

# What Saith the Scriptures Volume One Parts I – III

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ARTICLE #1
The Inspiration of the Scriptures #1

The Bible is a book which makes many claims. It claims there is a spiritual being known as God, who is all knowing, all powerful, all good, all merciful and all loving and that he is the only God whoever has been, now is or ever will be.

It also claims that this one God is its author and that he created the world and all things therein.

It says that man unlike all other living things created by this one God was given a spirit or soul which will never die. Then it reveals a time will come when this one God will destroy all that he created except the soul of man (II Pet. 3:9-10).

After this it declares that some of the souls will be permitted to dwell eternally with this one God in heaven, but others will be rejected and have to dwell eternally in a place called hell (Matt. 25:31-46, Rev. 20:12-15 and Rev. 21:3-8).

In giving a description of these two places it describes heaven as an eternal place of abode where there will be no more tears, death, sorrow, crying or pain; and hell as an eternal dwelling place for those who shall be punished day and night forever and ever in a lake of fire and brimstone (Matt. 25, Rev. 21:3-8, Rev. 14:10).

It then sets forth the fact that those who accept God's plan of redemption from sin offered through Jesus his Son, will be granted an inheritance into heaven and all who reject it, shall become the inhabitants of torment (Deut. 18:18-19, Jo. 5:40, Jo. 6:67-68, John 14:16 and many other scriptures).

The Bible also claims that those who accept God's Plan as recorded in it, will have a much better quality of life while dwelling here than those who reject it (Mat.. 19:29 and I Tim. 4:8).

My friends, if these claims made by the Bible are true, then we have cause for great rejoicing; because when we come to the end of this life, we unlike the beast of the field will not be coming to the end of all that is and as nothing going away to the land of nowhere. The end of this life will be nothing more than moving from one life and place into another life which will be an infinite number of times greater.

It will be as a weary traveler finding a wonderful place to rest. Matt 11:28 and Hebrews 2 and 3, or as one moving from a run down shanty into a magnificent mansion (Jo. 14:1-3), or as one from a small vanishing village taking up an eternal abode in a city which is so great that the foundation of its wall is garnished with all manner of precious stone and its wall is jasper and its twelve gates are twelve pearls and its streets are paved with pure gold (Rev. 21:18-21).

Then, too, if all of these claims of the Bible be true we should find it no surprise to hear Jesus in Matt. 16:26 say "What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world and loose his own soul?" Neither should we be amazed when we read from Hebrews chapter 11 of a great host of people who were willing to pay the price of making tremendous sacrifices and enduring unjustifiable, harsh and cruel punishment for the right of citizenship in that great and wonderful city whose Builder and Maker is God.

In Rev. 3:20 we hear Jesus say "Behold I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will

come into him and will sup with him, and he with me."

My friend, if for some reason you as one who believes in the claims of the Bible have not opened that door, I hope your reading of this article has in some small way helped you realize you should.

With all my heart I believe the Bible is a book of truth, and also with all my heart I want you to believe this. So the purpose of the next few articles will be to present evidence which I believe will remove all doubts about its authenticity. You are cordially invited to read them.

By: Tommy Hodge

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ARTICLE #2
The Inspiration of the Scriptures #2

In last week's article I pointed out that the Bible is a book which makes many claims.

If these claims are true then the Bible is the most important book that has ever been published. However, we cannot just automatically believe in the truthfulness of these claims. Genuine faith is not that which one blindly accepts but that which he cannot deny because of available undeniable facts.

Without any reservation whatsoever, I believe the Bible is a book of truth. So the purpose of this article and others to follow, will be to present evidence which I believe will convince you to also believe in its authenticity.

Now first allow me to acknowledge my awareness of the fact that the Bible was written by men. However, these men made no claims for themselves. No, they firmly and humbly declared that the things which they penned were revealed unto them by this one and only God of whom they wrote.

It is generally accepted that Moses wrote the first five books of the Old Testament. So let's see what he had to say about his teachings.

In Exodus 24:1-4, Exodus 35:1 and Deut. 4:1-4, we read these statements, Moses told the people all the words of the Lord. Moses wrote all the words of the Lord. Moses said unto Israel these are the words, which the Lord hath commanded. You are not to add to or take away from what I command you, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.

Now let's see what some of the other Old Testament writers had to say about their teachings. Samuel in II Sam. 23:2 wrote "The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my mouth."

Isaiah in speaking of what he was about to write in Isaiah 1:2 said "Hear, O Heaven and give ear oh earth for the Lord hath spoken."

As Jeremiah lifted his pen to write the Book of Jeremiah, he declared that what he was about to write would be the word of the Lord (Jer. 1:4). Then in Jer. 1:9 he said, "The Lord put his words in my mouth."

Ezekiel in Ez. 2:7 and Ez. 3:4, said the Lord said unto him, "Speak with my words unto them."

In Amos 1:3-13 it is said five times that Amos wrote "Thus saith the Lord." This same statement is also found in Amos 3:1

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and Amos 4:16. Then in chapter 7:1 he said "Thus hath the Lord God shewed unto me."

Yes, my friends, the men who wrote the Old Testament definitely claimed they were God inspired teachers.

Likewise the writers of the New Testament made this same claim. Yes, they said that which we teach is not of ourselves but that which God through Jesus and Jesus through the Holy Spirit reveals unto us. Acts 2:4 says they spake as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 4:29 says they prayed to God for boldness to speak his word.

The Apostle Paul referred to that which he taught as being the gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:15-16), the commandments of God (I Cor. 14:14-37) and the word of God (1 Thess. 2:1). Gal. 1:11-12 says Paul received all his teachings by revelation. Rev. 1:1 says John was inspired to write the Book of Revelation. 1 Cor. 2:6-13 and Eph. 3:5 say that the afore unknown New Testament was revealed unto the holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. I Pet. 1:12 says that all those who had a part in giving unto us the gospel of Christ or the New Testament, did so by the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven.

I believe those men did (as they said) receive what they wrote from an all knowing God; and I believe evidence presented in future articles will confirm this. You are cordially invited to read them.

By: Tommy Hodge

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ARTICLE #3

The Inspiration of the Scriptures #3

Is the Bible true or false? We are presently engaged in a study, the purpose of which is to prove the Bible is a Book of Truth.

In last week's lesson, I cited numerous statements made by the men who wrote the Bible. In those statements they declared over and over and over again that God gave them the very words they penned.

Now if God is truly the type of God they say he is and if their writings were that which they received from him, then the Bible is not a book of lies but a book of truths. However, as I have said before we cannot in the absence of proof accept their claims. So the purpose of today's lesson will be to offer supportive evidence for what we have heard them say. Consider this with me please. The Bible was written by about forty men. These men were from all walks of life. Some of them were well educated and others had very little formal education. It was about sixteen hundred years from the time the first writer began to write until the last one finished. Then all the books they had written under the afore cited circumstances were collected and made into one book, the Bible. What kind of book had they written?

(1) They had written a book in which there was not to be found one single geographical, historical or scientific error. In fact they had written a book which was pre-geographical, pre-historical and pre-scientific. Yes, they spoke of geographical and scientific facts hundreds and some times thousands of years

before they were known by others; likewise, they wrote accurately of many historical events long before they came to pass. Could uninspired men have accomplished this?

(2) They had written a book which had something to say about hundreds and hundreds of subjects and all forty of them in their writing from year one until year sixteen hundred had something to say about almost all of them. However, no subject was left dangling but was fully and completely discussed. Neither was there to be found one example in the writings of any one of the forty which was inconsistent with that which had been written by the other thirty-nine.

(3) They had written a book which would never have need of being revised. From the days of Moses until this year nineteen hundred eight-seven there has been an innumerable number of scientific and archeological discoveries. These discoveries have from time to time sent out scientists and historians back to their publishers requesting revised editions of their publications. However, all these thousands of discoveries have never brought about the need for changing even one word in any scientific, geographical or historical statement penned by any of the forty men who wrote the Bible.

(4) They had written a book which was to be more enduring than the Rock of Gibraltar. Many years ago a famous unbeliever predicted the life expectancy of the Bible to be but a few years; however, it is still alive and very healthy.

(5) They had written a book which would discredit its would-be destroyers. Yes, after many discoveries and much learning, numerous former opponents who had scoffed at many of its scientific and historical statements were forced to accept them.

(6) They had written a book which was to have more influence for good than all other books put together. If as a child I had been capable of comprehending that which was written in the book those forty men wrote as I now do, then as a child I would have said give me parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, teachers, a companion, children, in-laws, an employer or employees, merchants, physicians, neighbors and local, state and federal government officials who will allow the teachings found on the pages of that Book to direct their steps and you will have almost given me heaven on earth.

It is said the proof of the pudding is in the eating, and I say unto you the proof of the claim of inspiration made by the forty men who wrote the Bible is in the reading. Yes, the Bible was written by men, but not by uninspired men; otherwise, how shall we account for the great and wonderful book they wrote?

By: Tommy Hodge

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ARTICLE #4

The Inspiration of the Scriptures #4

The forty men who wrote the Bible claimed an all powerful and an all knowing God gave unto them the very words they penned.

In today's lesson I shall continue presenting evidence which I believe will confirm the truthfulness of their claim.

