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DEBATE ON INSPIRATION OF BIBLE GROWS WARM

MR. CHAPMAN OF BOISE MAKES ABLE DEFENSE OF HIS VIEWS

Boise, Idaho, Feb. 1, 1926. Gate City Journal:

In the 2nd paragraph of your editorial under "Facts Vs ASSUMPTION", issue of January 1st, you say "Opposed to this ASSUMPTION is the fact that Biblical research has proved by the books themselves that Moses could not be their author. We will give but two illustrations out of many to show that this is so."

I am going to take up the first one in this article; and if I can keep it short enough, without expense to truth, will take up the other 'illustration' also, in the hope of clearing up your two illustrations to the discomfort of the 'fact' you assert vs the "Assumption."

You cite Genesis 14 in which the account of ABRAHAM pursuing the kings unto Dan, is given, and say, "According to Bible chronology the city of Dan was called Laish until its capture by the Danites 331 years after the death of Moses," concluding with "Anyone writing of the city before that time would have referred to it as Laish."

I observe that The Two Illustrations are those of Thomas Paine in his "Age of Reason," indeed, am persuaded that the Journal is actuated by the same reasoning and spirit of that work, so hopelessly lamented upon a dying bed. Apropos of the status of this case, I have thought fit to make this remark, with a view of suggesting to the Journal a consideration of great importance—whether it has examined, calmly, and according to the best of its ability, the arguments by which the truth of revealed religion may, in the judgment of learned and impartial men, be established? You will allow, that thousands of these, in all ages, have embraced revealed religion as true. Whether these men have all been in an error, involved in the darkness of ignorance, shackled by the chains of superstition, whilst you and a few others have enjoyed light and liberty, is a question I submit to the decision of your readers.

If you have made the best examination you can, and yet reject revealed religion as an imposture, I pray that God may pardon what I esteem your error. Thomas Paine, whom the Journal evidently quotes and accepts, was the foremost exponent and champion of infidelity in the last century, and wrote his book "The Age of Reason," in 1793, while in a French prison. In this, he refers to the Bible as "A book of contradictions and lies." May I ask the Journal if this is ITS estimation of the Bible? Its candid answer of this question will enable me better to understand and mightily influence the style and character of the subsequent letters. By it, I shall know whether the occasion was of "its head or its heart."

After Paine had done, in his book, with what he was pleased to call the grammatical evidence that Moses was not the author of the books attributed to him, he tackled the historical and chronological evidence, and began with the book of Genesis. He takes his first argument from the single word, DAN, being found in Genesis, when it appears, from the book of Judges, that the town of Laish was not called Dan until above 330 years after the death of Moses; therefore the writer of Genesis, he concludes, (as does the Journal) must have lived after the town of Laish had the name of Dan given it. Let this objection should not be obvious enough to a common capacity, Mr. Paine ILLUSTRATED thusly: "Havre-de-Grace was called Havre-Marat in 1793; should then any dateless writing be found, in AFTER TIMES, with the name of Havre-Marat, it would be certain evidence that such a writing could not have been written till after the year 1793." Now this is a wrong conclusion, Mr. Paine and Mr. Journal. Suppose some hot republican, in France, should at this day publish a new edition of any old history of France, and instead of Havre-de-Grace should write Havre-Marat; and that, (two or three thousand years hence) a man like the Journal, Maynard Shipley, Geo. Smith, of the department of Orient-

al Antiquity, British Museum, the "Three Wise Men," et al, should, on THAT ACCOUNT, reject the whole history as spurious; would he be justified in so doing? Would it not be reasonable to tell him that the name of Havre-Marat had been inserted, not by the original author of the history, but by a subsequent edition of it; and to refer him, for a proof of the genuineness of the book, to the testimony of the whole French people or nation?

