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Intelligent Person
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Louis T. Talbot
Can An Intelligent Person Believe The Bible?

In this day of infidelity, rationalism, skepticism, modernism, and other forms of unbelief, can an intelligent person believe the Bible to be the infallible, inerrant Word of God?

A Series of Radio Messages

by

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CAN AN INTELLIGENT PERSON BELIEVE THE BIBLE?

_In this day of infidelity, rationalism, skepticism, modernism, and other forms of unbelief, can an intelligent person believe the Bible to be the infallible, inerrant Word of God?_

**DURING** the evening broadcasts for the next few days, it is our purpose to use our radio time in considering the absolute authority of the inspired Word of God, and the significance of present world conditions in the light of the Holy Scriptures. We are living in one of the most momentous, tragic, uncertain periods of the world's history. The most outstanding of our nation's leaders during this second world war, dare not prophesy what a day may bring forth. However, I hold in my hand a Book that lifts the veil which conceals from us the future; and makes known, in no uncertain terms, the significance of world affairs, as well as how this age will end—governmentally, politically, religiously, and morally.

The Bible is the most up-to-date Book in all the world. The grass withers, and the flowers fade; but the Word of God abides forever. It is a Book that never grows old. It is eternal, yet ever new. Its messages of the ancient past are just as poignant and vital to the men of today as they were to the men of Moses' day. Even the most casual observer of our times, who knows this Book of books, has recognized how, in this present hour, the steady stream of world history, especially in Europe and in Asia, is fast running into the mold of God's prophetic message. And the careful student of Scripture is amazed to see how up-to-date the Bible is.

We want our friends in radio land to hear what God has to say in regard to the "why" and the "wherefore" of...
this troubled world. We are also praying that God will use these evening broadcasts to bring conviction to many who do not know the Lord, as well as to give light and comfort to Christian hearts. We are not here to entertain, but to let the Holy Spirit speak through His Word, both concerning this life and the life that is to come. This He will do if we open our hearts to His truth.

The Book Tested and Tried in a Day of Rationalism, Skepticism, and Godlessness

In this day of infidelity, skepticism, agnosticism, and modernism—to say nothing of godless indifference to the things of Christ—our young people are often told that no intelligent person believes the Bible to be the infallible, inerrant Word of God. This is one of the most subtle contentions of the hour. I am constantly coming in contact with people—young, middle-aged, and old—who say that they cannot become Christians because they cannot accept the Bible as the Word of God.

Professor James H. Leuba, of Bryn Mawr College, tells us in his book, "Belief in God and Immortality," that he sent questionnaires to thousands of leading sociologists, biologists, physicists, and psychologists, asking whether they believed in God and the Bible. The answers he received from these men were as follows:

Sociologists—14% believed; 86% denied.
Biologists—18% believed; 82% denied.
Psychologists—19% believed; 81% denied.
Historians—32% believed; 68% denied.
Physicists—34% believed; 66% denied.

What a tragic condition! The majority of these men, who train our young people, deny both the Bible and immortality. No wonder Professor Leuba's later questionnaires, sent to the senior class students of the universities where these eminent men taught, revealed that by far the greater number of the students disbelieved in a personal God, in the Bible, and in a life after death! America needs to get back to God and the Bible!

There never was a time when people had more reason to believe that the Bible is God's Word than they do in this present hour. Why do we make such a declaration? Because the sacred Scriptures hold the only message of hope for a sin-weary, war-torn world; because they have stood the test of centuries; and because they stand the test of so-called intellectuals in this enlightened age. And God wants all of us to be intelligent Christians. He desires that we should be able to give a "reason for the hope" that is within us.

My friend, if you believe the Bible just because your mother or father taught you to believe it, if you have no other reason for believing it, then you will be an easy prey to present-hour skepticism. It is wonderful if you cling to the "faith of our fathers," in simple, child-like trust; but it is even more wonderful if you know how to point others to that faith, others who may be honest seekers after truth, yet not established in "the faith once for all delivered unto the saints." An intelligent faith makes strong Christians. God wants us to put His Book to any and every intelligent and proper test; for thus, He knows, we shall find our faith established. The strongest of searchlights never hurts the truth. To this end, we would consider in this series of studies some of the indisputable reasons for our faith in the Bible as the eternal Word of the living God.

The Testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ

I believe the Bible to be the Word of God because of the testimony of Christ to that fact. Surely the Lord Jesus should have some authoritative and final word to say in
regard to this matter. Some time ago I was talking with a young skeptic who said that he accepted the words of Jesus, but that he did not accept the words of Moses, or Isaiah, or Paul, or any other writer of the Bible.

"Will you stand by that statement?" I asked.

"Yes," he said; "I will."

Then I showed him that, if he accepts the words of Jesus, he must accept the whole Bible; for the Lord Jesus Christ set His stamp of approval and authority upon the entire Bible—from the writings of Moses through the book of Revelation.

For Christ’s endorsement of the Old Testament, I turned first to Mark 7:13. Immediately preceding this passage, our Lord had quoted from the Law of Moses. Then in verse thirteen He told the unbelieving Jews that they were

"...making the word of God of none effect through (their) tradition."

Here Christ said positively that the Law of Moses is the Word of God. He made the same declaration in Matt. 5:18, where He said,

"Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

Again, the Lord Jesus quoted Abraham as having said to the man in torment, concerning his five brethren,

"If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead" (Luke 16:31).

What an emphatic endorsement of the Old Testament this is!

Our Lord’s statement to the Jews, recorded in John 5: 46, 47, is even more emphatic:

"Had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?"

If you accept the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, my friend, you must believe in the writings of Moses; for the Son of God set His stamp of authority upon them.

Yet again, our risen Lord bore testimony to the divine inspiration of all the Old Testament. He was walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus after His resurrection from the dead, opening the Scriptures to the two believers as they walked by the way. It was a wonderful Bible lesson!

"Beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself" (Luke 24:27).

Later He appeared unto the ten disciples, showed them His hands and feet, and ate before them, in order to prove to them that His resurrection body was real. Then He said unto them:

"These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures" (Luke 24:44, 45).

Thus Christ set the stamp of His authority, not only upon the writings of Moses, but also upon the entire Old Testament Scriptures, making them in every way equal to His own words. That is, Moses’ writings were as truly from God as were our Lord’s own teachings. It is an established fact that the Jews referred to their Old Testament Scriptures in the three-fold division used by our Lord—"the law of Moses...the prophets, and...the psalms." If we accept the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, we must, therefore, accept the authority of the
entire Old Testament as the inspired Word of the living God. It was complete, you know, about four hundred years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem; for Malachi, the last of the Old Testament writers, finished his prophecy 397 B.C.

