrays his presence by his age-old attitude to God's Word, the same "Yea, hath God said?" with which he seduced our first parents. This is always the mark of the satanic, and we are forced to resist this with all our spiritual might.

In this chapter we shall deal with one of the most dangerous satanic efforts that he has ever put forth, the wicked, unwarranted and slanderous attack on the virgin birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today some of the most fearful blasphemies are being uttered on this subject. Surely there are none worse. And the pity and scandal of it is that this is being done through the agency of men who claim the title of ministers of the Gospel, the clergymen in many pulpits and the theologians in many of the seminaries. What was being done by the atheists in the early

part of this century is now being done right in the pulpits of many churches. That is an astounding fact, but indisputably true. No wonder Billy Graham recently said: "I feel much closer to Roman Catholics than to some of the more liberal Protestants." And the reason is clear. For one thing, no Roman Catholic ever denies the virgin birth of our Lord, or questions His deity. And apostate Protestants are doing it today!

What do we really celebrate each time the Christmas season comes around? Is it the birth of a blasphemer who knew He was an illegitimate child, and adopted the virgin birth story as a means of covering up His past shame? Or is it the birth of a pitiful maniac who just thought He was the Son of God? If so, the Jewish nation was right in rejecting Him, and sentencing Him to death for blasphemy. Is the Christmas season instead the celebration of the incarnation of God the Son, coming into this world to live in the disguise of a man? It is one of the three, and unless it is the last of the three, it constitutes a complete denial of Christ's deity, His Saviourhood, His sanctity and His sanity.

In the kindergarten lessons of the "New Curriculum" now being used in many United Churches, and in some Baptist Churches, these statements are found: "All kinds of serious questions can be raised about this story. Did it really happen in this way? What about the virgin birth?" In the intermediate reading book we find this: "Jesus was born in Palestine... this carpenter's son from the village of Nazareth." When you read that, there will probably be in your mind the consciousness that this is but an echo. It has been said before! In fact it was said by some who later tried to murder Jesus in His own home town. Here it is in Matthew 13:55, "Is not this the carpenter's son?" It was said by His bitter enemies. One wonders then what sort of people wrote this "New Curriculum." The seniors, in grades 10 to 12 are taught this: "The historical facts may be briefly stated like this: Jesus was born in Bethlehem to an artisan family belonging to Nazareth. His first thirty years of life are obscure." That is positive deceit. He was NOT born to a family, to a husband and wife, nor were the first thirty years of His life obscure. His birth is plainly recorded. Dr. James Davies, writing in the United Church Observer, says: "The story of the fall of man is a myth. The account of Adam and Eve in the garden, and their fall, is not history. The story of the Magi never happened as history. The virgin birth did not happen as history, and is scientifically impossible." I wonder how this man celebrates the Christmas season? What kind of person is this who dares to make these flat denials of the clear statements of the Word of

God? On what authority does he declare these vital truths to be unhistorical myths? WE CHALLENGE THIS FLATLY AND COMPLETELY. There is no authority whatsoever for this bold denial of the Bible. What a pity that it is done by one who poses as a minister. Why does he do it? The answer is simple. Fallen mankind does not want a great God, or a God-Saviour, the man Christ Jesus, for then there is an inevitable consequence. If Jesus is God incarnate, then we must of necessity bow to Him, worship and obey Him, as One infinitely above ourselves. And proud, boasting man does not like that! So the issue remains before us. Are we to believe the word of these boasting, dying men, or the clearly-written, enduring Word of the living God? And moreover, shall we take the word of these men, or the word of God the Son?

