AMBASSADOR COLLEGE Bible CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

LESSON 12

HISTORY and ARCHAEOLOGY Prove Bible TRUE

CAN IT be *proved* that the Bible is an INSPIRED revelation from God for man?—that you can *depend* on its teachings to lead you to *salvation?*

How can you be sure, seeing there are so many different modern translations? And how can you be sure that if there were an *original* inspired revelation, given directly by God to the prophets and apostles, it has been accurately preserved? HOW CAN YOU KNOW it has not been corrupted beyond recognition?

If the Bible is a revelation from God for man, then why do we not hear of more PROOF outside the Bible—confirmation from *history* and *archaeology*—that the events of the Bible really happened and its great characters actually lived? Where is the proof that Joseph was in Egypt?—that Abraham and his ancestors really existed? — that David was actually king of Israel?—and, above all, that Christ and the apostles were known by their Jewish and Gentile contemporaries?

Yes, where is the proof?

It is time we studied to prove whether the Bible is *fact* or fable.

What Ministers Say About the Bible

It would probably be SHOCKING to you if you knew what the religious leaders personally think and publicly say about the Bible! Here is what *Harry Emerson Fosdick,* a noted American minister of New York, wrote in his book *The Modern Use of the Bible:*

"We know now that every idea in the Bible started from primitive and childlike origins . . ." and that it is an "impossible attempt to harmonize the Bible with itself, to make it speak with unanimous voice, to resolve its conflicts and contradictions. . . ."

Why did Dr. Fosdick write this? Was he convinced that there was no proof of the inspiration of the Bible? OR WAS HE OVERLOOKING THE PROOF—AND NEGLECTING THE TRUTH?

Of the earlier writings in the Bible, he further says: "But we do not need to apologize for their crudities. . . . Their lack is a lack of maturity. . . ."

Today it is shocking to realize that the religious leaders believe that the Bible is primitive, child-like, crude, immature—a book of fables and myths instead of the *truth.*

Dr. James Moffatt, who produced a famous English rendering of the Bible, says in his introduction to the Bible that many of its books are "notes by disciples, worked up into literary papers which have been repeatedly edited, sometimes by pious collectors."

To this learned man the earlier portions of the Bible stemmed from "the natural desire to gather up the primitive traditions of the people."

Yes, here is one of the foremost Biblical scholars declaring that the Bible has a natural origin in human *traditions!*—implying that it is *not* backed by *fact!* What made him believe such an idea? Was he without proof of the inspiration of Scripture? Surely, if there were proof for the inspiration of the Bible, these men would not have overlooked it—would they? . . . *or* DID THEY FIND THE PROOF AND REJECT IT?

Now read what *Dr. Edgar J. Goodspeed,* who also translated the Bible, says about Scripture in his book *How to Read the Bible.* He says you

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE
Bible
CORRESPONDENCE COURSE
LESSON 12
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Dr. C. Paul Meredith, *director*
Sent FREE to all who request it, as the Lord provides.
Address all communications to the editor,
Box 111, Pasadena, California 91109
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Printed in U.S.A.

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should remember this about the first twelve books: "It is man's first attempt to organize his knowledge of his past into what we would call an outline of history." He counts the *inspiration* of God upon the man who wrote it, as *nothing!*

When we read Genesis, Dr. Goodspeed would remind us that "Genesis is a great encyclopedia of *Hebrew* thought, and its solutions of the great problems that confront the human mind. Its great achievement was that it unified it all [knowledge] *as* the work of one supreme being . . ." (p. 39).

Do you catch what this means? The Bible is the work of *man* only—*man's* attempt to organize historical knowledge, the Hebrew *man's* solution to the world's moral problems—*masquerading* as though it were from a supreme being!

This is exactly the view of most educated people! The Bible is, according to this misguided philosophy, the inspiring record of *man's* search for a concept of God—not the *inspired* record of *God's* revelation to man of essential knowledge man needs to know but would not otherwise be able to obtain!

It is time we demand irrefutable proof for such wrong statements as Dr. Goodspeed's, when he writes that *God's law* "perpetuates the old legal practices taken over from the *Canaanites* after the conquest . . ." and represents ". . . various stages of primitive legislation. . . ." In other words, Dr. Goodspeed believes mortal, carnal human beings formulated God's DIVINE LAW. How odd!

As for the remainder of the Bible he believes "The Book of Joshua is the *legendary* story of the conquest of Canaan" and the Book of Ruth "belongs to Israel's *fiction*, rather than to its history, and should be among its *tales* and *stories*" (p. 51). IRREFUTABLE *PROOF* FOR SUCH WRONG STATEMENTS CAN'T BE PRODUCED!

Sincere, but Ignorant?

SHOCKING UTTERANCES SUCH AS THESE ARE THE PRODUCT OF HUMAN REASON! To the natural mind the Bible is merely a book of tales and stories, and fabulous solutions to the question of human origin and destiny. What *proof* do these men have for propounding the concept that the Bible was fraudulently written by Hebrews who only "claimed" divine authority for their merely human utterances?

HAVE THESE MEN BEEN ABLE TO *DISPROVE* THE BIBLE?—to disprove the existence of its great characters—to disprove the occurrence of its outstanding historic events? NO!

If they HAD *uncovered this disproof, they would have demonstrated the Bible to be man's effort to create and define God instead of its being God's record of revealed and absolutely essential knowledge!* Would man go to all this trouble?

It is the *religious leaders* who are responsible for souring the average man-on-the-street against the Bible. What else can the average person believe when religious leaders, who are *supposed* to know the Bible, DECLARE THE BIBLE A PIOUS FRAUD! THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS ARE THE BIBLE'S WORST ENEMY!

Of course the Bible is read from the pulpits. It is continually being translated anew—as though it were merely ancient literature—but *its TEACHINGS have been REJECTED!* Its solutions to the world's ills have been REPUDIATED WITHOUT BEING TESTED!

People are being persuaded to TAKE FOR GRANTED WHAT THE CHURCHES SAY ABOUT THE BIBLE. They have ASSUMED *that the Bible teaches hundreds of conflicting ideas*, just as Dr. Fosdick wrote, and that the *Bible* is the cause for the hundreds of disputing sects and denominations. But they have *not been willing to examine the Bible for themselves* to learn what it actually does say! If they did they would be mightily surprised!

The reason people have willingly believed fables about the Bible is that they sincerely DO NOT WANT TO *DO* WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS! They *want* to believe fables! "*They will not endure sound teaching; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables*" (II Timothy 4:3). Note well that people *as a whole* will just naturally not *endure* the truth!

People sincerely *want* to serve their *own* lusts. They want to be in ignorance of God's law and way of life! They do not want the astounding proof that the Bible is true, that it is inspired—that it can be proved right!

As Jeremiah the prophet was inspired to write: "An appalling and horrible thing is come to pass in the land: the prophets prophesy in the service of *falsehood*, and the priests bear rule at their beck and call; and My people love to have it so" (Jer. 5:30--31, Moffatt trans.).

Most religious leaders just won't preach the truth! So let us now understand what the Bible *really* is.