This supposition so obviously applies to the JOURNAL's difficulty that I cannot but recommend it to its impartial attention. BUT, if this solution does not please the Journal, I desire that it prove the DAN mentioned in Genesis was the same town as the DAN mentioned in Judges; I desire, further, to have it proved that the DAN mentioned in Genesis was the name of a town and NOT of a river. It is merely said, "Abram pursued them, the enemies of Lot, to DAN." Now, a river was full as likely to stop a pursuit, as was a town. Lot, we know, was settled in the plain of Jordan; and JORDAN, we know was composed of the united streams of two rivers called JOR and DAN.

So much for the Journal's ILLUSTRATION No. 1. "To show that this is so," I submit that it rather verifies "THE ASSUMPTION."

The last edition of the Journal came to my hand today containing most of my letter of the 20th ultimo (with assurance that the rest will appear this week) cut short, because of scarcity of type, the Editor says; but this might have been prevented had the letter not, apparently, for the convenience of the case, necessitated almost three columns of PREFACE, by the Editor. I am persuaded, somewhat, that it occasioned more than laughter. I am obliged, by the character, or rather manifest tendency of the Journal to dismiss "as untruths all accounts not found by it in infidel records, dictionaries, and writings, to be otherwise alright"; to accept no answers to its questions; to rely upon the infirmity of recollection hoping therein for advantage; I would, therefore, suggest to any who may be following these articles or letters and editorials, that you preserve each copy of the Journal for reference, as I may have occasion, in order that our letters may escape the latest charge of the Journal, of repetition and doubling charged against the Bible.

I conclude this with a statement touching the matter of "prejudice," "religionist," etc., employed by the Journal, with the characteristic sophistry common and so useful to infidelity, that the writer of this letter was, until ten years ago last fall, a rebellious, disobedient child of Hell, living in sin with prejudices, etc., in harmony with unbelief, experiencing the TRUTH of the Bible that "the way of transgressors is hard," trying to find comfort in every way, except God's way of "repenting and believing the Gospel," even to trying to take on "NEW THOUGHT," a clever trap of the Devil—"My sins found me out, O wretched man that I was" when my heart turned for deliverance to the Lamb of God, even Jesus Christ, who bore my sins in his own body on the tree, and I then found, "BY TASTING," that this gospel which infidels despise, and of which Paul was not ashamed, to be "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth." And from that hour on I have been able to say with the troubled Patriarch, "I know that my REDEEMER liveth." It is not prejudice, my dear brother Editor; but Faith, Hope and Charity which will convince any honest inquirer after truth, that THE HOLY BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD, the book of all books, THE Book of Life. God grant unto the Editor and all his readers this knowledge and salvation.

Very respectfully,
T. B. Chapman.

Interested Observer

Joins the Discussion

One statement in Mr. Chapman's article in last week's Journal that would appear to be open to criticism is, "now we have our King James version giving the world the immutable inerrant word of God." If then we have an immutable and inerrant version in the King James translation, then we have the prophecies exactly as they were uttered long ages ago; a version in which

there is no error of any kind or degree for that is what the words mean.

Mr. Chapman admits that none of the original manuscripts is extant today. What we have are copies, nobody knows how many times removed from the original. These copies had of course to be translated into English to give us the King James bible, and from these same copies have been produced a large number of other translations, all different in important respects, yet each claiming to be a true translation of the most ancient texts in existence today.

How then can Mr. Chapman know that our King James is an inerrant translation? The King James translators made no claim to infallibility. Why does Mr. Chapman make it for them now?

The fact is that our Bible does contain errors, many of them. Too many self opinionated scribes have had a hand in preserving it for thousands of years for anyone to be sure it is exactly the same as it was three thousand years ago, or even one thousand.

For centuries it was the habit of monkish scribes to change the scriptural texts to suit their own prejudices. To delete a passage here or add another there was one of their favorite diversions. Even the King James translators were influenced by that haughty monarch to prepare a text not exactly in keeping with the original, when dealing with the divine right of kings.