Let me pause to make this comment. First, that this Doctor is right on one matter; the virgin birth is indeed a "scientific impossibility." Of course it is. It takes no erudite mind to understand that. But does that settle the matter? Is science the final word? This is not a new discovery the Doctor has made. Mary knew it long ago, for she said: "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" (Luke 1:34). She knew the simple, biological facts of the case. Even a village-bred woman had learned that much. Who hasn't? And Mary was given the answer by the angel Gabriel, in these words: "For with God nothing shall be impossible." (Luke 1:37). The incarnation was impossible by science, or by natural law, but never impossible to God. Does this Doctor not believe in God? Or what kind of a God does he have? And how did this man discover that the wise men were not real, and the virgin birth a myth? Not one shred of evidence has ever been presented in refutation of these inspired records. These denials have simply been formulated in the mind of man, and then repeated and reiterated until many accept them. What does this man think of Jesus? If He was not virgin born, then who was He? Is this true, in Luke 1:31-32, "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest." Is Jesus the "Son of the Highest" or the son of the lowest? Which? Shall we believe Gabriel, or Dr. Davies?

Take time with me to examine the issues at stake in this matter. First of all, the authenticity of the Old Testament is deeply involved. The virgin birth of the Messiah is clearly prophesied. It is found in the first and most ancient prophecy that God gave to men, in Genesis 3:15, where we read, "And I will put enmity between thee (Satan) and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed." Is that prophecy authentic, or a myth? And

what does it mean?

Natural birth is a biological miracle. In the human cell are 46 chromosomes, each carrying the genes of all human heredity. But in the reproductive cells that number is halved to 23, so that, when the male and female cells unite at conception, each one contributes 23 chromosomes to make up a new unit of 46, carrying the hereditary characteristics of each parent. This is the PLAN that God set in motion at the creation of man, and which has operated ever since, keeping the species absolutely FIXED by this unvarying chromosome count. Here is unfathomable mystery. The female cell unites with the male cell, and from some unknown, unguessed source, by an unknown, unguessed process, that new cell draws from somewhere 26 trillion other cells, and forms the new offspring "after its kind." You may call that "Nature" if you wish. I call it the working of an omniscient God. But we both must call it miraculous, totally beyond the comprehension of the human mind.

Now, in natural birth, the SEED IS ALWAYS MASCULINE. But this first, great and magnificent prophecy says that the seed of the WOMAN is some day to come. And this is contrary to all the known facts of biology. This prophecy clearly says "Another biological miracle is coming." The promised Redeemer will not be born of the seed of a man. He will have no earthly father! Was this prophecy so understood through the ages? Yes, it was. This truth was implanted in the whole human race, even though often distorted into legend. But the basic truth was always there, that One would come who was both God and man. This is found among Hittite, Assyrian, Babylonian, Persian, Egyptian, Greek and Roman peoples. It was a common hope, implanted by this early prophecy, that the God-man would come. And He came, literally born of a virgin, as the seed of the woman.

That prophecy is but the beginning. Here is the crystal-clear prophecy of Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." I am well aware that the liberalists have retranslated this to read "young woman" instead of "virgin." I wonder why they did that? In so doing they made themselves and their new versions utterly ridiculous. It is no "sign" for a young woman to bear a son. It happens every minute. The unmistakable SIGN that God gave in this prophecy was that a VIRGIN would bear a son. That would be totally miraculous, and easily recognized. The true origin of such a child was immediately indicated in the name to be given him. He was to be called "Immanuel," meaning "God with us." God himself was

to become incarnate through the womb of a virgin woman. And Matthew forever settles the question of this word, when he declares in Matthew 1:21-23 that the word was and is "virgin." He says: "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet (Isaiah), saying, Behold, a VIRGIN shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." Even the new translators are baffled by Matthew's direct quotation from Isaiah, and are unable to change it. Apparently in Matthew's day the word was there before him, and it was "VIRGIN." And God's Word does not change, despite what men try to do to it.

