

The Bible as History

By

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I have not come to attack any individuals who have recently said things about the Bible which may have done irreparable harm. To-day such speakers are against us. Tomorrow they may join our ranks, as so many of their order have done, and are doing.

We should all cheerfully admit that much is owed to Critical Scholarship in ridding the minds of Bible readers of mistaken interpretation of the printed Word. The devout and prayerful reader of the Bible is no Obscurantist. It is the Higher Critic often who is that, as I hope to prove to you this evening. We cannot love darkness rather than light. Let us ever be open-minded for fresh light upon the Bible, which, we must remember, is so super-human in its character and origins that no one age has ever been able to discover all its message or to fathom the half of the mysteries of its revelation. Should we allow prejudice, whether it shelters under the guise of scholarship or piety, to guide our steps?

If my hearers will adopt an attitude of open-mindedness towards this Book, my task is as good as done. If they do not, then I greatly fear we shall be wasting time in wordy argument which never really wins a case unless the facts are able of themselves to stand the severest test, and, maybe later on, change the mind, for believe me, God goes on speaking when all human voices cease, and are forgotten.

With these few forewords, may I hope for your indulgent hearing, and your helpful co-operation during my brief time before you, as we consider one of the most urgent and momentous issues that can be raised in this tragic and direful period of human history.

IF THE BIBLE WERE NOT TRUE.

One reason why the Bible is not read to-day by many people is that they have come to regard it as a more or less interesting jumble of Folk Lore, and Legend. From the Garden of Eden to the Road to Emmaus, from Adam to Eve to Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, all is suspect, all is doubtful, and all is labelled as the mere product of Poetic Fancy and of pitifully pathetic yearnings after a dim expression of desire to reach out to the Great Unknown.

"But we have a more sure word of prophecy, whereunto ye do well that ye take heed." (2 Peter 1: 19.)

We are not groping in the dark. And we are something better than "infants crying in the night." We have something more to utter than a weak wail. "We who are of the day are armed with the whole armour of God." (Eph. 6: 13.)

THIS BOOK IS before you. It is a **FACT**. And it Deals with **Facts**—**Vital Facts**. You must take it into account as much as you do the Rules of Traffic in the Streets. It is at your peril if you neglect clear direction for your present and eternal safety as contained in this volume.

THIS BOOK TELLS ITS own story, if people would but read it. It really should not need so many preachers or teachers or lecturers. I might lose my job—and I'd lose it with delight—if people would only read, read, and read again, and again.

THIS BOOK LASTS.

I lately met a youth who had read Voltaire and other kindred critics of truth. The faith of the young fellow was shaken. Perhaps most of us go through similar experience. I wished I could have told him of the boast of Voltaire—"In 100 years Christianity will have ended." You may recollect that Voltaire died about 160 years ago, to be exact, in 1788. Perhaps you do not know that his printing press was worn out printing—Works of Voltaire? No. It was worn out printing Bibles! Still the Bible is the Best Seller. How do you account for the Fact—we deal in Facts, not theories—that the Bible has been printed in 1,000 different languages. Voltaire hasn't. Also, about 30 million copies of parts or the whole of the Bible were issued last year. Do I hear anyone telling me this Book is a mass of legend and Fairy Story? In other words, it sounds as if people suspected Christianity were founded on a lie. Can you point out any business which was founded on a lie? After sales of a good article are assured, it is common to adulterate the goods, but not before. The reverse prevails in this Business of Bible printing. The more it is distributed the better its standard appears. The only business I know of which seems to flourish on a lie is known as Hitlerism.

IF THE BIBLE CEASED?

Imagine, as 'tis said a man actually dreamed, that one day the entire supply of Bibles became a sheer Blank. What consternation! What frantic effort to reconstruct the text! What contradiction! What confusion! What loss! What would it mean to you and to me? To many people I fear it would not at the moment matter whatsoever. But later on they would find a difference.

Well, that is just what the Bible becomes when you listen to Higher Critics and their theories. It is not read, nor is it to be found in very many homes. This is chiefly why Churches are empty to-day, and pulpits lack appeal and forcefulness.