WHAT the Bible Really Is

THE BIBLE IS THE WRITTEN REVELATION OF GOD, OUR CREATOR, FOR MANKIND. *It contains the absolutely vital knowledge that everyone needs desperately to understand*—but which would be inaccessible by any *natural* means. *The Bible, then, possesses supreme* AUTHORITY *over our lives, since it comes from our own Supreme Creator.* In the Bible, God speaks with authority to us through its writers. The Bible repeats hundreds of times: "Thus saith the Lord." In Scripture, God speaks in the first person—"I"— and challenges us to test Him to *prove* whether He speaks the truth. (Isa. 44:6-9.)

WITHOUT THE BIBLE WE CAN *NEVER* UNDERSTAND THE LESSONS OF THE PAST, THE MEANING OF THE PRESENT, AND THE GOAL OF THE FUTURE.

Scripture, when rightly understood, *gives a rational meaning* for man's being here and the causes of our world's ills. It EXPLAINS exactly why this world has wars, sicknesses and SUFFERING. These problems are the *penalty* of the wrong way of life. There are hundreds of religious, political and economic "cures" in the world, but none of them reaches the cause of earth's problems. Only *God's mind* is great enough to know the *true* answers. No book but *His Bible* can explain the laws that eternally regulate human life and human affairs—LAWS which, when violated, bring the penalty of war and death.

Only the Bible is able to point the way out of IMPENDING CHAOS!

Yet men reject its solutions as out-of-date in this atomic age. Its truth they do not want to grasp. *No wonder that "the Lord has a controversy with the nations"* (Jer. 25:31). EVER SINCE THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN LIFE, GOD HAS HAD A CONTROVERSY WITH HUMANITY BECAUSE HUMAN BEINGS NATURALLY REFUSE TO FOLLOW HIS WAY OF LIFE. We humans think our ways are better. We seem to assume that we know more than God. Yes, "there is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of DEATH" (Proverbs 14:12). We AVOID acknowledging God as our Superior by covering up the proof of His inspired writings by saying they are fables and traditions.

Where Is the PROOF?

Everyone today demands proof! People have a chip on their shoulders, so to speak. They want someone to prove whether the BIBLE IS TRUE. Christ said this spirit would exist in these end days (Luke 18:8). Of course it is right that we should prove it! And there is proof —proof of the most amazing kind—proof that ought to rock civilization to its foundations! But the world is wilfully ignorant of it.

Believe it or not, THE WORLD ALREADY KNOWS OF THE *PROOF* but is unwilling to accept it. It has SEEN the proof; it has FELT it; it has DUG it up; it has READ it; it has PUBLISHED it—but the world has *rejected* it because it does not want to believe and *surrender its will* to the Bible.

This Lesson of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course is the fourth in a series demonstrating the proof of God's existence and the inspiration of His revelation. We have already studied the proof of creation, with the astounding confirmation of a pre-Adamic catastrophe and the tangible evidence of the flood in Noah's day. There is visible proof for those who have eyes to see, but the world has closed its eyes to truth and wilfully "abides in darkness" (John 12:46). We have also covered the proof of prophecy—the supreme evidence that only a living, active God could have written the Bible and brought about the present fulfillment of its prophecies.

ONLY THE FOOL WOULD REJECT THE EVIDENCE of creation and prophecy. But, sadly, the world is filled with fools! It has rejected both.

THE MASS OF EVIDENCE IS OVERWHELMING. It is so great the Correspondence Course cannot begin to contain it all. This mass of evidence has created A PARADOX. Just as the world publishes and sells the Bible, but does not believe it, so it also discovers, publishes and sells the proof of Biblical inspiration, but it does not believe it.

The WORLD HAS not only TURNED THE TRUTH UPSIDE DOWN, but it has also turned the *proof* upside down—making right *seem* wrong and true proof *seem* disproof. If you do not yet realize this incomprehensible paradox, all you need to do is look about you for the evidence. It is everywhere!

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS. So that you will not be without this evidence, take your Bible and open it in front of you. Also have several sheets of paper, and a pen or pencil and WRITE DOWN YOUR ANSWERS in your own words. There are not many questions asked you in this Lesson because we are giving you the proof of God's inspiration of the Bible directly from the *historical records* themselves.

You need to SUMMARIZE THESE new PROOFS yourself, in your own words. That is the only way you will *remember* them!

These proofs confound the atheist. These

proofs demonstrate once and for all time that the Biblical record is inspired and true!

ARE YOU READY to begin?

WORLDLY Histories Record FLOOD

Heretofore, we have presented the evidence of creation and of science. Now we come to the most important test of Biblical inspiration. THE BIBLE CONTAINS A RECORD OF *HISTORICAL* EVENTS that cover a period of over 4,000 years of human experiences. *Literally thousands of statements, for which historical evidence remains, permit us to determine whether the Bible is the truth*—or whether it is a record of myths and fables that were inaccurately gathered centuries after their occurrence and "made to appear" as the work of a Supreme Being, as Drs. Moffatt and Goodspeed declare.

Is Bible history true? Let's *really prove* whether the Bible can be depended on for *salvation!*

1. Does the Bible record that a great flood occurred in Noah's day which destroyed almost all life from the earth? Gen. 7:1, 6, 21, 22.

COMMENT: If the nations stem from one family, as the Bible teaches, we ought to expect all nations to have ancient *traditions* about the flood.

In the previous Lesson we proved the *geological* evidence of a flood in the days of Noah. Critics may dispute the time (because they reject Bible chronology), but they know the *record* is there for everyone to see. That they cannot deny! But if Noah and his family escaped the flood's destructive forces, it is not demanding too much if we seek for CONFIRMATION AMONG ALL NATIONS that the flood preceded the founding of present nations.

What is the HISTORY of testimony—testimony which men have dug up, translated, printed and circulated for public consumption?

Here are the facts which anyone can know:

The *American Indians* in both North and South America preserved legends OF THE FLOOD in which a few escaped by means of a boat and repeopled the earth.

The *natives* of GREENLAND maintained that all men were once drowned and that a man and woman became the ancestors of all now living.

The *POLYNESIANS* from the South Pacific contend that a flood overwhelmed all but eight people.

CHINESE traditions speak of their civilization as having been founded by a man, together with his three sons and daughters, who escaped a devastating flood.

EGYPTIAN and other *AFRICAN* traditions preserve similar accounts.

The *GREEKS* pictured their "Noah" as building an Ark to escape the waters, after which he sent out a dove twice before setting foot on earth again.

The ancient *BABYLONIANS* and *ASSYRIANS* have preserved for us on clay tablets word for word accounts of the same traditions among them — traditions which are exact in many details!

Think for a moment—*if* the flood had not occurred, would all human families have preserved these records of the flood? Certainly *all* people would not have been deceived into believing the flood had happened if it had not happened! You may find this unanimous testimony of ancient nations in the *International Standard Encyclopaedia*, article "Deluge," and in summary form in *Halley's Bible Handbook.*

Thus, for the flood of Noah we have the actual geological evidence *and* the testimony of all nations of antiquity who witnessed the catastrophic results. The only reason the testimony is not believed today is that man is unwilling to believe what God says! They would rather believe the evolutionary fairy tale that everything has continued the same since the beginning of time.

Knowing these facts, some skeptics assert that the Biblical record came from Babylonian tradition rather than fact. The *evidence is just the opposite!* The Babylonian record we have was nearly all found in the Library of Ashurbanipal (around 650 B.C.), long *after* Moses' record of Noah's flood. The sane explanation is that all nations preserved their *own* accounts. Of these accounts only the Biblical record is without contradiction and filled with rational simplicity.