Here is another important statement, in Jeremiah 31:22. "How long wilt thou go about, O thou backsliding daughter? for the Lord hath created a new thing in the earth, A woman shall compass a man." That was a prophecy of no ordinary happening. It was to be a "new thing," a new kind of birth, brought about by a woman alone, without any man. Then we read on in Jeremiah 22:28-30, "Is this man Coniah a despised, broken idol? . . . Write ye this man childless . . . for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah." God said that no man descended from Coniah (also called Jeconiah or Jehoachin) would ever be allowed to sit on the throne of David. Now to this add two remarkable facts. First, that Jesus, before his birth, was promised the throne of David. Here it is, in Luke 1:31-33, "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." Then secondly this: Joseph was descended from this Coniah or Jechonias of Jeremiah's prophecy, the rejected line. Mary came from another Davidic line altogether. It is thus crystal clear that our Lord could NOT HAVE DESCENDED FROM JOSEPH. He was NOT the father of Jesus Christ.

Now turn to Psalm 2:7, 12. "I will declare to decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee . . . Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him." Here is the very voice of the Eternal God, addressing someone as His SON, and saying, "I have begotten thee." This Son was not, and could not be begotten of Joseph, but of God Almighty! And again, here is Proverbs 30:4, "Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath

gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? what is his name, and what is his son's name, it thou canst tell?" Here is a remarkable question concerning the One who made the universe; "What is his name?" That is easily answered. He was the Creator-God. But another question follows, "What is his son's name?" Has God a Son? Yes! And His name is Immanuel, Jesus, the Saviour.

Here is another well-known prophecy about the Messiah, in Micah 5:2. "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting," Micah said someone was coming to be born in Bethlehem, who was to be Ruler, the King Messiah. Even the Jerusalem scribes knew this, quoted this Scripture, and directed the wise men to Bethlehem, as they sought the King. But who was He in reality? One "whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." God, the Eternal God, was coming to be born in Bethlehem!

And a last Old Testament prophecy is found in Isaiah 9:6, in these words: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Someone was coming to be born. Who was He? "The mighty God, The everlasting Father." The Old Testament declares the incarnation so very clearly. Is it true? Now what of the New Testament? Some Scriptures we have already quoted, and it is not possible in this limited space to deal with all the rest. But here are some of them. Who can honestly read the very first chapter of the New Testament, and fail to understand that Jesus was virgin born? His genealogy is recorded down through the centuries, with one generation "begetting" another, until we come to the great change in Matthew 1:16. The "begetting" stops at the story of Joseph, and instead we read: "Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ." He was born of Mary, not begotten of Joseph. Matthew 1:18 says that Mary... was found with child of the Holy Ghost, not of Joseph, or of any other man. Matthew 1:20-21 sets forth the testimony of the angelic messenger, that her child was conceived "of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 1:24-25 tells us that Joseph "knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son." He was NOT the father of her child. In Matthew 2:11 we find the wise men WORSHIPING the child, thus acknowledging His deity, and thus testifying of His virgin birth, for the two facts are inseparable. Luke 1:16-

17 declares that John the Baptist would go before the "Lord their God." Jesus was the virgin-born Lord God of Israel. Luke 1:35 gives us Gabriel's second testimony, containing two important facts. First, that the One born of Mary would be called the "Son of God," not the son of any man. Secondly, he called that which was to be born of her "that holy thing." Why did He use that impersonal noun when speaking about a baby? Simply to show us that Mary was in no sense the "Mother of God." She contributed nothing to His Person, to His sinless Godhead, or to His perfect manhood. She simply bore the flesh into which He came.

Luke 1:43 gives us the inspired testimony of Elizabeth, when Mary visited her. She referred to the unborn child as "my Lord." Did she tell the truth? Luke 1:76-79 records the praise and testimony of Zacharias, when he prophesied that his son, John the Baptist, would be the "prophet of the Highest" and that he would "go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways." This clearly shows us that Jesus was the "Highest," the Lord God, and thus virgin born. Luke 2:49 preserves for us the first words of our Lord. When Joseph and Mary sought for Him at the feast, Mary, in her stress and anxiety, made a grave mistake. She said, "Thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing." And Jesus immediately corrected her, with the words, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business." He certainly meant that Joseph was NOT His father, and that only God was His eternal Father. Then Galatians 4:4 adds the word of the Apostle Paul, as he speaks of Christ as being "made of a woman."