The writers of the Bible penned many pre-scientific

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statements. Many years before any one was aware of the shape of the earth Solomon in Prov. 8:27 and Isaiah in Isaiah 40:22 referred to its shape as that of a circle, therefore, it necessarily follows they were inspired to write this.

Years and years before the invention of the telescope in 1608, Job in Job 26:7 wrote about the empty space in the North. Sure today we all know about this empty space because we can see it through our powerful telescopes; however, Job did not have a telescope so how except by inspiration was he made aware of its existence?

Job in Job 26:7 also wrote "He hangeth the earth upon nothing." Now here is a simple uncomplicated statement, but it clearly teaches the law of gravity. Yet Job wrote about it more than 3000 years before it was discovered by Sir Isaac Newton. Yes, again he made a pre-scientific statement which he could not have known of himself. So it must have been an all knowing God who gave him the words with which to write it.

Benjamin Franklin and Thomas A. Edison discovered that static electricity could be formed by condensing water. Yet, years and years before their time, Jeremiah in Jer. 10:13 said God makes lightning (or static electricity) with rain or (by the condensing of water). All right since Jeremiah stated this fact long before men of science discovered it, then how, if not by inspiration did he receive this information?

David in Psalms 8:8 referred to the paths of the sea. Many years later Matthew Fontaine Maury after hearing this passage read by his son, said if the Bible says there are paths in the sea, then they are there, and I intend to find them. A few years later he did. If all men of science had believed as strongly in the Bible as this man did, then maybe many of the other pre-scientific statements found in the Bible could have spared us the long delay of discoveries which now provide us with so much scientific information. Who knows if some scientist had read and meditated upon Jeremiah's inspired writing found in Jeremiah 10:13, then the people of the world might have had electricity long before the time of Benjamin Franklin.

Before the invention of the telescope in 1608, men of science said there are only a few stars. However, after viewing the sky through it, they were made aware that it was filled with billions and billions of them. Yes, now we know this but Jeremiah twenty-six hundred years before the invention of the telescope, in Jer. 33:22 spake of the impossibility of numbering the great host of stars. How did he know that?

Today we know why the sea does not dry up nor overflow because we are familiar with the law of evaporation and precipitation. However, years and years before we knew about this law Solomon as inspired by God wrote in Eccl. 1:7 "All the rivers run into the sea; yet, the sea is not full unto the place from whence the rivers come thither they return again." Read Acts 17:26 and I Cor. 15:39 and you will hear the Apostle Paul say all men are of one blood but all flesh is different. These things he said a long long time before they were accepted as truth by the scientific world.

My friends, the pre-scientific statements which I have presented are by no means all that are recorded in the Bible; nevertheless, I believe they will suffice to establish my point that the writers of the Bible did write pre-scientific statements and that they did this sometimes hundreds, yea thousands of years

before they were known by men of science. Friends inasmuch as they were able to accomplish this otherwise unheard of feat, it seems to me we have no choice but to allow this to stand as undeniable evidence of the validity of the claim of inspiration.

Then, too, it would be well for us to remember that during the time those Bible writers did their writing, there were scores of erroneous scientific theories being taught but not one of those authors ever employed the use of those erroneous theories. Did they of themselves know they were false? No, of course not, but the one who was inspiring them did.

The subject for next week's message will be The Bible and the Spade. You are invited to read.

By: Tommy Hodge

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**ARTICLE #5  
The Inspiration of the Scriptures #5**

There are many prophecies recorded in the Old Testament and it can be proven that all of them came to pass. In this article space will permit a consideration of only a few of them; however, I believe these few will suffice to establish the truthfulness of the inspirational claim made by the writers of the Bible.

In Jeremiah chapters 50 and 51 and Isaiah chapters 13 and 14 the prophets Jeremiah and Isaiah foretold the capture and total destruction of the City of Babylon. They also said it would never be rebuilt.

In Jeremiah chapter 47, Amos chapter 1, Zephaniah chapter 2 and Zechariah chapter 9, we hear all these prophets predict the down fall and disappearance of the Cities of Gaza and Ashdod. In Nahum chapters 1, 2 and 3, Zephaniah chapter 2, these two prophets foretold the destruction and complete desolation of the City of Nineveh.

Isaiah wrote in Isaiah chapter 23 that the City of Tyre was to be destroyed and forgotten. In Ezekiah 25, Joel 3 and Amos 1, we hear these three prophets forecast the destruction and disappearance of Edom.

Today it is a well known historical and geographical fact that all these aforementioned cities were destroyed and never rebuilt.

Now keep in mind that these prophets foretold the coming of these things many years before they actually took place. Yes, my friends, these men were recording history before the fact.

About 1450 BC Moses in Deut. the 28th chapter penned his prediction of the destruction of Jerusalem and the horrible persecution and sufferings of its inhabitants. Beginning with verse 49, he presented a detailed picture of the destruction of the city and its people. He said that a nation from the North whose language they would not understand, would come against them. He then said these people would destroy their crops and herds and lay a siege upon the city which would result in such extreme hunger that even some of the mothers would eat their own children.

This prophecy was not fulfilled until after all the Bible had been written; however, we have a detailed account of its fulfillment in the history of Josephus. Josephus was a historian



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of the first century who accompanied Titus and the Roman Army when they marched against Jerusalem in AD 70.

My friends, inasmuch as everyone accepts Josephus's description of this event as being accurate and inasmuch as it is in harmony with the one Moses wrote fifteen hundred years earlier, then how, oh how, can we doubt that Moses was not an inspired writer.

In Daniel the 2nd chapter, we find the account of Daniel's interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

After describing the great image the king had seen in his dream, Daniel told him that the four parts of the image represented four Great Kingdoms which would rise and fall. Daniel told the king that the stone he had seen represented the kingdom of God which would be established in the days of the kings of the last kingdom.

All right what had Daniel told the king? He had told him four kingdoms were to come and go before God established his kingdom.

Some 65 years later Nebuchadnezzar's great Babylon was overthrown by the Medo-Persian Empire and it became the second great world power. In 331 BC the Macedonian Empire under the leadership of Alexander the Great, overthrew the Medo-Persians and became Daniel's third Great World Power.

A few years before Christ was born the great Roman Empire, Daniel's fourth and last great world government made its appearance. Then in the year 33 AD the (church) kingdom of God was established.

All these historical facts are well known by those who have studied ancient history. So we may all know assuredly Daniel spoke truthfully when he said God revealed these facts unto him.

All the pages of this paper would not provide sufficient space for recording all the history the writers of the Bible penned hundreds and sometimes thousands of years before it came to pass. But it seems to me the few examples of such writings found in this small portion of this one page, should be enough to convince us that the writers of the Bible were inspired by an all knowing Supreme Being.

Whose mother's son today will step forward and accurately write the history for next week? The forty sons who wrote the Bible gave flawless accounts of hundreds of historical events years and years before they came to pass.

By: Tommy Hodge

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ARTICLE #6
The Inspiration of the Scriptures #6

Were the writers of the Bible just ordinary men? Or were they (as they professed), inspired by an all knowing God?

In previous lessons I have been presenting evidence which I believe proves beyond a doubt that they were inspired penmen.

The purpose of today's lesson will be to show how the critics of the Bible themselves, have helped to confirm that these men were speaking the truth when they declared their writings were given unto them by an infallible God.

This I say first of all, because as you know the Bible was not written yesterday, but hundreds of years ago.

All right, for all these years, the critics have worked diligently to discredit it; yet we are still waiting for them to establish beyond a shadow of a doubt the validity of even one of their numerous accusations.

My friends, if the Bible is nothing less than one big lie which it took forty men sixteen hundred years to write, then why after all these years haven't its critics been able to put it through the shredding machine?

Many are the times when the critics of the Bible have said it cannot be true because it is not in harmony with science. Yes, in the time of Solomon, Isaiah, Job, Jeremiah, David and the Apostle Paul and for many years thereafter men of science said the writers of the Bible were neither learned nor inspired writers, because their writings were not in harmony with science. However, all the pre-scientific statements made by those men which were not in harmony with the accepted theories of their time, have now been proven by men of science themselves to be in perfect harmony with true science.

Oh yes, after all these years the whole world may be challenged to show that there is even one tested and proven scientific principle of truth with which any statement in the Bible is at variance.

Now I am not contending the Bible is in harmony with all present day scientific theories, but that it is in harmony with true science.

If the Bible from the beginning until now had always been in harmony with science so called, then today it would be the most ridiculous book ever written.

Yes, my friends, in the past the Bible has been involved in many battles with its critics, over what is true science but it has always won. In the world today we have many scientific theories. Men of science will prove some of them to be true but not those which are at variance with any scientific statement written by inspired writers of the Bible. All of yesterdays scientists lost every battle they fought with the Bible and so shall it be with those of today and tomorrow.

Likewise critics of history have endeavored to discredit the Bible by pointing out its would be historical errors.