Now what about the New Testament? Not long ago, as I conversed with a certain man about his need of sins forgiven, about his need of being washed in the blood of Christ, I quoted a text from the fifth chapter of Romans. But, with the wave of his hand, the man said, “Paul said that. I'm not concerned with what Paul said. Show me what Jesus said, and I'll believe.” Turning to the sixteenth chapter of John, I pointed out, from Christ’s own words, that He placed the seal of His authority upon all the writings of the New Testament, declaring that the testimony of the Holy Spirit is equally as authoritative as is His own. Here, in part, is what Christ said to His disciples shortly before He went to the cross:

“I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth” (John 16:12, 13).

In these words the Lord Jesus was declaring that the apostles would be guided in their writings by the Holy Spirit; in fact, Christ was anticipating the epistles as containing, not only truth, but all truth; yes, as containing truth that would be added to His own marvelous teaching. If you are familiar with so-called modernism, my friend, you know that one of the slogans of this false doctrine is, “Back to Christ.” But when one goes “back to Christ,” he finds the Lord Himself saying, as it were, “On to Paul and Peter and James and John and Jude; on to all the apostles for God’s finished revelation concerning Himself.” The Lord Jesus knew, even as He explained to His disciples, that they could not comprehend many of the teachings He had for them until they were empowered by the Holy Spirit. That is why He told them to “tarry in Jerusalem” for the descent of the Spirit of God; and that is why, after the Day of Pentecost, the apostles were Spirit-filled, Spirit-taught, and Spirit-guided—in their preaching, in their teaching, and in their writing of the New Testament books.

The argument is clear and conclusive: If one is to accept the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ, he must receive all of the Old Testament, as well as all of the New.

The Testimony of the Apostles

In view of the foregoing statement of divine inspiration of all the apostolic writings, it is mere repetition to add just here that the testimony of the apostles to the authority of the Scriptures bears out our Lord’s own witness to that effect. Yet, for the sake of emphasis, we do add a few of the exact quotations from the pen of the divinely inspired apostles themselves. Every child of God should memorize at least the two following verses, from Paul and Peter:

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works” (II Tim. 3:16, 17).

“No prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (II Peter 1:20, 21).

References of the apostles to the inspiration of the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, could be multiplied manifold. And who could speak with the voice of authority so well as they, after the Lord Himself
had gone back to heaven? Had they not sat at His feet, listened to His teachings, received from Him their power and authority? Indeed, the risen Christ prepared them for the very ministry of giving to the world His final and complete message, contained in the pages of Holy Writ. For this testimony the apostles laid down their very lives. Surely their testimony stands in the court of heaven—and in any earthly court that is impartial and honest in judgment. The weight of their testimony is irrefutable!

**The Testimony of Fulfilled Prophecy**

The fulfillment of literally hundreds of Bible prophecies bears silent testimony to the inspiration of the Scriptures by the Holy Spirit of God. Prophecy is the finger of God. No mere man knows the future; no mere man can foretell the future unless God has spoken to him. But God-given prophecy, fulfilled to the very letter, is an incontestable proof of the authority of the Bible and of Christianity. How great has been Satan's victory in abolishing prophecy from many pulpits! You can go into a thousand churches without hearing a sermon on the prophetic teaching of the Word of God.

Now there are several lines of prophecy found in the Old Testament, the chief of which are these: One pertaining to the Lord Jesus Christ; one referring to the Jewish nation; and one, to the Gentile nations. The New Testament, likewise, deals with these three prophetic themes, adding many ever unfolding details concerning them, and adding also some definite prophecies concerning the condition of the professing church as this age of grace draws to a close. Let us consider briefly how these prophecies, which have already been literally fulfilled, give undeniable evidence of the divine inspiration of the Word of God.

1. **Old Testament Prophecies concerning Christ.** The testimony of Christ concerning the Bible is proved to be authoritative and irrefutable, once His eternal deity is acknowledged; and His deity is established beyond controversy by the Old Testament prophecies concerning His Person and work. Of course, this is only one of "many infallible proofs" of His deity; for there are others, equally wonderful—His virgin birth by the Holy Spirit of God; His sinless life; His mighty works, including many miracles; His profound teachings; the testimony of His Father's voice from heaven; the testimony of John the Baptist and all the apostles; His own predictions of His death by crucifixion and His bodily resurrection; and finally, His resurrection from the dead. These are some of the other Bible proofs of our Lord's deity. Add to these the voice of the ages, in that even secular history dates from His birth. Add to these His power to transform human life, giving peace and victory over sin found in no other source. Whole volumes have been written on the deity of our Lord. But, for our purposes here, we want to consider only the one proof of Old Testament prophecies concerning His first coming into the world; for these prove also that the Bible is the eternal Word of God.

These fulfilled prophecies concerning the Lord Jesus Christ appear all the more remarkable to us as we remember that some of them were written thousands of years before He was born in Bethlehem's manger. And why did God write these detailed prophecies hundreds and thousands of years before Jesus came to die for sinners? The Lord Jesus Himself gave us His own answer to our question when He said,

"Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he" (John 13:19).

Here are some of the most remarkable Old Testament
prophecies concerning our crucified and risen Lord Jesus; there are more than three-hundred, at least, which foretold His first coming into the world:

Gen. 3:15—As the "Seed of woman," He was to be the virgin-born Son of Man, "God manifest in the flesh."

Gen. 12:3—The Redeemer was to come from the nation of Israel, for Abraham was the father of the Hebrew nation; and Paul said that Gen. 12:3 was "the Gospel." (See Gal. 3:8.)

Gen. 49:10—The Messiah of Israel and Saviour of the world was to come through the tribe of Judah.

II Sam. 7:12-16—Israel's King was to come through the house of David.

A certain family of a certain tribe of a certain nation of all the human race! What definite, specific prophecies God gave to the world concerning the coming of the Saviour! But let us hurry on, to note yet other remarkable predictions, given us centuries before Jesus was born in Bethlehem:

Isa. 7:14—Seven hundred years before Christ was born in Judea, God's Holy Spirit said to Isaiah that He would be born of a virgin; cf. Matt. 1:22, 23.