Alas, Alas, I know quite a number of former clergy who have given up—and all credit to them for their honesty—who have refused to take the churches' money for their livelihood—who have refrained from entering the pulpit with a lie on their lips, or with words that would undermine the faith of some weak brother in the promises of God. I have read of a man sending the gift of a parcel to his minister—a Higher Critic. It was found, on opening, to contain the torn and jagged remnants of a BOOK. The covers indeed were intact, but many pages had been hacked about, and passages or verses scored out. "This," he wrote to the minister, "I give back to you as all the Bible you have permitted me to have."

ONUS OF PROOF.

I am here to assert that the Higher Critics do not have it all their own way, and that the **ONUS OF PROOF** is upon them, and not on us who accept the Bible. I hold that this is the only rightful attitude. People would be well advised to suspend judgment when they are told this, that, or the other story in the Bible is mere legend or fable. Let those who assert it prove it is so.

If in a Court of Law a charge is made of some statement not being true, the lawyer has to produce some evidence of falsity. Merely saying so cuts no ice with the Bench. Nor should it do otherwise with you. Ask for proof that a whale could not swallow a man.

Scientists to-day will tell you that there is type of whale which could easily swallow a man, and that the cavernous nature of his mouth holds air in which a man could exist, not feeling very comfortable, I opine, but not more uncomfortable than Higher Critics must sometimes feel when they make people swallow what they must eject eventually, as the whale did Jonah. And the only way of escape from the record of Christ speaking of Jonah, is to say that Christ was not quite divine when He spoke, and did not quite know what He was talking about.

LIFE is too short to chase Higher Critics all over the Bible. They flee from one verse to another. As soon as Archaeology unmasks their false assertion they blandly drop that failure, without a single hint of an apology for misleading souls, and go on to find another mare's nest.

This applies to the prosaic LIST of the Kings of ASSYRIA given in this Book. In actual order of succession this record is proved correct. Not only that, but the intricate spelling of such names as Asshurbanipal are found exactly right. How could this happen if the record were compiled, as the critics claim, hundreds of years after the happenings? For a long time they said that the name of SARGON, King of Assyria, was just put in to fill a blank. Fancy that! The writer invented him! But listen to Hilprecht, one of the early Archaeologists, who have dug up tons of proof that the Bible is true. He records thus:—"The palace of Sargon gradually rose up before my eyes."

Professor SAYCE, a noted Professor of Oxford University, once a Higher Critic, was converted to Biblical acceptance in a very literal way, through his own research in Bible Lands.

Professor Adam Smith discovered that the SPADE helped to bury his own doubts of Bible story as he unearthed unanswerable proofs of the truth of this Book. He was said to have been agnostic till then.

The list of such learned men could be extended as far as one had time to make such list from the ever increasing record of scholars who are not ashamed to accept the Bible as the Inspired Word of God. We do not need to wait until we obtain explanation of every knotty point. If we understood all the Bible we would indeed be superhuman. But "God is His own interpreter, and He will make it plain" all in His own time. There were numerous problems encountered by our forefathers, which to us are capable of clear understanding. Do we need to imagine that Wisdom dies with us? That because you and I don't understand this or that in the Bible therefore it is untrue, or an error? We flatter ourselves in assuming such grand and lofty attainment of intellect. Let us become fools in order to be wise—"Fools in Christ."

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE CLAIM TO BE?

1. "Thus saith the Lord," again and again, assert the Prophets.

Did Shakespeare, even when he quoted the Bible, claim that for himself? Did Longfellow or Tennyson claim Divine Inspiration, except, as we all may, in a secondary degree?

But this IS, and IS STILL, The Word of God Himself.

If there be a God at all, He must be a God Who would at least wish to speak to His Creatures whom He had made with Intelligence. You cannot imagine otherwise. And, conceding this, will you not go as far as to agree with Bible Believers that there could not possibly have been any way superior to that which this Book presents? Oh, that we all could realise that He speaks to us hereby.

2. I do not undertake now to deal with the subject of Inspiration. It is a study in itself.

But Inspiration does not mean that we must jettison our common sense. "Gape, Sinner, and swallow," is not a Biblical demand. "Read, mark, learn and inwardly digest" is the Prayer Book and the proper method. God speaks according to our ability to understand. Thus there are grades in the manner of His Talking to Man. To Adam and Abraham, as a Friend. Through the Prophets next. Then "in these Last Days," meaning the Christian era, through His Son, Whose Voice will ere long be heard throughout the world.

