

put in
writing

"The Handwriting of God"

John 8:1-11
16th bel. in God -
but what kind?

1. Won't read something about God. Something unusual, simple,
yet very emp. - ident it's - Exod. 31:18 - a sample of God's
handwriting - tells us much about God - Some strange ideas
abroad about God - "An influence" - "a power like elec" - "Nature" -
"Just Cause" (just an accident! "accidental combin. of fortuitous circum")
able say he wrote with finger 10 command. At once we see
a personality - wise - intell. - learned - almighty - governing universe.

2 Now know more we read of God writing with finger - he wrote on
rock - heart - sand - Ex. 31:18 - Message of judgment -
whose hand? (Acts 17:31) Hand of judgment - that of God the Son.
Third time - John 8:3-11 - (Note) - (a) - Jesus upheld other
two writings - Law of Moses - Judgment of pen - "she ought to die".
(b) there he wrote twice (c) Two results. Accusers slunk out
with guilty faces - Woman stayed with new hope in heart!

3 What did God the Son write? What 2 things? Long ago the
winds scattered that sand...but that which God writes is
er lost. What did He write? It must have been from the
(a) scrip. for Phar. offered no argument against. It was a word
of complete authority. He wrote a "Thus saith the Lord".
Moreover...something in Scrip. that prod. deep conviction of
(c) sin. for ev. one of these men convicted by conscience..
That message inescapable in meaning, universal in scope and
(c) personal in applic. What? Almost certainly Psalm 14:2-3.
What a message! Dreadful! Where was sinless man to execute..
One by one..they read..heard..All alike..oldest first..for
sinned the longest..deepest.
What write second time? First brot. condemnation..sent hypoc.
away. Yet woman stayed. Yet also condemned. What was 2nd
message..held her rooted to spot..fascinated..held in grip?
Also personal..calling her by name..but message of unbel.
grace..mercy..yet from Word of God..certainly true. What?
Suggest this:- Isaiah 1:18. A scarlet woman! But thru.
her-filled eyes she saw the words.."they shall be white as
snow".

Conclus. The two writings are still before us..in this Book.
Written by God the Holy Spirit. Those Phar. read..went out.
One woman remained. Where did they go? Into darkness of
unbelief..condemned by the law. Woman remained to hear her
sins forgiven..by ^{SINAVES} One who was preparing then to pay the price
of her sins in His own precious blood. Where shall we go?
Illus:- Luther's dream. Nature.

Pleasant Hill Ref - Calgary - May 11/58
 Wainwright - May 20/58 - Many consec - some saved ??
 Vancouver - Peoples Tree - Jun 8/58 - -
 Winnipeg - Grant Mem. Jun 22/58.
 Lake City. Mem. - Jun 29/58
 KSSB - Jarmertown - N. Dak - July 4/58
 Innesfal - Aug 24/58
 Bowden Inst. - Mar 22/59
 Red Deer - Apr. 22/59 Pastor retired CMA
 La Crosse - June 10/60
 Noy Hill Jail - July 31/60
 Webster - Mar 5/61 - (Between 6 hour)

7 multitudes have stood at crossroads of life - cf Paul - Lydia - Timothy -
 - ferry me away - cf Ethiopian -

(1). "The Handwriting of God."

Introd:- (1). I want to talk to you about GOD. What do you think of God? 96% of Canadians believe in some sort of a god. What kind of a God do they believe in? Who is He? Where is He? What is He like? What does He do? Is He a power like electricity? Does He see people? Does He think about us? Does He listen when we pray? Or is prayer just a useless noise we make? Who created all the earth and everything in it, and the sun, moon and stars in the heavens? Did it all just happen? Who made you and me? Who made life to begin? Scientists try to make life, and have always failed to do so? Who did? When my life is over, will I meet God? What will He do then? Is He a Person who can judge my life?

(2). Let me suggest to you that the only way we can find a true answer to all those questions is by looking into the Bible. Where else can we look? All the scientific investigation of the ages has never found God.

I have never seen God. The Bible says He is the "invisible God". Although the Lord Jesus came to earth and lived in a physical body, I have never touched that body. Our Lord rose from the dead and took that body back with Him into heaven. And because God cannot be known by our natural senses, some deny His existence. Others speak of Him as Nature, or some impersonal force like magnetism. WHO THEN IS GOD? WHAT IS HE LIKE? CAN I TALK TO HIM?

I. Today I want to read 3 records of what God did.

(a). They all speak of the same thing..3 times that God Himself did-something that you can do..but that cannot be done by something that is not living, feeling and thinking. Here is the first story:- Exod. 31:18. "And he (God) gave unto Moses..two tables of stone, WRITTEN WITH THE FINGER OF GOD." Remember the story? The children of Israel, travelling out of Egypt through the wilderness, came to Mt. Sinai. There Moses was called up into the mountain alone with God. And God came down..and with finger WROTE on the stone tablet..the TEN COMMANDMENTS. Those were the great and good laws of God, for the guidance of all human society. THAT WAS THE HANDWRITING OF GOD. HE CAN WRITE! To you He has given this same power. Because you are a personal, living being you are able to think, and to communicate your thoughts to others. Sometimes you speak those thoughts. Sometimes you write them. BUT NO IMPERSONAL POWER CAN DO THAT..GOD IS A PERSON. REAL. THINKING, LIVING, SEEING, SPEAKING, WRITING TO MEN. Wise, intelligent. almighty, governing the universe.

This is God..One with whom we have to reckon..and who will some day be our Judge.

(b). Now look at the second story. It is in Dan. 5:5.