Micah 5:2—Seven hundred years before He was born of the Virgin Mary, Micah foretold the very city of His birth—Bethlehem; cf. Matt. 2:5, 6.

Dan. 9:26—Daniel, the prophet, gave us the time of His coming into the world, to be "cut off"—crucified.

Hos. 11:1—The flight into Egypt of Joseph and Mary with the Christ-Child was predicted by Hosea; cf. Matt. 2:15.

Jer. 31:15—The weeping prophet foretold the weeping of the mothers in Israel, as they would mourn for their babies in the time of Herod; cf. Matt. 2:16-18.

Matt. 2:23—"He shall be called a Nazarene," the prophets had said.

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Isa. 40:3—John the Baptist, the forerunner of the King, was foreseen by Malachi (3:1), as well as by Isaiah; cf. Matt. 3:3.

Isa. 42:1; Matt. 3:17—Marvelous prophecy of the Father's delight in His Son, our Saviour! (cf. Matt. 12:15-21.)

Isa. 42:6, 7—This is but one of many prophecies which foretold our Lord's coming into the world to heal the sick, to relieve suffering, and to be a Light "to the Gentiles," as well as to the Jews; cf. Matt. 4:14-16.

Zech. 9:9—The triumphal entry into Jerusalem was foretold; cf. Matt. 21:4, 5.

Psalm 8:2—The praises of the children, our Lord Himself said, were foretold by David a thousand years before He came to earth.

Psalm 110:1—Again David looked down the centuries and saw the ascended Lord, following His death and resurrection, seated on the right hand of the Majesty on high; cf. Matt. 22:41-46.

Psalm 118:22, 23—Christ, a "stumbling stone" to Israel, became the "head of the corner," even the foundation Stone of the church; cf. Matt. 21:42.

Psalm 118:26—Christ foretold Israel's desolation, until the day when she will hail her Messiah and King; cf. Matt. 23:39.

Psalm 41:9—In John 13:18 our Lord Himself quoted David as having prophesied His betrayal by Judas.

Zech. 11:12—The prophet looked down the ages and saw the Lord sold for thirty pieces of silver; cf. Matt. 26:15.

Zech. 11:13—Again the prophet saw that money cast to the potter; cf. Matt. 27:3-10.

Isa. 53; Psalm 22—Time does not permit the reading of all the detailed prophecies of the cross; but these two chapters give graphic pictures of the suffering of the "Man of sorrows"—His atoning work for sinners, His hands and feet pierced; the casting of lots for His vesture; His forsaken cry on the cross; His burial with the rich; His being
crucified between thieves, "numbered with the transgressors"; His bones out of joint—not broken! His making intercession for the transgressors, in His prayer for those who crucified Him. These and many other minute prophecies foretold His suffering, centuries before crucifixion was ever known!

Psalm 69:21—A prophecy of the enemies of Christ, as they were to give Him gall and vinegar to drink on the cross.

Exod. 12:46; Num. 9:12; Psalm 34:20—These passages are quoted in John 19:36, where we read that "not a bone" of our Lord was broken.

Zech. 12:10—Again, He was to be pierced; cf. John 19:37.

Psalm 16:8-11—Both Peter and Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, tell us that, when David wrote the sixteenth Psalm, he was prophesying concerning the resurrection of our Lord. (See Acts 2:25-31; 13:35-37.)

Psalm 68:18—Paul, in Eph. 4:8-10, explains that the Psalmist also foresaw the ascension of Christ into heaven. We have already quoted one of the many references to His ministry of intercession at the right hand of the Father. (cf. Psalm 110:1 with Heb. 1:3, 13; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; Mark 16:19; Col. 3:1.)

Zech. 12:10; 13:1—Literally hundreds of Old Testament prophecies foretell our Lord's second coming to reign as the righteous King over all the earth. Take, for example, the fourteenth chapter of Zechariah, and read it, together with such passages as Rev. 1:7, 8. Israel's coming King is none other than the Lord she crucified nearly two thousand years ago. But the sins of us who are Gentiles also sent Him to Calvary; and over the whole earth He shall reign in righteousness and in peace.

My friends, as I have read Old Testament prophecy concerning the first coming of Christ into the world, as I look back and see that it was literally fulfilled; then I know that the prophecies of His second coming will also be definitely, literally fulfilled, even as He said. As I think of these facts of pre-written history—and of yet future events—I have an overwhelming sense of the eternal deity of the Man, Christ Jesus; and an overwhelming sense of the supernatural, God-inspired character of the Holy Scriptures. Such testimony makes me realize, as never before, that the Bible has not had a chance to do in the average life what God intended it to accomplish. Surely the only thing in the world that a skeptic or doubter needs to do is to give the Scriptures a chance! The only thing that is needed to open the eyes of the unbelieving world to salvation in Christ Jesus is to give God's Word a simple, honest chance to tell about Him.

As we have seen, these Old Testament prophecies concerning our Lord's Person and work date back to the Garden of Eden, and point on to His second coming in power and great glory. We might have quoted many others which also deal with the most minute details of His virgin birth, His life on earth, His death on the cross, His bodily resurrection, His ascension into heaven, His present ministry of intercession for His own, and His return to earth to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. That the prophecies of His first coming into the world as the only Saviour of sinners have been literally fulfilled, none can deny. Then, by the same logical reasoning, are we not convinced that the yet unfulfilled prophecies concerning His second coming to reign will also be literally fulfilled?

The miraculous nature of these prophecies is graphically illustrated in David's description of the crucifixion, written a thousand years before Jesus' hands and feet were pierced, written at a time when capital punishment, by means of crucifixion, was unknown. In David's day men were put to death by stoning. It was not until the Roman Empire came to power, sixty-eight years before Christ
was crucified, that death by crucifixion was instituted. Yet, in Psalms 22 and 69, one thousand years before the Roman Empire was conceived in the minds of men, David wrote that the Messiah would be crucified, that His hands and feet would be pierced.

That the Old Testament was complete four hundred years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem, no honest critic can deny. The ancient manuscripts of the Bible, the ancient versions or translations, the discoveries of archaeology—these alone bear witness to the fact that the Old Testament which the Lord used in Palestine, when He walked among men, was completed when Malachi wrote his prophecy some four hundred years before Christ. And they bear witness also to the inspiration of the New Testament by the Holy Spirit of God.