3. As put into our hands this Book represents, we may ungrudgingly admit, certain human elements. But none nor all of these make it less the Word of God.

There is the PRINTER who may make mistakes. Thus we have the "BREECHES BIBLE," because in one translation that word was used for aprons in Gen. 3: 7.

But that was NOT the Bible.

Then there were the COPYISTS in days long before printing came into use. It is quite possible they made errors of omission as well as addition, in their pious opinion thinking to clarify the text. All these, and more, have been most minutely tested by study of the most ancient copies until we are now assured that we have the Bible in a pure form. But this is NOT Higher Criticism, it is known as TEXTUAL Criticism.

Later followed the TRANSLATORS, who turned the words from the original Hebrew or Greek into our English of to-day. It is quite likely that they, being only fallible beings like ourselves, made mistakes. I think of an old lady who is said to have preferred the A.V. to the more correct R.V. "The A.V.," she declared, "was good enough for St. Paul."

But NOTE—Versions, Translations, Copies, however they may slightly err, have never changed the real actual and divine character or grand meaning of the words of the Holy Book. It is only Higher Critics who have done that, and those, who accept on their face value assumptions of superior knowledge.

MODERNISTS or HIGHER CRITICS have even gone so far as to advance the theory that Christ did not really exist. The piety of some misguided religious folk wrote what they thought such a Person might be. But if Christ was too wonderful to be true, surely this happening is as marvellous. That a number of more or less uneducated unknown writers, with a sprinkling of more gifted composers, could foist on a credulous world the fantastic invention of a Perfect Man living 2,000 years ago, and that their story should have vitality after 20 centuries. Surely this were nothing short of miracle itself. And if the Bible story of a Superhuman Christ is to be accepted, why should we relegate anything else to the dust heap just because it seems incredible?

"THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH, AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH."

There are various grades of Truth. Beware least a lower grade be accepted, for it is not the Bible Standard of Truth. A witness in court may say some of the Truth, but leave unsaid other truths which might affect the case. Or, he may tell the Whole Truth and mix in it statements which only appear true. Hence he is cross-examined. Higher Critics differ from the Bible Standard in that the latter is "The Truth, the whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth." They examine the Bible. Let the Bible examine them. Many people are entangled by an appearance of Truth in Criticism, and conclude that they have been given the Whole Truth.

We want the Truth about God. Is He the God of the Bible, or of the Higher Critics? Was God always exactly as the most enlightened know of Him this day, or was He once a mere Tribal Deity God of a few desert nomads? What the Critic fails to tell you is that whatever God may have seemed to be to anybody then, or even in this supposedly enlightened age, He has never been different for one single second. You will find words in GENESIS which portray the very Same Kind of God as you read about in the New Testament. That is one reason why it is a mistake to read only the New Testament. The other reason I will speak of directly.

But we should read the Bible with discrimination, recognising that God is dealing with people as to-day too, in all stages of mental and moral development. He does not expect us all to come up to the perfect standard that some Critics set.

One could devoutly wish that this phrase of the Law Court, "The Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing but the Truth," were the motto of all teachers of the Bible. It is the motto of the Bible. The Book shows its divine nature by its absolutely straight and unvarnished record of the sins of all the Saints figuring prominently on its pages. David, "the man after God's own heart," commits adultery and murder. How can this be? By supposing that the record is false in one or other detail? OR, that David was after a LOWER God's own heart. OR, that David deeply repented. If not that, how then do you account for such declarations of God's own heart, so enlightened as to be fit for use to-day, in speaking about God? And that not only in David's compositions, but in the very Book GENESIS long before David's time.

"O! GO TO JERICO!"

