

# KJV

"...THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD, THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH."

I Timothy 3:15

## THE BAPTIST PILLAR

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## INSPIRATION

Taken from "All About the Bible" 1930's

It is perhaps needless to say that the Bible was not actually written by the hand of God.

On two occasions—and on two only (excluding the writing on Belshazzar's wall) — we read of the Deity writing; once in the Old Testament and once in the New; but on each occasion the writing was twofold. In the one case it was in connection with the giving of the *law*; in the other, in connection with an act of special *grace* on the part of the Lord Jesus: *e.g.* the Ten Commandments on the tables of stone given to Moses were, we are told, "written with the finger of God" Ex.31:18 & 32:16—see also Ex. 34:1); and in John 8:6 & 8 we read how twice over "Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground."

But such is the heart of man, that both of those writings were quickly obliterated. The tables of stone were dashed in pieces at the feet of idolatrous Israel; while the record on the Temple floor—whatever it may have been—was soon trampled upon by Pharisees and Scribes.

And although there may be a far deeper significance in

these two remarkable facts than we yet see, it is possible that they may have been recorded as a solemn prophetic testimony against the treatment which the Word of God—both the Old and New Testaments—was likely to receive at the hands of man, who as the history has shown, breaks God's laws and tramples upon the gospel of His grace.

It pleased God, however, that His messages of law and grace, instead of being actually written by His own hand, should be communicated to man through the intermediary of His servants, whom he spe-

## INSPIRATION AND TRANSLATION

Dr. Bruce Lackey

PREMISE: It is correct to call a translation of the Bible "the inspired Word of God," if it is a correct translation from uncorrupted manuscripts.

1. In 2 Timothy 3:15-17, Paul refers to the Scriptures that Timothy had and calls them inspired.

2. Timothy did not have the originals; he had only a copy.

cially fitted for the sacred task. This fitting of the writers of the Bible is what is known as Inspiration.

It is, however, somewhat remarkable that, while the spirit of inspiration breathes on every page, and illumines every word of the scriptures, as we shall hope to show, the actual word "inspiration" only occurs twice in the whole Bible—see Job 32:8 & 2 Tim. 3:16.

As to the divine method of inspiration—*i.e.* the manner in which God communicated His thoughts and words to the writers of the Scriptures—there is really very little in-

deed to help us.

Let it, however, at once be said we do not believe that it partook of the nature of mechanical dictation, nor have we ever met any who viewed inspiration in that light. Such a theory is absolutely impossible, for it is perfectly clear that the writers of whom anything at all is known, not only maintained, but strikingly betrayed, their own undoubted individuality. The stern character of Moses, the poetic nature of David, the love of John, etc., are clearly stamped upon their particular writings. SO that, instead of these men being turned into mere machines, as critics unwarrantably charge us with suggesting, their several individualities were evidently made use of by God the Holy Spirit in inspiring them to write His Book, which was intended to be read by "all sorts and conditions of men."

What then have the writers themselves to say on this subject of inspiration? Here are a few specimens:

In the case of Moses we are told that "God spake the words of the Lord" (Ex. 10:1); and in repeating them to the children of Israel he was able to say, "These are the words

(Translation continued on page 7)

(Inspiration continued on page 2)

## IS THERE A RED HEIFER IN ISRAEL?

by Carol Rushton

Has a red heifer been born in Israel? Israel Television and Hebrew newspapers recently reported that a red heifer was born at a youth village in Kfar Chasidim.

The heifer, currently a year and a half old, has been meticulously checked to see if she is completely red. If the heifer has even one white or black hair, or has any blemishes, it is immediately disqualified. So far, none have been found.

Orthodox Jews have been trying for a number of years to breed cows in order to produce a red heifer, but all their attempts have failed. However, even the ultra-Orthodox have accepted this animal as a possible candidate for being the red heifer.

The heifer, nicknamed "Zaleel" which means "sound" in Hebrew, was born to two ordinary-looking black and white cows. Zaleel is now receiving special treatment. She has been separated from the other cows so that she will not be in danger of receiving accidental kicks or blows from the other animals. She grazes in a special pen and no one is even allowed to ride her.