A monkish scribe in the dark ages probably thought it proper enough to change the words a little in order to uphold his own ideas of what the Bible should say, and in this connection we might say that Mr. Chapman himself seems not averse to adding a few phrases when the case seems to demand it. Take for instance his explanation of the two contradictory accounts of the death of Judas. Matthew says Judas hanged himself, Luke says he fell down and was killed. Mr. Chapman says both statements are true because when Iscariot swung himself up the rope broke and he fell down over a precipice. Well, we are glad to know just how it happened, but how did Mr. Chapman find out about it?

The bible writers didn't say anything about the rope breaking. And we guess that they knew as much about it as anyone.

Again in John 3:13 we read, "No man hath ascended up to heaven but he that came down from heaven." Here Mr. Chapman, being evidently at a loss to furnish a reasonable explanation again resorts to the old and tried if not true method of the medieval monks and changes the unchangeable word by making it read, "No man hath ascended up to heaven to become acquainted with the things in heaven and come down to reveal them, save the Son of Man." This rank interpolation is presumed to strengthen the faith of those who believe the King James version to be both immutable and inerrant.

Thus it has been throughout the ages. Blind leaders of the blind, probably obsessed with the idea that they themselves were in direct communion with God, have never hesitated to change the scriptures when it suited their purpose.

In just this way many errors have been incorporated in the Bible.

Interested Observer.

ANONYMOUS WRITER

SETTLES MATTER TO HIS OWN SATISFACTION

Dear Mr. Editor:

I don't know whether or not you—having found the defender of the faith, with the requisite amount of temerity, for whom your heart has so long yearned—will welcome this attempt to inject another syllogism into the controversy now raging in the columns of the Journal between yourself and brother Chapman, but I believe you are both shinning up the wrong persimmon tree. Of course, I have neither the wish nor hope to shake a faith of the quality apparently possessed by Mr. Chapman, who, like Mr. Bryan, is able to believe anything in the Bible, even though he knows it isn't so. But of the editor's susceptibility to ideas at variance with his own preconceived conviction, I entertain some slight hope. At any rate, here goes:

1) The English version of the Bible, at least, (and we may as well say all versions extant, as all are translations) is NOT inerrant; (2) there is no reason why it should be; (3) but all of its text necessary to the unfolding of the Divine plan (in due season) to the elect bears all the earmarks of more than human inspiration.

Of the first premise the editor

MALHEUR COUNTY TO HAVE NEW GRANGES

BROGAN AND ANNEX TO HAVE FARMER'S ORGANIZATION IN NEAR FUTURE.

Work is practically completed for two more new granges in Malheur county, one in the Annex and River View districts across from Weiser and the other at Brogan. The former is to be completed on the 11th and the other on the 10th of February. W. R. Gekeler, State Deputy, has been working on the granges and has the membership practically all signed up and the prospects are for two live organizations. Several other prominent speakers will be present for the meetings as well as at the meeting of Boulevard Grange at Ontario on the 12th of February when a special drill team will be present to assist in instructing a large class of new members.

The grange is the most active organization in Oregon in rural development and a large number of prominent farmers in the county are taking hold of the work with the idea of rushing Malheur county to the front in the work.

Captain William Hogbin, Civil War veteran and one of a family of twenty-one children, was driven out of Dubuque, Iowa, in 1877 because he talked against liquor.

at least will require no proof as he could no doubt produce 500 examples himself, and for Mr. Chapman's sake, one citation should be sufficient at this time. If my surmise is correct as to the sect with which Mr. Chapman is affiliated, he sets great store by the text in Rev. 20. 5: THE REST OF THE DEAD LIVED NOT AGAIN UNTIL THE THOUSAND YEARS SHOULD BE FINISHED. This entire text is spurious, and does not appear in the Vatican ms.