Now no one knows the future but the Lord alone. Any book, therefore, which is able to present accurate prophecies concerning future events, must have as its Author the only One who knows the future. That is God. We say again: The only thing that is needed to convince the doubter and the skeptic, is to give the prophecies of the Old Testament a fair chance. I challenge any man to go through the Old Testament Scriptures, honestly seeking for light concerning the Messiah. He will go away, not only believing that Christ was the sinless Son of God, but also that the Bible is a divine revelation written by the finger of the eternal God.

2. The Bible Prophecies concerning Israel. The history of the Jew proves without question both the inspiration and the divine character of the Word of God.

My friend, suppose you deny God. Suppose you say there is no personal, intelligent God. Suppose you deny that God gave this, His revealed Word, as the expression of His will to men. Even if you deny God and His divinely inspired Word, yet you have another miracle for which to account. You still must tell me whence came this strange people, the Jews, with their more than 4,000 years of tragic, yet glorious history, unparalleled and unequaled. God wrote the history of the Jew before it became history; that is, He wrote it down in prophecy, which has, throughout many centuries, been running into history. The marvel is that God's prophecy is, at this moment, still being fulfilled on behalf of His ancient people, Israel.

Just here we would call attention to six undeniable facts which were pre-written by God's Holy Spirit concerning the history of the Jew:

(a) The Jew would give to the world the only Saviour of sinners.

(b) The Jew would be scattered among the nations.

(c) The Jew would not be reckoned among the nations; he would dwell alone. He would not be assimilated by the nations; his identity would be preserved.

(d) The history of the Jew among the nations would be one of blood and tears. He would find no place of rest among the Gentiles. At night he would say, "Would God it were morning!" And in the morning he would cry, "Would God it were evening!"

(e) God would curse the nations that persecuted the Jew; and bless the nations that blessed the Jew.

(f) At the end of the Gentile age God would re-gather the Jew to the land of Palestine, and establish His people there.

In these six statements we have God's pre-written history of Israel. And every wise person knows that these six statements are literally true.

That the Jew gave to the world Christ, the only Redeemer, history abundantly proves. In fulfillment of the
many Old Testament prophecies, a few of which we have read earlier in this lesson, the eternal God came down to become "The Prince of the house of David," "God manifest in the flesh," "Immanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." What a debt of love the Gentile world owes to the Jew! Not only did Israel give us our Saviour, but the Bible was written by Jews, "holy men of God," who were "moved by the Holy Ghost."

God knew that Israel would reject her Messiah and King; and knowing this, He foretold her bitter chastisement and suffering, brought upon her by her own unbelief. Let us read a few verses from the Palestinian Covenant, spoken by the Lord to Israel, and recorded by Moses 1451 B.C.:

"And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the Lord shall lead thee... And the Lord shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone. And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy feet have rest: but the Lord shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind: and thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life: in the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see. And the Lord shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships, by the way whereof I spake unto thee, Thou shalt see it no more again: and there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you" (Deut. 28:37, 64-68).

My friends, except by inspiration from God, such words concerning the people of Israel could not have been written more than three thousand years ago. They sound as though they had been written but yesterday. Here is a statement, made thousands of years ago, that Israel would be scattered among the nations, that their lives would hang in the balance, that their name would become a byword and a proverb among all nations. These three conditions have been characteristic of Israel's history for the past two thousand years; and they are especially true at this present hour.

During the last five years thousands of Jews have been brutally tortured, unspeakably abused, and cruelly murdered in Russia, Germany, Italy, and Poland. Even in our own beloved country, "the land of the free and the home of the brave," hatred of the Jew is being artfully fostered by many, and in the name of patriotism. There are places in Europe this evening where the conditions of the poor, suffering Jews are terrible—so terrible that they dread to close their eyes in sleep, lest they wake to experiences still more dreadful. But this very condition was prophesied by Moses nearly four millenniums ago. At the close of this broadcast, my friend, read the whole of the twenty-eighth chapter of Deuteronomy for yourself, to see God's remarkably clear prophecy of Israel's suffering, brought on by her sin in rejecting her Messiah, even the Lord Jesus Christ.

Again, in Num. 23:9 we read that the nation of Israel would be scattered, that they would "dwell alone," that they would not be numbered among the nations. That prophecy has been fulfilled to the very letter. They do "dwell alone"; that is, the nations have not been able to assimilate them. Nor are they "reckoned among the nations."

How marvelous are these prophecies when read in the light of the actual history of Israel, even to this moment in 1942! Man can disperse other peoples, and annihilate
them as nations; but here is a distinct people, still a distinct people thousands of years after their dispersion! Israel can not be disposed of by dispersion. For many centuries they have had no king, no country, no home. They have had no self-government to bind them together, from the time they were taken captive by Assyria and Babylon many centuries ago. It is true that a faithful remnant in Judah returned to Palestine in the days of Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah; they had to go back, in order that Christ might be born of David’s line, in Bethlehem, as God had said. (See II Sam. 7:12-16; Micah 5:2.) But even this faithful remnant in Judah, together with the unbelieving Jews of the day of our Lord upon earth, saw yet another and final dispersion; for in 70 A.D. Titus, the Roman Emperor, scattered the Jews, and destroyed the temple and all Jerusalem.

Yet the Jews, “the miracle of the ages,” still exist as a separate people! As a nation, they are still preserved. Still they are not numbered among the nations. God’s Word “cannot be broken”!

Do you realize, my friend, that when the League of Nations was formed, the Jews did not send representatives to that assembly? Though they were a nation, yet they were not numbered among the nations of the world. Have you ever wondered why it is that, when a Jew comes to America from a foreign land and takes citizenship, we do not call him a Jewish American? We call him an American Jew. With other nations it is different. We speak of a German American; of a Russian American. But in the case of the Jew, the order is reversed; he is an American Jew. You see, he is not numbered among the nations, even as Moses foretold.

Did Moses know whereof he spoke when he pre-wrote Israel’s history in Numbers and Deuteronomy? Here is a miracle of miracles for you to study. Here is a people, scattered and persecuted, defying climatic conditions, social conditions, political conditions, bitter hatred—defying all these to disintegrate and destroy their identity.