So the Book of books is right after all. The SCRIPTURE STANDS VINDICATED. It is *inspired. It is true on every count!*

PROOF The Bible Patriarchs REALLY LIVED

Did Abraham and his ancestors *really* live—or are their lives fables?

What PROOF have we that Abraham's ancestors—TERAH AND NAHOR, HARAN, SERUG, REU AND PELEG—WERE ACTUALLY HISTORICAL FIGURES? You will find them named in Genesis 11.

Do you know what the "conservative" teaching in public schools is today? Here is an exact quotation that will *amaze you* if you have understanding:

"The patriarchs of the sagas in *Genesis* are *legendary* heroes artificially connected with Israel." And again: "Through Moses, Jehovah (Hebrew: *Yahweh*) became the god of Israel

. . . Jehovah was originally the god of a sacred mountain (Sinai or Horeb)." (from Langer's *Encyclopedia of World History.*)

So let us examine more proof: Is God a superstition and the Bible a legend?—or is God the Creator and the Scriptural record historically true? One or the other of these ideas is an outright *lie!* Which is it?

1. First look in your *Bible* and see that for hundreds of years it has revealed these people *existed.* Read Gen. 11:25 back thru verse 18. Does the Bible *or* man *lie* regarding this?

COMMENT: The *proof* has shocked thousands! Here are THE FACTS:

During the years 1934 to 1939 EXCAVATIONS were methodically conducted at ancient Mari on the southwestern bank of the Euphrates River near ancient Mesopotamia (present-day Iraq). *What do you suppose they found?*

ANCIENT TOWNS and cities IN MESOPOTAMIA were NAMED AFTER EVERY ONE OF the PATRIARCHS!

Recently unearthed records of 3,000 years ago speak of the "city of Nahor" (named after the Old Testament patriarch Nahor) mentioned in Genesis 24:10. It was located near the city of Haran which still exists to this very day! Who said those men are legendary?

"Beside the definite location of the patriarchal CITIES OF HARAN and NAHOR in northwestern Mesopotamia, hardly less clear indications of Hebrew residence in this region appears in the names of Abraham's forefathers, which correspond to the names of TOWNS near Haran: SERUG (Assyrian *Sarugi*), TERAH (*Til Turakhi,* 'Mound of Terah,' in Assyrian times) . . . REU also corresponds to later names of towns in the Middle-Euphrates valley. PELEG, for example, recalls later Paliga on the Euphrates just above the mouth of the Habur." (from Unger's *Archeology and the Old Testament.*)

Let the scoffers laugh at these records. Let them call the Bible a book of legends. Their time of *reckoning* is around the corner and fast approaching! The Bible does *not* lie.

Proof Joseph Really Was Pharaoh's Right-hand Man!

For decades doubters have laughed at the romance of JOSEPH. What *proof* is there that Joseph was raised to be SECOND IN COMMAND IN EGYPT? Certainly if there were seven long years of terrible famine—and Joseph was the only one who forewarned them of it—there ought to be a record somewhere!

1. Doesn't your Bible clearly say Pharaoh placed Joseph over all Egypt? Gen. 41:41.

COMMENT: Is there such a *historical* record?—or is the Bible a myth, a product of Jewish folklore?

The answer is found in the reign of Amenemhet III of Egypt's so-called Twelfth Dynasty. Amenemhet took great trouble to study the level of the Nile and carried out a great many irrigation works. He greatly enlarged the capacity of Lake Moeris in the Fayum. To the lake he *caused* a new canal to be made. This canal is called the *Bahr Yusuf* by THE EGYPTIANS to this day. The meaning of *Bahr Yusuf* is "The CANAL OF *JOSEPH*"—of course it is, for *Joseph* supervised the construction of it for this king! Seven years of terrible famine were soon to arrive!

Near Lake Moeris the King had a great "Labyrinth" built. It was an immense structure spreading over many acres. It served as general headquarters for the government and as a center of administration for the distribution of government provisions—the 20% that was collected during the years of plenty to be used in the years of famine.

But what about the RECORD OF a FAMINE for 7 long years?

"My heart is in great anxiety," said King Zoser of so-called Dynasty III, "for in my time the Nile has not overflowed for a period of *seven years.* There is scarcely any produce of the field; herbage fails; eatables are wanting. Every man robs his neighbor . . . The children cry, the young people creep along . . . The people of the courts are at their wits' end. The store-houses were built, but . . . all that was in them has been consumed," he laments (from *Barton's Archaeology and the Bible,* pp. 370-371.) Compare this with Genesis 41:29-32 and 47:13-27. Here is the plain record. Scoffers cannot deny it, so they get around the proof of Biblical inspiration by twisting the chronology—the time—of these contemporary rulers!

Genesis also preserves the story of Jacob's entrance into Goshen in Egypt, and of Israel growing into a nation of 2½ million men, women and children in a little over two centuries. Where is the *record* that Israel actually lived in Egypt for this time? Doubters say there is no record—history says there is! Hear this:

We quote from Weigall's *History of the Pharaohs,* Vol. 2, pp. 129-130: "The base of a figure . . . inscribed with the king's name [that is, with Amenemhet III's name] has been found at Tell el-Yehudiyeh, 'THE JEW'S MOUNT,' a place some 20 miles north-east of Cairo, on the direct route to the 'Land of Goshen,' the Wady Tumilât. . . . It seems to have been founded in the reign of Amenemhet III, and may have been from the start an Asiatic settlement, WHERE, possibly, JOSEPH'S *RELATION'S* TOOK UP their RESIDENCE."

Of course it was! The Bible says so!

The vivid end of this story—the episode of Israel's escape from Egyptian bondage under Moses—has been recounted in Lesson 8 of the Correspondence Course. It is just one more link in the thrilling tangible proofs of history—proofs that the Bible means what it says.

King David Leaves His Mark

This is not the end of surprises. The next one involves King David.

Nearly all SKEPTICS HAVE DOUBTED portions of the story of DAVID'S RISE TO FAME under the Benjamite King Saul. What *proof* have we?

1. Does your Bible say that David gained an international reputation during the prominence of the tribe of Benjamin? I Samuel 18:10 and 21:11.

COMMENT: Surely if David were so great a general, his reputation would have spread far and wide—even to the Euphrates River which finally became the border of Israel. And if the tribe of Benjamin were *predominant* among the Israelites in their struggle against the Philistines, it ought to be mentioned.

What is the historical EVIDENCE?

From the TABLETS FOUND AT MARI, we read these clear words: "The year in which Iahdulim went to Hen and laid hands upon the territory of the Benjamites," and "The year that Zimri-Lim killed the DAVIDUM OF THE BENJAMITES."

Here are Benjamites mentioned and their generals are called "*Dâvid*um" or *Davids!* Of course, just as the world's "great" Roman *Caesars* gave their name to the *Kaisers* of Germany and the *Czars* of Russia, so David's fame spread so far and wide that GENTILES CALLED THE OFFICERS AND GENERALS OF ISRAEL "DAVIDS"—men like David! And Benjamin's fame spread so far that for a time that tribe gave its name to all of Israel as Ephraim and Judah later did.

