

BRYAN STATION BAPTIST CHURCH

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

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“Preaching the same truth since before Kentucky was a state”

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ARGUMENTS FOR THE INSPIRATION OF THE SCRIPTURES

By: C. D. Cole

We are occupied with man's need of a written revelation. We come now to look at God's supply of that need in the Book we call the Holy Bible. Conditions everywhere today ring forth the clarion call "Back to the Bible," and the need and hope of the churches is to heed that call. We need men in the pulpits today who know the Bible, and who bow to its authority, and who will dare to press its commands as well as its promises upon the people.

God tells us that he has set His word above His Name, and the most dangerous thing one can possibly do is to trifle with the word of God. Many people clearly evidence their lost condition by their attitude towards the Bible. Our purpose is to present evidence that the Bible is the word of God.

THE WORD OF GOD

The Bible claims to be the word of God. The Bible is either the word of God, or else it is a bad book. If it is not what it claims to be, then it is not worthy of notice. People are utterly inconsistent in extolling the Bible as a good Book, and at the same time deny its infallibility. All through the Bible runs the expression, "Thus saith the Lord." This phrase or its equivalent is used in the Old Testament many times. Isaiah 7:7, "Thus saith the LORD God, It shall not stand, neither shall it come to pass." Exodus 20:1-2, "And God spake all these words, saying, I am the LORD thy God..." Exodus 35:1, "And Moses gathered all the congregation of the children of Israel together, and said unto them, These are the words which the LORD hath commanded that ye

should do them." II Peter 1:21, "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." II Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

FULFILLED PROPHECIES

Prophecy is the foretelling of events before they come to pass; it is God writing history before the events actually occur. This is the acid test of a Divine revelation; and God's appeal to fulfilled prophecy is made all through the Bible. Deuteronomy 18:15, "The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken." Isaiah 41:21-23, "Produce your cause, saith the LORD; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob. Let them bring them forth, and shew us what shall happen: let them shew the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come. Shew the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods: yea, do good, or do evil, that we may be dismayed, and behold it together." II Peter 1:19-21, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as

they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

Man stands before an impenetrable wall of darkness, he is unable to foresee the events of the next hour. Who can tell what the next few hours will bring in the present conflict in the far east? Man may make some general predictions about the future, but the Bible contains hundreds of prophecies, which have been literally fulfilled hundreds of years after they were written. This can be explained only on the grounds that the Bible is the infallible word of God. I shall call your attention to only a few of these prophecies:

Those about Christ. Christ is the one great object of prophecy. Revelation 19:10, "And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Hebrews 10:7, "Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God." The first mention of Christ in the Bible: Genesis 3:15, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." The race through which Jesus would come: Genesis 11:10, "These are the generations of Shem..." Nation of Israel: Genesis 28:14, "And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed." Galatians 3:16, "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of

one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.”
 Tribe of Judah: Genesis 49:10, “The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.” The family of David: II Samuel 7:16-17, “And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever. According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.” The birth of Christ: Isaiah 7:14, “Before the LORD himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” The place of His birth: 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.” The death of Christ: in Psalm 22 it was prophesied that they would pierce His hands and feet; that the people would stare at Him; that His garments would be divided among them, and that they would cast lots for His vesture. Verses 6-8, 11, 13-18, “a reproach of men, and despised of the people. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him...Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help...They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a pottersherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.” The very words that Christ spoke on the cross were prophesied. Psalm 22:1, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?..” Sold for thirty pieces of silver: Zechariah 11:12-13, “...So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prized at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD.” Vine-

gar and gall: Psalm 69:21, “They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.”

Those about the Jews. Frederick the Great once demanded of one of his marshals, who was a devout believer, proof of the truth of the Bible in one word. “The Jews,” was the laconic, unanswerable reply. Matthew 24:1-2, “And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.” Luke 21:5-7, “And as some spake of the temple, how it was adorned with goodly stones and gifts, he said, As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? And what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?” Read the history of it by Josephus. Josephus was with Titus in this campaign and afterwards wrote a history of the event.

Subsequent history of the Jews. Luke 21:24, “And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.” Again and again the Jews tried to get control of their ancient city and former home. Deuteronomy 28:64-66, “And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone. And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind: and thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life.”

The prophecy of Josiah. He was to burn the bones of the priests on the altar at Bethel. This prophesy was approximately 975 B.C. I Kings 13:1-2, “And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Be-

hold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men’s bones shall be burnt upon thee.” Was this prophecy ever fulfilled? Most assuredly. II Kings 23:15-16, “Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake down, and burned the high place, and stamped it small to powder, and burned the grove. And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchres that were there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchres, and burned them upon the altar, and polluted it, according to the word of the LORD which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words.” This fulfillment was approximately 624 B.C.

DIVINE AUTHORSHIP

The wonderful unity of the Bible attests its Divine authorship. The unity of the Bible is a miracle in itself. Penned on two continents, written in three languages, its composition and compilation extended through the slow progress of sixteen centuries. It was written by some forty different authors, under varying circumstances. Parts of it written in tents, deserts, cities, palaces, dungeons; in times of imminent danger and seasons of ecstatic joy. Among its writers were judges, priests, kings, prophets, prime-ministers, herdsmen, scribes, soldiers, physicians, and fishermen. Yet despite these varying circumstances, conditions, and workmen, the Bible is one Book. It holds together. There is an affinity, one part for the other. The plan of salvation is one throughout. Isaiah agrees with Paul, etc.