Did Moses know whereof he spoke when he wrote of the bitter anguish and suffering that would come upon a rebellious Israel? Yes: for God’s Holy Spirit told him, and he wrote it in the Pentateuch. It is one of the darkest stories of world history—this persecution of “the people of the wandering feet.” Our blood boils when we pick up the morning paper in these perilous days, to read of new outrages against God’s ancient people; to see how Hitler and his blood-thirsty Gestapo have robbed, insulted, tortured, and murdered the Jews of conquered Europe. Yet Hitler is not the first Gentile ruler to persecute Israel. Throughout the centuries many before him have sought to annihilate the Jew. Moses, under the guidance of God, knew this; and he wrote it in the Book of books, that all men of all time might know that God knows “the end from the beginning,” and that every word of His prophetic utterances would come to pass.

For such atrocities as men like Adolph Hitler have perpetrated against Israel, throughout the ages, certain and terrible judgment will be meted out. God said so—to Abraham; and God always keeps His Word! To the father of the Hebrew nation He said,

“I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee” (Gen. 12:3).

No Satan-inspired man or people can get rid of the Jew! The pages of history are filled with the record of miserable defeat and bitter retribution that have fallen upon the persecutors of God’s chosen people, whether they were nations or individuals.
Not only so; but the promised blessing upon all who love Israel has been and ever will be bestowed by our covenant-keeping God. “I will bless them that bless thee,” He said to Abraham. It should not be a hard thing to love the people who gave us our Lord and His written Word! Our sense of gratitude tells us that. Moreover, we have God’s direct command and His sure promise, “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee” (Psalm 122:6).

Both the Old and New Testaments tell us plainly and repeatedly that God will once more deal in kindness and grace with His people, Israel; that at the close of the Gentile age, He will regather His people from every country where they have been scattered; and that He will bring them again into the land of their fathers. There are hundreds of prophecies of this promised regathering, many of which were written more than fourteen hundred years before Christ. They are among the most wonderful utterances in all the realm of Holy Writ. We quote one of these just here, from Deut. 30:1-5:

“And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the Lord thy God hath driven thee, and shalt return unto the Lord thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul; that then the Lord thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the Lord thy God hath scattered thee. . .And the Lord thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers.”

Listen, my friends, is there anything going on now in the world to show that the Jews are looking back to the land of their fathers? I say, is there anything going on now in fulfillment of this prophecy—by decree? by government? by war? by peace? by commerce? by rail? by ship? Yes; you and I know that there is very much going on that concerns Israel. God is getting everything ready for the final and complete fulfillment of all that He prophesied and promised centuries ago, when He said that the Jew would not only be scattered throughout the earth, but that he would also be gathered back in his homeland. The first of these prophecies has been literally fulfilled, and the second is beginning to be fulfilled, before our very eyes. One hundred years ago there were not more than 5,000 Jews in Palestine. We who live today have seen the Zionist Movement come into existence, the objective of which is the re-establishment of Israel in Palestine. As a result, there are now 800,000 Jews in the Holy Land. So great has been the Jewish immigration that it was necessary for the British government to curb it, because the land was not able to assimilate the large numbers who were eager to enter there. Moreover, the opposition from the Arab population has caused friction and delay; but when God’s hour strikes, He will overcome all friction and sweep aside every hindrance to the accomplishment of His purpose and will. He will give Israel her land!

Some people have argued that Palestine is too small to hold all the Jewish people; but they are measuring the distance from the Mediterranean Sea to the River Jordan; whereas God promised Abraham all the land “from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates” (Gen. 15:18). Fifty million people could live in that area.

If men would read the Bible, they would see how, in their ignorance of what it teaches, they limit the omniscience and the omnipotence of God. Everything He has said about the Jews is consistent with His revealed plan
for them—his rebellious, yet beloved people. The many fulfilled prophecies concerning them are a sure token that yet unfulfilled prophecy of their future blessing will literally come to pass. And, let us remember, the Jew is but one of "many infallible proofs" of the inerrancy of the Scripture!

Can an intelligent person, then, believe the Bible to be the Word of God? How else can he account for the present-day fulfillment of things written so many centuries ago? The Bible is God's Book, for only God has the power of looking into the future, hundreds of thousands of years before an epochal event. Only God has the power of predicting with the most minute precision its fulfillment. If we are wise, we shall go to the Bible for God's picture of religious and political developments, which must surely come to pass in the earth.

3. The Bible Prophecies concerning the Gentile Nations. Another line of prophecy, found in the Old Testament, has to do with Gentile dominion over the earth. And here again, the literal fulfillment of many of these prophecies gives unmistakable proof of the divine inspiration of the Word of God.

In the second and seventh chapters of Daniel, God foretold that there would be four great Gentile world empires—Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. Every schoolboy knows that the course of history has run into this mold.

It is not our purpose here to enter upon a detailed discussion of Daniel's prophecies, and of the New Testament corroboration of the pre-written history which they set forth. It would require many hours of careful study of these Old Testament prophecies, together with our Lord's own prophetic teaching and of the teaching of the apostles, to get a comprehensive picture of God's description of Gentile world history—from Nebuchadnezzar's day until Jesus reigns in glory. For example, a comparison of the prophecies of Daniel, our Lord's Olivet Discourse, and the book of Revelation give us this broad outline picture, as well as many of the details. These prophecies we have studied in some of our former radio Bible lessons; but now we are seeking only to show how fulfilled prophecy verifies the eternal truth of the divine inspiration of the Bible, which is the Word of God. Therefore, omitting the details just here, we simply state that, twenty-five centuries ago, God told Daniel that there would be four great Gentile world powers; that the fourth of these would be revived after a period of disintegration; and that out of this fourth Gentile power the Antichrist would arise.

Of these four, Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece have come and gone. Ancient Rome, too, has gone; and in the place of the old Roman Empire, the nations of modern history have come into being. One day Rome's "deadly wound" will be "healed" (Rev. 13:3); and the last form of the Roman Empire—revived—will run its course.

When Daniel was given these prophecies, none of them had come to pass. All were then in the future. Today, after 2,500 years, most of them have become history. By all that is logical and reasonable, are we not to believe that the yet unfulfilled portions of Daniel's prophecies will be literally fulfilled? Add to this the testimony of our Lord Himself, who quoted Daniel (Matt. 24:15); add to this all the prophecies of John in Revelation, which dovetail with Daniel, fitting the prophetic picture as hand in glove; add to this all the prophecies of the other apostles, which corroborate and complete the picture. And what have you? Not only God's plan of the ages; but also a clear mark of inspiration of both the Old and the New Testaments. No
mere man could have foreseen centuries and centuries of world history! No mere man could have written the Bible, which is the eternal Word of the living God!