How do the critics of the Bible get around this plain record of History in David's day? By saying that the Benjamites were in Palestine southwest of the Euphrates before Benjamin was even born — and 750 years before David lived there were leading generals who bore the title of "David." *But their misinterpretation of history will not stand,* for the *records* of those times contain statements that "Yahweh is God." God *revealed* Himself by the name "*Yahweh*" or "The Eternal" or "Lord" at the time of the Exodus (Exodus 6:3). The Gentiles could have known of God's name only through contact with Israel, and at a time when Israel was expanding to the Euphrates River toward Mari! And when was that?—*in the days of Saul and David!* (See II Samuel 8:9-10 and I Kings 4:21).

Always scholars, in their human "wisdom," have reasoned around the clear, plain, simple evidence of history in order to destroy the authoritative record of the inspired Word of God!

Daniel Vindicated!

Perhaps the most DISPUTED BOOK in the Bible is DANIEL. Critics have placed its writing 400 years after the actual time of Daniel. The critics plainly declare it a forgery, masquerading under the name of Daniel (whose very existence they also question!). You need to know what falsification the learned men of this world have attributed to the Bible. Says Driver, a *disbeliever,* in his book *Modern Research as Illustrating the Bible:*

"There was *no siege* of Babylon by Cyrus . . . he . . . entered it without striking a blow . . . the account of Herodotus . . . of the waters of the Euphrates having been diverted by Cyrus, and his troops then entering it while the inhabitants were feasting, is a romance; . . . Belshazzar also was never king of Babylon . . . Nor is there any room for 'Darius the Mede,' as king of Babylon."

This is the INTELLECTUAL NONSENSE being taught our children in school. The BIBLE TELLS THE *TRUTH* ABOUT THE FALL OF BABYLON. Let's examine!

1. Does Dan. 5:24-30 say that the king of the Chaldeans — the Babylonians — would be slain and his kingdom taken? And wasn't this conquered kingdom later passed from Darius, the Mede, to Cyrus? Dan. 6:28.

COMMENT: HERE ARE THE FACTS, exactly in order as they occurred, preserved in the writing of Xenophon.

Xenophon, the Greek historian who wrote the *Cyropaedia* in the fourth century before Christ, says that "when CYRUS reached Babylon" in 539 B.C. he dug channels for the dispersal of the water in the river Euphrates which ran under the gates of Babylon. Then he and the MEDO-PERSIAN ARMY SECRETLY ENTERED THE RIVER BED, climbed stealthily through the gates along the river and RUSHED to THE PALACE "when he heard that there was a festival in Babylon, in which all the Babylonians drank and revelled the whole night." Upon reaching the Palace where Belshazzar had seen the handwriting on the wall, they "burst in, and, pursuing those who fled, and dealing blows amongst them, came up to the king, and found him in a standing posture with his sword drawn . . . [they] mastered him." *So BELSHAZZAR the King in Babylon was KILLED that night exactly as Daniel said.*

Then, when peace had been restored, Cyrus determined to see his father in Persia. "When," wrote Xenophon, "they came to Media, Cyrus

turned aside to visit [his uncle] Cyaxares. When they had embraced each other, Cyrus first told Cyaxares that there was a private house, and palaces, set apart for him in Babylon; that when he came thither"—when Cyaxares would go to Babylon —"he might take up his abode in his own home."

Who was this Cyaxares? Josephus wrote that he was DARIUS the Mede! (*Antiquities of the Jews*, X, xi, 4.) DARIUS the Mede, the UNCLE OF CYRUS, "RECEIVED THE KINGDOM" WHILE CYRUS RETURNED TO PERSIA TO SEE HIS OWN FATHER.

History again proves the Bible true—Darius the Mede *did* receive the Kingdom from Cyrus. It was while Cyrus was with his father in Persia that his uncle Darius *was* "made[*temporary*] King over the realm of the Chaldeans"! (Dan. 9:1.)

HISTORY Proves the Bible is FACT—not FABLE!

Are you aware of the fact that most people have taken the existence of Jesus of Nazareth for granted? They have never *proved* whether the New Testament record of Jesus is *really* true! HAVE YOU EVER *PROVED* WHETHER JESUS ACTUALLY LIVED?

As this Lesson is being prepared, we are confronted with a daring book entitled *Jesus—God, Man or Myth?* by Herbert Cutner. According to its publishers, "This book, the result of extensive research, proves that Jesus never lived. The nonhistorical character of the Bible Jesus is established by carefully-sifted data that will surprise those who have given little thought to the subject.

"The cumulative evidence that Jesus is an *invented* character," say the publishers, "is presented with telling force and the book shows also that the Jesus, the man who went around 'doing good' was no . . . flesh-and-blood man. . . ."

Our question is this: If Jesus, the central figure in the Bible, did not exist, then why pretend to believe the Bible—but if Jesus did exist, then why continue to *reject* what He said and taught?

What *proof* is there that Jesus lived, performed miracles and chose apostles? What *proof* is there that He was born of a young virgin?

The Bible, of course, states these as facts. But can we *believe* the Bible? What PROOF *OUTSIDE* OF THE BIBLE ITSELF is there that Jesus was a historical figure? Certainly of all people the Jews ought to know! Let's see.

1. Does the Bible show us that Christ existed? Matt. 1:16, 18, 21; 2:1; 27:37.

COMMENT: If Jesus did not exist, the Jews would have had no reason to reject Him! *Although these Jews disliked Christ, they were forced by the very circumstance of His power, to take recognition of Him in their records.* What do the Jewish *records* admit? What did Herbert Cutner overlook when he pretended to deny the reality of Jesus the Christ?

JESUS is OFTEN MENTIONED IN the JEWISH TALMUD! The *Talmud* is the record of Jewish debates, doctrines, stories and traditions written in the time of Christ and in the centuries soon afterward. These references have been shown in detail by many scholars. Jesus Christ is never mentioned by name, excepting perhaps once or twice, where He is said to have been an idolator who worshipped a brickbat (Sanh., 107B). He is CALLED "THAT MAN" or "Son of Pandera," or "dead dog," and "the hanged one," "the sorcerer," "Balaam," and "Seducer." Jesus *did* exist!

The MIRACLES OF JESUS WERE NOT DENIED. *Instead the Jews who saw Jesus perform those miracles said He learned sorcery in Egypt*—which is merely another way of stating what we read in Matthew 12:24: "But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This man doth not cast out demons but by Beelzebub, prince of the demons."

Jesus not only lived, but the Jews witnessed His miracles! Let the ignorant atheist deny that!!

The Talmud called the gospel—represented by the Greek word *evangel* which means "good news"—an *avengil* or "blank paper." They did not want Jesus to rule over them as He preached in the gospel of the Kingdom of God.

The TALMUD RECORDS Jesus' HEALING of the blind, the halt and the leprous. It also MENTIONS HIS WALKING ON THE SEA! There is also a FULL LIST OF REFERENCES TO JESUS' MOTHER, the virgin Mary. These events are therefore here *proved* to be historical *fact*—they are recorded history!

The *JEWISH ENCYCLOPAEDIA* TABULATES the places where Jesus is mentioned in the Talmud. This Encyclopaedia terms as a mere "subterfuge" the attempt of atheists to run from these references which apply to Jesus of Nazareth.

