

GATE CITY JOURNAL

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H. F. BROWN

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In another column T. B. Chapman gives some reasons for believing that Moses wrote the Pentateuch. With the exception of the dogmatic claim that Moses wrote the account of his own death and burial. Mr. Chapman added nothing new to the argument. Mr. MacLafferty covered practically the same ground in his article a few weeks ago—and in much less space. The claim that a man could write the account of his own death and burial seems rather an anachronism. It seems more in keeping with the superstition of the Dark Ages rather than the enlightenment of the twentieth century. "Then," asks Mr. Chapman with charming naivete, "who did write it?" We would suggest that Moses' historian or biographer was the most probable person. And this view is strongly supported by the statement that "No man knoweth of his sepulcher UNTO THIS DAY." What day? Evidently the time when the writer lived long after the death and burial of Moses. Mr. Chapman's dogmatic claim was the only way he could escape admitting that Moses could not have written the Pentateuch and it shows the desperate straits into which one is forced in order to maintain that view.

Mr. Chapman refers to the "immutable, inerrant word of God." Immutable means unchangeable. Let's see what there is to this claim. We quote briefly from the New Standard Dictionary:

"The text of the Bible has doubtless had a very checkered career. Nothing is known of the means taken to preserve the text of the O. T. autographs. It is probable that much editorial work was done by exile and postexilic scholars on the material in their hands and we do not know when the text came to be so carefully guarded that no more changes were possible. The Greek translators of the O. T., the Septuagint (LXX, begun 250 B. C. and perhaps completed by 150 B. C.) shows that in many places the text before the translators differed from the text current today."

In the above short paragraph we learn that the original manuscripts of the Old Testament were early lost, that many changes were probably made in the copies by the men through whose hands they passed, that the text before the translators of the Septuagint version differed from the present Bible. Most any S. S. scholar knows there have been many versions, all differing in some respect. The two present versions in most common use—the King James and the Revised, have several differences. So what becomes of the claim of immutability?

Inerrant means without error. The best proof on this question is the Bible itself.

"And no man hath ascended up to heaven but he that came down from heaven." John 3:13
"And it came to pass, as they still went on and talked that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both assunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. II Kings 2:11.

Which of these statements is true? It is obvious that they can't both be.

Now this man (Judas) purchased a field with the reward of his iniquity; and falling head

long, he burst asunder in the midst and all his bowels gushed out. Acts 1:18.

"And he (Judas) cast down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed and went and hanged himself." Matt. 27:5.

In what way did Judas die? Then there is the false prophecy of Isaiah as recorded in Isa. 7 and 2 Chronicles, 28. Dozens of other errors could be cited did space permit.

Mr. Chapman is right in assuming that we have a purpose in our discussion of Biblical questions. The nation-wide movement to force the reading of the Bible in the public schools constrains us to try in our poor weak way to show up the Bible as it really is—not as a dogmatic religion claims it to be.

What think ye, brethren? When it has to be maintained that a man wrote the account of his own death and burial in order to avoid admitting that Moses could not have written the Pentateuch, doesn't it sound a little "fishy" to you?

Judging from Mr. Chapman's article, Mr. Collett's work, "All About the Bible," must be a remarkable book, worthy of a place on the same shelf with our "Three Wise Men." However, we fear the author has overlooked a few things about the Bible.

The attempt to prove one part of the Bible by quoting from another part is about as satisfactory as for a man to try to lift himself by his boot straps. The result in both cases is the same.

There are two or three points in Mr. Chapman's article that we didn't have time to consider this week but will take pleasure in doing so next week.