Let us adopt that familiar expression, and visit the little township of Jericho. The Jericho I saw is not even on the site of the fortress the Bible speaks of. The Walls of Jericho of Joshua's time fell down. Hence the term "jerry-built" buildings of to-day. But the Higher Critic refused to accept the Bible record. However, the Archaeologist confirms it in every detail. The Bible only refers to THE gate of Jericho. ONLY ONE Gate has been unearthed. The Walls fell down outward enabling the Israelites to climb in easily. The Walls were mostly of Rubble, and were rendered top-heavy by the Houses upon them, added to by the people probably who flocked to the walls to mock at the simple and picturesque exhibit of a people just out from the desert marching round and round the little fortress, for it was no more than that. Synchronization of sound, for it is known that all material has its sound value, and the sudden concussion of blaring Trumpets and the Shout of the host, combined to finish what probably had begun by earth tremor, such as caused the Jordan to be dammed up by an earth slide up-stream, as occurred a few years ago. The Walls succumbed, and the Archaeologist confirms the Sacred Record in every detail. Moreover, the date is also established by similar research confirmatory of the Bible record as being 1400. The only folk who jeered at Jericho perished. No, I forget, Higher Critics have also sneered, and some of them I hope have perished, this is, as Higher Critics, I wish them no other harm, for many of them I respect and would venture to call them friends.

What has become of GERMAN THEOLOGY? I am not referring to such new thought as the Barthian Theology. But to the fact that so many British preachers were sent to Germany in the past to learn the latest Higher Critical position. They returned in some cases to empty Australian pulpits in their effort to give the most approved scholarship, which, by the way, was largely theoretical. Talk of the British-Israel THEORY. Why, it has far less Theorising in its entire constitution than has any Higher Critic in a single lecture or sermon. You have only to listen for half-an-hour to discover that for yourself. Plausible, learned assertions contradicting this Book of Facts. Does God mock us with theories? Can we be satisfied with theories?

THE BIBLE BECOMES INTERESTING,

According to the title of Sir Charles Marston's Book on Archaeology, "The Bible Comes Alive." It has living interest. It is True—to quote another title. Take the story of Sennacherib and his army, in 2 Kings 19, long a subject of doubt by Critics. You may remember the somewhat humorous sound of the A.V. of v. 35 when read without right emphasis,

"And when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses." Which, of course, means when other people arose the host were found to be dead outside Jerusalem. How could such a thing have happened? It was incredible, and absurd, to imagine great strong men all suddenly defunct. What fell disease could possibly have thus acted in a few hours? During the Great War General Allenby lost 250 men by death outside Jerusalem, and in their military tents, too: It was read lately before the B.M.A. in Melbourne from "Pages of a Surgeon's Note Book." The Valley of the Jordan is 4,000 feet below Jerusalem. I have seen the glint of the city buildings from the Jordan. In the plain of Jericho where the British Force was encamped, a large number contracted malaria. Most probably the same thing happened to Sennacherib. His men in larger proportion than modern troops with modern hygiene would be subject to malaria, and when he went up along the highway to Jerusalem he further weakened the men, for there were no transports or Red Cross service then. The sudden change in atmospheric pressure took its inevitable toll, and decimated the host. You may accuse me of theory. But the Critics have asked for it. And there is no reason to doubt that Bible Story now.

THE BIBLE THE KEY TO ALL HUMAN ASPIRATION.

In other words, the Bible is the KEY to all HUMAN HISTORY.

You begin in GENESIS, with Man in a simple child stage, yet possessed of conscience and intelligence. There is no ape-man in this. It is time that a certain railway hoarding advertisement, and some films were brought up-to-date. It has been established that though physically man may be derived from a type that was akin to the ape, he certainly was not descended from the ape. The ape is not in the Image of God, in any sense of the term. The ape has no history other than that of every other ape. But man has an individual and spiritual history quite above his physical nature. And the Bible is the record of God slowly and gradually training man for a yet higher destiny.

From Genesis we go through the Canon of Scripture. Some Books might not exactly fit into strict definition as history, being the Poetical or the Moral Instructional Books, but they are the History of the Soul. As for the Prophets, they are but history foretold. The same analysis applies to the New Testament Books, ending in Revelation, which completes the History of Man under the earth-bound conditions of the past 6,000 years or so.

THE BIBLE IS EXACT HISTORY. If it says a certain thing happened, you may be sure it did. But many a modern History, placed in the hands of our children in school, and religious schools included, often alleges things which never took place, or if they did, in such different way from stated as to mean the very opposite of what is true. The crowning stance is the ambiguous statement that St. Augustine brought Christianity to England in 597 A.D. Of course he did. But, of course, so did a great number of others long before that timid monk ventured to land in Kent. You will search in vain for a single definite historical statement here which can be disproved as non-occurrent. That you cannot prove otherwise than by the Bible that such a thing occurred does not invalidate it, unless you are a Higher Critic and regard the Bible as a purely Human Document. The Archaeologist has found that about the time of Moses the alphabet began to take shape. The Higher Critic, till comparatively recent days, alleged that Moses could not possibly have written the Pentateuch, because writing was not known so early. How much these Critics KNOW. But the Archaeologist can now date picture and symbol writing as existing BEFORE the date of the Flood! Again the Bible scores as History! Moses could and DID write.