The reason Jesus, in the Talmud, is called "Son of Pandera" at times is this: "Pandera" is an anagram (a word made by transposing letters) for the Greek word *parthenos* meaning "virgin"! The Jews twisted Jesus' virgin birth to make it appear that He was figuratively the son of a panther or leopard!—for the Greek for "panther" is *panther* which the Jews corrupted by Jewish idiom into *pandera*.

2. Does Scripture reveal Christ's Apostles? Matt. 10:1-12.

COMMENT: JOSEPHUS, the non-Christian JEWISH *HISTORIAN* of the first century, also ADMITS THE HISTORICITY OF JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES, as he does also of John the Baptist. He calls John the Baptist "the good man" (*Antiquities of the Jews*, xviii: 5, 2). Scholars accept the genuineness of Josephus' statement about the death of James, "the brother of Jesus who was called Christ" (*Ant.*, xx: 9, 1).

Did the Romans know that Pontius Pilate gave sentence for the crucifixion of Jesus? SAYS TACITUS around 115 A.D., in *Annals*, xv, 44: "CHRIST, from whom they [Christians] derive their name, WAS CONDEMNED to death by the procurator Pontius Pilate in the reign of the Emperor Tiberius."

If Jesus did not live, how could He have been crucified? And why would the pagan Tacitus acknowledge Him if He were only a *myth?* Let the agnostic answer *that!*

Here is the proof OUTSIDE *of the Bible—proof that Jesus was born of a virgin—that His miracles did happen—that He did preach the gospel of the Kingdom—that He did call disciples—that He did have brothers!*

SINCE THESE ACTUAL FACTS *OUTSIDE THE BIBLE* REGARDING the existence of CHRIST, MARY—CHRIST'S MOTHER, CHRIST'S BROTHERS, AND JOHN THE BAPTIST, have BEEN RECORDED BY WORLDLY non-Christian HISTORIANS who lived at that time, it STANDS PROVED that the person Jesus CHRIST is *NOT* A MYTH AND that the NEW TESTAMENT record is *TRUE!*

Accurate PRESERVATION of the Bible Proved

The next proof that we must study is the accuracy of copies of the Bible in their original Hebrew and Greek languages. Can we be sure that the Bible has not been corrupted? How can we know that it still is the *revelation* of God to man? Hasn't it been so changed since the original writing as to be highly doubtful, if not altogether altered?

WE MUST UNDERSTAND the answer to this question if our minds are really to acknowledge the Bible as the foundation of truth.

HERE ARE THE FACTS:

In the summer of 1947 a sheer coincidence led to the discovery of the oldest manuscripts of the Bible so far known. Among a collection of literary works found in a cave in Wadi Qumran on the north side of the Dead Sea, a 23-foot leather scroll was found to contain the complete text of the book of Isaiah in Hebrew! Expert examination of the document revealed beyond doubt that the Isaiah text dated from about 100 B.C.

This COPY OF ISAIAH, now about 2000 YEARS OLD, is unique proof of the reliability of the Holy Scriptures that have been handed down to us. The text AGREES WITH WHAT WE HAVE IN OUR PRESENT-DAY BIBLES! The only differences are minor spelling changes and misplaced words, changes that represent the carelessness of unofficial scribes who copied that text of the book of Isaiah.

In other words, the present text, which is a continuation of the official Old Testament Hebrew, is far superior in preservation to the unofficial copy of Isaiah made 2000 years ago. Furthermore, we have the wonderful knowledge that the ANCIENT SCROLL of Isaiah, just like the printed copies of Isaiah in any modern-day Bible, whether Hebrew, Greek, English or German, has the SAME 66 CHAPTERS and *wholly agrees in meaning* with our present-day text.

Until this find, the oldest and fullest Manuscript in Hebrew was the CODEX PETROPOLITANUS, dating from about 916 A.D. This PROVES how *ACCURATE* the Jews have been in copying, generation after generation, the books of the OLD TESTAMENT. *How can anyone deny that God is giving divine protection to the book which contains His commands and revelations to man!*

Between 1949 and 1951 additional manuscripts were located in other caves near the Dead Sea. In these scrolls were 19 books of the Old Testament—all telling the same story as the Isaiah Manuscript!

But what about the New Testament?

Today about 4500 examined GREEK MANUSCRIPTS "all CONFIRM the integrity and PURITY of the NEW TESTAMENT text," wrote Cobern in *The New Archeological Discoveries*. In 1935 a fragment of John's Gospel in Greek, dating from the time of Emperor Trajan 98-117 A.D., was discovered in Egypt. The FRAGMENT was part of a codex or book, INDICATING that the ENTIRE NEW TESTAMENT IN proper ORDER was circulating within a score of years following the death of the last apostle. This fragment confirms our present text. All these fragments and texts witness to the accuracy with which the New Testament has been preserved through fire and sword.

But what about the minor variations in the Old and especially the New Testament? Why did God allow these SLIGHT VARIATIONS in ancient Greek and Hebrew copies WHICH IN NO WAY ALTER the meaning of the Scriptures? (We are excluding spurious contradictory additions which no scholar accepts.)

Bible a LIVING Book!

The answer is that God intends the Scripture to be a living vehicle through which His Word may be conveyed. We know that GOD PURPOSED THE BIBLE TO BE TRANSLATED. Old Testament Hebrew Scriptures were translated into Greek for the New Testament. Hebrew and Greek have been translated into English and hundreds of other languages. But in English, if we are to understand the Bible we need new wordings from time to time as the old wording becomes difficult to understand. *Do you realize that most of you would be unable to read the translations into English made 100 years before the King James Version?* We have these versions in the Ambassador College Library. It would be useless to quote from them in the Correspondence Course — they are too difficult to understand. Old English almost seems to be a foreign language to those of us who live today.

In the same way slight changes were necessary in the Hebrew and Greek due to the gradual changes in wording and expression in those two languages. In order for God's Word to be understandable in public reading, HE PERMITTED *MINOR* SCRIBAL VARIATIONS in spelling and word order FOR CLARITY. That is why no two codices or complete manuscripts of either Old or New Testament agree 100% in every detail. *God has purposed it!* He intended His Word, even in the original languages to be *living, active, intelligent channels* through which His Will might be expressed.

These minor changes—contrary to the usual opinion—*prove* rather than disprove the inspiration of Scripture. Inspiration is not of any value whatsoever in a dead, unintelligible language!

Now let us understand who has *authority* over the text of the Old and New Testaments. Under whose supervision have the manuscripts been copied?

Who Has Preserved the Bible?

Here is the fundamental question. Whom has God used to preserve accurately His authoritative written Word?

Jesus said: "Till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law until all be fulfilled" (Matthew 5:18). Has this happened? Was Jesus right? Or has the law—the Old Testament—been hopelessly lost and corrupted?

Luke quotes Jesus as saying: "It is easier for heaven and earth to pass away, than one tittle of the law to fail" (Luke 16:17). Modern critics assume Jesus was wrong. They think the Old Testament has not been accurately preserved. But they are wrong!

1. Has the Bible been hopelessly corrupted? Can we ever be sure what the words of Jesus really were? Matthew 24:35 and Mark 13:31 and Luke 21:33.

COMMENT: What words those!—"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but MY WORDS SHALL *NOT* PASS AWAY"!

Jesus' Words—the very words recorded by the apostles in the New Testament—shall NOT pass away!

