

GATE CITY JOURNAL

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H. F. BROWN

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ORIGIN OF THE BIBLE

Mr. Chapman in his article this week gives a purported account of the origin of the Bible. Outside of the fact that the account is not true, it seems to be a right. In claiming that for the period from the beginning to about 3500 years ago the world was without a Bible he displays an amazing ignorance of the facts. Practically every ancient civilized nation had its sacred writings, or bible. And it is from these sacred writings of ancient nations that the Jewish bible was, in large part, made up. This is shown in "Origin of Bible Myths and Legends," by Maynard Shipley, from which the following are quotations:

Mr. Bryan and his fellow-fundamentalists believe that all the myths and legends of the Bible—his "revealed will of God"—are unique in the history of sacred literature in the history of the world. He assumes that if the "Genesis" of the Hebrew writings had been lost or destroyed, "the revealed will of God" would have been lost to humanity. He does not suspect that the stories in Genesis are by no means original with the Israelites; that the same myths and legends, the same "miracles" and the same type of "Saviors" are to be found on stone monuments, terra cotta cylinders and clay tablets, and even in books, far older than "The First Book of Moses—Called Genesis." Knowing little of his own "Bible," he is still more ignorant of the Bibles and Saviors and miracles of other peoples—peoples vastly more ancient historically than the tribes of Israel.

Mr. George Smith, of the department of Oriental Antiquity, British Museum, unearthed Assyrian terra cotta tablets, which date from 1500 to 3000 B. C.—antidating the birth of Moses by hundreds of years—which give an account of the creation, the temptation and the fall of man, the tower of Babel and consequent dispersion, and the Deluge, virtually identical with the Genesis accounts. Some texts in the private collection of Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, containing fragments of the legend of the Deluge, go back about 1500 B. C. "Even these are believed to be copies of still older records."—Dr. Hutten, "Ancient History."

These are only a few out of many of the evidences that the Jewish Bible is merely a copy of the Bibles of more ancient peoples. We suppose Mr. Chapman, with "characteristic unbelief," will reject them. 'Tis hard for a leopard to change his spots or for a religionist to give up his idols.

A COMPOSITE WORK

In spite of Mr. Chapman's "characteristic unbelief" the fact that the Pentateuch is a composite work is attested by evidence that cannot be overcome. Even the casual reader, whose mind is not so clouded by religious prejudice that it will not function, can pick out some of the more glaring instances of repeating. Take the story of creation. The first chapter with the first three verses of the second chapter of Genesis tells the complete story of creation—the changing of the earth from a mass "without form and void" to a fit habitation for man, the making of the sun, moon and stars, animals, fowls and fishes, etc., and LASTLY (remember that) man and woman.

The fourth verse of the second chapter begins an entirely different and contradictory account of the creation. In the first

account the whole earth was covered with water and it was some time before any dry land appeared. In the second account "in the day that the Lord made the earth and the heavens" there was no water in evidence until a mist went up from the face of the earth, nor was there any man to till the soil, although a few verses previous God had created both man and woman. In the first account God created man and woman on the sixth day. In the second account man was made, but not the woman, before the beasts of the field, fowls of the air, etc. Which of these two accounts of creation is correct? They can't both be.

The flood story is another glaring example of a dual account. In the sixth chapter God commands Noah to take TWO, male and female, of EVERY kind of animal into the ark. In the seventh chapter God turns around and orders Noah "Of every CLEAN beast thou shalt take to thee by SEVENS, and of every beast that is not clean by two. Whence comes these conflicting orders? The answer is, of course, that they are two separate accounts by different writers.

Still another instance of a double account is the two different reasons given for observing the Sabbath. One reason given (Exodus) is that God completed the work of creation in six days and rested the seventh. The other (Deuteronomy) was because the Lord brought them out of Egypt with a mighty arm. Take your choice.

SOBER, REVERENT AND SCIENTIFIC

One does not need to be gifted with a keen sense of humor to see a joke in Mr. Chapman's reference to the "sober, reverent and scientific records which are found in the book of Genesis." Whatever else the Bible may be, it is NOT scientific. The writers evidently had not the slightest knowledge of any of the common sciences.

Is it scientific to teach that the earth was created in six days and is only 6000 years old? No modern scientist believes it.

Is it scientific to claim that there were day and night before there was a sun. Any eighth grader knows better.

Is it scientific to claim that a serpent talked to a woman? A local Methodist minister a few years ago said that was probably "Oriental imagery." That has a euphonic sound and is probably as good a name as any, unless you care to use the shorter and uglier word. They both mean about the same.