More Proofs

Boise, Idaho, January 7, 1926.
Editor of Gate City Journal:

I was interested and amused to read your article "Can This Be True?" appearing in the very first edition of the Journal in this New Year. It appears that in a previous issue, the Journal asked for INFORMATION regarding the reasons for holding that Moses was the author of the first five books of the Bible. It appears from said ARTICLE (as I have it spread out before me) that SINCE THEN the New Standard Bible Dictionary, the second edition of which is just off the press has just come to hand and discusses this question quite fully and comprehensively—and it is edited by three eminent men who PROBABLY represent the religious thought of the day as nearly as the MANY ANTAGONISTIC BELIEFS will permit. ACCORDING TO WHICH Genesis is a composite work made up of three separate and distinct narratives, easily distinguishable, and continuing down to Deuteronomy, that the natives were by AN UNKNOWN HAND, combined and made to consist of current myths and legends and so produced the first SIX books of the Bible; and that the date of this marvelous discovery and work is placed "during or shortly after the Babylonian exile, and thus disposing of the claim of Moses' authorship, as the Great Law Giver died some 800 years prior to said exile, and could not have been its author. Then after quoting a paragraph from the latest EDITION of the THREE WISE MEN, "as to the historical value of Genesis," the Journal "finds" for THE PERSECUTION, acquitting its conscience, being confirmed in its belief, by the "preponderance of evidence"—so exclusively and indisputably submitted and so incontrovertibly established that THE HOLY BIBLE is false and NOT the word of God.

I am persuaded that this all comes from the Journal's head rather than from its heart, and out of a purpose subtle or concealed.

Like all who raise questions about the Word of God, I note that the Journal jumps to another and other QUESTION assuring its readers if any attempt is made to answer these, it will TRY to think up some more.

The writer of 'This assumption' undertakes it with fear and trembling because of his consciousness of solemnity and bigness of the subject and his own so limited information. Nor shall I be able to do more than call attention to a few FACTS which have enjoyed the credence of the centuries. It will require some space and much

of the patience of the Journal as it is no light undertaking I therefore, submit to the Journal's readers the following:

First, that the Journal is not the first to ask the question "Who wrote the first five books of the Bible?" Challenging the authenticity thereof, and denying the Word of God. The Devil, "The father of lies," and of "The children of disobedience," inaugurated the system in Eden (Gen. 2:12) and naturally has had eminent children in succeeding generations barking away at the immutable, inerrant Word of God as in our own day. Nor has the Serpent been confined to the garden; but has crawled into the great centers of life, the home, the school, THE CHURCH, most of our newspapers, and appears as an "Angel of Light, poisoning the race unto Eternal Death."

Please note the temptation of our Lord by the same Devil. Question: "If thou be the son of God etc., Answer: 'IT IS WRITTEN' "Man shall not live by bread alone etc., and Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God;" therefore the sufficient answer to this question is IT IS WRITTEN:

"All things must be fulfilled which were written in the law of Moses and in the prophets, and in the Psalms concerning Me, (Luke 24:44). To the law and to the testimony, if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." (Isa. 8:20); "What saith the Scripture?" (Gal. 4:30); "The prophecy came NOT, at any time, by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (2 Pet. 1:21); "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God," etc. (2 Tim. 3:16). And Exodus 24:4, "Moses wrote all," etc.

Every Bible student knows how the laws and ordinances of the Pentateuch are compassed by the oft-repeated expression, "The Lord spake unto Moses." Nearly every chapter in Leviticus commences with these words; also most of the chapters in Numbers, and many of those in Exodus.

We are further told in Acts 7th Chap, 38th verse "That Moses RECEIVED (not compiled, composed, or composed) these living oracles, and spake unto us. Jesus, in John 8:30, 31st verses, TESTIFIES to the divine origin of the writing of Moses, placing them on a level with his own, which he assuredly would not have done had they been merely a compilation, composition, or combination of "3 narratives," of myths, legends, and morals.