Of course the *modern critics* prefer to quote Jesus as saying: "Heaven and earth *cannot* pass away, but my words *shall pass away!*" But these critics are wrong! Jesus is right. His words have not passed away. The critics have merely been unwilling to look for His Words where He said they could be found! They have, instead, looked elsewhere so that they *would* not find Jesus' Words.

Notice where we ought to look for the text of the Bible as originally inspired in Greek. Read it from the Revised Standard Version which the modern critics have themselves translated: "Then what advantage has the Jew?"

Yes, what special duty did God give to the Jew? Notice:

"Much in every way. To begin with, *the Jews are entrusted with the oracles of God.* What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? By no means! Let God be true though every man be false, as it is written, 'That Thou mayest be justified in Thy *words* . . .'" (Romans 3:1-4).

2. To whom were the *oracles* of God, the written record of God's revelation delivered through Moses and the prophets—the Old Testament—committed? Rom. 3:1.

COMMENT: The JEWS have PRESERVED the OLD TESTAMENT. But what if the Jews did not believe and did not practice the things written in the law, the prophets and the psalms? Does their rejection of the truth nullify the faithfulness of the written Word of God which they are required to preserve?

"God forbid," declared the King James Version. "By no means," reiterates the Revised Standard Version.

So the Jews—by the very admission of these critics — *have* preserved the Old Testament faithfully!

But the Jews rejected the New Testament—refused even to accept it. To whom did God send His New Testament message for preservation for us today?

Greeks Preserve New Testament

Notice Paul's statement. The Jews *originally* had the advantage over the Greeks because the

Jews received the oracles of God (Romans 3:1-4). *Now*, however, declares Paul, "*there is no difference* between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him" (Rom. 10:12). No difference? Why?

Continuing with verse 14: "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach, except they be sent?"

1. To whom was the New Testament message sent? Romans 10:12.

COMMENT: So the Greeks, too, received "the word of God.

Let us read further: "But I say, 'Did not Israel know?' [That is, did Israel recognize the New Testament message?] First Moses saith, 'I will provoke you to jealously by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation [the Greeks] I will anger you.' "

Why? Because the Jews refused the New Testament oracles which now were sent to the Greeks!

2. Did God manifest Himself—did He give His oracles, the New Testament message—*to the Greeks* through the preaching of the gospel? Isaiah 65:1 and Romans 10:20.

3. What does God say of the people of Israel? Romans 10:19, 21.

COMMENT: How plain! When the Jews rejected the message of Jesus Christ, *God raised up the apostle Paul to go to the Greek world.* The Greeks would hear! They did hear! They received the oracles of Jesus Christ—the New Testament! *They* have preserved it! Jesus declared: "My word shall NOT pass away"—and it has not passed away. The GREEKS HAVE to this day PRESERVED FOR US THE NEW TESTAMENT as originally committed to them!

Why Critics Reject Greeks' Text

It will come as a surprise to many of our students. But modern critics refuse to accept the valid manuscripts which the Greeks have preserved. *Over 95% of all New Testament manuscripts have been preserved by the Greeks.* These were the manuscripts basically used in the King James Version.

The modern critics in their *own* wisdom turn in their Revised Standard Version to the corrupted 5% of Greek copies found in Egypt and the Latin world. These spurious manuscripts originated under Roman influence at the hands of the conspirators who secretly followed Simon Magus, a great deceiver. They wanted to decide for themselves how the Bible should read. They did *not* want to come *under the authority of the Bible.*

The critics claim in their pompous wisdom that out of these contradictory and corrupted manuscripts—no two of which agree closely on many important verses—they can derive a New Testament text! All they have done is discover how the Greek New Testament had been corrupted in Egypt by the fourth century! No wonder they have so many footnotes in their revision!

It is time we have our eyes opened to the facts!

It is time we "come out of Egypt!" How many times God has had to call His people out of Egypt! And still, like the children of Israel, people want to "turn back again into Egypt" (Acts 7:39).

The modern critics are merely following in the footsteps of the early pagan Egyptian critics, like Origen, who tried to "correct" the New Testament in their *own* "wisdom."

Text of Protestant Reformers

For centuries, during the Middle Ages, the only Bible accessible to Western Europe was the Latin Vulgate Bible. It was the work of the scholar Jerome, who prepared it from many old Latin translations—which differed among themselves. This Bible is the progeny of *Rome.*

1. What is modern Babylon—Rome—called? Revelation 17:5.

COMMENT: Rome has preserved the Latin translation of the Bible. She has not preserved the New Testament in its original Greek. Rome is not the Mother of the inspired Greek New Testament.

Rome is, however, the Mother of the corrupt "Western Text" of the Greek New Testament. This text is so perverted that even modern scholars will hardly use it. Yet from those corrupt Western Greek manuscripts originating from Rome came the Old Latin translations and eventually the Latin Vulgate!

Jerome attested to the corruptness of the Latin forms. Notice what Jerome reveals:

"If we are to glean the truth from a comparison of many, why not go back to the original Greek and *correct the mistakes* introduced by *inaccurate translators*, and the *blundering alterations* of confident but ignorant critics, . . . all that has BEEN INSERTED OR CHANGED by copyists" in the Latin (Jerome, *Vulgate Preface*, Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, vol 6).

There you have it!

The Latin and Greek texts that the Catholic Church preserved were the *most corrupt.* They *did not follow* the true readings of the divinely preserved Greek manuscripts. Its revision was dependent on *Egyptian manuscripts* — again corrupt. The revised Vulgate also became corrupted.

For nearly 14 centuries the Latin Vulgate

translation of the Bible dominated the Western World. Then, just before the Protestant Reformation, numerous Greek texts began to be circulated among scholars in Western Europe. Soon Erasmus and Cardinal Ximemes, Stephen and Elzivir and Beza published texts of the New Testament in Greek. *In a few instances these Greek New Testament texts contained additions from the Latin Vulgate which these scholars translated into Greek.* A striking example is I John 5:7 which occurs in no Greek manuscript preserved by the Greeks. It made its appearance in the King James Version ultimately from the Latin Vulgate.

The Greek texts were vastly superior to the Latin versions previously circulated. From these texts the early English translations came—including the renowned King James Version of 1611. *Very few basic errors appear in the King James Version*—though it is by no means a perfect or clear translation.

But the work of the Protestant Reformers was not continued by the critics. The critics gradually ceased to search out the official Greek text preserved in various parts of Greece, *particularly in Mount Athos—the Holy Mountain*—where the bulk of New Testament Manuscripts are still located. Instead they have turned away from the bulk of these accurate New Testament manuscripts of Greece to the corrupted texts of Rome and especially Egypt! These faulty texts have been used for nearly all modern translations of the Bible during the past 75 years—and especially in the Revised Standard Version.

An Often-overlooked Principle

Do you realize that *GOD* SETS THE PATTERN for translations in His own Word?

Few have recognized it, but the Bible gives us the *principles of translation* in the New Testament especially. Let us see how:

1. First, turn to the Ten Commandments which God Himself uttered and wrote. They are recorded in Exodus 20. Notice the command against adultery in Exodus 20:14: "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

Now turn to Deuteronomy, the fifth chapter. Forty years had elapsed since God uttered the TEN COMMANDMENTS. Moses is now repeating the law of God, under inspiration, to the people. How is Moses inspired to *word* this command? Verse 18. Write both scriptures down for comparison.