You see, there was a time when historians were unaware of numerous ancient historical facts. They did not know the Egyptians grew grapes and they possessed much silver and gold. They knew nothing about the past existence of two great nations of the Edomites and Hittites. They were unaware that nations used different standards for calculating talents of silver. Then too, they were not familiar with the fact that the art of writing was known by Moses and his contemporaries. They knew nothing about Belshazzar, King of the Chaldeans. Yet, the writers of the Bible recorded statements of facts and events which proved they possessed knowledge of all this ancient history. For confirmation of this read (Gen. 15:20, Gen. 36:1-43, Gen. 40:11, Exodus 25:1-40, Exodus 24:4, II Kings 18:4, and Daniel 5:1-22).

Yes, of course, the critics denounced all these Biblical historical accounts. They said they are nothing more than historical blunders; however, after some of their colleagues with their spades unearthed many records of old and others deciphered ancient hieroglyphics these critics as well as those of other disciplines were forced to surrender unto the writers of the

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Bible.

All right, my friends, since our own great and learned geographers, scientists and historians have proven their earlier colleagues wrong who scoffed at the many pre-scientific, pre-geographic and pre-historical statements made by the writers of the Bible, they have done much to strengthen their inspirational claim.

Yes, this is what the great scholar Dr. Davidson meant when he said "As regarding the Old Testament, every fresh discovery about the world's early civilization and each significant tablet or cylinder brought forth from its resting place of thousands of years, seems to do something more toward the strengthening and deepening of our belief in the genuine inspiration of the written word of God."

By: Tommy Hodge

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ARTICLE #7
The Inspiration of the Scriptures #7

Who wrote the Bible inspired or uninspired men?

In recent articles I have presented much evidence which I believe proves they were inspired. Yes, in those articles I proved, I believe, those men recorded much pre-geography, pre-science and pre-history, and that all attempts to show there were errors, in those recordings -- have failed.

In this article, I shall show that the alleged contradictions found in the Bible are just that, only alleged ones.

The critics say the Bible contradicts itself because it teaches the Sabbath Day is and is not to be observed, divorce for any cause is permitted and denied, circumcision is commanded and forbidden, feast days are and are not to be observed, and some flesh may not be eaten and all flesh may be eaten.

I readily admit the Bible teaches all of this.

Yes, Exod. 20:28 teaches men are to observe the Sabbath, and Col. 2:16 says it is not to be observed. Deut. 21 teaches one may divorce and remarry for any cause and Matt. 19:9 declares there is only one reason for which one may divorce and remarry.

Gen. 17:10 makes the ordinance of circumcision a command, whereas, Gal. 5:1 forbids it. Deut. 16:16 demands the observance of feast days, but Gal. 4:8-11 forbids observance. Deut. 14:7 forbids the consumption of certain meats but Rom. 14:14 and I Tim. 4:1-5 authorizes the partaking of all meat.

Now, beyond a doubt, these scriptures do contradict each other.

However, this does not mean the writers of the Bible contradicted one another.

You see, for each of these apparent contradictions, the critics have arrayed a scripture from the Old Testament against one of the New Testament.

Oh yes, it was the Old Testament scriptures which we heard say the Sabbath Day, or Saturday, was to be kept, divorce and remarriage for any cause was permissible, all men were to be circumcised, feast days were to be observed and some meats were unclean.

Whereas, it was the New Testament scriptures we heard deny all that was taught by those scriptures of the Old

Testament.

My dear readers, the critics who believe these are real contradictions, and not just apparent ones, are those who do not understand how to rightly divide the Bible.

You see, the Bible is divided into two major parts, the Old and New Testaments.

The Old Testament portion contains the covenant which God, through Moses and the prophets, made with the children of Israel. Whereas, the New Testament scriptures are those peculiar to the covenant which God, through his Son has given unto all people.

When God promised to make this new covenant with us, he said it would be different from the one he had made with Israel. Yes, in Jer. 31:31-32 He spake through the prophet Jeremiah saying, "Behold, the days come that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah; not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt."

Then too, Heb. 7:11-15, Heb. 7:15-19, Heb. 10:9, Rom. 7:1-6, II Cor. 3:1-12, Gal. chapters one, three four and five, Eph. chapter two and Col. chapter two -- declares that with the giving of the new covenant (or New Testament) there was a taking away of the Old Testament. Remember, Jer. 31:31-34 said, "The new will be different from the old." So it necessarily follows, that with the coming of the new -- there was a passing away of the old. That which is different cannot exist simultaneously with that which it differs. This is what Paul meant when in Heb. 10:9 he wrote, He taketh away the first that he may establish the second."

So you see, even though these contradictory statements are to be found in the Bible as a whole, this does not mean the writers of the New Testament contradicted that which was written by the men who wrote the Old Testament. No, all it means is one group of people recorded the terms of one covenant, for one dispensation of time, and the others have recorded the terms of another covenant for another group of people and another dispensation which the Lord himself said would be different from the first one.

No, the critics by this invalid method, have not nor ever will, prove the writers of the Bible have contradicted one another -- and thus discredit their claim of inspiration.

By: Tommy Hodge

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ARTICLE #8
The Inspiration of the Scriptures #8

Did the men who wrote the Bible contradict each other? If so, then their claim of being inspired by an infallible God must be denied.

The critics awareness of this, motivated them to search for and present unto us many examples of would be contradictions. However, each of their alleged examples were, and have continued to be, nothing more than a misunderstanding of the scriptures.

Today's lesson shall be devoted to a consideration of the would be Bible contradictions, which have been assumed by the

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critics because of their failure to take into account the different usage of words.

They contend that the Bible says God tempts and does not tempt man, the disciples of Christ are to hate and love their relatives, all things are and are not lawful, God's people are and are not in the kingdom of heaven, we are and are not to call any man father. True, James 1:13 says that God tempts no man and Gen. 22:1 say God tempted Abraham. However, this is no contradiction, because the word tempt in Gen. 22:1 simply means God tried Abraham. Paul, in speaking of this in Heb. 11:17 says, "God tried Abraham."

Whereas the word tempt in James 1:13, is used to set forth the alluring of one into committing evil.

Yes, God tempted or *tried* Abraham to see if he would obey him; but God never tries to allure one into the gutter of sinful corruption.

Then, too, I John 1:8-10 says children of God *can sin* and I John 3:9 declares children of God *cannot sin*.

However, this by no means proves that the Apostle John has been caught in a contradiction.

You see, God as well as we, does not always use the word cannot to express a literal absolute physical impossibility. We sometimes say, "I cannot do that," not at all meaning it is impossible, but that we just can't afford to; because there are other things more important. According to Acts 4:19-20 and Exod. 19:21-23, God uses this word in the same way.

The children of Israel could not afford to touch the mountain, because the consequences would be physical death. We cannot afford to go back to a willful life of sin, because by so doing we will die the second death, or be lost (Heb. 10:25-31, Rev. 21:8).

Yes, Luke 14:26 says we must hate our loved ones, and Eph. 5:25, Eph. 6:1-4 and Tit. 2:3-4, teaches we should love them. So, yes indeed, these scriptures do seem to contradict each other. Yet, when we study Gen. 29:30 and Gen. 29:31, we find that with God the word *hate* in some instances is used to say *love less*. So, when Jesus, according to Luke 14:26 said hate your loved ones, he was only saying love them less than me. According to Matt. 10:37, Jesus plainly said those who love their relatives more than me are not worthy of me.

No, two commands, one which says love your relatives, and the other says love them less than you love me are not contradictory.

Again, the critics are right when they say Paul taught all things were and were not lawful for him (I Cor. 6:12, Heb. 3:4, I Cor. 9:19-21, and Heb. 10:25-31).

However, since according to Matt. 10:22, Acts 2:17 and many other scriptures, the word all is not always used in the all-inclusive sense, this does not (as the critics say), prove Paul contradicted himself. I Cor. 6:12, taken in context, shows clearly that Paul's statement, "All things are lawful," pertained only to things which are a matter of indifference.

Likewise, it has been said, Paul, according to Col. 1:13, said when people become children of God they enter the kingdom, and in Acts 14:20 said children of God must suffer in order to enter the kingdom.

However, this is not, as they say, a Biblical contradiction. The expressions kingdom of God and kingdom of heaven refer

to both the church and the place where God dwells (Rom. 14:17-18 and Matt. 7:21).

Paul, in Col. 1:13 was speaking of the church, but in Acts 14:22, he was speaking of the eternal home with God.

True, Matt. 23:9 and many other scriptures say we may and may not, call anyone but God *father*.

Howbeit, this appears to be a contradiction unto only those who do not understand the different degrees of fatherhood or origin.

Only God may be called Father, when we speak of the one *of whom* and *through whom* all things are. Yet, in a very limited sense, we may call our male parent father, because our existence as a human being had its origin with him.

Yes, these and many other scriptures appear to be at variance. However, these apparent inconsistencies vanish into thin air, when we remember to take into account that words have many different meanings, and that none of us are at liberty to assign our own choice of the various meanings to any of the words of a writer's material. By employment of this tactic, the writings of any author (or authors) could be made to appear contradictory.

By: Tommy Hodge

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ARTICLE #9  
The Inspiration of the Scriptures #9

I sometimes hear it said, "The Bible is full of contradictions."

If this were true, then the inspirational claim of the forty men who wrote it, would well deserve the Guinness Book of Records, for having made the most ridiculous claim ever advanced.

We are presently considering some of these would-be contradictions. In previous articles, we have found that due to a lack of understanding, the difference in the first and second covenants (or the Old and New Testaments), and a failure to take into account that words may have more than one meaning, have misled some into believing the Bible contains many contradictions.