Was it scientific for the sons of God to marry the daughters of men? There is good reason to doubt that the writer of this was even sober, to say nothing of being scientific.

Was it scientific for Ca'n to go off and get married when if Genesis be true there was only one woman in the world at that time. It takes a man and woman both to make a satisfactory marriage.

Was it scientific to teach a belief in witches? Even God seems to have had a wrong idea about those fabulous creatures, for He told Moses to let not one of them remain alive.

Please don't make us laugh by referring to Genesis as scientific.

St. Augustine, said to be "the greatest of the Latin Fathers of the Church," said, as quoted by Mr. Shipley in his book, the story of Creation and the Fall of Man was but an allegorical fiction. "There is no way of preserving the first chapter of Genesis," says Augustine, "without impiety, and attributing things to God unworthy of him. . . . It is very disgraceful and mischievous, and of all things to be avoided, that a Christian, speaking of such matters as being according to the Christian Scriptures, should be heard by an unbeliever talking such nonsense that the unbeliever, perceiving him to be as wide from the mark as east and west, can hardly restrain himself from laughing."

Origen, another eminent Father of the Church, said: "What man is found such an idiot (sh-m) as to suppose that God planted trees in Paradise, in Eden, like a husbandman."

SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

It seems that to be "spiritually minded" makes one omniscient, with the power to tell what the Bible means, even when it says opposite to what it does mean. Brother Chapman, like Elisha just before he had two bears come out and devour 42 little children for calling him "bald-head," seems to have been endowed with a double portion of this power. But how is it that people who have this "spiritual discernment" differ so widely among themselves. So far we have had three explanations of the Elijah incident—and all as far apart as the east is from the west. As a matter of fact, the claim is "bunk" and is used as a ladder by religionists to climb out of a hole when they would otherwise be cornered. The fact there are about 200 Protestant sects and denominations, with their conflicting views, is sufficient to expose the fallacy of that claim.

We gratefully accept Mr. Chapman's offer to answer any of our questions, if he can. He is the man we long have sought and mourned because we found him not. For this week we would like him to explain the discrepancies in the accounts of Ezra and Nehemiah regarding the number of people who came back from Babylon. Ezra makes the number 42,360, but the items in his list only foot up 29,818. Likewise Nehemiah makes the total 42,360, but the items in his list only foot up 31,089. Owing no doubt to a lack of spiritual discernment due to our "characteristic unbelief" we are unable to get the same totals these eminent gentlemen did.

The great advantage of being spiritually minded is shown in Mr. Chapman's answers to our questions. With his spiritual eye he can see the answer to a question that to heretical minds seem impossible. Thus when the Bible gives two different ways that Judas died it is at once evident to Mr. Chapman that he died BOTH ways. The Bible Dictionary in discussing this question says: "The two narratives of Judas' death present serious discrepancies, which can only be reconciled with much INGENUITY." Evidently the writer of the article, Rev. Edward E. Norse, D. D., doesn't possess spiritual discernment or such simple questions wouldn't present any difficulties to him.

There were several points in Mr. Chapman's article this week we were unable to review owing to a lack of type, but will give them the once over next week.

Purported Account of the Origin of the Bible

Boise, Jan. 20.

Gate City Journal: A WORLD without a Bible! How strangely the words sound in our ears! And yet, though few probably realize it, that was the actual condition of this world on which we are living, so far as is known, throughout more than one third of its entire existence as the dwelling place of man. It appears that during the first 2500 years, or about 8500 years ago, man had no written revelation from God.

God was trying man out under CONSCIENCE. He failed and God was now going to place him UNDER LAW and therefore about the close of the first 3000 years God called ABRAM out from the Idols' trappings surroundings of his native home (Gen. 12; Josh. 24.2,15) changed his name to ABRAHAM (Gen. 17.5) and constituted him the head of a people known as the Hebrews or Jews, whom he was pleased to call his own peculiar possession (Deut. 14.2), and whom He specially fitted and prepared during many generations that they might in due time become the depositories of a revelation committed to writing (Rom 3), which would at once be more permanent in its nature and less liable to be either forgotten or corrupted and that they as a nation separated from all

other nations on the earth might themselves learn first "to do all the words of this law" (Deut. 28.19) and in the fullness of time might spread the blessings of this precious heritage among all nations (Mark 16.15; Luke 24.47; Acts 1.8).

Accordingly, about 500 years after the call of Abraham about 1500 B. C., the time came to have this written revelation accomplished which was to embody a history of the preceding 2500 years, including the account of creation, together with God's laws, precepts, promises, prophecies, etc.