A red heifer must be three years old before it can be sacrificed. After another year and a half, the heifer will be rechecked. If at that time all

the hairs are still reddish-brown and doesn't have any marks or blemishes, the heifer will be sacrificed. Its remains will be burned with certain special woods and the resulting ashes will be mixed with water.

After this process, any Jew who comes into contact with the ashes is cleansed from all impurities and will be able to walk upon the Temple Mount. Even though there are millions of Jews who need to be purified, only a small amount is necessary, allowing the ashes to last up to ten years.

The birth of a red heifer has special significance for the Levites and Cohens who are now being trained to serve as priests and re-institute the Temple sacrifices. In order to serve as priests in the Jewish Temple, Cohens and Levites must be purified according to Jewish religious law. At this time, there are no Cohens and Levites that are qualified. However, the ashes of this red heifer can now make this purification process possible, once more allowing Cohens and Levites to be able to serve in any future Temple that is built on the Temple Mount.

Orthodox Jews strongly believe the birth of this red heifer is another definite sign that points to the SOON coming of the Messiah and the rebuilding of the Temple. □

(Translation continued from page 1) which the Lord hath commanded" (Ex. 35:1).

David said, "The spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue" (2 Sam. 23:2).

Isaiah said, "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken" (Isa 1:2).

Jeremiah said, "Then the word of the LORD came unto me (Jer 1:4).

Ezekiel saw visions of God and wrote, "The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel" (Ezek 1:3).

Daniel tells us he received his message in visions (Dan. 7:1), and from the lips of Gabriel (Dan. 9:21).

Amos says he wrote "*the words...which he saw* concerning Israel," etc. (Amos 1:1).

John says what he writes is "the Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him" (Rev. 1:1).

Now it will be observed that, although prophets and apostles have made it perfectly clear that their messages were absolutely and wholly from God—*i.e.* they were written under inspiration—yet none of the writers tell us just how the operation took place. Indeed, the probability is that they did not always know themselves; when Jeremiah was first inspired he seemed for the moment quite unconscious of the fact, so that God had actually to tell him—"Behold, I have put My words in thy mouth" (Jer. 1:9). The fact is, this is one of those "secret things which belong unto the Lord our God" (Deu. 39:29); and hence any attempt to define the exact nature or method of inspiration can only engender fruitless discussion, which must end in confusion. What we are told is that "holy men spake as they were moved—carried or borne along—by the Holy Ghost (2 Pet. 1:21).

### Inspiration—Verbal

So much has been written and said against verbal inspiration, that it is no wonder that those who have their faith somewhat shaken. Let us, therefore, now test this subject; it will bear examination, and the mere study of it will, I hope, prove both instructive

and profitable.

Now, I have noticed that all, or nearly all, of those who deny verbal inspiration, argue that it is a matter of little or no importance. One writer, referring to dates and figures which he assumes to be contradictory, because he has apparently not studied them sufficient care, actually dares to say, "The Holy Spirit who inspired the Bible knew that these little details of genealogies and battles, and such like, in the history of Israel, were not a whit more important to us than similar details in the history of England!"<sup>1</sup>

Quite apart from irreverence of such a gratuitous assertion as to what the Holy Spirit knew any one who has studied the works of God in nature knows that if there is one thing that appeals to mind and heart more than another, it is the marvellous care bestowed by the Almighty upon the minutest details; and closer the examination the more this is apparent. For instance, while the point of the finest steel needle ever made by man, looked at under a microscope, appears as coarse as a rusty poker, the sting of a common wasp, God's handiwork, is so marvellously constructed that when examined under the strongest glass, it is impossible to detect the slightest roughness or irregularity in it. "His work is perfect" (Deu. 32:4).

If, therefore, perfection is carried into such amazing detail in a short-lived insect, surely we should shrink from so blasphemous a thought that the same Almighty Creator has been careless and indifferent about the details of His Word, which He has magnified above His name (Ps. 88:2), which is to endure for ever (1 Pet. 1:25), and upon which the hope myriad of souls is based.