COMMENT: Do you notice it? *The WORDING is DIFFERENT, but the MEANING is the SAME!* The meaning would not have been the same, however, if Moses had said: "Thou shalt not commit adultery unless your mate is unfaithful"!

Here we have PROOF IN SCRIPTURE ITSELF THAT IT IS NOT WRONG TO USE DIFFERENT WORDS, PROVIDED THE *MEANING* IS NOT CORRUPTED. That is one reason for slight changes in both Hebrew and Greek originals—changes which make the meaning equally *clear!*

2. Now let us turn quickly to the *New Testament* for an EXAMPLE. How did *Jesus Himself reword the original inspired Hebrew text, but retain the same meaning?* Write in full the contrasting verses of Mark 7:6-7 and Isaiah 29:13.

COMMENT: Once again the inspired wording is different, but the *meaning* remains identical. Jesus did not translate the Hebrew word for word, yet His meaning is the same. That is why you find the various writers of the Bible—particularly the gospel writers—expressing the same thoughts in different words.

The Bible is God's Revelation for man, delivered through inspired men for mankind to preserve *intelligibly!*

Yet ANOTHER EXAMPLE is worth our consideration. Open your Bibles to Romans 3:10-12 and compare these verses with Psalm 14:1-3. Write them down. Here again the meaning is not lost although different words are freely used.

No Translation Inspired

Apart from Hebrew translations into the Greek, there are no perfect translations. Many people, it seems, come to cherish one particular translation so much that they assume it must be inspired and without error. Every translation has its FLAWS, its provable mistranslations, and its misinterpretations. Some renderings even have a few obvious contradictions. These faults are due to the fact that God has never used scholarly translators as inspired translators since the days of the apostles.

Here are TWO FUNDAMENTAL REASONS FOR FLAWS which you need to remember about translations into any language from the original:

(1) *SCHOLARS are NOT ALWAYS PERFECT* in their UNDERSTANDING OF THE ORIGINAL TONGUES and (2) most scholars and ministers on translation committees DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE PLAN AND PURPOSE OF GOD. They have been taught that Scripture does not mean *quite* what it says. Hence they interpret and translate the Bible according to their *own viewpoint. Incorrect meanings* are *read into* the inspired original.

Nevertheless, EVERY VERSION IS ACCURATE ENOUGH to be a reasonably faithful rendering of the Word of God.

The skeptic will ask, of course, about the many doubtful readings—especially those which

have been put into the FOOTNOTES of the Revised Standard Version. The facts are that many *inspired* verses have been put incorrectly into the footnotes of this Version because the scholars who worked on this version followed the ancient Egyptian scribes and copyists who overlooked or carelessly left out these phrases and even whole sentences in the copies they were reproducing. This is the one great weakness of this Version. But it remains a fact that 95% of the manuscripts are preserved by the Greeks and retain every one of the deleted sections! The deletions are preserved in the KING JAMES VERSION and often in the American and English Revised Versions.

Mark 16:9-20 and John 7:53 to 8:11, which are put in the footnotes in the Revised Standard Version, ought to be in the text. Read these verses carefully. Also Matthew 27:49 ought to have added to it: "And another took a spear and pierced His side, and out came water and blood." This is left out of both the King James and the Revised Standard versions. It is in the Moffatt translation and in the original inspired Greek.

There is insufficient space in this lesson to proceed further, but THESE ILLUSTRATIONS GIVE US some INDICATION OF the OVERWHELMING ACCURACY OF both OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS. No other written work has ever been preserved as accurately as the Bible—and the marvel is that it has been preserved primarily by its enemies, those who do not really believe what the Bible says! The enemies of Christ have been made responsible for preserving the Book that is a witness against them!

Do We Have ALL the Bible?

One more question is to be considered with regard to the preservation of Scripture. Do we have *all* the Bible?

The testimony of all scholars and of history itself is that *none* of the Old Testament has been lost since the days of Christ. For nearly two thousand years, through persecution and war, the Jews have PRESERVED THE OLD TESTAMENT EXACTLY as God intended! The same books composing the Bible in Jesus' day are used today in the synagogues and in the churches.

But what about the New Testament? Here again the testimony is the same—THE NEW TESTAMENT HAS BEEN PRESERVED EXACTLY! The early Catholic writers recognized no other New Testament books than we have today. No New Testament book has been lost.

If you want an illustration of God's intervention to preserve His Word, turn to Jeremiah 36, beginning with verse 23. King Jehoiakim had an entire scroll of the Word of God cut with a penknife and consumed by a fire. Certainly burning the only copy of the Word of God would destroy it if anything would!—he thought. (Write down these verses.)

But what happened? Did it perish forever? No! Read Jer. 36:32.

But what about the Catholics having seven more books (the Apocrypha) added to the Old Testament than do the Jews and Protestants? Are these added books part of the Bible—or are they spurious? Note:

The addition of the Apocrypha to the Old Testament by the Catholic Church is a gross error. The official authority of God for the Old Testament was vested in the Priesthood in Palestine (Matthew 23:2). This Priesthood never accepted the Apocrypha. The Apocrypha are uninspired books written by unconverted men. These books contain definite errors, plus a measure of truth—just as all *human* books do. The apostles never quoted from the Apocrypha. They never referred to these seven added books as inspired. Even the Catholic Church did not accept them until about 398 A.D., at the Council of Carthage—300 years after the Bible was completed in the days of the apostle John!

The Greek Bibles used by the inspired New Testament Church under the guidance of the apostles did not contain the Apocrypha. These *un*inspired books were not added until after 315 A.D. according to the admission of the Catholic bishop Cyril of Jerusalem. Here is proof that the APOCRYPHA WAS NEVER APPROVED by Christ or the apostles. The Bible *was completed* in the days of the apostles!

The same may be said of the so-called "LOST BOOKS OF THE BIBLE." These books were never lost because they were never a part of the Bible. They are outright FRAUDS! They are spurious—uninspired—and full of errors!

You can depend on the Bible. It is the inspired Word of God in print!

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So many ask: "How can you publish a Correspondence Course without tuition price?"

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FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

ANSWERED PRAYER PROVES GOD EXISTS!

Surveys indicate that few professing Christians make a habit of daily prayer. Most families do not offer thanks to God at the dinner table. Few regularly get down on their knees before their Maker--in a private place--and ask His divine intervention and guidance in their lives.

Perhaps you haven't known that God is vitally concerned about you as an individual. Perhaps you have never tried to pray--or have been discouraged by the pseudo-intellectual double-talk of God-denying atheists.

Today's psychology and psychiatry have deluded most "moderns" into believing that "prayer may be all right only because it makes one 'feel' better." Such skepticism!

Realize the skeptics and doubters have never prayed believing that God will answer. Consequently, their prayers are hollow sounds going no higher than the ceiling of their room--they receive no answer--and they continue to doubt.

Listen to the FRUSTRATED words of an avowed ATHEIST: "It appears that all the gods are in a mighty rush on their way out as human intellect increases; superstition, ignorance and fear must give way to intelligence in order that a human civilization may be brought into being." So says the atheist!

This man has never experienced God's supernatural intervention in his life--his prayer has never been answered. Answered prayer to him is only a chance circumstance or deliberate interpretation of ordinary events. He has been duped into believing the pseudo-scientific catch phrases of this God-rejecting world. His mind is filled with false ideas of "INTELLECTUAL PROGRESS," "higher criticism" and "rationalism." Like a man searching for water in an arid wasteland, he has been left to grope for truth and hope in a world of spiritual darkness and doubt.