For this purpose, MOSES, who had been prepared in a very remarkable way (Heb. 11.24-27) for a task of such transcendent importance, was chosen from among this separated people to commence these sacred writings as Peter reminded the Sanhedrin in his memorable address, saying, MOSES "RECEIVED the lively oracles to give unto us" (Acts 7.38).

Now consider for a moment how the mere existence of the Bible in our midst today is in itself a standing miracle.

As stated, these oracles of God were committed to the Jews for safe keeping; but, although they abounded in severest denunciations of their ways, and again and again foretold their destruction, so that the most natural thing would have been for the Jews to have rid themselves of it all; yet, instead of this, age after age they preserved these Scriptures with superstitious care.

The enemies of the Jews, moreover, have always been the enemies of the Bible. In all the dreadful Jewish persecutions, the chief aim has been to destroy the BOOK that made the Jews what they were. Infidels also from time to time spent their strength in trying to destroy the Bible, while Rome has done her best to burn it.

And yet this very Book rises up today like a phoenix from the fire, with an air of mingled pity and disdain for its foes, as much unharmed by their puny attacks as were Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego by the furnace of Nebuchadnezzar.

Indeed, the Book is not unlike the Irishman's wall which was built four feet wide and three feet high. When scornfully asked why he had been so foolish as to make a wall wider than it was high, the Irishman promptly replied: "Bada! I built it that way so that if the storm should come up and blow it over, it will be higher afterwards than it was before." So the Bible, in spite of all the storms of criticism and infidelity that have for ages beat upon it, it holds from every point of view higher place today than it ever did before.

There is not, so far as known, strange as it may appear, ONE of the original manuscripts of the O. T. or N. T. In some cases, when they became old they were reverently buried by the Jews, who used reliable copies in their stead; others were lost or destroyed during the wars and persecutions of the Jews. In this, even, may we not see the wise providence of God; for had there been any of the original documents bearing the handwriting of Moses, Daniel, Paul or John in existence now, so foolish is the human heart that they would almost certainly be regarded with superstition and worshiped.

So the Septuagint (70 translations) about 271 B. C., was produced in the Greek language—the prevailing one throughout the Roman world. Space will permit only mention of it now; or of the others and all—until we have the King James version, giving the world the "Immutable, inerrant WORD OF GOD, in a remarkably faithful translation.

Now, the Journal, in proof of its position, asks, referring to John 3:13 and 2 Kings 2:11, "Which of these statements is true?" and concludes, with characteristic unbelief: "It is obvious that they can't both be."

I answer that they are BOTH true. Jesus, in the very chapter from which the verse "And no man hath ascended," etc., is taken, is laboring with a wise Ruler—a member of the Sanhedrin, honestly seeking light—has declared to him "Ye MUST be born again;" and poor Nicodemus, like all fallen men, though a ruler, could not understand—quite as hard to see as the unregenerated of all ages. He labors with him down to the 13th verse, which troubles the Journal because of the spiritual import, and which is to say, no man hath ascended to become acquainted with the things in heaven and came down from that world to reveal them—save the Son of Man. See also Eph. 4:9 and 10. And Elijah, in 2 Kings 2:11; went to heaven "according to the Scriptures." Enoch, Elijah and Christ, in three significant providences of God, doubtless certifying the resurrection, in the three great dispensations.

Now as to Judas, BOTH records are true and quite easy of belief. Judas hanged himself as Matthew says, and in the process fell from the limb, or scaffold, over the precipice to the field below, with the result as recorded by Dr. Luke in Acts 1.10, an act of suicide the result of guilt no human conscience could endure and, in fulfillment of prophecy.

Again the Journal says: "There is the false prophecy of Isaiah, Isaiah 7 and 2 Chron., 28. Dozens of others could be cited did space permit."

Yes, and with the same fatuity, ignorance and shame.

A careful reading of the first nine verses of Isaiah, 7th chapter, containing this absolutely true prophecy; and a like careful reading of 2 Chronicles, 28th chapter, and 2 Kings, 16th chapter, will convince the student of its verity. Ahaz being troubled with fear of Rezen and Pekah, is COMFORTED by Isaiah. These kings, in confederation "went up toward Jerusalem to war against it, BUT could not PREVAIL against it." Nevertheless "the hearts of his people (and his heart) as the trees of the wood are moved with the wind." Then God sent the prophet to Ahaz (telling him exactly where to find him) "fear not neither be faint hearted" about this confederation and the evil council against thee" to go up against Judah, and vex it, and let us make a breach therein FOR US, and set a KING in the midst of it, even the son of Tabeal."