THE BIBLE IS THE KEY TO PRESENT DAY HISTORY, TOO.

Sir Harry Chauvel, greatest general of horse, good churchman, prophesied, in Sydney, too, after the last war, that the war would not really end, but would simmer along for 20 years, and then break out chiefly in Palestine. But whether he knew it from the Bible or not, it remains a fact that that is just what the Bible declares and what British-Israel has taught. As it is why our forces are being massed in the Near East to-day. Read about this in 38th chapter of Ezekiel.

From ABRAHAM to the Second Coming of Christ, which the Bible does NOT date, we have the redemptive History of Man. "All the nations of the earth shall be blessed" through the children of Abraham. Christ came of the Seed of Abraham. But Christ often spoke of His Kingdom. What is known as British-Israel teaching accepts the Bible as History of Past, Present and Future. I must say I do not much like the term "British-Israel"; it is too narrow, for Abraham's children are in the United States and in many other lands. Probably some will be found in China or even in Japan. For what does the Bible say? Amos 9: 9, "For, Lo, I will command, and I will SIFT the House of Israel among all nations like as corn is sifted. Yet shall not the LEAST grain fall upon the earth?" The question for unbelievers is CAN God do that? The purpose of God's plan is not favouritism. God has no favourites. He is a God of Love, and He loves all His creatures. But He can use one better than another, just as you can and do at home or in business. He has chosen the Anglo-Saxon to help all other races. Just look at our Australia. Under what other Flag than the Flag of the Three Crosses could we have grown into a People of Four Crosses? The Cross stands, you know, for freedom from the ravages of SIN. Only could the Cross of Christ do that. British-Israel is no substitute for, but an auxiliary to the Cross. Who is doing most Missionary work to-day? Who sends most Bibles through the world? Who builds hospitals in the wilds of China, India, Africa? I admit the Roman Church does great missionary work in its own way. But the Roman Church admits that most of its Missionary force is derived from Anglo-Saxon lands, where it enjoys most freedom. Who upholds Liberty, Liberty to Slaves, to Political Slaves, to Moral Slaves? Who enters into war for the sake of no gain in territory or money, but for an ideal, the ideal of world-wide liberty?

Talk of Democracy, there would be no such thing but for the Bible. The roots of the love of freedom have spread through centuries of dwelling in a little island, selected by God for the purpose, wherein our forefathers lived and developed as Christianity developed, as free men and women. So that to-day their rather irreligious (for a time only, believe me), descendants rejoice in what they are pleased to term Democratic Ideals. I prefer the Bible word the Kingdom of God, but I would say British-Israel Ideals, for the terms Kingdom of God and British-Israel are interchangeable to me. Do not expect me, please, to try to give proof in exhaustive detail of this belief. Attend lectures on the subject. Listen in to broadcasts. Read the increasing flood of literature on the subject. Do not be disappointed if at first it seems rather confusing. Every grand subject appears so at first blush. Persevere beyond a few catch-words. Get to the proofs in history so super-abundant, and only understandable by this explanation. And, above all, read the Bible, the Old Testament Prophets in particular. And do not omit the daily press, which so often reveals quite unintentionally through its news columns how marvellously God is working through our nation, and fulfilling His Word, as prophesied by His servants, the prophets. Just as many people discard the Bible before studying it, so good Bible readers often discard British-Israel Teaching before sufficiently and fairly examining it.

THE CASE FOR BRITISH-ISRAEL TEACHING.

LET ME TRY TO PLACE THE CASE for British-Israel Teaching before you, but I fear not in the excellent style of such fascinating and convincing publications like "Britain in Prophecy and History," by P. W. Thompson, which I heartily commend for its clear thinking, clever use of material, as well as for its definite church association.