Now for ye editor: This text, as well as all additions, elisions, mis-translations and apparent contradictions should make no difference to us, Mr. Editor—unless we are going to take the preacher's words for it that the Bible was intended to convert the world. That it has not done this is the best proof that such was not its purpose (if it is of Divine origin), nor would two-thirds of it have been hidden in symbols, parables and dark sayings, had that been its Author's purpose. If inspired, its purpose was intentionally hidden from all but a few who would be imbued with faith akin to Mr. Chapman's. To all others the Bible is filled with stumbling blocks and rocks of offense, and no attempt is made therein to square its statements with science, "so called." It is only the misguided preacher who attempts the latter. So when, and if ever, Mr. Chapman awakens to the fact that the Bible does not have to be "scientific" nor historically correct, the editor will lose his correspondent. And though I would not try to warn him away from the editor's bear trap, yet I think a little reflection will convince Mr. Chapman that the Great Mystery must remain buried in error, as far as the world is concerned, until Satan is bound: otherwise the Old Boy would know it all, and order his earthly kingdom differently. "Abandon reason all ye who enter here," is the plain Biblical admonition to the household of faith.

That portions of the Bible bear evidence of more than human inspiration, I believe the editor will admit in his heart of hearts, as he is evidently a student of it, and must have taken note of the "coincidences" of history corroborating prophetic passages recorded therein. So I refrain from boring him with any of the more familiar examples. But if he is unable to discern the spark of inspiration in the following from Isaiah, then his experience in trying to get some theologian to pick up his gage has profited him little:

Isaiah, 56. 10: His watchmen (shepherds) are blind, they are without knowledge; they are all Dumb Dogs (D. D.'s), they cannot bark; dreaming, lying down, loving to slumber. 11 Yea, the dogs are greedy, they can never have enough; and these are shepherds that cannot understand; they have all turned to their own way; each one to his gain, from every quarter. (Capitals and parenthesis mine).

Yours truly,
PEACEMAKER.

P. S. I will ask to remain anonymous, as I have no desire to father, or have named after me a new warning sect. Which is not to intimate that there is anything original in all this, for as the Preacher saith: "There is nothing new under the sun."

COUNTY AGENT'S OFFICE WILL CONTINUE IN MALHEUR COUNTY

At the regular monthly meeting of the county court, on Wednesday, monies from inspection fees were certified over to the extension service of the Oregon Agricultural college, for the continuance of the county agent's office. The service was made possible by and with the cooperation of the county court and largely through public subscription. Business men of Nyssa, Vale and Ontario generously supported the movement. According to A. H. Chester, who circulated a petition here, Vale easily reached its quota.

In return for inspection fees received from the county, the county agent's office will take care of both federal and county inspection work.

W. L. Shovel New Agent
W. L. Shovel, the new county agricultural agent, comes to Malheur county well recommended. He is already established at the former office in Ontario. In a recent letter of introduction to county farmers, Mr. Shovel says:

"Through the combined efforts of a number of farmers and business men of the county, the County Court and the Farm Bureau organization arrangements have been made to continue the work of this office the coming year. The office is now open and we are anxious to serve you as in the past.

"For your information permit me

to state that it shall be the aim to continue the work along the lines established by Mr. Breithaupt as much as possible. The inspection of nursery stock, quarantine and grade certification will be administered through this office as before. Under the new arrangement there will be no assistant county agent except during the shipping season when additional help will be necessary to take care of inspection.

"Our first contact will be a squirrel poisoning campaign. We have a limited supply of poison on hand and are making arrangements to secure more. The present weather conditions indicate that this work will begin earlier than usual.

"Coming to you as a stranger I would appreciate your getting in touch with the office at your first opportunity. Before we can assist you in your problems we must get acquainted with each other and with the conditions under which we are working. As soon as possible I expect to visit the different communities, arrange for meetings with the various committees and get into actual contact with the agriculture of the county. In the mean time do not forget that this is your office and that the Extension Department is here to serve you to the best of its ability, and that getting acquainted is the first move toward a successful year's work."

MRS. H. LEE NOE DIES SUDDENLY

From the Malheur Enterprise.

On Saturday night our little city was saddened by the sudden death of Mrs. H. Lee Noe. Although she had been ill a week, her condition was not considered critical, so the news came with a distinct shock to everyone. It seems that Friday morning she suffered a relapse and at 6 o'clock Saturday night drifted into eternal sleep. The end came peacefully and there was no struggle to mark the close of her gentle, helpful Christian life.