But, says an objector, whatever may be said concerning the Pentateuch in general, it is quite certain and impossible that Moses could have written the last chapter of Deuteronomy, seeing it contains an account of his own death and burial. Then, I would ask, WHO DID WRITE IT? since no one but God and Moses were present at the ceremony! Therefore, whoever wrote it must have been inspired. And surely it was as easy for Moses, inspired by God, to write before hand that brief account of his own death and burial—adding, at God's command, a statement which should be true for all time: "No man knoweth of his sepulcher unto this day"—as it was for Joseph, under inspiration, to foretell what would happen to his bones hundreds of years after his death (Gen. 1, 26) or for Isaiah and other prophets to record not merely the fact, but many striking details concerning the sufferings and death of the messiah and even His burial in the "Rich" (Isa. 53:9) man's tomb (Matt. 27:56 to 60). And all this like the account of Moses' death, written in the past tense as if it were a history of what had already taken place, although the prophecies were actually written 700 years before the event occurred.

We therefore reject any and every theory which would rob the Pentateuch of its divine origin, or cast a doubt upon its having been written by Moses, under inspiration from God, and in the fullest and most direct manner.

The thoughtful mind will naturally be struck by the conflicting evidence and inconsistent position of those who criticize the accuracy of the Bible. Not many years ago we were told that Moses could not possibly have written the Pentateuch, because WRITING WAS NOT KNOWN IN THOSE DAYS; and now that it has been proved beyond question that the art of writing was frsely practiced centuries before Moses lived, they go to the other extreme and tell us he copied or compiled his laws and earlier documents. Thus they seek first in one way and then in another, to rob the Bible of its divine element of inspiration, without which, however, THE BOOK would be a greater miracle, if possible, than ever.

Now we can put this vitally important question to a very practical test; for while Moses had no INSPIRED writings (because there were none) to work upon, nevertheless, in the providence of God, we have in our possession (besides many other specimens of UNINSPIRED writing at that remote period) two remarkable documents, believed to have been written about the time of Abraham, and which were, therefore, probably well known

in the days of Moses, comprising between them the two main subjects of which the Pentateuch consists—viz., history and laws. These are—

1 THE CHALDEAN LEGENDS, beautifully written on clay tablets they were discovered by Mr. Layard and others many years ago, buried among the ruins of ancient Ninevah and other cities of Babylonia, and purport to give the story of creation, while the Gilgamesh series of the Babylonian Legends are supposed to contain the story of Cain and Abel, and certainly the story of the Deluge.

2 THE LAWS OF HAMMURABI, who was probably the same person as Amraphel, mentioned in Gen. 15, 1.

First, then as to HISTORY. The very suggestion that Moses obtained his historical information from those Chaldean and Gilgamesh legends, which Prof. Sayce tells us, "were TRADITIONS before being committed to writing," is simply absurd; for interesting as they are they are so full of legendary nonsense, that it would have been a practical impossibility for Moses or any other man to evolve, from such mythical legends, the sober, reverent, and scientific records which are found in the book of Genesis; for "who could bring a clean thing out of an unclean" (Job 14:4)?

Then as regards the LAWS, it may not be generally known that the remarkable code of Hammurabi, though excellent in many respects, merely consist of moral laws as between MAN AND MAN, and entirely omits that which is of far greater importance, and of which the laws of Moses lay such paramount stress, viz., MAN'S OBLIGATION TO GOD. Moreover, it makes no provision for the poor; while Hammurabi himself was an idolater, and worshiped the sun god and other deities: So that here also Moses could not have got his laws—it is evident.

I am indebted to Sidney Collett's work, "All about the Bible" for much of the above. I shall be glad to answer any other questions troubling you, if I can, and your space will allow. Very respectfully,
T. B. CHAPMAN.

THE DINAWAY

(By Joe M. Wilson)

I didn't like the scolding
Mother gave her precious lad,
Or what she'd said she'd do to me
The next time I was bad.
I thought I didn't like the house,
The neighbors or the streets;
My little world seemed full of folks
I didn't want to meet.