But what will my reader think when I tell him that the same writer, quoted above, says on the very next page, referring to these supposed discrepancies, "*Perhaps they could be reconciled if we knew all the facts*"? Then why does he go out of his way to shake men's faith in the Bible, by attributing inaccuracy to its records, when he acknowledges that he does not know

## THERE'S MORE

We can only see a little of the ocean,  
A few miles distant from the rocky shore;  
But out there, beyond, beyond our eyes' horizon,  
There's more, there's more.

We can only see a little of God's loving,  
A few rich treasures from His mighty store;  
But out there, beyond, beyond our eyes' horizon,  
There's more, there's more.

## DO IT WELL

If a task is once begun  
Never leave it 'til it's done,  
Be the labor great or small,  
Do it well or not at all

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Someone said that the preacher must catch the spirit of the age. I say that God must forgive him if he does. The preacher's business is to correct the spirit of the age."

all the facts, and is, therefore, not competent to sit in judgement upon the Book whose Divine Author did know all the facts?

On the other hand, however, those who hold that the Bible is verbally inspired, reverently recognised that this question lies at the very foundation of our faith. And "if the foundation be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Ps. 11:3).

For the moment, however, the argument stands thus. If the Bible is verbally inspired there should be—there can be—no errors in it; for God could not make a mistake. If, on the other hand, it is not fully and verbally inspired, then the assumption is that some parts are from God, while other parts are purely human; in these latter parts we should naturally expect to find errors.

In regards to the first proposition, it should never be forgotten that, in spite of all the critics have said, no error or contradiction of any kind has ever been proven to have existed in the Scriptures as originally given by God.

And as the second proposition, we naturally ask, how much of the Bible is inspired, and how much uninspired? How are we to know? Who will come forward and draw the line between the divine and the human? Surely the thoughtful mind will recognize here the hand of the Evil One; for, while this would encourage some to play fast and loose with the Book by striking out unpalatable passages as uninspired, it would also tend to draw others towards Rome, whose priests are all too ready to act as interpreters to bewildered souls.

Now, quite apart from the direct claims which the Scriptures make to verbal inspiration and to which we shall refer later, it is remarkable how the Holy Spirit in the New Testament gives indirect, but unanswerable, testimony to the verbal inspiration of the Bible by laying stress, not only upon the *word* that was used in the Old Testament, but, even upon the *tense* and a *mere letter*.

The following passages will illustrate this fact without any further quotation:

1. Heb. 12:27. The writer of this epistle, quoting from Hag. 2:6, elaborates an im-

portant argument concerning the future judgement from the simple *words*, "Yet once more."

2. Luke 20:37. Here the Lord Jesus proves to the Sadducees the doctrine of the Resurrection by reminding them of the *tense* used by God when He spoke to Moses, centuries after the patriarch had been dead—that He did not say "I was the God of Abraham. Isaac, and Jacob," but "I *am*."

3. Gal. 3:16. Here the Holy Spirit, writing by the apostle Paul, proves the necessity of simple faith in Christ apart from the works of the Law, by calling attention to a single letter "s" in the Old Testament—"He saith not, and to seeds, as of many; but as of one, and to they seed, which is Christ."

Moreover, it should be remembered that the Holy Spirit has distinctly stated, in 2 Tim. 3:16, that Scripture is given, not only for reproof, but also for "correction." Now let me ask the reader, how could an incorrect book be expected to correct us? and, yet this is only one of many such problems raised by those who deny verbal inspiration.

### Words Inspired, not Thoughts Merely

Then, again there are those who tell us that it was the thoughts that God inspired, not the words—leaving the writer of Scripture free to clothe those divine thoughts in their own words; so that it is, alas! not uncommon to be told from our pulpits that the Bible *contains* the Word of God, but is not such in its essence.

Now the remarkable thing about this is, that it is exactly the reverse of the truth. If the testimony of Scripture is to be believed, God always gave the words, but He did not always give the thoughts! This is made perfectly clear by the following passages, viz.—

1 Pet. 1:10, 11: "Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that

should follow."

Here we get the distinct statement that when the prophets wrote of Christ they actually had to study the prophecies of Christ which they themselves wrote, and even then did not fully understand them—inasmuch as they were not ministering to themselves, but unto us (1 Pet. 1:12).

Again, Dan. 12:8 & 9: "And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end."

Here we find Daniel writing words given him by divine inspiration which he could not understand!