4. Bible Prophecies concerning Other "Signs of the Times." In addition to the three lines of fulfilled prophecy which we have been considering, there are other specific predictions concerning the "signs of the times," which shall prevail as this age of grace draws to a close. Our Lord warned against the setting of dates for His return; yet He Himself gave us some of these "signs of the times," that we might know when that day is approaching. Read His Olivet Discourse, recorded in Matthew 24:1—25:46 for some of these remarkable prophecies:

(a) "Wars and rumours of wars" (Matt. 24:6).
(b) "Famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places" (Matt. 24:7).
(c) Hatred of the Jew (Matt. 24:9).
(d) "False prophets" (Matt. 24:11).
(e) "Great tribulation" (Matt 24:15-22), brought upon Israel and the whole world by the Antichrist (Matt. 24:15).
(f) Godlessness and indifference to spiritual things (Matt. 24:37-42).
(g) The true and the false in professing Christendom at Christ's return (Matt. 25:1-30).

Turning back to Daniel again, we hear him telling us that at "the time of the end" many should "run to and fro," and that "knowledge" should "be increased." (See Dan. 12:4.) What an up-to-date description of the rapid transportation, of the scientific advancement, and of the increased educational opportunities for millions in the world today.

The apostles, also, foresaw conditions as they would prevail at the close of the church age. Both Peter and Paul wrote of unbelief in professing Christendom, of lawlessness and godlessness, of scoffers and skeptics. So did Jude and James and John. We quote just a few of their writings, which speak for themselves:

"...that day shall not come, except there be a falling away (apostasy) first." (II Thess. 2:3; cf. verses 1:12).
"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons. ..." (I Tim. 4:1; cf. verses 1-3).
"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you... Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days... Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord... For the coming of the Lord draweth nigh" (James 5:1-8).
"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them and bring upon themselves swift destruction" (II Peter 2:1; cf. verses 1-22).
"...there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming?" (II Peter 3:3, 4; cf. verses 3-18).
"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (I John 4:1).

"But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; how that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts" (Jude 17, 18; cf. verses 1-25).

Thank God! He always has a faithful group of disciples in the world in every age! And today there are millions who give Him heart-allegiance, trusting in the shed blood of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, for their salvation. But the men who, not so many years ago, stood in our pulpits
and declared that the world would get better and better until the church would "bring in the kingdom," have to admit today that the world is not better; that it is definitely in the worst condition known to man; and that the church is growing ever-increasingly cold, rather than more and more evangelistic. What does all this mean? It means that only our Lord Himself can bring in everlasting righteousness and peace. It means that all the prophetic Scriptures, which tell us that He will one day do this very thing, following the greatest tribulation the world has ever known, will be literally fulfilled. It means that only God Himself could have written such prophecy, hundreds of years before it began to be fulfilled. It means that an intelligent person can believe the Bible. And it means that only those who do believe it, in its entirety, are really wise!

The Marvelous Unity of the Bible

The marvelous unity of the Bible bears testimony to its inspiration by God's Holy Spirit. It was written over a period of fifteen hundred years or more; it is composed of sixty-six books, written by at least forty different human authors, in three different languages—Hebrew, Aramic, and Greek. These men, through whom God wrote the Bible, represented every walk of life; for among them were law-giver, poet, judge, shepherd, king, fisherman. Such circumstances would ordinarily make for anything but unity; yet we have this one Book, with one message, telling the story of the one and only Saviour of men. Prophecy and history, law and psalm, proverb, parable, and sermon, whether poetry or prose—all tell the story of salvation from sin by faith in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us suppose, for a moment, that 1,500 years ago a man went to a marble quarry, took five blocks of marble, and placed them in an open field. Many years after his death a second man came along and placed three stones upon the five. Then two hundred years later another man placed seven stones upon the eight; and so on for 1,500 years. Through the passing centuries, other men and still others, who never saw those who went before them, continued to bring blocks of marble from the same quarry, and placed them upon the same pile, until forty men had brought sixty-six blocks. What would you expect to see? Only a pile of stones.

But suppose, instead, a perfectly chiseled statue stood before you? How could you explain that? Only in one way, that some great master-mind had planned the work, and that each of the forty workmen had wrought according to the plan and under the direction of a known designer.

In just that way the Bible was constructed. The infinitely wise God designed it; the forty men who constructed it were chosen by Him to execute His plan; and they spoke or wrote as He gave them utterance. Its construction can be explained upon no other ground.

The Matchless Perfection of the Bible

The Bible was completed nearly two thousand years ago; yet not one word has been added since then. Why? Because it is matchlessly perfect. Man has improved upon every invention of man. We have one world's fair after another to show man's progress in discovery and invention. When the "Santa Fe Super-Chief" locomotive engine of today is placed beside "The Rocket," the first locomotive ever built, the great improvements made upon Stephenson's original product become most evident. The same is true of the automobile. Do you remember your old "Model T Ford"? When Mr. Ford put that machine out, we thought man's inventive power had reached its climax. We do not
think so now. Had this present war not interfered, we
should still be attending automobile shows, looking at the
latest new models. The first sewing-machine was but a
crude affair, when compared with the modern sewing-
machine, which is run by electricity, and with lightning
rapidity can make any article of wearing apparel worn by
human beings. Almost unnumbered improvements have
been made upon Howes’ invention. The McCormick inven-
tion of the reaping-machine was among the greatest of
modern times. But the improvements made upon it are
one hundred times more complex and remarkable than was
the original machine.

It is the same with everything that man has invented
or discovered. However, God’s Book still stands—unim-
proved and impossible of improvement; because, like all
the works of God, it is impossible for God Himself to
improve upon that which is perfect. And certainly fallible
man cannot improve upon the work of the infallible God!
A million millenniums might come and go; and yet no
man, with his ever-increasing knowledge of science and
art, could dare add to or take away from God’s Holy
Word! That is, no man who acknowledges himself a sinner;
and the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Saviour. Skeptics
and scoffers would dare any work of the devil; yet even
their efforts to rob the Bible of its matchless perfection are
futile and vain. The Bible, like Him of whom it treats,
is “the same yesterday, and today, and forever” (Heb.
13:8). In the front of the building of The Bible Institute
of Los Angeles these words are carved in stone,

“For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.”

And that quotation from Psalm 119:89 can be written
over the entire Bible.