"In the same hour came forth the fingers of a man's hand, AND WROTE upon the plaister of the wall." Another gripping Bible story. The young ruler of Babylon, Belshazzar, made a great feast to his chief men. They drank wine until their minds were excited with liquor. Then Belshazzar ordered men to bring the holy vessels that had been captured from the Temple of God in Jerusalem, so that they might drink wine in them, and praise the gods of gold and silver, of brass, of iron, of wood and of stone. THEN GOD MOVED IN HIS ANGER AGAINST SUCH BLASPHEMY. Part of a man's hand appeared..and began to WRITE on the plastered wall. When Daniel interpreted the writing, it said to Belshazzar "Thou art weighed in the balances and found wanting." It was a message of judgment. That very night Belshazzar was killed by the invading enemy. WHOSE HAND WAS IT THAT WROTE THOSE WORDS? In Acts 17:31 we read: "God has appointed a day in which he will judge the world by THAT MAN whom he hath raised from the dead." And that ONE, the only one raised from the dead so far, is our Lord Jesus..GOD THE SON. Into His hands there has been given the judgment of men. Si it was HIS HAND THAT WROTE ON THE WALL of Belshazzar's banqueting hall! GOD WROTE AGAIN ! He is a very real Person..and will judge all men.

II. Now look on into N.T..for third writing.

(a). Read this. John 8:3-11. First time God wrote on rock.. 2nd time on plaster of a wall..This third time on sand. Each time He wrote..it was absolute truth. And between the writings there was no disagreement. GOD HAS SET DOWN THE LAW ..HE WILL JUDGE ALL MEN ACCORDING TO THAT LAW. But what of this third time? The Pharisees tried to trap our Lord into a denial of the Scriptures. Read again vs.5. They said: "God has already written the Law..and told of Judgment..so this woman ought to be stoned to death. Now what do you say?" They set a trap for the Lord..vs. 6a.

(b). Instead of speaking to these people..Jesus bent down and WITH HIS FINGER WROTE ON GROUND. Again, that was the finger of GOD THE SON! Then He said something to these men..and again BENT DOWN AND WROTE ON THE GROUND. He wrote twice! And there were two results. After first writing thw woman's accusers went away, one by one, with guilty faces. After the second writing the woman stayed with new hope in her heart

III. Now we come to the great question. WHAT DID JESUS WRITE?

(a). We are not told! And so I can only try to understand.

Let me say this first. What Jesus wrote was from God Himself. It was His word, and can never pass away. What He wrote on the ground must have been right from the Bible..for those Pharisees offered no argument against it. It was a word of complete authority that they dared not to deny. He wrote a "Thus saith the Lord". And it must also have been something that produced deep conviction in the hearts of those men, a deep conviction of sin. Every one of them went out, the oldest first, and finally the youngest. They were convicted by their conscience. The message Jesus wrote must have been inescapable in its meaning, universal in its scope, and personal in its application.

(b). WHAT WAS IT? I think that our Lord wrote something like this: Psalm 14:2-3. "The Lord looked down from heaven to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are ALL gone aside, they are ALL together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no not ONE" What did that say to those Pharisees? "You are ALL dirty sinners, every one of you. You are as bad or worse than this woman." Then He added this..vs.7b "He that is without sin among YOU, let him first cast a stone at her."

What a challenge that was! Where was the sinless man who could execute judgment on this woman? NOT ONE OF THEM! The only sinless One there was the Lord Himself. He could have stoned her to death, if he so willed to do it. One by one, as they read the writing, those Pharisees understood they were all alike, all sinners. The oldest man, the one who had sinned the longest, went out first. And finally the youngest, bold though he was, went out. That first writing brought condemnation to all of them, and sent all those hypocrites away in shame.

(c). BUT THE WOMAN STAYED WITH JESUS. And she was there to read the SECOND WRITING. What was it? What held her grateful interest, and made her stay, even though she was also a sinner? That 2nd writing must have been also very personal, but a message of unbelievable mercy and grace.. Something true, from the Word of God. What would it be? I think it was this: Isa. 1:18. "Come now, and let us reason together, with the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Yes, she was a scarlet woman, stained with the sin of adultery..but through her tear-filled eyes she saw the words of loving mercy.."they shall be white as snow."

Conclus:- 1. The writings of our great personal God are still here..written in this Book. There IS a law of God.

All have sinned, and God will judge all men. Those Pharisees read that far and went out. Where did they go? They went out into the darkness of unbelief, condemned by the law of God. The woman remained to hear her sins forgiven, by the only ONE who could forgive her sins. The Lord Jesus even then was preparing to PAY THE PRICE of her sins by the shedding of His own precious blood on the Cross of Calvary. 2. Where shall we go? Millions of people have faced this choice, as they stood at the crossroads of life. Saul of Tarsus met Jesus on the Damascus Road, and received the forgiveness of his sins. A woman named Lydia met Christ at Philippi when the Gospel came to that city. Young Timothy believed on the Saviour, and became a man of God. HAVE YOU COME TO THE SAVIOUR YET? Let me invite you to rest your soul upon Him NOW..If you do not, you will meet Him some day as the Judge who must punish sin. COME TO HIM NOW..find in Him peace of heart, forgiveness of all your sin, because He paid the price for you. Then learn to stand with God's people..to serve Him every day, and point others to this wonderful Saviour. Illus:- I remember a man in Ethiopia..Raised hand high.. "I renounce the devil and all his works, and I take Jesus Christ as my Saviour." Will you? That man has gone right on. living for God. Will you? Then we shall meet our great God with joy..and hear Him say to us.."Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Turn to Him now.....as Pastor prays.

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