The purpose of this article will be to call attention unto some of the alleged contradictions which have been made by those who were unaware of the plurality of the same names, things, and events written about by the men who wrote the Bible.

It is said by some that Col. 3:8 and Eph. 4:26 say anger is and is not a sin.

True, Col. 3:8 teaches anger is a sin, and Eph. 4:26 seems to declare anger is not a sin. That is, until we remember the Bible writers wrote about two different types of anger. There is one type of anger which results in temper fits and violence. This anger is sin. Then there is a type of anger which is nothing more than righteous indignation. Both God and Jesus experienced this type of anger (Isa. 5:25 and Marck 3:5). Type "A" anger is a sin, but type "B" (righteous indignation) is not. Therefore, Col. 3:8 is in no way at variance with Eph. 4:26.

Others say what is written in Jo. 8:51 contradicts what is written in I Cor. 15:21-22, because one offers and the other

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denies the possibility of an eternal physical existence.

John 8:51 truly does say if we will keep the sayings of Jesus we will never die, and I Cor. 15:21-22 indeed says all will die. Now, if the two writers were writing about the same event, or the same death, then these two scriptures are contradictory. However, such is not the case.

In Rev. 20:15 and Rev. 21:8 we read of a second death. Since without a first, a second is impossible, we know the writers of the Bible wrote of at least two deaths.

Rev. 20:15 and Rev. 21:8 and II The. 1:7-9, speak of the second death as the Judgment Day separation from God of those who refused to obey Jesus. Whereas, I Cor. 15:21-22, addresses the first death or one's end of physical life. So you see, John 8:51 is a written statement peculiar to the second death (or being eternally lost) whereas I Cor. 15:21-22 pertains to the separation of body and spirit at the end of a physical life.

No, this is no contradiction, but the declaration of two great truths which are in perfect harmony with what is taught by the scriptures as a whole.

Then there are those who contend that Matt. 7:1-5 and Rom. 2:1-2 condemns, and I Cor. 5:12 and I Cor. 6:1-4 sanctions the judging of others.

Now, if all these scriptures were speaking about the same type of judging, then as the critics say, this would be a true example of a Biblical contradiction. However, such is not the case. No, the type of judging Matt. 7:1-5, and Rom. 2:1-2 condemns, is our judging others when we are doing the same thing. Or in other words, they are saying, do not judge others before you judge yourself, or clean up your own backyard before you criticize your neighbors. The first part of John 7:24 forbids judging according to appearances. Many times that which is not, appears to be that which is. Also I Cor. 2:11 forbids judging the heart of another person. I may know what one does is wrong, but I can't always know why he did it.

Whereas, I Cor. 5:12 and I Cor. 6:1-4 teaches Christians are to judge the outward actions of other Christians, by the word of God, so they may know when they have need of withdrawing fellowship (I Cor. 5, II Thes. 3).

The unawareness of John's writing of two different laws in Jo. 19:7 and Jo. 18:31 has been responsible for some believing that he taught it was and was not lawful for Israel to put anyone to death.

It was, as is said in Jo. 19:7, lawful according to Israel's own laws or the Old Testament, for them to put some of their own to death (Deut. 18:20 and Lev. 24). However, several years before the beginning of the personal ministry of Jesus -- Archelaus (King of Judea) was banished to Vienna, and that which he ruled became a Roman province. So, as subjects of the Roman government, the right of life or death for anyone had been taken out of their hands.

Therefore, since John's two statements did not pertain to one and the same law, but one statement referred to one law and the other to another, then there is not to be found here even the shadow of a contradiction.

Others believe what is said in Jo. 20:30-31, contradicts that which was written by Matthew in Matt. 12:38-40. True, John said Jesus did many signs and Matthew said only one sign would be given.

However, here again it is only a contradiction in the mind of those who are unaware that in the Bible we read of two types of signs. In John 20:30-31 and Acts 2:22, we read of signs God did by Christ. Whereas, in Matt. 12 and Mark's parallel account in Mark 8, we read about a sign from heaven, or direct from God. Jesus, according to Matthew, said you will receive one requested sign when God raises me from the dead.

Oh, yes, my friends, these and many more apparent Biblical contradictions fade away when we remember the writers of the Bible wrote about a plurality of the same names, things, and events.

By: Tommy Hodge

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ARTICLE #10

The Inspiration of the Scriptures #10

We are presently considering the accusations of inconsistencies which some have made against the Bible. Today's article shall be concerned with some of the statements which have (without proper regard for context) been arrayed against each other.

(1) Accusation: John says there will be one, and Paul says there will be two resurrections (Jo. 5:28-29, I Thess. 4:16).

ANSWER: True John in Jo. 5:28-29 wrote, there will be one resurrection. Likewise, Paul's statement, "The dead in Christ shall rise first" as recorded in I Thess. 4:16, seems to necessarily imply there will be two.

However, when we read from I Thess. 4:13-18 we see Paul in verse sixteen was not saying the dead in Christ, or the righteous, shall be raised before the unrighteous. No, what he said was, the dead in Christ will be raised first, before those living, when Christ returns are caught up to meet him in the air.

(2) Accusation: Luke's account of the genealogy of Jesus disagrees with that given by Matthew (Matt. 1:1-6, Lk. 3:23-38).

ANSWER: It is true that Luke's account of the genealogy of Jesus is not in complete accord with Matthew's. In tracing the lineage according to Luke we find names which are not found in Matthew's account.

However, this by no means proves these writings are inconsistent. No, when we take into account all that is said in both accounts it becomes evident that Matthew began with Abraham (the father of the Israelites) and traced the lineage forward to Joseph, the husband of Mary and supposed father of Jesus. Whereas, Luke began with Joseph (as son-in-law) to Heli (his father-in-law) and traced the lineage all the way back to Adam the father of all. This being true, then there are two reasons why different names appear in the two accounts. Matthew traces the lineage on Joseph's side of the family, but Luke traces it on Mary's side. Then, too, Matthew's genealogy begins with Jesus as the promised seed of Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3) while Luke traces his lineage as the promised seed of woman (Gen. 3:14-15). So he goes all the way back to Adam.

Please, oh please, let's read all that was written before we conclude we have found an inconsistency in the writings of the men who wrote the Bible.

(3) Accusation: Those who sin are and are not to be



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rebuked publicly (Mat. 18:15, I Tim. 5:20).

True, these two statements appear to be contradictory. Yet, when considered in context the contradiction vanishes like snow on a hot sunny day. Matt. 18:15-17 teaches we are to first rebuke privately those who have sinned against us personally. Whereas when we read the complete chapter of I Tim. 5, we find that Paul was pointing out to the young evangelist Timothy what he should preach. So in I Tim. 5:20 when he said to him, "Them that sin rebuke before all that others also may fear." He was not teaching Timothy what to do when some one sinned against him but how (he as a preacher), was to deal with any and all sin being indulged in by members of the congregation.

(4) **Accusation:** Women are and are not to be teachers of God's word (Acts 2:17-18, Titus 2:3, I Tim. 2:12).

**ANSWER:** The critics claim that Acts 2:17-18 and Titus 2:3 say women are to have a part in the teaching of God's word is true. However, their accusation that what is written in I Tim. 2:12 contradicts this is not true. When we read I Tim. 2:9-12, we see Paul in verse twelve was not saying women are forbidden to teach but was speaking only of a restriction which God had placed on their teaching. Paul did not say I suffer not a woman to teach period. No. He said "I suffer not a woman to teach over a man."

(5) **Accusation:** Matthew reports that Jesus in a sermon said Blessed are the poor (Matt. 5:3). Whereas, Luke's record, as recorded in Luke 6:20 states he said, "Blessed be ye poor."

**ANSWER:** If Matthew and Luke had both been quoting from the same sermon as preached by Jesus, then as the critics say. This would be a contradiction. However, such is not the case. According to Matt. 3:1-3 Jesus went up into a mountain and there preached the sermon from which Matthew quoted. Whereas according to Lk. 6:12-20, Jesus after preaching his sermon on the mountain came down into a plain (or valley) and preached another sermon. This is the sermon from which Luke quotes Jesus as saying "Blessed be ye poor."

Now I ask, where is the critic who can prove Jesus in the sermon on the mount did not say Blessed are the poor in spirit and in another sermon which he preached in a valley say "Blessed be ye poor."

In closing I want to say, it never has been, is not now and never will be fair to condemn what one said or wrote with statements isolated from their context.

By resorting to this unethical tactic I could prove the Bible teaches we should hang ourselves quickly. Yes, Matt. 27:5 says Judas hanged himself. Lk.10:37 says, "Go and do likewise" and Psa. 38:22 says "Make haste."

**No, O No,** my readers, we do not have a Bible which is (as the critics have said) contradictory. So, **How, O How** were forty men who did their writing from the time of Moses until the days of the New Testament writers, able to accomplish this?

This one thing we know for sure, they of themselves were not capable of achieving this. Therefore, we must conclude that those forty men (as they claimed) did indeed write that and only that which they received from an infallible God.

By: Tommy Hodge

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ARTICLE #11  
Is the Bible Understandable #1

I believe I have in past articles presented sufficient evidence to prove the Bible is an inspired Book of God.