Nor do I propose in this lecture to present categorically the hundred and one proofs which can be adduced in support of this teaching. One marvels that people who ask for proof do not see that they accept very vital things daily in life which are much less capable of proof. Merely to string out a long list of points might not really be of help to those of you who desire to know the deeper implications and effects of what you are asked to accept. Ever, the best proof of all is the fact "that it words." That is the crowning factor deciding our beliefs in countless things, from the chair you now occupy, to your faith in the saving virtue of the Cross of Jesus Christ. You may fill a book with learned arguments proving the Divinity of Christ. They will have 100 degrees less effect than the fact that you know that Christ has entirely altered the life of your next door neighbour. Are we not within our rights in claiming for British-Israel identical spiritual characteristics, as the Gospel carries? Is it not also to do with the Salvation of Souls, in its own particular manner, in agreement with, and subsidiary to, the Preaching of the Cross? Believe me when I say most positively that British-Israel has brought countless people to the foot of the Cross. British-Israel has a great evangelistic value. It never for one moment places the worldly aspect of God's Kingdom in contrast to, or in contradiction of, spiritual truths, any more than your church organisation, or our beautiful church buildings, need do other than lead the mind to worship the King of Glory. We have no place in British-Israel for people who are half believers in the Gospel.

No. Do not belittle British-Israel as a spiritual agency. Hear its call to National Repentance. Read how it places regard for Jesus Christ as the King of Kings on this earth, and in that respect there is absolutely no difference between what British-Israel prays and expects to happen than what any devout Christian in any Church holds concerning the effect of the Second Coming of Christ to this sad world.

So, I ask you, do not sneer at, or make cheap witticisms about this teaching. I have heard meetings of clergy break out into loud and boisterous hilarity at the mere mention of British-Israel. It is forgotten by some people that ridicule is not argument, and that Christianity at the first, and often since, has been treated with obloquy and burlesque. So was the man who first walked the street with an umbrella in the rain. They said he was carrying a verandah about with him.

British-Israel is a very good shelter for each individual to protect himself from the torrents of Atheism now pouring from the skies. THE ONUS OF PROOF that the Anglo-Saxon peoples are NOT the Lost Tribes of Israel rather hangs on those people who maintain that other reasons account for the British Empire to-day.

If you assert that it is Christianity which is the cause of the best in British character to-day I will not contradict you, but I will ask you why it is that the Christianity of Germany and its Lutheranism did not save Germany from its degradation? I will also tell you that one great English Missionary Society utilised largely the marvellous faith and ability and courage of the Moravians of Central Europe in the development of missionary work in the last century. No. We are no better than many others. "Not for your sakes do I this," says God. We have not been chosen because we are a superior kind of super-men. Or, you may instance the geographical position of the British Isles as cause of our immunity from invasion. Exactly, and you have just hit upon one of the most familiar, conventional, and, I could say, stereotyped proofs of the British-Israel position that we love to use.

For WHO chose that a particular people should wander over half the world and never settle down until they reached a particular little island refuge? This land has been immune from foreign invasion for 2,000 years, and not only for 900 as Mr. Hitler said recently. For Professor Huxley has stated that the cranial measurements demonstrate that the British are one race. That Celt, Jute, Angle, Dane, Saxon and Norman were all akin, and were quite different from the dwellers of the parts of Europe they formerly occupied.

Read about the Islands in Is. 49: 12, of WEST and NORTH. Then look at the Map—WEST and NORTH of Palestine. Where are you landed? In an innumerable group of islands, at least 300 of them.

Who fixed all this? Just the One Who ordained that you should be born in the particular family you consider the best in the world—at least, I hope you do. If we believe in Divine Destiny in the micros, why, in the name of common sense, should we doubt it in the Cosmos? Is not God the God of the mighty stars as well as of tiny stones?

Really, the most convincing DISPROOF of the British-Israel Truth would be to procure a nation or nations which are leading among all nations—enlightened, lovers and givers of liberty to other nations—and which honour the Almighty as their Saviour and their Friend. Just look round the world to-day, and answer my question. Jews, Germans, Russians, Chinese, Japanese, Italians?