And so that very afternoon
I slipped away and hid
But I went back home at supper time
And I am glad I did

I hid out in a neighbor's barn
And watched where I could see,
I thought I'd see my mother come
And search around for me.
I thought for sure there'd be a fuss,
I thought there'd be a crowd;
But no one peeped around the yards
Or called my name out loud.
The loneliness and so
I slipped back home for supper
And the folks just said "hello!"
They didn't ask me where I'd been,
My mother's eyes weren't red,
I'd been away all afternoon
And not a tear she'd shed.
They talked the way they always
Talked, and now as I recall
They never knew that I
Had run away at all.

But I have lived a lot since then,
And learned from day to day
When trouble comes the little men
Still try to run away.
They think that they can hide from
care
But this old world goes on;
And people busy at their tasks
Will never know they're gone.

Discovery of Brazil

Brazil, the largest of the South American countries, was discovered on January 20, 1500, by Vincent Pinzon. A Portuguese named Pedro Alvarez de Cobras, driven upon its coast by a storm in April, 1500, called the region the Land of the Holy Cross, but it was subsequently named Brazil, on account of its red wood.

Steel Long in Use

Steel has been known from very early times, but where and how it was first manufactured is not definitely recorded. Damask steel used in making sword blades was known in Oriental countries from a remote period.

Queer Fishing Apparatus

Two small boys at Sydney, Australia, recently caught 15 fish at once by lowering a large bottle containing bread into the water. The fish were so hungry for bread that they slipped through the neck of the bottle and then couldn't get out.

Duncan-Stockton

James A. Duncan of Nyssa and Miss Mildred Stockton of Parma were married Saturday, January 2, at the Presbyterian manse in Ontario, Rev. W. S. Richey, pastor of the church, officiating. Mr. and Mrs. J. Dallas Duncan of Nyssa were present as witnesses. Jimmie returned to O. A. C., where he is attending school, and will remain there until April when he will return and with his bride will start housekeeping on a ranch near Nyssa.

The Lottery Man

The high school, under the direction of Miss Stevens, gave a play at the Liberty Theatre last Friday evening entitled "The Lottery Man" that was a histrionic success. The young actors all displayed abilities of a high order, and you'd be surprised to see what a funny looking old maid Doris Green made. Splendid music for the occasion was furnished by the high school orchestra, composed of Bernice Vorhies, Mary and Anes Swan, Paul Crooker and Art Servoss.

THE SNOW STORM

The snow is falling fast and dry
Out of a dreary January sky.
The girls and boys are out snowballing
While the snow is softly falling.

The earth is growing very white
Much to the children's great delight.
Boys' sleds will soon fly by;
Girls—Ah! all snowball shy.

Sleighbells come racing along,
Children singing some joyful song.
Whizz! they go down the hill,
Tumbling off like Jack and Jill.

(Written by Miss Brecken's fifth and sixth grades at sight of the snow storm Thursday afternoon. The whole room assisted suggesting the different lines.)

OREGON CONGRESSMEN
ENDORSE SEAL SALE

Stanfield, Sinnott, Hawley, and Crumpacker Approve Work Supported by Seals.

"The anti-tuberculosis movement has always had my unqualified support. I believe that conducting the Sale of Christmas Seals to raise funds for combating this disease (tuberculosis) is a most valuable public service and should by all means be encouraged. Rest assured that I shall be more than glad to do anything I can to further the valuable work."
HON. M. E. CRUMPACKER,
U. S. Representative from Oregon.

"I am glad to most heartily join in wishing the utmost success in the work of those engaged in the anti-tuberculosis campaign."
HON. ROBT. N. STANFIELD,
U. S. Senator from Oregon.

"In a time when we are thinking of making a season especially joyful to those of our immediate family and friends, the contributions to the anti-tuberculosis campaign is an instance of kindly good will toward a number of our fellow citizens who have cause for uneasy apprehension, and the fact that people are mindful of them will help them as much, I believe, as the money will help them. I cordially commend the sale of Christmas Seals."
HON. WILLIS C. HAWLEY,
U. S. Representative from Oregon.