This being true, then it would be a great tragedy if the contents of this book have been presented unto us in a way so as to place them beyond our capability of comprehension. Personally I do not believe this is true. So I invite you to read and consider with me carefully some facts which I believe will show God has given unto us a book which can be understood.

In the first place we know God is all knowing. So, if the Bible is a book which cannot be understood then it necessarily follows that in giving us the Bible he was well aware that he was giving us a book which we could not understand. However, if this be the case, then why did he bother to give it? This would make no sense at all.

Then, too, we know that with God nothing is impossible. So if he did not give us a Bible which we can understand, it was not because such would have been an impossible task for him. Therefore, again I ask why didn't he? Why did he object to our understanding what he said he wanted us to know?

Oh, Yes, my readers, the fact that God saw fit to give us the Bible is enough to convince me he knew we would be able to understand it.

Again, if God gave us a book which is incomprehensible, then he is not a God of love and mercy, but to the contrary, he is a mean, unmerciful and cruel God.

Now why do I say this? Because he selected a group of men and charged them with the responsibility of teaching the message of the Bible to every creature in the world. Now keep in mind he placed this responsibility upon them, knowing that they in so doing would have to make many sacrifices and suffer many hardships. Yes, he knew many of them would even be put to death.

Tradition has it, that all the apostles were put to death except John.

Tell me, dear reader, if you had written a book which you knew people were not capable of understanding, would you be mean enough to demand of others, that they (at great personal cost), go and teach its contents to every creature in the world?

Now all of us know that God is not cruel and unmerciful. So, I submit to you that since he gave unto us the Bible, and then demanded many men (at a great cost to themselves) to go teach its message to others, well he knew he had given us a message which we were capable of understanding.

Also, if the Bible is a book which cannot be understood then it makes many false claims for itself, a few of which I will call to your attention.

John 17:17 says that the word of God is truth. Then Jo. 8:32 says a knowledge of the truth (the word of God) will make us free.

Jo. 20:30-31 and Rom. 10:13-17 say one may become a believer by reading or hearing the written word of God.

II Tim. 3:14-15 says the holy scriptures are able to make us wise unto salvation.

Acts 17:10-12 says a knowledge of the scriptures will enable us to discern between the true and false teachers.

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Rom. 1:15-17 says the word of God is his power of salvation.

Acts 20:32 says the word of God is able to build us up and give us an inheritance.

Matt. 7:24 says hearing and doing the teachings of Jesus (or the teachings of the New Testament) will result in our becoming like unto a wise man who built his house upon a rock. James 1:21 says the word of God is able to save our souls.

James in James 1:25 wrote "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deeds."

Jo. 6:45 says hearing and learning the word of God will enable people to come unto Jesus. Paul in II Tim. 2:2 said to the young preacher Timothy "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

Yes, the Bible claims to be capable of doing all these things. However, if it is a book which we are unable to understand, then these claims are indeed false.

However, those of us who believe that the Bible is a book given unto us by God, know there are no false claims to be found in it.

Therefore, the passages we have considered in this article serves to assure us God has given us a great and wonderful book, which we can understand.

By: Tommy Hodge
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ARTICLE #12
Is the Bible Understandable #2

Convince me that the Bible is a book which cannot be understood and I will burn mine. Why not? If it cannot be understood, then it must be branded as being one hundred percent useless.

No, I am not about to discard my Bible because with all my heart I believe it is a Book from God which can be understood. So the purpose of this article shall be to continue presenting supportive evidence. God in I John 3:4 says sin is transgression of his law. Therefore, I submit to you, that if we cannot understand the scriptures, then God has demanded of us many impossible things. Please consider with me the following scriptures and you will see what I mean.

Yes, we're demanded to rebuke those who trespass (or sin) against us and to forgive them if they repent (Lk. 17:3-4).

Matt. 18:15 says we are to talk with those who have sinned against us.

Gal. 6:1 says we are to restore those who sin.

James 5:16 and I John 1:9 say we are to confess our sins.

I Tim. 5:20 says the minister is to rebuke before all, the sins committed by members of the congregation.

The elders of the church are demanded to withdraw fellowship from those who sin but refuse to repent (Matt. 18:15-17, II Cor. 5:11, Thess. 3:6).

We as individual members of God's family are demanded to have no company or fellowship with other members who have

sinned and will not repent (II Cor. 5:10-12, II Thess. 3:14). II Tim. 5:22 says we are not to be partakers of other men's sins.

Rom. 6:15 says children of God are to turn away from sin.

Oh, yes, if sin is transgression of God's law, and if we cannot understand God's law, then the above cited scriptures prove beyond a doubt that God has demanded the impossible.

Now why do I say this? Because if we cannot understand "God's law" then it necessarily follows we cannot know when another person has sinned.

No, we cannot conclude that others have transgressed what is taught in a particular passage of scripture, if neither they nor we understand it.

Then, too, if the Bible is a book which cannot be understood there are many other scriptures (which address different subjects) that also show God has demanded the impossible.

Yes, God demands of us (his people) that we all speak the same thing, and that there be no division among us (I Cor. 1:10). Then in verse 13 we hear him ask "is Christ divided?"

If the Bible is not understandable, then tell me please, how shall we all speak the same thing and thus avoid division?

Again, God demands that we offer no assistance to those who teach that which is not in harmony with what Jesus has taught (II Jo. 9-11).

My readers if the teachings of Jesus as found recorded in the New Testament cannot be understood, then this is indeed another impossible demand. How shall we (without understanding), separate the teachings which are of Jesus from those that are not?

In Col. 2 God through Paul says, he has given us all his teachings through Jesus. Then in verse 21 he demands that we are not to touch, taste, or handle the commandments and doctrines of men. Now, I ask, if the teachings of Jesus, as recorded in the New Testament, cannot be understood, then is it possible for us to comply with this demand?

Obviously the answer is no, and a thousand times no.

Now, I am sure that all of us who believe in God, and also believe the Bible is his Book, do not believe God has demanded of us the impossible.

Therefore, in light of what is said in the above cited scriptures, it seems to me we must also agree that God has given us a Book which we can understand.

So my readers I have three things to suggest to you, ONE, Study your Bible, TWO, Study your Bible, THREE, Study your Bible.

By: Tommy Hodge
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ARTICLE #13
Is the Bible Understandable #3

I am persuaded to believe that the evidence presented in the two previous articles proves the Bible is a book which can be understood; however, my awareness of the long and deep embedded belief of some, that such is not the case, leads me to believe I should devote one more article to this subject.

In this article I will cite scriptures which give examples of people who were able to understand the teachings of God's

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Book.

The Bible is divided into two major parts, the Old and New Testaments.

Now as to the Old Testament we have many examples of its being understood.

The writer of the Book of Psalms understood God's will as recorded therein. Yes, in Psalms 119:103-106, he declared three things:

**ONE**, God's word gives me understanding.

**TWO**, God's word expels all darkness from the path I walk.

**THREE**, I will keep the commandments of God.

If the Old Testament's scriptures cannot be understood, then how, oh how, could that man have made those statements?

In Psalms 119:127-130 the man of God penned these words, "Thy testimonies are wonderful therefore doth my soul keep them." The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." In this passage the writer declares himself to be a faithful doer of God's testimonies. Then he writes the entrance of thy word giveth light; it giveth understand unto the simple."

In Psalms 119:110 he proclaimed the wicked have failed in their attempt to prevent me from following God's precepts. How could he have accomplished this without an understanding of God's precepts?

In Acts 17:10 we have Luke's written record of Paul's declaring the Old Testament scriptures unto the people of Berea. Then in verse 11 he said those people searched the scriptures so they might know if Paul was teaching the truth.

Now the fact that those people were able to do that, proves beyond a doubt they were capable of understanding the Old Testament scriptures; otherwise, how could they have compared the teachings of Paul with the teaching of the scriptures?

Then, too, the New Testament gives us many examples of those who were able to understand its teachings.

Acts chapter two gives us an account of Peter's teaching the teachings of the new covenant unto a great multitude of people in Jerusalem. Acts 2:37 says after hearing "they were pricked in their hearts." Acts 2:41 reports that the ones who gladly received his teachings were baptized. This same verse reveals that three thousand were baptized.

Oh, yes, here we have an example of three thousand people, who were able to understand the teachings of Jesus otherwise, why after hearing, would they have been pricked in their hearts and willing to gladly receive what they had heard?

In Acts chapter eight we have the account of Philip's preaching the gospel or Christ unto the people of Samaria. Verse twelve says, "But when they believed Philip's preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized both men and women."

The Ethiopian eunuch, the gentiles of Antioch, Lydia, the jailer in Philippi, three people in Athens and Felix and King Agrippa, are also examples of others who after having heard the teachings of Jesus, as taught by his inspired teachers became believers.

Now, all of us know that even genuine evidence which cannot be understood, will not make believers of those who hear. So, since Rom. 10:17 declares faith comes by hearing and

inasmuch as all those people, after having heard believed, then it necessarily follows they understood what they had heard.

Paul in Rom. 6:17-18 said to the Roman People, you were made free from sin when you obeyed the doctrine delivered unto you. How could they have obeyed that which they did not understand?