I grant you that it may not be impossible that there are remnants of the Ten Tribes to be found in every nation under heaven. It is even very likely. But they are neither in sufficient number or influence to be reckoned nationally, and the blessings of Jacob were to the nation. Neither will it help your opposition to try to cite the Jews, and to say that they will regenerate the government of the world. The Bible nowhere says

that. They will help, but only after they have purged themselves nationally of the self-inflicted curse of their cry: "His Blood be on us and on our children." Many Jews, in accepting Christ as the true Messiah, are now removing that dreadful and age-long curse. If God has kept His word about ONE tribe, can we not know that He will keep His Word about the OTHER TRIBES, too? No, we Israelites are NOT Jews. We certainly do not possess the nasal distinctive mark which, by the way, was not originally Jewish either, but has been acquired by centuries of admixture with alien peoples.

DOES GOD MEAN WHAT HE SAYS?

The whole nature of Salvation is just taking God at His Word. He says: He loves you and forgives you, and wants you in His service. But you treat it as a theory? What good is it, then, to you or to anybody else? Till you take God as meaning absolutely what He says—Church, Bible, Sacraments—all are vain and a hollow mockery to you. What a change is wrought when a man tries to live as one who takes God at His Word. That is all that British-Israel does.

DOES GOD SAY THIS?

I have sat silent while Higher Critics have scorned British-Israel and made it a target for witticism. I have felt hurt till I remembered that, in effect, that represents their whole attitude to the Bible. Higher Critics must object to British-Israel teaching, because it takes the Bible in its full and literal meaning, saving, of course, those passages which obviously are parable or legend or poetry. But such concession should add emphasis to the literal words of promise or of command which make the Bible live to-day as through the ages. "God is not a man that he should lie." (Num. 23: 19.) A God Who alters His mind every century? Says one thing to-day and opposite to-morrow? What sort of a God have these objectors? God, Who knows the end from the beginning said repeatedly that He would bless Israel to the end of time. Did God change His mind?

"I am the Lord, I change not. . . . Therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." (Mal. 3: 6.) You might think such words were written for the unbelievers of to-day. Anyhow, why should God need to change His mind? If you think the Church contains in itself the Israelish blessings, why is it that whenever the Church has tried to rule the world disaster has ensued to the Christian Faith? Let us get the true alignment of things. The Church, as an organisation, cannot even unite in spiritual effort. The Church for spiritual matters. The Kingdom for worldly rule. Perhaps we may concede that it would make no difference in the final result whether Anglo-Saxons are descendants of Israel or pure Gentiles, so long as they work in harmony with Divine Law. The good is done whoever does it. But the amazing fact is that only the Anglo-Saxon seems to have made such vast and constant effort in the amelioration of the lot of degraded or oppressed peoples. Why have not other nations taken up the task? Why do we feel it is the purpose of our existence?

HUMAN ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO COMPREHEND ARE THE ONLY LIMITS.

Change in the understanding of the Bible ensues from human variation. Some ages are more enlightened than others. Some individuals are better able to derive light from the Book than are others. A MOUNTAIN to an artist is a marvel of majesty. To a mine speculator it is a question of market value. To a contractor—has it good stone for building? To an architect that stone represents a cathedral maybe. But it remains the mountain which God created. St. Paul speaks of mystery—the mystery of the Gospel which had been hidden from man for ages. (Col. 1:26.)

Was it the only mystery hidden from man? We know there are many mysteries in life which time reveals to our experience.

The election of one in place of another is a common one. It often happens. "Jacob have I loved but Esau have I hated"—less loved. (Mal. 1: 2, and Rom. 9: 13.) Why have you and I the knowledge of Jesus Christ our Saviour, while millions are denied it. Is it not to urge us onward to the task? "Can we whose souls are lighted with wisdom from on high: Can we to men benighted the lamp of life deny?"—Bp. Heber's Hymn.

Will it not stimulate, direct, and refine the whole British contact with the nations when belief in our destiny inspires all the members of this Company or Commonwealth of Nations named the British Empire?

IS IT INCREDIBLE?

We read here—Deut. 32: 8—"When he separated the Sons of Adam. He set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel."

We know how one nation can influence others, according to its geographical position, and its character.

I do not claim that the British-Israel teaching can be demonstrated to everyone's satisfaction. Some minds require more proof than do others. I further say that it is not necessary, nor is it fair, to demand of every British-Israel believer 100% proof of his or her belief. You could not prove at short notice the legal fact that you are your father's child. You know you are accepted on much less evidence. You can always get sufficient proof from the Bible, and from History, particularly to-day, that Anglo-Saxons are set apart for special purpose. The days approaching will, I believe, settle this question once and for all, to all members of our race, and to all mankind.