The Scientific Accuracy of the Bible

The Bible is scientifically correct; yet it was never
intended to teach science. God did not ordain that the
Bible should be a scientific textbook; yet, in His record,
ever once does He violate the best science known to
man, even in our own century.

Herbert Spencer once said that he could never be a
Christian until he could find in the Bible an explanation
of the five creative periods which science demands: creation
of time, of space, of matter, of force, and of motion. “All
these must have been,” said Professor Spencer; and he
spent forty years in searching for the answers to these
five creative periods. How strange that he could not see
that Moses put into the first two verses of Genesis the
answer, for which Herbert Spencer searched for forty
years! There we read:

“In the beginning”—that is time.
“God created the heavens”—that is space.
“And the earth”—that is matter.
“And the Spirit of God”—that is force.
“Moved upon the face of the deep”—that is motion.

The Bible agrees with the truest science the world has
ever known. We were a long time discovering that the
earth is round; our forefathers believed it was square. It
remained for Columbus, in 1492 A. D., to demonstrate
that the world is round. Philosophers before his time,
including Plato and Aristotle, believed that the world was
square. And yet, long before Plato and Aristotle philoso-
phized and Columbus sailed, God inspired Isaiah to write,

“It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth”
(Isaiah 40:22).

Again, in Luke 17:34-36, the Lord Jesus speaking of
His return to the earth, said,
"There shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left."

Surely there is a reference here to two hemispheres, where in one there is day and in the other night at the same time.

Job was inspired of the Holy Spirit to say that God "stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing" (Job 26:7).

That man has skin on his teeth, is practically a modern discovery; and yet Job wrote many centuries ago, saying, "I am escaped with the skin of my teeth" (Job 19:20).

Solomon was not a teacher of the science of medicine; but long before Dr. Harvey ever discovered the circulation of the blood, and found that the heart was like a pump, driving the blood to the hands and fingers and tips of the toes, Solomon wrote, by inspiration of God, warning men not to wait until they were old before remembering their Creator. And this, in part, is how Solomon described old age:

"In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened...because man goeth to his long home...or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern. Then shall the dust return to earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it" (Eccl. 12:3-7).

Here the heart is likened to a wheel on the old fashioned pump, passing in a continuous chain, going round and round, and drawing water. Thus did Solomon describe the circulation of the blood.

Of course, the Bible used the language of appearance. We do today. The newspapers write of the rising and setting of the sun; and yet we know that it is the earth's revolutions that give this appearance. How else could we describe these things?

The Bible is the only Book that answers the great mysteries that confront us. The four most searching questions that a man ever put to his soul are these: Who am I? Where am I? Whence did I come? Where am I going? Science can not answer them. Science fails to tell the origin of human life. Scientists have been digging into the earth with the excavator's spade. They have harnessed lightning and used it. They have gone into chemical analysis. And yet they have failed to explain the minute atoms of human life. What is life? They do not know, and yet they know we live. When a man dies, they know that he is dead, that life is gone out of him. But what is life? They can not analyze it. Life to them is a mystery. It baffles all science. But when we bring these questions to the Bible, we find an answer that satisfies every trusting soul. Our conclusion is inevitable, and it is sane: The hand that made man is the hand that wrote the Bible through "holy men of God...as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (II Peter 1:21).

The Indestructibility of the Bible

Another irrefutable mark of divine inspiration is the Bible's indestructibility. No literature, no book, has ever been attacked as the Bible has. From the beginning of its existence, until the dawn of the present century; yea, until this very night, this wonderful Book, the Bible, has been fought by skeptics, atheists, and agnostics of all kinds.
Many of these men have had keen intellects and silver tongues. And yet—with all that—listen to me—this Book has stood all the storms; and still it stands! Its pages are brighter than gold; its sway is stronger than all of Satan's hosts. Ridicule and blasphemous unbelief; water, fire, and sword—none of these things has been able to get rid of the Bible. And none ever will!

Some time ago a party of tourists went to see the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. It stands 325 feet high. We are told that twelve people can stand inside the hand. One of the tourists went into that hand, and then into the head. As he looked at its great light, he saw about one hundred dead sparrows lying on the ledge of that light. Turning to the guide, he asked,

"Have you a sparrow trap up here?"

"No," the guide answered.

"Is there any poison up here to kill these birds?" the visitor asked again.

"No."

"Then what killed the sparrows?"

The guide explained that, on the preceding night, a storm had driven the birds toward the light. Their tiny wings, caught in the hurricane, flew on and on toward the only light shining in that dark storm. The sparrows had beaten their helpless wings against that great light until they were dead. But the light shone on! Bless God for that illustration! The dying wings of the Voltares, the Humes, the Ingersolls, the Tom Paynes, have beaten themselves against God's eternal Book; but the old Light still shines on! That is why I believe the Bible. Man can not destroy it. My friend, let me urge you to give this wonderful Book its right place in your life and in your home.

The Universal Appeal of the Bible

Another proof of the divine inspiration of the Bible is its universal appeal to the human heart. It has been translated into more than 1,000 languages and dialects. It meets human needs, in every nation and in every country. Rich and poor, educated and illiterate, master and slave—all alike share the message it bears of the only saviour of sinners; and all who love Him thrill to the inspired message it bears! It is the world's best seller, and has been for a long, long time. These facts are all the more remarkable in view of Satan's violent and repeated attempts to obliterate it from the mind of men. They tell us, beyond controversy, that the Bible is the inspired Word of the living God.

The Superiority of the Bible Over All Other Books

Dr. R. A. Torrey once said three striking truths about the superiority of the Bible over all other books. Followers of pagan and apostate religions have often asked why the books of the founders of their systems of teaching are not as good as the Bible. This is one of Satan's subtle attacks, in seeking to undermine the Word of God in the minds of the unbelieving world. In answer to such questions as these, Dr. Torrey said, in part, that the teachings of Buddha, Zoroaster, Confucius, Mohammed, and others contain: (1) Some truth, but truth mingled with error; (2) part of the truth, not the whole truth; and (3) less truth, all put together, than that found in the Bible. On the contrary, the Word of God contains: (1) Only truth, and no error; (2) it contains all truth; and (3) it contains more truth than all the false religions have mingled with gross heresy and paganism and wickedness.
I once listened to an ordained Protestant minister in a position of high authority in the city of Chicago. He was giving a series of so-called Bible lessons to a group of Christian workers. Among other blasphemous things, he asked, “Why should we go to pagan lands with Christianity? The people of those lands have their own religions; and they are as good as ours.” When a born-again member of his audience asked, during the open forum, what about the Christ of the Bible and His blood-atonement for the soul, the speaker answered with cold cynicism and bitter sarcasm that only the childish and weak-minded believed that fable any more!