"THUS saith the Lord God, it shall not stand, neither shall it come to pass." Now PREVAIL means to overcome, gain the victory or superiority, succeed. These kings did NOT take Judah nor prevail against Jerusalem, make a breach therein and set up a king therein, EVEN a son of ANY of them; but Ahaz continued to reign until his death and was succeeded by his son Sazeakiah, who reigned 29 years and was succeeded by his son, Manasseh, etc.

BUT, because of Ahaz' abominable idolatry, "The Lord his God delivered him into the hand of the king of Syria," and into the hand of the king of Israel and he (Jahaz) was punished thoroughly "because they had forsaken the Lord God of their fathers"—judgment falling upon the sin of Judah, in the loss by death and prisoners, of several thousand—notwithstanding, afterwards many were returned, as recorded in the closing verses of the account. Now see 2 Kings, 5th verse, and we are told that Rezen and Pekah came up to Jerusalem to war, and they besieged Ahaz, but could not overcome him. (Such judgments were common to Israel because of their continued disobedience).

In connection with this same chapter 7 of Isaiah the Journal says it is still waiting for "What grounds the writer of Matthew's gospel had for claiming in this chapter a prophecy of the coming Messiah." The best in the world, in the 14th verse thereof, which is preceded by a very significant interjection, "Is it a small thing for you to worry men, but will you weary my God also?" THEREFORE the Lord himself shall give you a sign; "behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." And HEREIN lies the gist of the whole matter. The inescapable conclusion and FACT—that "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God." The prophet here writes THE WORDS put in his tongue and pen by the Holy Ghost of the coming (700 years afterward) of the Messiah. A statement which he nor any other man could have understood (without revelation) for no such thing was ever known or dreamed of in all the world; a kind of SECONDING, if you please, of what MOSES wrote in the 3d chapter of Genesis, 15th verse, several hundred years back. An intelligent understanding and acceptance of this 14th verse of Isaiah 7 will forever put an end to all cavil, because the truth has been established in the birth of Jesus Immanuel, THIS PROPHECY continuing and embracing within itself enough explosives of divine truth to destroy every doubt and unbelief that Hell might lodge in the heart of an honest inquirer after truth. Apply this Scripture, this prophecy, now indisputably fulfilled, to every perplexing question of Genesis, the other writings of Moses, and the prophets, the law, the Psalms, the Gospels, letters and Revelation, in brief—SEE GOD IN HIS WORD—and you shall see the glorious harmony, beauty and REDEMPTION it contains and conveys.

(There is some more to this letter but as we are about out of type and this seems a good stopping place we will hold the rest over till next week.—Editor.)

Very respectfully,

COLLETT & CHAPMAN,

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.

For Sale

About 15 tons of fine yellow dent corn on cob at \$1.00 per 100 lbs. A. Hinch, Nyssa, Oregon. j15f

For Sale—4 inch centrifugal pump, 5-horse electric motor. Call or address George C. MacLafferty, Nyssa, Or. j13f

Oregon Trail

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Lowe spent Friday afternoon at J. B. Smith's.

Will Beam has been quite sick with the flu the past week.

Pat Mulligan made a business trip to Ontario Friday.

Miss Verdine Miller spent the week end in Vale with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Miller.

Our Sunday school has reorganized with the following officers: Superintendent, Frank Fry. Asst. Supt., Miss Daisy Seroy. Organist, Mrs. Lucile Johnston. Secretary, Miss Miller. Librarian, George Johnston.

Everybody in the community is urged to come and help make it interesting.

Aunt Mattie Thomason is on the sick list.

Dean Smith and family of Nyssa spent Sunday at the Dwight Smith home.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Patterson just returned from a week's visit at Caldwell and Namoa.

COMMUNITY CHURCH NOTES

"The Bible promises no leaves to the to the loaf-r."

"Be lenient with others; severe with yourself."

"Familiarity with Truth never breeds contempt."

You can't go to heaven on gas. How about the state of your spiritual feet?"

The Ladies Aid chicken pie supper Saturday evening was a success socially and financially. The Aid met with Mrs. Dunaway Thursday afternoon of this week.

The Epworth league report an interesting time last Sunday evening.

Special services are being conducted every evening of this week at Apple Valley church by Rev. Lance of Namoa, Idaho. The pastor, Mrs. Hershey, is assisting in the services.

Our Sunday school orchestra is filling a word while need in our S. S. work. You will want to hear them next Sunday, 10 a. m. The various departments of the S. S. work are increasing in interest and attendance, under the leadership of Mrs. W. W. Foster, superintendent.

Presching service next Sunday at the regular hour for worship. A cordial invitation is extended to all.

N. E. Hershey, Pastor.

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.

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