Is answered prayer only a religious "peace of mind" pill? Certainly not!

Is answered prayer's only tangible benefit that it gives you a "positive" mental outlook? Certainly not!

Real answered prayer is not the "kidding" of yourself into believing that God has answered because you can think "positive" thoughts. Real answered prayer is not the mere "working out" of events by themselves. Answered prayer is not psychologically "adjusting" yourself to believe your prayer was answered without tangible proof that your prayer was ever heard. This CONFUSING GIBBERISH is the poor substitution "modern" thinkers rely on instead of relying on the Almighty God Himself!

REAL ANSWERED PRAYER IS a divine supernatural and completely MIRACULOUS INTERVENTION!--a direct answer from Almighty God Himself! It is the

result of being obedient to God's laws, asking according to His will and then believing in faith until the answer comes!

Most of you have longed for, but never yet experienced this sort of prayerful contact with God. And because you haven't, you don't really KNOW GOD EXISTS!

God has literally hundreds of promises written down for you, saying, that under certain terms and conditions He will actually cause certain things to happen for you if you would ask Him in believing prayer. You will find promises to deliver you from trouble when you get into it, to supply your every need, when you really need it, and to fight your personal battles for you, even to heal you when you are sick. Yes, even to PROSPER you financially. Real believing prayer is the only contact between man and His Creator. It is perhaps the MOST OUTSTANDING PROOF of the actual reality, the sure existence of Almighty God! You will see promises of OUTSIDE SUPERNATURAL HELP everyone needs from time to time. See now actual examples of how God aids!! See how GOD PROVES HE DOES EXIST!

God Answered Hezekiah

Hezekiah, King of Judah, knew that God would help him personally--if he was willing to ask help. Notice the account in II Kings 20:1-11.

HEZEKIAH was sick in bed with a malignant boil when Isaiah the prophet reported that he had better begin to put his affairs in order, he would never recover and should prepare to die!

Hezekiah knew God's promise to heal those that call upon Him. He knew that there had to be an heir to the throne of David to rule after him--but no heir had as yet been born. Above all, Hezekiah knew that there is a God in heaven who controls the laws of the universe and the forces of nature, and yet is vitally concerned with each individual member of His creation. Hezekiah knew God's will, remembered God's promises, and as soon as Isaiah's footsteps had faded from the room, he turned his face to the wall and put his whole heart into a FERVENT PRAYER TO GOD.

Hezekiah prayed for himself and yet it was not a selfish prayer, he only explained his needs. It was a short prayer, not more than 30 or 40 seconds long, but IT WAS EFFECTIVE! Before Isaiah had crossed the courtyard God intervened and answered Hezekiah's prayer!

In spite of the fact that He had previously told Isaiah that Hezekiah would die, God heard and answered Hezekiah's sincere prayer. He added fifteen years to his life!

What a result of prayer! BUT THAT WASN'T ALL!

Hezekiah did not doubt God's power to intervene and act, as this world does. He made a further request that God would give him a special sign that he would be healed (Verse 8).

God's servant, Isaiah, gave Hezekiah the choice of the sign--the shadow would either go forward ten degrees, or backward ten degrees. Hezekiah said it would be harder for the shadow to go backward ten degrees. And Isaiah cried out to God. God brought the shadow ten degrees backward (Verse 11).

Because of Hezekiah's faith, obedience and fervent prayer, God Almighty not

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only healed him and added fifteen years to his life, but He actually caused the SUN to REVERSE ITSELF in the heavens!

This was not an "optical illusion." Even pagan histories record this MIRACLE. God's miracles are REAL! "For with God nothing shall be impossible" (Luke 1:37). The end result of God's intervention in Hezekiah's life was the birth of an heir to the Davidic throne, Prince Manasseh, born three years after Hezekiah recovered! (II Kings 21:1).

In answer to such overwhelming proof, the doubter and skeptic have only one retort: "Well, those things might have happened in Old Testament times; perhaps even the prayers of the apostles of the New Testament Church were supernaturally answered, but GOD doesn't really ANSWER YOUR PRAYERS TODAY in the twentieth century, does He?"

The answer to the doubter's challenge is an unqualified "YES"!!

Mr. Armstrong's Example

Listen to the words of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong recalling the early years of his own Christian ministry:

"Time after time came when I actually needed some of these things--and by this time I HAD COME TO BELIEVE what God had written and promised--so, I followed His instructions: I prayed! I ASKED for what He had promised, I set myself to yield to, and obey this God of the Bible. And, believe it or not, THE ANSWERS CAME--yes, MIRACLES were performed! I learned that there was really someone there when I prayed to this God--there was really SOMEONE who actually HEARD, and who actually ANSWERED!

"One time I was in immediate and desperate need of a very small amount of money--ten cents. The need was so urgent I had to ask this invisible God whom I could not see, to send this dime to my home immediately. The need was so immediate I had no time for a long prayer--only some 20 or 30 seconds. But as I rose from that prayer, a man was even then in front of my home, on the way in with that EXACT AMOUNT of money! It was brought to me IN LESS THAN A MINUTE'S TIME!

"I have had such petitions to that Great Invisible God answered HUNDREDS UPON HUNDREDS OF TIMES! And SO CAN YOU--if you can ever get to really know this Great Universe-Ruling CREATOR--if you will unconditionally obey Him as He commands in the Bible--and if you will implicitly and unswervingly BELIEVE what He has promised there!" That is the way Mr. Armstrong has had his prayers answered!

God has continued to support Mr. Armstrong's WORLD-WIDE ministry! Yes, surprisingly enough to an atheist or agnostic, this very work of Almighty God is supported by the dedicated prayers of its followers. When you hear Mr. Armstrong's voice explaining the PLAIN TRUTHS OF YOUR BIBLE over your own radio, you are a witness to ANSWERED PRAYER whether you believe it or not! Even if you doubt, the answer is still there--the powerful voice of The WORLD TOMORROW broadcast booming through your radio receiver is an answer to the prayer of thousands around this world.

God has said in His Word, "without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he

that cometh to God MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Heb. 11:6).

If you are DILIGENTLY SEEKING GOD, you are studying your Bible, your Bible Correspondence Course, and the other free literature you receive from this work. If you don't understand something, jot it down on a note pad, or as part of a special prayer list as a reminder when you go to your private place of prayer. Ask God to answer it through The WORLD TOMORROW broadcast, The PLAIN TRUTH magazine or later lessons of the CORRESPONDENCE COURSE and through the BIBLE. Some may think that any thought that pops into their minds is God's answer when it is only their own impulse. God will lead you to understand His Word through His chosen ministry.

If you want to know more about how you can experience ANSWERED PRAYER, WRITE immediately FOR the free article: "THE ANSWER TO UNANSWERED PRAYER."

Remember your part in God's great work! Mr. Armstrong and the other true ministers are only human. We have a job beyond our human power to perform. WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS!

Above all learn to expect an answer to prayer. God reveals Himself as a REAL GOD--a living ACTING GOD!

IMPORTANT!

File these pink FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW sheets just following LESSON 12. REVIEW them from time to time. It is vital to keep this information constantly in mind.