My friends, we no longer say swimming the English Channel, flying a shuttle into space and back and visiting the moon are impossible feats. Because we have examples of these things having been accomplished, even so, none of us can say God has given us a book which we cannot understand, because the scriptures provide us with examples of multitudes who were able to understand it.

Yes, my readers if we are willing to study we can understand, and this understanding will enable us to become the beneficiaries of all the wonderful promises recorded therein.

By: Tommy Hodge

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**ARTICLE #14  
All Revealed**

The purpose of the past few articles has been to prove there is a God and that the Bible is his book.

Through those articles I believe I presented more than enough evidence to prove these two things are true.

Now, of course, God did not personally write the Bible. He selected different men at different times whom he by the Spirit inspired to do the writing.

The purpose of today's article will be to prove God through those forty men, who wrote our Bible, revealed all that was ever to be revealed.

For about two thousand five hundred years after creation all people lived under what is known as the Patriarchal Dispensation of time.

During this period of time God spake to all the people through the fathers.

However, after delivering the children of Israel from their Egyptian bondage he made a new and special covenant with them. The terms of this covenant are recorded in the Old Testament portion of the Bible.

A few years later, God through the prophet Jeremiah foretold he would discontinue this covenant and make a new and different one (Jeremiah 31:31-32, Hebrews 8:6-13).

God through Moses also foretold that he would raise up a new prophet, through whom he would give this new covenant (Deut. 18:18-19).

Jesus was the prophet (Acts 3:21-23) and the new Testament portion of the Bible, which was written by his Holy Spirit inspired apostles and prophets is the Jeremiah promised new covenant (Heb. 8:6-13, Heb. 1:1-2).

So then, the question is, did Jesus by the Spirit reveal unto those men all of the afore promised covenant?

Jesus while here taught his apostles some of this new covenant (Matt. 5, Heb. 2:1-4, I Cor. 11:23-26). A short time before his return to the Father he said to his apostles God will send you the Holy Ghost and he will bring to your remembrance

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what I have taught you and teach you all things.  
 My dear readers, if when the Spirit came, he brought to their remembrance all that Jesus taught them in person and taught them all things which Jesus had not, then I submit unto you that he revealed unto these men "all" of the new and final covenant of which Jesus is the author.

Two other scriptures, John 1:17 and John 16:12-13 when considered together also prove all of the new covenant was revealed unto those who recorded the New Testament.

Yes, Jo. 1:17 says the New Testament is the truth and Jo. 16:12-13 says Jesus promised the apostles the Holy Spirit would guide them into all the truth.

My dear readers, if the Holy Spirit revealed unto those men all the truth, then there remained no more truth to be revealed.

The Apostle Paul said he declared all the counsel of God unto the people of Ephesus (Acts 20:26-27). Obviously he could not have declared all the counsel of God unless he had received the same. However, since all the counsel of God was revealed unto him, then it necessarily follows there was nothing left to reveal unto anyone.

Again, the Apostle Paul in speaking of himself and the other inspired men of his time, said God will curse both men and angels if they teach any other Gospel than that which we have taught (Gal. 1:8-9).

Now why I ask would this be true? Because they had already received and preached the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:26-27). So if, even an angle should come down and preach that which was not preached by them it would be his own teaching and, therefore, no part of the counsel of God.

The Apostle John in the last chapter of the last book of God's Book said, "I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book."

My dear readers, I believe strongly that I have in this article proven the scriptures say, God through Jesus and Jesus through the Holy Spirit revealed unto the men who wrote the New Testament, all that was ever to be revealed, therefore I feel both justified and obligated to suggest that you reject all latter day claims of revelations from God.

What more do we need than that which God revealed unto the men who wrote the Bible?

By: Tommy Hodge

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**ARTICLE #15**  
**Was Jesus the Son of God? #1**

To my knowledge, there are two things which no one who believes the Old Testament to be the inspired word of God, denies. One, that God, through the Old Testament writers promised time and time again that he would some day send his Son into the world. Two, that more than nineteen hundred years ago, there was one born in the City of Bethlehem who claimed to be the fulfillment of that promise. Yes, all agree that these two things are true.

However, there may be some who are not altogether

convinced that the claim made by Jesus was true.

As far as I am concerned, I believe he was the Son of God. Yet, at the same time, I realize that this does not within itself necessarily make it so.

So in this article I am not asking you to believe Jesus is the Son of God just because I say so, but I do beseech you to read carefully the following evidence.

I believe Jesus is the Son of God because the record of events relevant to his birth and life, proves he was the one of whom the Old Testament writers spake.

THE PROPHECIES CONCERNING CHRIST

- Prophecy:** To be born of a woman (Gen. 15).
- Fulfillment:** Born of a woman (Jo. 19:26).
- Prophecy:** To be born of a Jewish Woman (Gen. 12:3).
- Fulfillment:** Born of a Jewish Woman (Jo. 4:9).
- Prophecy:** To be born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14).
- Fulfillment:** Born of a virgin (Matt. 1:18-23).
- Prophecy:** To be born of the seed of Isaac (Gen. 26:4).
- Fulfillment:** Born of the seed of Isaac (Rom. 9:5-7).
- Prophecy:** To be born of the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10).
- Fulfillment:** Born of the tribe of Judah (Heb. 7:14).
- Prophecy:** To be born of the house of David (Ps. 132:11).
- Fulfillment:** Born of the house of David (Luke 3:23-37).
- Prophecy:** To be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).
- Fulfillment:** Born in Bethlehem (Matt. 2:1).
- Prophecy:** He was to be called Immanuel (Isa. 7:14).
- Fulfillment:** He was called Immanuel (Matt. 1:23).
- Prophecy:** Children to be put to death (Jer. 31:15).
- Fulfillment:** Children were put to death (Matt. 2:14).
- Prophecy:** He was to spend some time in Egypt (Hosea 11:1).
- Fulfillment:** He spent some time in Egypt (Matt. 2:14-18).
- Prophecy:** To cause the eyes of the blind to be opened the ears of the deaf to hear, the tongue of the dumb to speak, the legs of the lame to leap (Isa. 35:5-6).
- Fulfillment:** These things he did (Matt. 11:1-5).
- Prophecy:** To be rejected of men (Isa. 53:3).
- Fulfillment:** Was rejected of men (Jo. 1:11-12).
- Prophecy:** He was to be betrayed by a friend (Ps. 41:9).
- Fulfillment:** Was betrayed by a friend (Matt. 26:48).
- Prophecy:** He was to be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver (Zech. 11:10-12).
- Fulfillment:** He was betrayed for thirty pieces of silver (Matt. 27:9).
- Prophecy:** He was to be deserted (Zech. 13:7).
- Fulfillment:** He was deserted (Matt. 26:56).
- Prophecy:** His trial and crucifixion foretold (Isa. 53:6-8).
- Fulfillment:** These events occurred (Matt. 27).
- Prophecy:** He was to die with transgressors (Isa. 53:12).
- Fulfillment:** He died with transgressors (Matt. 27:38).
- Prophecy:** Nails to be driven into his hands and feet (Ps. 22:16).
- Fulfillment:** Nails were driven in hands and feet (Jo. 20:25-27).
- Prophecy:** His garments to be parted and gambled for (Ps. 22:18).
- Fulfillment:** Garments were parted and gambled for (Jo. 19:23-24).
- Prophecy:** Sun to be darkened the day he died (Joel 2:31).



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**Fulfillment:** Sun was darkened the day he died (Lk. 23:44-45).  
**Prophecy:** To be given vinegar to drink (Ps. 69:21).  
**Fulfillment:** Vinegar was given him to drink (Jo. 19:28-30).  
**Prophecy:** No bones to be broken (Ps. 34:20).  
**Fulfillment:** No bones were broken (Jo. 19:36).  
**Prophecy:** His side to be pierced (Zech. 12:10).  
**Fulfillment:** His side was pierced (Jo. 19:33-34).  
**Prophecy:** To be buried by a rich man (Isa. 53:9).  
**Fulfillment:** He was buried by a rich man (Matt. 27:57-58).  
**Prophecy:** He was to be raised by the third day (Hosea 6:2).  
**Fulfillment:** He was raised the third day (I Cor. 15:1-4).

The above cited scriptures reveal four basic facts.  
*One*, God's purpose from the beginning was to send Christ into the world. *Two*, his arrival in the world would be as a human being, whose outward appearance would be as that of all other men. *Three*, he would through his inspired prophets of old, provide us with many, both great and incidental events that would be peculiar to his Son's conception, birth and thirty-three years stay on the planet Earth. *Four*, this advanced information was given unto us as identifying marks and they all fit Jesus like a glove.

So you see, dear readers, we are not left to guess, or say well, maybe. No, we know that inasmuch as Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies, he was no doubt the Son of God.

By: Tommy Hodge

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**ARTICLE #16**  
**Was Jesus the Son of God? #2**

In our search for the answer to this question, we have already considered two important facts. *One*, the God inspired writers of the Old Testament wrote the biography of the Son of God hundreds of years before his conception and birth. *Two*, the *AFTER THE FACT BIOGRAPHY* of Jesus of Nazareth as recorded in the New Testament is nothing less than a carbon copy of the *BEFORE THE FACT* one recorded in the Old Testament. Who I ask could believe this was just a coincidence? Then, too, that Jesus was the Son of God is also made evident by the many things which he was able to do.