Moreover, besides all these statements, and many more, the Bible clearly infers the virgin birth. John 1:1-2, 14 shows us that the One known as the Word, who became a Babe, living in a body of flesh, was actually the Eternal God who made all things. For such a One to become flesh necessitated the virgin birth. Again, in John 10:29 we read those tremendous words of our Lord, "I and my Father are one." What did He mean? The two words "His Father," recorded in John 5:18 are from the Greek words "Patera idiom," and they mean "His own Father." Jesus claimed to be God's own Son. Joseph was His step-father; His "own" Father was God.

Then from the epistles we look at these words in Hebrews 7:3, concerning one called Melchisedec, who was one of the many "theophanies," the Old Testament appearances of Christ, here described as "without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life." No man and woman cohabited, either lawfully or unlawfully, to bring Him into being. He was and is the Eternal God!

And then here is perhaps the capstone of this pyramid of truth. I Timothy 3:16 says: "Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh." That sums it all up. No wonder the modern versions have tried to change no less than six of the most prominent Scriptures that declare the deity and virgin birth of Christ, including this one. Here Paul declares the whole fact of the pre-existent Son of God coming, through the virgin birth, to be made flesh for our salvation. It is still true that "The Ancient of Days became the Infant of Days. God Himself a baby deigned to be, and slept upon a mother's breast, and steeped in baby tears His deity."

For our final look into the Scriptures, come to the cross of our Lord. Who was the father of that One who hung between two thieves? The modern critic says, "an unknown, unnamed man." The Book of God says, "The Holy Ghost." Take your choice between these two. In His dying hour Jesus addressed God as His Father, and commended His spirit to that Father's keeping. But look at someone near the foot of that cross. There is Mary, the mother of Jesus. She is watching the torture and crucifixion of her Son. And she knows that He is being killed because He claimed to be the Son of God. Above all people on earth she knew whether that was true. If He had an earthly father, all she had to do was to say so, to name him, and her Son would be freed. BUT SHE SAID NOT A WORD. What an awful creature she must have been, if she stood before that awful scene, knowing that Jesus was not virgin born, and allowed her Son to be crucified for the belief in His own heart. But her lips were silent, while her heart broke. She knew the truth; she could not deny His divine origin; He had no father after the flesh.

Does all this repeated record truly mean that Jesus Christ was the virgin-born Son of God? What else could it mean? Did the early believers so understand this? Yes, they did! Let me quote just two out of many. Aristides, the Greek philosopher who lived and wrote in 117 A. D., said this to the Roman Emperor Hadrian regarding the Christians of that day: "Now the Christians reckon their race from the Lord Jesus Christ; and He is by them confessed to be the Son of God most High, having by the Holy Ghost come down from heaven, and having been born of a Hebrew virgin, and having completed His wonderful dispensation, he was pierced by the Jews, and after three days revived and went up to heaven." Justin Martyr was born in Samaria in 100 A. D. He passed through four schools of philosophy. His writings were scholarly and logical. He was martyred for his faith under Emperor Aurelius in 166 A. D. In 138 A. D. he addressed his first apology to Antoninus. In it he showed that the high and

noble doctrines of Christianity are based on the revelations God made in the Old Testament, specifically referring to Isaiah's prophecy of the virgin birth. Notice that reference to ISAIAH as foretelling the virgin birth. Nearly 1500 years before our English Authorized Version was published, it was KNOWN that Isaiah prophesied the virgin birth of Christ. The Authorized Version has it right! Justin Martyr wrote long before anyone started tampering with the Bible, changing it to fit the opinions of apostate teaching. The revisers are a bit behind the times! Is it not appalling that little man, born 1900 years too late, now speaks of the virgin birth as a "myth", something with no real, historical truth?