"I wish to cordially endorse the coming anti-tuberculosis campaign in Oregon, through the sale of Christmas Seals. I note with pleasure the report of the great decrease in the death rate from tuberculosis in our home state, during the past fourteen years, and believe that this is due in a large measure to the money derived from the sale of Christmas Seals.

"The Christmas Seal campaign is a most worthy one and I consider it a distinct privilege to be able to add my testimony to the great number who hold a like opinion."
HON. N. J. SINNOTT,
U. S. Representative from Oregon.

Must Not Carry Arms

A soldier is not allowed to carry arms except while on duty. All arms are kept closely checked and are locked up in the arms rack at headquarters whenever a soldier is off duty.

Toll of Weak Mentality

The economic loss from mental disease in this country is estimated at \$300,000,000 annually.—Science Service.

Scouring Ash

Volcanic ash is used in making scouring soaps, abrasives and similar products.—Science Service.

Favorite Christian Names

If a public school in one city might be taken as representative, John takes first place for boys, with William second. Margaret is first for girls, with Mary second.

City Dray Line

C. KLINKENBERG
PROMPT DELIVERY
Reasonable Rates
PHONE 15

NYSSA BARBER SHOP
AND CIGAR STORE

SHAVING, HAIR CUTTING
HOT AND COLD BATHS
PAUL HOWE, Prop.
Nyssa, Oregon

Hidden Treasures

There is many a rich stone laid up in the bowels of the earth, many a fair pearl laid up in the bosom of the sea, that never was seen and never will be seen.—Exchange.

On the Jump

A fellow has to be something of a sprinter to keep up with his good intentions.

THE MUTUAL
LIFE

The Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York has a record of EIGHTY TWO YEARS of prosperous and successful business. It has passed through panics, pestilences and wars unharmed and today, as a result of eight decades of endeavor, offers financial strength, reputation, magnitude, leadership, and life insurance service.

J. R. HUNTER,
Agent, Nyssa, O

Chiropractors

Drs. R. P. and Pearl M. Bradford, licensed in Oregon and Idaho. Carver graduates. Consultation and examination free. Twelve years successful practice in the state. First door west of bank, Nyssa, Oregon.

NOTICE.

In the County Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Malheur. In the Matter of the Estate of Elia W. Otis, Deceased.

Notice is Hereby Given that E. M. Blodgett, the duly appointed, qualified and acting administrator of the estate of Elia W. Otis, deceased, has rendered and presented his final account of the administration of said estate and petition for distribution, and for discharge of such administrator, and that Monday, the 18th day of January, 1926, at the hour of eleven o'clock in the forenoon of said day, in the County Court room in the court house at Vale, Malheur County, Oregon, has been appointed and fixed by the Judge of said county court in an order made and entered by said Judge on the 14th day of December, 1925, as the time and place any and all persons interested in said estate may appear and object to said account, and contest the same; and all persons concerned therein are further notified to be present and show cause, if any there be, why said account and report should not be approved, settled and allowed, and the undersigned discharged as such administrator. E. M. BLODGETT, Administrator of the Estate of Elia W. Otis, Deceased.
First publication December 18, 1925.
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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Department of the Interior,
U. S. Land Office at Vale, Oregon,
January 9, 1926.

Notice is hereby given that Eugene D. Walker, of Walla Walla, Washington, who on April 30, 1909, made Desert Land Entry No. 6934, for SW 1/4 Section 25, and SE 1/4 Section 26, Township 22 South, Range 46 East, Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make final proof under third paragraph of Act March 4, 1915, to establish claim to the land above described, before Register U. S. Land Office at Vale, Oregon, on the 15th day of February, 1926.

Claimant names as witnesses: Ralph Stark, of Parma, Idaho, Mrs. Dolly McCreary of Adrian, Oregon, Clarence Elliott of Nyssa, Oregon, Mrs. Clarence Elliott of Nyssa, Oregon.

Geo. W. McKnight, Register.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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