Death Unexpected

For the past two years she had been subject to periods of poor health, but on Friday of last week was afflicted with a very different malady. It began with very painful eruptions in the ears and complications developed meningitis. Several doctors were called and it seemed that on Thursday she improved somewhat. With the relapse Friday morning she drifted into a coma, and never regained consciousness.

Beloved Pioneer

The events of the life of Della Noe may be stated in a few words, but the story of the influence of her gentle, kindly life and the remembrance of her as a true wife and devoted mother would fill many pages. These memories will remain as precious recollections to her friends and neighbors and as beautiful heritage to the loved ones who mourn her passing.

She was a member of the Christian church, and order of the Eastern Star. She was born at Corydon, Iowa, on November 16, 1875, and was 50 years old at the time of her death. She was first married to H. S. Bullock, who died a number of years ago. Two children were born to this union, Claud and L. K. Bullock. About thirty years she lived in Vale and vicinity.

On December 7, 1922, she was married to H. Lee Noe, who was at that time sheriff of Malheur county. Since the last election Mr. Noe has served as judge of Malheur county.

The funeral service was conducted from the Nelsen chapel Monday at 1 o'clock, with the Rev. Broyles, Baptist minister of Ontario, officiating. Hundreds of friends crowded the chapel and the street outside for half a block to pay a last tribute to their gentle friend and neighbor. Beautiful floral offerings covered the casket of the loved one, tokening the deep regard of the people of Vale.

A number of relatives accompanied the body to Roswell cemetery where it was sadly and reverently laid in its final resting place.

LINCOLN'S ADVICE

Abraham Lincoln's advice on how to live was quite simple. It was: "Do not worry. Eat three square meals a day. Say your prayers. Be courteous to your creditors. Keep your digestion good. Steer clear of billousness. Exercise. Go slow and go easy."

WARMSPRINGS FARMER SEEKS DAMAGES

Portland.—Request that the state game commission reimburse him for \$1800 alleged damages done to his corn crop during the last two years by Chinese pheasants was contained in a letter from Trent Johnson of Vale, sent to the secretary of state and forwarded to the game commission here yesterday. The sum lost is about half his normal income for two years, Johnson's letter said.

Johnson took the stand that since the state protected these birds and prohibited their shooting, financial responsibility for loss due to their depredations was up to the game commission. He also requested a special dispensation to kill the birds.

E. F. Averill, state game warden, said yesterday that the commission had no authority to reimburse such losses and that Johnson could only get satisfaction by means of a special act of the legislature. Investigation by wardens had determined that a great part of Mr. Johnson's damages had been caused by crows, which are not protected, Mr. Averill said.

Steps will be taken by the commission, however, to remove the pheasant menace to crops in Malheur county. The commission will set a number of pigeon net-traps in the region in the near future, Mr. Averill stated, and if enough birds are caught will replenish the supply in different parts of the Willamette valley.

WATER RIGHTS SETTLED IN BURNT RIVER DECISION

Baker.—News that the long-drawn out contest involving water rights on 27,425 acres on Burnt river and its tributaries in Baker county had been settled by the state was received here today from State Engineer Luper. The rights of 245 users were involved.

In 1867 the Eldorado mining ditch was started, carrying the water for over 100 miles across the divide into the Malheur river basin. This ditch is now used for irrigation. In the recent adjudication the water rights claimed through this ditch were hotly contested the ranches on Burnt river being loathe to concede any right in the present owners of the Eldorado ditch to divert any water completely out of the water shed. As finally passed upon by the court, this right was allowed to a limited extent.

TESTS SHOW MOONLIGHT TO BE "RADIO WRECKER"

Moonlight, a commodity generally believed to worry nobody but the writers of popular songs, today was revealed in new role as a radio wrecker.

Preliminary tests for the national survey of fading and static to be conducted by the Stewart-Warner Speedometer Corporation in cooperation with Northwestern University, Dept. of Physics, on the nights of February 9, 10 and 11 from 8 to 11, central standard time, brought unexpected reports on the insidious activities of the moon.