

PROVING THE BIBLE BY THE BIBLE

Jesus said “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” (John 17:17). The Psalmist exalted the word of God as true and right when he sang, “The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.” (Psa. 19:7-9). God’s word is true from the beginning (Psa. 119:160). Again the Psalmist wrote “Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth.” (Psa. 119:142). Once more he wrote, “Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth.” (Psa. 119:151).

When these and a plethora of other verses are mentioned, the atheists, agnostics and infidels say, “To attempt to prove the Bible by the Bible is circular reasoning. That is fallacious reasoning.” However, they have no problem using the same approach in other realms.

The value of a coin, to some extent, depends on the material from which it is made. Thus, if one wonders if a coin is made of gold, silver or copper, the coin itself has to be tested. Likewise, if one desires to know the value of the Bible, he must use the Bible to determine the same.

If one desires to know if a work is a genuine work of Rembrandt, Picasso or Anna Mary Robertson (Grandma Moses), the painting must be tested. Each had his or her peculiar style. Thus, each has to be tested. In order to determine a particular work of Rembrandt, one does not study a work of Picasso. He would have to study the painting in question. Likewise, with the Bible, one who is interested in knowing if the Bible is authentic and genuine should study the Bible. Almost thirty years ago I was studying with a young man who charged that the Bible has

errors in it. I asked him who told him that there were errors in the Bible. He said that his professor at college had told him that. I questioned him if he had ever read the Bible. He said, “No.” I said, “Well, that’s like a movie reviewer’s attempt to review a movie that he has never seen; but he is basing his review on what others have said.” I suggested that the young man read the Bible for himself. An honest person will give the Bible a fair reading.

Suppose a man, in looking for good water on his farm, digs a well. How is he going to determine if the well has good drinking water? Does he dig a well, then test it by drinking bottled water? You say, “That’s ridiculous!” You are right. So, it is ridiculous to suggest that one cannot test the Bible by the Bible. I suggest to all that the best way to test the Bible for its accuracy or truthfulness is by studying the Bible itself.

Sometimes when I pay for an item at a store with a twenty dollar bill, the cashier will test the bill to see if it is genuine by marking it. I do not know what the criterion is for his determining the genuineness of the bill, but I know what he is doing. Now, what would you think of someone’s testing the genuineness of a certain bill by testing another bill? You say, “That’s absurd.” I agree. Likewise, it is ridiculously absurd and absurdly ridiculous to argue that one cannot test the Bible by the Bible.

Certainly the Bible can be tested by various studies, but the Bible will never contradict truth in any realm. The Bible does not contradict true science. It does not contradict accurate history. It does not contradict nature or nature’s laws. It does not contradict true discoveries in archaeology. There are no contradictions between the lands of the Bible and the Bible’s description of them. Examples could be multiplied in all of these areas. All will give credence to the inspiration of the Bible.

The greatest proof of the inspiration of the Bible is prophecy and fulfillment. One great prophecy made 170

years before its fulfillment concerned the ancient city of Babylon. Isaiah wrote:

“And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees’ excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there. But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and owls shall dwell there, and satyrs shall dance there. And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant palaces: and her time is near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged.”

— Isaiah 13:19-22

At the time of the prophecy no one would have thought that the great city of Babylon in all of its splendor and glory would utterly collapse. However, eventually it was taken by Cyrus, and then by Darius Hystaspes. Xerxes destroyed the temples of the city. Alexander the Great captured the city a third time. Then it was taken by Antigonos, followed by Demetrius, and Antiochus the Great, and then by the Parthians. Barnes states that each successive conquest contributed to Babylon’s reduction. Further the commentator said, “Benjamin of Tudela vaguely alludes to the palace of Nebuchadnezzar, which, he says, could not be entered on account of its being the abode of dragons and wild beasts.”

God’s word is true. It must be sown into the hearts of men; but if men reject it, we have nothing else to offer. We shall all meet the word of God in the judgment (John 12:48; Rev. 20:11-15).

Ben F. Vick, Jr. from *The Informer*

ILL

Sunday: Janice Carter (PM); Clara Scott; Millie Robertson (PM). **Wednesday:** Millie Robertson.

Millie Robertson is waiting to be scheduled for surgery. Clara Scott is recovering from knee surgery at home. Tom Tucker continues his treatment.

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Barbara James' aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at the Sweet Life of Rosehill in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

John and Barbara James are in Arizona vacationing. Chris Edwards was away on business last week. Robin Brown was away on business. The Nelson family visited relatives in Newton, KS last Sunday PM. Ted and Julia Thrasher were in Oklahoma and Texas last week for a funeral and to visit and assist Julia's mother. It is good to have Steven Schleif back with us – for good!

THANKS

Our thanks to all those who helped to unload and prepare our new song books and then place them in the pews.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held next Sunday, March 1 following our AM worship. Plan to come and enjoy the good food and company!

GOSPEL MEETING

Mark your calendars for April 26-30, 2009 for our Gospel Meeting with brother Randy Carr of the Liberty church of Christ in Belle, Missouri. More information later!

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 44; Sunday PM, 29; Wednesday PM, 30.

Those To Serve

February 22, 2009

BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Cole

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas
SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher
OPENING PRAYER Chris Edwards
PRESIDE.....Steve Brown
ASSIST.....Jared Nelson
ASSIST..... Dave Parish
CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemechek

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER John Cody Carter
CLOSING PRAYER..... Joel Nelson
LORD'S SUPPER.....Steve Brown

WEDNESDAY 25th

SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson
INVITATION Jared Nelson

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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