Moreover, what could the psalmist have understood about the parting of the garments (Ps. 22:18), or the piercing of the hands and feet (Ps. 22:16)? Now, consider the remarkable detail of these predictions, and then imagine the awful blunders that must have occurred, had the wording of such mysterious prophecies been left to the writer's choice—especially when we remember that death by crucifixion was not a Jewish practice at all, but Roman, and in its earliest form was not accomplished by piercing the hands and feet, but by tying with ropes.

There are no less than 333 prophecies in the Old Testament which centre in the person of the Messiah—every one of which, relating to His earthly life, has been fulfilled to the letter. But what a shameful exhibition of Human ignorance would have been revealed, had any one of these prophecies not been compassed by verbal inspiration!

Or take the account of the Creation. If Moses had been left to write those early chapters of Genesis in his own words, instead of the existing account—marvellous alike for its brevity, comprehensiveness, and scientific accuracy, what a mass of hopeless confusion would have been the result! as witness the Chaldean Legend for example.

Or, again, if John had been left to write in his own words the account of the things which must be hereafter, who could profitably have studied those mysterious visions?

Every one knows that, according to the forecasts of some uninspired prophets, the late King Edward ought to have died in 1902; and the world should have come to an end about half a dozen times during the last thirty years!

There was one man—Balaam—who, while under inspiration, made repeated attempts to speak his own words for the sake of reward (Jude 11), but found it an absolute impossibility (Josh. 24:10), and had to make this remarkable confession: "Have I now any power at all to say anything? The word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak" (Num. 22:38). □



### Editor's Note:

*In The Baptist Pillar we use articles taken from many different publications and written by many different authors. Please realize that this does not necessarily mean we agree with the doctrinal position of the publication or the author of the article, but that the particular article presents a scriptural truth we do agree with.*

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# NEWS



## RCMP Found Guilty

A Halifax RCMP officer was found guilty by judge Robert Prince, of soliciting the services of a prostitute. The officer argued he was just doing research. Const. Lyndon Dorrington was arrested last November after a prostitute he approached turned out to be an under cover police officer. Dorrington, who is entering his third year of law school at Dalhousie University, told the judge he was researching a paper on international prostitution; he will be sentenced in October.

## Euthanasia Being Studied

Kevin Wilson, a psychologist heading the survey of terminally ill patients says, "No one has asked the opinion of those who are personally involved." So the University of Ottawa researchers are wanting to know what the dying think of euthanasia and physician assisted suicide for the terminally ill. The opinion survey showed about 60 % of the population favour legalizing euthanasia and assisted suicide for the dying, but those surveyed are generally healthy people who will probably not be directly affected by the issue until the far-distant future (so they say). So Wilson and his gang hope to consult 60 to 80 cancer patients near death at 2 Ontario hospitals.

*Editor's Note: Our world is rapidly being set-up for accepting Euthanasia.*

## "Without Natural Affection"

A 19 year old Winnipeg man admitted to the authorities of stomping his former girl friend's toddler to death in a fit of rage. He pleaded guilty to Manslaughter.

The Crown attorney Tracey Lord said the man was enraged after he awoke during the early morning to find his common-law wife's baby and her 4 year old son rummaging through the kitchen cupboards looking for food. Then he angrily pushed the infant off the kitchen counter and onto the floor of the apartment. He

then stepped barefoot on the child, applying the full force of his weight, which ultimately crushed the child.

Greg Brodsky, the man's lawyer, argued that his client had no intention on harming the child but over reacted because he was frustrated with the children's misbehaviour. He said, "We're not talking about repeated blows, ours is a case of a caring father who lost it in a split-second."

## Murder Statistics

The increase in the number of homicides was highest in Manitoba and Quebec, which both had 18 more in 1996 than the previous year.

Winnipeg's 28 homicides gave it a rate of 4.12 per 100,000 population, the most of any major Canadian city and almost double the national average of 2.11.

The rate of people aged 12 to 17 charged with violent crime remained 9 % higher than 5 years earlier and more than double that of a decade ago.