Who was Jesus Christ? Son of the Highest, or son of the lowest? Is He the Blasphemer or the Blessed? The Illegitimate or the Immanuel? The Soiled Sinner or the Spotless Saviour? Shall we not take the simple, lovely story of the Holy Babe, and His blameless mother, believe it, receive it and thank God that He solved the great problem of the redemption of mankind, through the incarnation of His own Son? He had to come as one of Adam's race, to redeem that race. He had to have blood to shed, sinless blood, for our atonement. And so He came, and so we believe, with thankful hearts!

CHAPTER 10. CORONATION- WILL JESUS REIGN OVER THIS EARTH

It is fitting that this final chapter should deal with a prophetic theme, as its title suggests. And it is a very essential part of the theme of this book, for the attacks on the reality and authenticity of the Word of God are not confined to history, but actually reach on into the realm of future things. Will Jesus Christ actually return to reign over this world, in His physical, literal presence and person? Many today are crying "Myth," "Fable," concerning this oft-propheesied event. With this coming apostasy already revealed to him, Peter set out his own convictions very clearly, in II Peter 1:16, "For we have not followed CUNNINGLY DEvised FABLES, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." Peter would not have fitted into many of our modern churches at all, for today whole denominations are dominated by a heirarchy of "theologians" who have produced some very "cunning devised fables," and list the second coming of Christ in this category.

Why is this being done? Let me repeat that men will do this rather than bow to almighty God who is able to supercede His own natural laws, and move in the realm of the miraculous. Men do not want a Big God, but a little god, man-size, until man is reckoned as God and can worship himself! And the Bible is left as simply a book of ethics and morals, and even those in a questionable status in relation to man's ideas of modern life. Is this the nature of the Bible? Or is it the Word of the Living God? Let me prophecy this: that the Bible will stand unchanged when all the "new curriculum" teachings are dust and ashes. The Lord Jesus Christ said so. (Matt. 24:35)

And, in passing, let me say just a word about this term "myth." There seems to be an attempt to explain it away, as though its users were a bit ashamed of it, or afraid of the reactions it produces. We are being told that "myth" really means "truth." That's news to most of us! Or it is said to be "a pictorial way of expressing truth." But any reliable dictionary tells a different story. It is defined by Webster as "A fictitious and fanciful narrative," and a mythographer as "A composer of fables." There is some cover-up going on in this matter. If by "myth" these men mean "truth," why not use the word "truth"? No, when the word "myth" is used, it is used to deny the literal facts recorded in the Scriptures and to persuade people to accept some man's fanciful interpretation thereof. Let us, like Peter, refuse to follow "cunningly devised fables."

Will Jesus Christ some day return to earth to reign? Will He literally be crowned King of Kings and Lord of Lords? He came once to earth. Is it not possible for Him to come again? We sing, "Jesus shall reign where'er the sun, doth his successive journeys run." Will He? Or is this also a myth, a "fictitious and fanciful narrative"? As we begin to look at the question, mark this fact well: there are many, many religionists who will say "Yes, Jesus will reign." All the way from Modernists to Mohammedans, from Higher Critics to Hindus, there are people who will say this. But what they mean by that is not what the Bible declares.

First, some will say, "Yes, Jesus will reign, like the rest of us. He will be Co-Regent with the other great ones, with Confucius and Buddha and Mohammed and Ghandi and with Mary or Shive, Krishna and Vishnu." A Mohammedan accepts Jesus as a prophet, a lesser prophet than Mohammed. A Hindu will accept Christ, as one of his gods, one among some four hundred million others. And in today's so-called Christian churches the liberalist will accept Jesus as a great teacher, moralist and philosopher, BUT NOT AS GOD SUPREME. Others will place Jesus as a great angel, or call Him the High Ideal. Is this what the Word of God menas and declares when it speaks of Him, and of His coming reign? CERTAINLY NOT! The Bible unmistakeably shows us Jesus Christ as God, the Supreme God of all creation, our miracle-working God, far above dusty man, the mere work of His fingers. Let me quote one of many great Scriptures that teach us this. Here is Hebrews 1:5-8, "For unto which of the angels said he (God) at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? And again, when he bringeth in the first-begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever." What does this clearly teach us? That our Lord Jesus is far above all angels. Jesus is NOT a great angel, or merely an exalted man. He was and is God incarnate.