Have we not been God's Battle Axe—(Jer. 51: 20)—in all ages? Lloyd George, when this war threatened, gave comfort to the nation by reminding it that on four great occasions Britain had subdued overwhelming and threatening foes. Let us remember England has never been beaten in war.

The Spanish Armada, blessed by the Pope, fled stricken to death in 1588. Similar failure met a similar attempt in 1596. In order to maintain the balance of power in Europe, England fought the French in the opening years of 18th century. Marlborough won. Napoleon maintained a camp of his army near Boulogne ready to pounce on England, but he never embarked. Again God blew with his winds. Germany boasted she would ruin Britain in the Great War. The British may lose battles but never lose a war. Tell me why? Not always that they have better soldiers or generals or munitions.

TO WHAT END?

You will be justified in asking, whether you agree with British-Israel teaching or not—what is the good of it? In what way shall we be better off for accepting it? Do British-Israel people feel they have something which other people lack? Just ask them, and you will find out at once.

1. But please Note: British-Israel is NOT another Gospel. It is not a rival Gospel—let me repeat—or in any sense whatever a substitute for the only Gospel of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Also, it is NOT a New Denomination. I know that Higher Criticism has driven many people out of such Churches in which they are forced to listen to its destructive attacks upon the Word of God. But British-Israel holds that there are altogether too many denominations to-day weakening the witness of the Church. It says: Go back to your Church, and carry the refreshing impetus of this teaching.



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No. British-Israel is a great meeting platform for all denominations. Here we can forget our ecclesiastical distinctions, and merge for the time into that ideal of unity which the Churches talk so much about and cannot get, because they want to swallow one another. It is so often the unity of the lion and the lamb—but, with the lamb inside. In British-Israel you may retain your denominational distinction. You are not asked what you belong to. But only: Can you affirm the belief of British-Israel Teaching?

2. It places every political issue in its true perspective. All in the Empire is joined up to the high ideals of the Kingdom of God. Thus is what so often is discredited political jobbery challenged by a grand spiritual ideal, which will make itself felt ere long among our politicians.

God will bring this about. Evidences of its development are appearing daily in the press as our leaders—the King, Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Menzies and others—confess again and again that this war is a spiritual conflict. It must be waged by a spiritual people. There is no room in British-Israel for jaunty Jingoism, nor for “such boasting as the Gentiles use,” to quote “The Reccessional,” of Kipling. Rather must Israel, as a nation, humbly confess her shortcomings, as she will when it dawns upon the national conscience what a tremendous trust has been given her by God. The people will then come back to Church.

3. British-Israel bids us prepare for the Second Coming of Our Lord. It does not profess to date it. It does believe the time is drawing nigh when “the Kingdoms of this world shall become the Kingdom of Our Lord and of His Christ and He shall reign for ever and ever.”

It, above any other teaching that I know, makes so literal, immediate in nature, and so practical, that doctrine which many neglect because of its apparent remoteness to present and mundane conditions. Here we are given a task, a tremendous one, indeed. Here is a Call to every citizen of the nation. Thus it rebukes a tendency to be fatalistic, to sit with folded hands awaiting the Millenium.

4. It calls, with its stirring and insistent voice, to the whole nation. It points to the dreadful happenings of to-day as Divine Judgment upon wilful man and his denial of Divine rule. It assures us of Divine overshadowing when, as a nation, we turn to God.

“I will yet for this be enquired of,” says the Lord through the prophet Ezekiel, 36, 37, “to do it for them.” For British-Israel reminds us that we are promised Divine protection. “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper.” (Is. 54: 17.)

Was it Drake or Cromwell who first coined the phrase: “Trust in God and keep your powder dry.” I am aware it, too, has been derided. But it means more than first sound reveals.

Let us therefore sing with new emphasis and understanding—

“Thy Kingdom come, O God. Thy Rule, O Christ, begin
Break with Thine iron rod the tyrannies of Sin.”

Can I do better than close with the words of the great Earl Baldwin, when Prime Minister of England: “The British Empire is the nearest approach to the Kingdom of God on earth.”