It is because of such false teachers as that man that Christians in every age should “hold forth the Word of life” in unwavering, unflinching boldness. All the Bible needs is a chance to get into the hearts of men; it will bear its own fruit; it will not return unto God void. It is “living, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword.” (See Heb. 4:12.) Our task is only to tell it and tell it and tell it again to a world that sits in darkness and in ignorance of what the Bible says.

Every false system of religious teaching strikes at one or more of the fundamentals of our faith; such as the deity of Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His supernatural miracles, His vicarious atonement, His bodily resurrection, His ascension into heaven, and His second coming to reign upon the earth. And these fundamentals of our faith constitute the very reason why the Bible is superior to all man-made books. The latter have no Saviour from sin; the Bible presents the only Saviour—for time and for all eternity.

The story is told of a young woman who was given a book to read. She did not know the author; and as she turned the pages, she fell asleep over what others considered an intensely interesting volume. To her it was dull and confused. Then one day she met the author of the book, a young man who was personally attractive to her, as she was to him. Again she picked up the book and began to read. This time the pages fairly glowed with interest; and she read the book through—not once, but many times. She had fallen in love with the author of the book!

My friend, do you see the analogy? The unsaved man finds no living, vital interest in the Book of books. He may read it for its ethical teachings. He may read it to tear it to pieces, setting up his own little intellect against the eternal Word of God. He may even say, as countless thousands do say, seeking to excuse themselves for evident indifference toward it, “I can not understand the Bible.” But let that man come face to face with the Author of the Book; let him come to know Him in all His love and grace; and the Bible takes on an interest and a power that no other book in all the world can match. Do you love the Author of the Bible, my friend? If you do not, then ask Him to enter your heart, and teach you His Word. Then the Bible will become immeasurably precious and wonderful to your soul!

The Transforming Power of the Bible

In these lessons we shall not attempt to give all the reasons for believing the Bible to be the inspired Word of God. Possibly no mere man could ever give them all! But if we had no other proof than its power to transform human life, then that alone would be conclusive. No other book in the world has ever had the power to change derelicts, wrecks, ostracized creatures of misery into holy, happy, victorious saints as the Bible has. And the story of Christianity is the story of lives transformed from sin and degradation to new life and beauty in Christ Jesus.
When David Livingstone was blazing a trail through the heart of Africa, he met a native chieftan named Africana. This black man had washed his hands in the blood of literally thousands of human beings, white as well as black. Africana had become such a menace to human life that the British government had set a price upon his head, a thousand pounds having been offered for him, dead or alive.

David Livingstone planned to visit this blood-thirsty chieftan in his own territory, and sent the notice of his plan in advance. In reply, Africana sent word to the missionary, saying, “Tell the white man that, if he dares to come to my territory, I will make a drinking cup of his skull before he has been here twenty-four hours.” This did not deter Livingstone. He made the visit, taking a copy of the Bible with him. He told Africana the message of the Word of God concerning the Christ who died for man’s sins and rose again for man’s justification. As a result of this visit, that savage chieftan was made “a new creature in Christ Jesus.” So marked was the transformation in his life that the British government gave him a pardon. Africana had laid down his natural life for the Lord Jesus to fill with divine life. Can you tell me any other book that can change man like that?

Today there are tens of thousands of people in Africa, China, India—in every pagan land—who can bear witness to the power of the Gospel, as set forth in the Bible, to lift men from sin and degradation to the plains of holiness and honor. The wisest of statesmen in the world recognize that real and lasting civilization follows everywhere in its wake.

I want to urge you, my friend, to build your life upon the Word of the living God. Life is like a building. It must have a foundation if it is to stand. Our Lord visualized this great truth in the parable of the two builders:

“Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it” (Matt. 7:24-27).

The casual observer, looking at these two houses, might not see any difference in them. But there is a vast difference; it lies in the foundation, something out of sight. Two men, likewise, may appear outwardly to be very much the same. Both have two feet, two arms, two hands, two eyes. Both may have had the same educational advantages, the same social culture. But one is not a Christian; the other knows the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour and King. The storms of life begin to blow and beat upon those two men; and then the difference becomes apparent. Sickness, death, loss of property, loss of friends—these tragedies for the unsaved man break him, or make him bitter, perhaps stodical, yet blindly groping for comfort and strength. The same calamities fall upon the Christian man; and all the while he knows “the peace of God, which passeth all understanding.” He does not ask to understand why sorrow is permitted; he simply trusts his living, loving Lord, who sees the end from the beginning.

Build your life upon the foundation Stone, which is Christ Jesus; and you will learn about Him in the Bible. He is its central theme. Within the pages of the sacred Scriptures there is a mine of wealth, “a paradise of glory.” If you would know the foundation of civil government,
read the writings of Moses. If you would know the power of song to inspire valor, and to comfort the sorrowing, read the Psalms of David. If you would know the future destiny of world governments, and how Gentile power over the earth is to come to an end, read the prophecy of Daniel. If you would know the significance of what is taking place in Europe, Africa, and Asia, turn to the prophetic Scriptures for information and enlightenment. If you would know the meaning of present world movements, such as the rise of dictators and their policies and dreams, read again the prophecies of the Word of God. These show clearly that the Bible is the most up-to-date Book in all the world. If you desire to know what is to be the end of all things, and how the great battle between the forces of righteousness and of unrighteousness will end, read the book of Revelation. If you seek to know the history of the Christ who lived upon this earth, suffered, died, rose again, and ascended into heaven, read the Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. If you hunger to know how a sinner may be justified before a sin-hating and a holy God, read the writings of Paul. If you want comfort in sorrow, light in darkness, guidance along the uncertain path, read the entire Word of God. The Bible and the Holy Spirit are the two Agencies of God in the earth to save from sin, to empower for service, and to give joy and peace and victory in a God-dishonoring, Christ-rejecting, Spirit-resisting world.

Read the Bible—prayerfully, daily, systematically; and it will do your soul good. You will love it; and you will be able to say, with the Psalmist:

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."
"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."
"O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day."

—Psalm 119:11, 105, 97.

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