Listen to the prophet Isaiah, as he speaks in Isaiah 44:6, 45:21, 46:9-10, 42:8 and 48:11 "Thus saith the Lord, the King of Israel, and his redeemer, the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. . Who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I, the Lord: and there is no God beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me; . . . I am God and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the

end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure. . . I am the Lord; that is my name; and my glory I will not give to another. . . For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it. . . And I will not give my glory to another." That doesn't sound very ecumenical, does it? Jesus Christ, God the Son, is not on a level with these other beings, for they are mere mortals or mere myths. Nor will He share His position and glory with them. Listen to this great prophecy, found in Revelation 19:15-16, "And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS." Jesus Christ will reign sole and supreme!

The second approach of the religionist to this subject is a more subtle one, because it is half right. It has an aura of truth; very acceptable truth. It goes like this: "Yes, Jesus will reign. His worth and merit will gradually be more and more recognized until He will reign supreme in the hearts of all men." In other words, these people teach that Christ's kingdom and reign will be wholly spiritual in nature, and in no sense a literal reign on an earthly throne, or in an earthly Kingdom. This teaching carries the label "Amillennialism," and that long word simply means "no millennium, no thousand years of Christ's reign on earth." This has long been the teachings of a number of the false sects, and now it has been tragically adopted by some of the so-called "evangelicals," who belong to the once orthodox sections of the historic denominations.

Is this the sum total of our Lord's coming to reign? If so, I venture to say that it is still a long way off, and, instead of drawing nigh, as Scripture declares, (James 5:8), it is receding, being washed away by the swelling tide of iniquity that is inundating a world that has turned its back on the Son of God. There are more people in the world today who have not received Christ as Saviour and Lord than at any other time in the history of the world. Is this state of affairs the reign of Christ? What an absurd and impossible supposition!

And at this point another element enters our discussion. No man has power to foretell, to prophecy what lies ahead. How do these modern teachers KNOW that Christ will not reign on earth? They face this serious difficulty in a special way when they declare that Bible prophecy is a myth. They are exposed at once as charlatans and pretenders, for no man knows the future,

except as God reveals it in His word. Nobody can tell the outcome of the next election in our land, or who will rule in Russia next week! This faculty of prophecy belongs to GOD ALONE. He challenged the men of Isaiah's day over this. In Isaiah 41:22-23 and 48:5 we read: "Let them bring them forth, and show us what shall happen: let them show the former things, what they be, that we consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come. Shew the things that are to come hereafter. . . . I (God) have even from the beginning declared it unto thee; before it came to pass I showed it thee." This is one reason we know that the Bible is indeed the Word of God, for it sets out the very course of future things for us. And no man can do that. Whose word then shall we accept about the possibility of the future reign of Christ?

See then what God has said, and forget the vagaries of men. Look first at the great promises God gave to His chosen people, the Hebrew nation. Has He forgotten them? Never! In Romans 11:1-2 we have the answer: "I say then, hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I am also an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew." And what has He promised this nation? The Book of Isaiah is full of this matter, with prophecy after prophecy concerning the return of Christ. Here is Isaiah 11:12, "And he shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth." Isaiah 40:1 says: "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God," and in verse 9 we read: "O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!" In Isaiah 60:21 we find this: "Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified." And in Isaiah 62:4 we read: "Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah (my delight is in her) and thy land Beulah (married): for the Lord delighteth in thee, and thou shalt be married." These are promises of a literal regathering of Israel, with her King Messiah reigning over her. This must come to pass. Jeremiah said, "This is the land which ye shall divide by lot." That has not yet taken place since Jeremiah was here. It lies in the future, Hosea said: "I will be as the dew unto Israel, they that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn."