**HE KNEW MANY THINGS WHICH NO ORDINARY PERSON COULD HAVE KNOWN.**

- (1) As a twelve year old boy his unheard of knowledge and wisdom astonished the rulers of the Jews (Lk. 2).
- (2) He discussed with people many past events of their lives (John 1, John 4).
- (3) He could pinpoint the specific location of specific people at a specific time (John 1, Lk. 22, Matt. 21).
- (4) He knew the location of a fish with the necessary tribute money in its mouth (Matt. 17).
- (5) Without being informed he knew his friend Lazareth was dead (John 11).

My dear readers, if Jesus was not the Son of God (as he claimed), but was just an ordinary man like you and me, then how did he know all these things and a lot more, such as who was to betray him, the very hour the nobleman's son was healed,

that Thomas had said "I will not believe unless I feel the nail prints in his hands and feet."

**HE WAS ABLE TO FORETELL FUTURE EVENTS.**

- (1) He said I will be crucified (Matt. 26:2).
- (2) He told his disciples all of you will forsake me (Matt. 21:31).
- (3) He said to an over confident Peter, this night you will deny me three times before the cock crows.
- (4) Before his death, he said Jerusalem will be captured and the temple shall be destroyed (Matt. 24).
- (5) While here, he also foretold the coming of many false prophets (Matt. 24:11).

Just a short time later all these prophecies became history: yes, disciples forsook him (Mark 14:50), Peter denies him (Matt. 26:69-75), Jerusalem was captured (Ancient History), and many false teachers did arise (I John 4:1)

**JESUS, WHILE HERE UPON EARTH, DID AN ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE NUMBER OF UNDENIABLE MIRACULOUS WORKS.**

Matthew eight, reveals that he cleansed a man of leprosy, healed a centurions servant, healed Peter's mother-in-law, calmed a great storm at sea and cast demons from many. Matthew nine says he healed a man sick of the palsy, made a woman whole who had been seriously ill for twelve years, gave sight to two blind men and raised from the dead Jairus' Daughter. Matthew twelve records he healed people that were blind and dumb. Matthew fourteen informs us of his miraculous feeding of five thousand people, walking on the sea and of many being healed by touching the hem of his garment. Matthew fifteen declares that with only seven loaves and a few little fishes he fed several thousand, healed the daughter of the Canaanitish Woman and a great multitude of others. In Matthew nineteen we read of his healing great multitudes on the Coast of Judea.

According to Matthew twenty he gave sight to two blind men.

**Mark three says he healed a man with a withered hand.**

In Luke seventeen, we find him healing ten men who had the dreaded disease of leprosy. Luke twenty-two says he restored a severed ear.

John five tells us that Jesus healed a man who had been afflicted for thirty-eight years.

John nine says he healed a man who had been born blind. In John eleven it is written, that he raised Lazareth from the dead.

In John 20:30-31, John declares, "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

In John 21:25 John declared, "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written everyone, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen."

No wonder then, some of the people of that day said when Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?

My friends, inasmuch as I have shown the scriptures say that Jesus fulfilled every prophecy which God had given

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concerning the one he had promised to send, and that he knew things, and foretold things which no ordinary man could have known, and did an almost countless number of undeniable miracles which no ordinary man could have done, I believe I have established it to be a fact that Jesus of Nazareth was indeed the Son of God.

By: Tommy Hodge

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ARTICLE #17
The Golden Rule

According to Matt 7:12 Jesus said unto his disciples "therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." There are probably many people who know very little about the Bible. However, I am sure that almost everyone is familiar with what is taught in the above cited scripture. Yet, in my judgment there is not another command in the whole of God's Word which people trample under their feet more than this one.

Now that this command is grossly abused one has but to look about him and observe some of the things taking place. For example, why do men have written contracts? Why do business places and all homes have locks on the doors? Is it not because we know many people will not abide by this rule?

Why does every city have a police force and judicial system? Because we know there are those who will not comply with this rule unless they are forced.

Why do nations spend multiplied millions of dollars every year for defense? It is because history has taught them well that many nations have no respect for this rule.

Oh, Yes, there are too many people in the world who are following RULES SUCH AS do unto others as they do unto you or as they are capable of doing unto you or what is mine is mine and what is thine is mine if I can get it.

Yes, people are following many different rules, but how many are following the Lord's Matt. 7:15 Golden Rule?

It seems strange that we as people would so strongly rebel against this rule. We must realize what a wonderful world this would be if all of us would just abide by this one little rule. TREAT ALL OTHERS THE WAY YOU WOULD WANT THEM TO TREAT YOU, IF YOU WERE THEY AND THEY WERE YOU.

Try, if you will, to imagine the trillions of dollars spent every year for the purpose to force individuals and nations to follow this rule. Try, because try is all you can do, to really and truly comprehend the height, breadth and depth of all the good which could be done with all this money. Over night, as it were, the world would find itself with better schools, medical facilities, recreation places, fewer incompleated research projects, hungry people and slum districts.

Yes, if everyone would follow this rule, then this planet would be a much better place to dwell. Yet, we know there never has been nor never will be a time when all people will do this, so we might as well stop dreaming. However, let all of us who desire to please God be aware that we must allow this rule to govern our lives because James 2:8-12 teaches that if we are

to please God we must conform to all his will and Matt. 7:12 is one portion of it. Now I ask, are those of us who desire to please God really and truly doing unto others as we would want them to do unto us?

Maybe we could more accurately determine this by asking ourselves a few questions.

(1) If I have children am I training them to be good companions and parents?

(2) As a husband am I treating my wife as I would want to be treated if I were she?

(3) As a wife am I treating my husband as I would want to be treated if I were he?

(4) As parents are we treating our children, in all ways, as we would want to be treated, if we were they?

(5) As a child am I treating my parents as I would want them to treat me, if I were they?

(6) As an employer if I had to switch places with my employees would I be willing for everything to continue just as it now is?

(7) As employees would we be satisfied with everything remaining just as it is, if we were the employers and our employers were the employees.

(8) As teachers and students, if you had to change places would you desire any changes?

(9) If you as the physically or mentally sound had to change places with those who are not, would you be pleased with things as they are?

(10) If you as a member of the majority group were a member of any of the minority groups would you be pleased with things as they are?

(11) Would we as penitent offenders want others to forgive us?

(12) If we were discouraged would we want to be encouraged?

(13) Do we appreciate being commended when we do well?

(14) Are we treating all institutions and all other people as we would want them to treat us?

(15) If we were God and God were us could we as "Him" say unto us as "Him" well done my good and faithful servants?

My friends, if our answer to all these questions is yes, then our relationship with God and man is indeed being governed by the Golden Rule.

May God help all of us in this endeavor.

By: Tommy Hodge

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ARTICLE #18
The Pearl of Great Price #1

According to Matt. 13:45-46 Jesus said unto his disciples "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: who when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it." In this parable, the man who was seeking goodly pearls is like any man seeking good things and the pearl of great price is like unto his finding the way to someday dwelling with God in his heavenly kingdom.

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Now, since this pearl which represents salvation was expensive, yes, so expensive it cost the man all that he had, then it must needs follow that the pearl of salvation will cost us all of *something* which we have accumulated.

First, let us consider what the scriptures say it will not cost us. It will not necessarily cost us our wealth, family, friends, business or occupation (Acts 5:1-4, I Cor. 7:10-16, I Cor. 6:20).

No, it will not cost us these and other things. Yet, I believe the scriptures do teach it will cost us all the sin in which we are involved.

Rev. 21:27 says no one guilty of sin will be permitted to enter heaven. Rom. 3:9 and Rom. 3:23 declare all have sinned. So the only way for one to become free from sin is by receiving forgiveness. However, Acts 2:37-38 and Acts 3:19 beyond a doubt teach that one must repent in order to be forgiven.

In the process of becoming a child of God a person's sins are washed away by the blood of Christ (Rev. 1:5).

Yes, all of his or her past sins are forgiven never to be remembered again (Jer. 31:31-34). However, since one must repent in order to receive this forgiveness and inasmuch as Matt. 3:8 teaches that repentance is a change of mind which leads to a change in actions, then it necessarily follows that the person forgiven must turn away from all the sinful things he or she is involved in. Then, too, this is what many scriptures strongly declare.

We who have been forgiven of all our alien sins are to consider ourselves as those who are dead unto sin (Rom. ;6:11).

We are no longer to use the members of our body as instruments of unrighteousness but as instruments of righteousness unto God (Rom. 6:13).

We are not to live the rest of our time in the flesh to the lust of men but to the will of God (I Pet. 4:1-3).

We are to lay aside all malice, guile, hypocrisies, envies and all evil speaking (I Pet. 2:1).

We are to abstain from flesly lust which wars against the soul (I Pet. 2:11).

We are no longer to walk as other Gentiles, who have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness (Eph. 4:17-19).

We are to put off the old corrupt man and put on the new man which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness (Eph. 4:22-24).

We are told not to let sinful ungodly things be once named among us (Eph. 5:3-4).