## Counterfeit Revival

First there was the "laughing revival" in Canada, known as the "Toronto Blessing." It was probably the wildest thing ever seen in the religious world, people roaring like lions, barking like dogs, rolling on the floor, etc. That has died somewhat, and for the past two years the scene has switched to an Assembly of God church in Pensacola, Florida. The scene there is not as wild as was the Toronto Blessing, but certainly no resemblance of real, sin-killing, life-changing revival.

The *Foundation* magazine says the Pensacola manifestations are the same kind of spirit that manifests itself in the followers of voodoo and other pagan religions. A writer for *The Washington Post* wrote: "If it weren't for the cross and the stained glass behind the altar, you might think you were at a rock 'n' roll show." The 6/97 *National Liberty Journal* carried an ad for a video that showed young girls shaking violently, Beatles music that alters con-

sciousness, and guided imagery praying.

## Graham and Falwell

*Sword of the Lord* editor Dr. Shelton Smith says of Drs. Billy Graham and Jerry Falwell: "Both began as fundamentalists! Both achieved great success and were catapulted into the international spotlight! Both shifted the moorings of the ministries for their fundamentalist base to a wider circle of evangelicals. Standards and principles of separation vanished! Compromise became the norm! The ecumenicism adopted by Graham (in the 1950's) is now the established game plan at Liberty University. In such an environment truth and error freely mix. Sound doctrine is shelved for the sake of fellowship. Where once the strong voice of biblical authority was present, now the spirit of accommodation and expediency prevails."

CC

## Falwell & Flynt: Pastor & Porno King

Dr. Jerry Falwell last month visited Larry Flynt for coffee and a friendly chat in his Beverly Hills office. Falwell has unsuccessfully sued "sleaze merchant" Flynt over a 1983 smutty *Hustler* magazine cartoon which suggested he had sex with his mother. But at the meeting, they acted like long-lost pen pals, per the 6/11 *L.A. Times*. Falwell praised Flynt: "He is a warm-hearted, very talented and very generous person whom I believe has much to offer the world." Hardly the language of Spurgeon, or Paul to a "child of the devil" and "enemy of all righteousness" (Acts 13:10).

CC

## Abortionists Out For Money

What is the motivation for abortionists? It's money, answers Joe Clark, executive director of the Illinois Family Institute. "They are often doctors who are unqualified or otherwise unable to develop a legitimate practice—who prey upon confused and frightened teenagers and other expectant

mothers who feel overwhelmed by the circumstances of their lives. Their ideological supporters work to create laws permitting the execution of the unborn—and pave the way for over a million deaths by abortion each year." Clark also put pornographers and gambling proponents in the money-seeking class.

## Statue Replace at Capital

A statue of Roger Williams, Baptist leader in the colonial United States, champion of religious liberty and founder of the state of Rhode Island, is being replaced in the U.S. Capitol building rotunda with a statue honoring women's rights leaders Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and Lucretia Mott.

*The Baptist Bulletin*

## Creationist Being Sued

A geologist in Australia had launched a fraud case against a creationist "who says the earth is six thousand years old and [that] all living species emerged from Noah's Ark." "It's the first time in the world a scientist has sued creationists," said Melbourne University professor Ian Plimer, who has filed the case dubbed the "Monkey Trial II."

*The Baptist Bulletin*

## More Catholic Annulments

The number of marriages annulled with the Roman Catholic Church's blessing has risen from hundreds to tens of thousands a year as church leaders in America have taken a more modern view of marriage.

*Associated Press*

## Graham Turns Seekers Over to Catholic Churches

When evangelist Billy Graham invited listeners to commit their lives to Jesus Christ last September in Charlotte, N.C., 1,700 of those who responded to his call were Catholics.

They weren't being proselytized from Catholic parishes into Baptist churches. The decision cards they filled out were given to the local

Catholic diocese for follow-up discipleship work, crusader officers said.

Comparable numbers of Catholics have gone forward at other Graham crusades. In recent crusades in Minneapolis and Cleveland in 1994, it was nearly 6,000 each.

It wasn't always that way.

"I attended the school of evangelism that was conducted during Billy's 1981 crusade in Houston. I was the only Catholic priest there," said Monsignor Tom Flanagan, pastor of St. Brigid's Catholic Church in San Antonio and one of four priests designated by Archbishop Patrick Flores to rally the Catholic community for the crusade.