GOD’S WORD

Its frankness in dealing with the sins of its heroes, and authors, gives evidence that it is God’s word. Human biographies give the bright side of a man’s life. They extol his virtues and praise his achievements, but say little or nothing about his sins. But the characters of the Bible are painted in the colors of truth.

MORAL POWER

Its moral power over men and nations gives evidence that it is God’s word. Queen Victoria was once asked the secret of the greatness of the British Empire. She lifted a Bible from her table, opened

it and said, "Here it is!" Wendell Phillips once eloquently exclaimed: "The answer to the Shasta is India; the answer to Confucianism is China; the answer to the Koran is Turkey; the answer to the Bible is America.

SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY

Its scientific accuracy is evidence that it is God's word. The Bible is not a book on science, but it does abound in scientific statements. Can you make something out of nothing? Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Job 26:7, "He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing." Jeremiah 33:22, "As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured..." Isaiah 40:22, "It is he that sitteth upon 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."

Its design is to reveal to man his need of salvation, and how that need has been met in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. I Corinthians 15:1-4, "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

CONFIRMATION

Its inward confirmation gives evidence it is God's word. It satisfies. This point can be appreciated by none except the saved. I Peter 2:9, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."

JESUS THE SAVIOUR

By: Dr. C. D. Cole

Introduction: Dr. F. Townley Lord tells of a city in Austria where there used to be various representations of Jesus' in art, each figure representing a certain aspect of his ministry to men. And as the country folk crossed the bridge into the city they could find and consider the peculiar figure of Jesus that most appealed to them. The herdsmen would naturally stop at the figure that represented Jesus as a Shepherd. The artisans would pause by the figure that represented Jesus as a carpenter. Gardeners would pause by the figure of Jesus as a Sower. The weak and ailing would be struck by the figure that represented Jesus as the great Physician. And on and on.

John Newton wrote that beautiful hymn:

*"How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear;
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, and drives away his fear.*

*It makes the wounded spirit whole, and calms the troubled breast;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul, and to the weary, rest.*

*Dear Name, the Rock on which I build, My Shield and Hiding Place;
My never-failing Treasure, filled with boundless stores of grace.*

*Jesus, my Shepherd, Saviour, Friend, My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, accept the praise I bring."*

In this hymn John Newton had to call on many ideas and metaphors to do justice to that name. Jesus is called Rock, Shield, Hiding Place, Treasure, Shepherd, Friend, Prophet, Priest, and King, Lord, Life, Way, and End. And we could add other names such as Master, Leader, Teacher, our all and in all; and many more.

But Saviour is the Name that expresses what Jesus should be to every man. Here is the common denominator of the one who meets every human need. Saviour is the exclusive name of Jesus. Teacher, leader, master, shepherd, friend, prophet, priest and king are titles worn by other men. But the name Saviour belongs to none but Him; Jesus of Nazareth.

Dora Greenwell expresses our thoughts in these lines:

*"He did not come to judge the world,
He did not come to blame:
He did not only come to seek; it was to save he came
And when we call Him Saviour, we call him by His Name."*

The name Saviour must take precedence over every other name. He must be Saviour before He can be our Shepherd. He must be Saviour if he is to be our friend.

SAVIOURHOOD IMPLIES SINNERSHIP

He is Saviour because there are sinners. People who are not bothered about their sins do not want him as Saviour. Those stuck on themselves are not attracted to Him as Saviour. Where sin is not bitter, Christ is not sweet. Where there is no confession of sin, there will be no real confession of Him. Where there is no sense of sin and feeling of guilt, there can be no faith in Him. When sin is denied, He is rejected.

Human nature is terribly deceived. It calls trifles treasures, and true riches are regarded as baubles. Men are so absorbed in buying and selling, planning and spending, that they cannot hear the cry of the soul for salvation. Men are so proud of the achievements of the 20th century that they have no appreciation of what was done on Calvary. Science has wrought wonders and banished many ugly things from the world, but it has not banished sin.

We need to get back to the Biblical conception of sin. Sin is lawlessness; rebellion against the authority of God. This rebellion is deep-seated in the human heart. And this rebellion calls for punishment. Sin is that which separates men from God and exposes them to His wrath. Sin is that which must be dealt with by a Lawgiver. The law says the wages of sin is death. And there is going to be Pay-Day Some-Day.

Sin is a matter of omission as well as commission. Sin is refusal to do what God has commanded as well as doing what he has forbidden. You can sin without doing anything.

SAVIOURHOOD INVOLVES ATONEMENT!

RAYMOND JOHNSON - REVIVAL TAPES AVAILABLE

Our church recently enjoyed a series of meeting with Pastor Raymond Johnson, Missionary to the Choctaw Indians in Oklahoma. The cassettes of his messages are available and would be a great blessing to listen to. Suggested donation is \$1.50 each (includes postage).

- 1 - Have You Lost Your Mind?
- 2 - What Happens When God Hurls His Servant Into Battle?
- 3 - Why We Need a N.T. Church in the Community.
- 4 - Son Remembered

- 5 - A letter To The Scattered Stranger
- 6 - Sacrifice and Service
- 7 - I Am Not Ashamed of the Gospel
- 8 - What Is A Missionary Baptist Church?