We are instructed to put away fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence covetousness, anger wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication and lying (Col. 3:1-9). Eph. 4:28 states, "Let him that stole steal no more." I John 1:6 says it would be a lie, to say we have fellowship with God if we are walking in darkness. IN I Pet. 2:22, Peter affirms that Christ did no sin and John in I John 2:6 says if we say we abideth in Jesus we ought also to walk as he walked.

Oh, Yes, my friends, these scriptures do beyond a doubt prove that just as the *material* pearl cost the merchant man all the wealth he had accumulated. The spiritual pearl will cost us the giving up of all sinful things.

Now, of course, experience and many scriptures such as Acts 8, I John 1:8 and I John 1:9 say it is impossible to put away

sin to a state of perfection; but this is what we must strive for. There are scriptures which teach that when we are overcome and falter the blood of Christ is available to cleanse us from such sin, if we will repent, confess and pray unto God but it is not available for us if we turn back to a willful life of sin.

Oh, yes, Jesus died that we might receive forgiveness of sin but he did not die for the purpose of granting us license to sin.

In next week's article we will consider how great and wonderful and valuable this spiritual pearl is.

By: Tommy Hodge

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ARTICLE #19  
The Pearl of Great Price #2

In last week's article we considered the cost of the pearl of great price as presented by Jesus in a parable recorded in Matt. 13:45-46. In that study we found that the scriptures say its cost is to give up *all* sinful involvements; however, this is not the only thing taught in this parable. According to verse 46, Jesus said when the merchant man found that pearl, which represents the pearl of salvation, he was willing to give up *all* he had so he might purchase it. In saying that, he was as much as saying unto you and me, the spiritual pearl, or privilege of some day abiding with me and my Father in heaven is well worth its cost.

There are many other scriptures which explain why this spiritual pearl, is so valuable. There is one group of scriptures which teach that there is life after death (Acts 17:30-31, John 5:24-29, I Cor. 15, Matt. 25:31-46 and many more).

Then, there is another group which declare this life will be either with God in heaven or with the devil in hell (Matt. 5:22, Matt. 10:28, Matt. 5:20, Matt. 6:20, Matt. 8:11).

Again, there is another group which say the life after this will be never ending (Jo. 3:15, Jo. 6:68, Lk. 10:25, Mark 3:29, and Matt. 25:46). Now again, there is another group which describe life in hell as being extremely miserable. Matt. 3:11 describes it as a baptism with fire. Matt. 25:31-46 pictures it as being cast into a lake of fire. II Thess 1:8 says it will be as a place raging with flaming fire. II Thess. 2:6 declares it to be a place whose inhabitants will experience tribulation. Matt. 13:42 and Matt. 25:30 speak of it as a place where there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Rev. 20:10 says those who dwell there shall be tormented *day* and *night* for ever and ever. According to Matt 26:24 Jesus said of one who was to be in this place, "It had been better for that man if he had *never* been born."

Now, finally there is another group of scriptures which say heaven will be a wonderful place to live. According to John 14:1-2 Jesus said living in heaven will be like living in a mansion. Heb. 10:34 and Heb. 11:16 speak of it as a better and more enduring place. Matt. 25:23 declares it to be a place of joy. In II Thess. 2:7, heaven is spoken of as a place of rest. John in Rev. 2:7 calls it God's Paradise. In Heb. 11:32-38 Paul said time would fail him to tell about all the great host of old who were willing to endure very cruel treatment, in order to purchase this pearl. They must have known of its great value. Heb. 11:24-27 relates that Moses considered giving up the

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momentary pleasures of sin, as well as also giving up fame and fortune in exchange for poverty and afflictions with the people of God, to be a small price to pay for an eternal abode with God in heaven. It would really be a great thing for one person to possess all the power, glory, money and real estate in this world, yet according to Matt. 16:6, Jesus said unto his disciples "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

In the days of Paul, the consequences of being a child of God and turning away from all sin was to receive severe persecution. Yet, he wrote in Rom. 8:18 "I reckon that the suffering of this present time is not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Again, heaven is described as being a city whose buildings and streets are pure gold (Rev. 21:18-21). Rev. 21:4 says in that city there will be *no more* tears, death, sorrow, crying and pain. Now finally there is another group of scriptures, which say that our turning away from sin will assure us a much better life, even while we live here on earth (Prov. 13:15, Prov. 17:19, Lk. 18:29-30, I Tim. 4:8).

My dear fellow Christian, inasmuch as the scriptures in the previous article and this one reveal that there will be eternal life after death and that life will be either with God in heaven or the devil in hell and that heaven will be a wonderful place and hell will be more horrible than we can even imagine and that turning away from sin will even give us a better life here, then I ask you, do they not also convince us that this pearl of great price is more than worth the price of *turning away from all sin* IN WHICH WE WERE INVOLVED before we became children of God? Also to those of you who are not children of God, I ask you, does not this scriptural information convince you it would be extremely unwise for you not to become a child of God and disassociate yourselves from the sin you are now involved in? This life is good but not all good. No there are a lot of bumps in the road. Tell me, if you were given the opportunity to move to a place which would be thousands of times better than where you now reside, would you do it? Would you do it even if the price of moving was great? I would too. Then why, oh why would we refuse to pay the price of turning away from sin which would provide for us the privilege of living eternally with God in heaven, which is billions of times better than life here and trillions and trillions of times better than life eternal as a fellow resident with the devil in hell?

Think about these things, my friend.

By: Tommy Hodge

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ARTICLE #20
The Rich Man and Lazarus

In Luke 16:19-31 we find the account of the rich man and Lazarus. In this account Jesus gives us two brief biographies of each of those two men. The first one has to do with the events in their lives before death and the second with those peculiar to their existence after death.

In these biographies Jesus presents these two men unto us by way of contrast. One of them, he said, was rich, wore fine

clothes and fare sumptuously every day. Whereas the other was so poor he was only able to keep body and soul together, by consuming the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table (Lk. 16:19-21). Yes there was a period of time when these men had very little in common. The rich man apparently enjoyed good health. He had riches which enabled him to purchase whatsoever his heart desired. Then, too, he no doubt had many friends.

While on the other hand Lazarus was a man whose health was so poor he was not able, on his own, to make it to the rich man's gate. Then, only by begging, was he able to avoid death by starvation. However, a time came when these two men did meet on common ground. Yes, they both died (Lk. 16:22). In the existence which follows death, we no longer see them sharing common ground.

No, we behold Lazarus in Abraham's bosom, or a place of rest and honor. But Jesus said the rich man lifted up his eyes in hell, a place of suffering, a place which was so terrible he cried out for just a little relief (Lk. 16:22-24). Now I am sure you realize that God did not have this recorded in his Book for the purpose of just filling in space. II Tim. 3:16-17 says all scriptures were given for the purpose of reproving, correcting and instructing. So what motivated Jesus to give us these twelve verses of scriptures? Was it to give us some commandments to do this or that? No. There is not to be found one single command in this portion of the scriptures. It is strictly historical.

When we consider the account as a whole, it becomes evident that Jesus wanted to impress upon us the insignificance of life before death when compared with life after death. This he did by introducing us to two men who were at the extreme ends of the norm in this life. Because of unrevealed circumstances, Lazarus' rewards (as most people judge), were not only fewer than those of the rich but even less than those of the majority of all people. But because of his great wealth, the other man was able to provide for himself a very high standard of living. Yeah, so much so, that Jesus said he fared sumptuously every day. Jesus then presents these same men unto us in reversed roles. Yes, in that life, it is Lazarus whom we are made to see faring sumptuously every day and the rich man who is abiding in misery. Jesus even permits us to hear the rich man describe the severity of his punishment and plead for relief and requests that Lazarus be sent back to warn his five brothers not to follow him to that place of torment. Why do you suppose the Lord though these two mini biographies should be a part of his book?

In the first place, he knows as do we, that what motivates some people to take action and what enables them to understand, will not do the same for others. So maybe he thought this account might touch some, which others presenting the same facts, yet in a different way might not. Then, too, it could be he thought our being permitted to hear (as it were), a voice from hell cry out, saying, "I am being tormented and I don't want others to come to this terrible place," might cause all of us to stop and think.

Again, he knew that we by experience would know that this life is but a very short journey. Very few live to see their one hundredth birthday. Tell me what is one hundred years when compared with an eternity? So maybe he thought by presenting unto us one man who had a bad life here but did what he must in



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order to escape an eternity in hell and be permitted to live with God in heaven, was really the rich one. How long and how great was the rich man's life here? At best not long and not all that great. How long has he been in that hadean world? He has dwelt there more than nineteen hundred years. How long will he be in hell? Forever and forever. So truly it may be said of him, it would have been better for that man if he had never been born.

As people we work hard and make many sacrifices to the end of improving the future for ourselves and others. So how could we be so unwise as to become so involved with the affairs of this one little moment of our life and forget all about the innumerable years which we in the life to come will either dwell in a wonderful place called heaven or a horrible place called hell.

My friends, let us not wait as long to wise up as did the rich man, because as it was for him, that will also be too long for us. God loved him just as much as he loves us and wanted him to be saved as much as he wants us to be saved (John 3:16, II Pet. 3:9, Eze. 18:20-32). So let us not (as did he) refuse the gift of God's love.

By: Tommy Hodge

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