In Joel 3:18 and 20 we read: "And it shall come to pass in that

day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the Lord, and shall water the valley of Shittim. Judah shall dwell forever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation." Amos 9:14-15 continues the story thus: "And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof. And they shall make gardens, and eat the fruit thereof. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land." When is that to happen? It lies somewhere in the future, even though we may well see the beginnings of it today.

Read on! Micah 4:1-2 says, "But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." In Zephaniah 3:14 we read this: "Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem," and in verse 20, "At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the Lord." And in Zechariah 14:4, 8-9 we read: "And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east... And it shall be in that day that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea... and the Lord shall be KING over all the earth: in that day there shall be one LORD, and his name one."

It has not happened yet! Israel, partially restored to her land, is still assailed by her neighbours. She is not honoured or sought by all nations. The Mount of Olives has not yet divided under our Lord's returning feet. He is still to come, and Israel is yet to be restored. God cannot fail His people. These prophecies are all clearly literal predictions concerning literal places on this literal earth. Christ's real kingdom is certainly coming. There will be a Millennium!

Christ is coming to reign over Israel, and thereby over the whole world. These Scriptures cannot be either "Mythologized"

or "spiritualized" away. This is why Satan has so often tried to annihilate the Jews, so that Christ will not have a nation to reign over. He can never do it. The Jew is indestructible. But what of the Church? Does it matter to us whether or not Christ comes to reign? Are we not more concerned with spiritual state than literal kingdoms? That is certainly true. But this does not make the coming of Christ less real, or something that will not literally happen.

God has said some very plain things to the church about this. Here is I Corinthians 15:22-25, "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the first-fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet." There is a clear promise of the coming reign of Christ. Similarly II Timothy 2:12 says, "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him." And in II Thessalonians 1:7-8 we read: "And to you who are troubled, rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." Then in the last book of the Bible, in this last message given to the church, we read in Revelation 5:9-10, 11:15 and 20:6, "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall REIGN ON THE EARTH... And the seventh angel sounded: and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever... Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall REIGN with him A THOUSAND YEARS." There is coming a, glorious Millennium, a thousand year reign of Christ, on this earth, and it is promised to the Church, as well as to Israel.

Isn't this what our wicked, weary old world needs? Today men are losing control over the affairs of nations. The world is full of riots, rebellions, anarchy, warring nation against warring nation, civil strife of all kinds. Even the vaunted United Nations Organization seems powerless to stop the growing chaos. Who is going to finally settle all this? Actually there is no such thing

as a United Nations. There we have only an assembly of quarrelling DISUNITED NATIONS!

Some day our Lord will come, in miraculous fashion, as He went away, and intervene in the affairs of men. This is the only solution. Matthew 24:29-30 puts it this way: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: and then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." and in verse 44, "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Perhaps some of you do not believe that. Perhaps this is the hour of the "think not" people. Our Lord will come anyway, and in just such a time as this.

We Christians look for our Lord at any moment. Before He comes to reign on earth, He is coming to take His church out of the world, in miraculous fashion. Here is the promise, in I Thessalonians 4:16-17. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall arise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." We shall be home with Him before He pours out His judgments upon this sinful earth. And then when He comes back to reign, we shall come with Him. We look for His appearing, and our translation any day; nay, at any moment. And that affects our lives a great deal. In I John 3:2-3 we read; "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

Reader, we have set out these vital matters before you in order that your faith in the Word of God might be strong; that you might not be misled by those who would inculcate into your mind a doubt of its literal authenticity. God's first call to you is to fully and completely trust His Son as your Saviour. We pray that the Spirit of God will speak to your heart through His infallible Word, and draw you to Christ. Write to us if you need help.

And then God calls us to live for Him, in loving obedience to the precepts of His Word, and to look for His Son from heaven. This is the faith that has stood the tests of all the ages. May it be fully yours today, and until we meet at Jesus' feet some glorious moment. TODAY? PERHAPS!

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