"That crusade was a powerful, uplifting, unforgettable experience. I felt very welcome, and I'm looking for the same experience here," said Flanagan.

The relationship is warm and friendly today, but in the 1950's, it reflected the frigid relations between Catholicism and Protestantism in general. Catholic bishops ordered priests to warn their parishioners against attending Graham's crusades for fear they would be proselytized into Protestant churches or tempted to switch on their own. In 1960, Graham led a movement of evangelical leaders to stop John F. Kennedy from winning the presidency, reflecting a wide-spread fear among Protestants that the pope's hand would be on his shoulder.

"Catholics were a hard sell for Billy. There were people on his team saying he ought not to be trucking with Catholics," said William Martin, author of Graham's 1981 biography, *A Prophet With Honor*. "But he's always been able gradually to break down resistance people have had toward him."

Graham increasingly broadened vision of Christianity also helped open doors to him in the Catholic community. In 1964 Boston Cardinal Richard Cushing—ironically, a close friend of Kennedy's—became the first Catholic prelate to openly endorse Graham and encourage his flock to attend a crusade, Martin said. Today, Catholics at Graham's crusades raise few eyebrows.

"Several months after the 1994 crusade here, Bishop Anthony Pilla invited all the Catholics who attend the crusade to a prayer service to let them know it was considered part of their Catholic life, not something the church considered evil," said the Rev. Joseph Helinski, ecumenical director for the Diocese of Cleveland.

Helinski said the Graham team's faithfulness in dispatching Catholic decision cards to the diocese after a previous crusade about 15 years ago when the diocese had no official involvement made Catholic leaders eager to co-operate when Graham returned in 1994.

"The Graham organization has developed a sensitivity to Catholicism, and they're very careful," the priest said.

"For example, the decision cards have a place to mark 'salvation' but they also have a place to mark 'rededication,' which the vast majority of the Catholic inquirers checked off," Helinski said.

*San Antonio Express-News*

### Graham Speaks and is Honored at Liberty's Commencement Faulkner Attends

Dr. Jerry Falwell's 6/97 *Nat'l Liberty Journal* said over 18,000 persons braved the rain to hear Dr. Billy Graham deliver the 24th Commencement address at Liberty University, May 3. Over 1,500 received degrees, including Graham's grandson. Liberty bestowed an honorary doctorate on Graham, "a man of God." Dr. Nelson Fanini, president of the apostate Baptist World Alliance, attended with his family as his daughter graduated. The *NLJ* reported that: "Dr. J.R. Faulkner, now concluding 50 years of leadership at Chattanooga's Tennessee Temple University, attended with his family as his granddaughter also graduated." The *NLJ* added: "Following commencement, Dr. Faulkner offered the invocation in a private dinner with the Grahams, Falwells, LU trustees and special friends." CC

### Billy Graham's San Antonio Crusade

According to the 5/19 copy of *Christianity Today*, Archbishop Patrick Flores, top Catholic

official in Texas, gave an early endorsement to Billy Graham's San Antonio recent crusade. Flores even taped radio spots encouraging Catholics to attend the meetings. Graham praised the Cupertino of the Catholics and said: "The devil has separated us, and a crusade like this is used of God to bring people of all denominations together."

Shortly thereafter, Graham was interviewed by David Frost (5/30 *PBS*) and was quoted as saying: "I'm equally at home in a Baptist church or Roman Catholic or Anglican church." He was asked his opinion of women filling pulpits (his daughter Anne is a preacher), and he stated that he had no objection to women preachers if that is the custom of a given denomination. As in an interview with *Time* magazine some two or three years ago, he reiterated his belief that Hell does exist but that he doubts there is any fire there, merely separation from God.

The 6/97 issue of *Proclaiming the Gospel* had this to say about the Catholic-Graham connection: "The Catholic church is now participating in Graham crusades. In exchange for promoting the crusades and using Catholic counsellors, Graham promised the local bishop to send all the Catholics who come forward making a profession of faith, back home to their Catholic churches."

Right after Graham's crusade in Cleveland, Ohio, a long-time friend and brother in Christ phoned me and said: "I wish you could have been here tonight and seen the local news on TV." He went on to say that the news showed some 100 or more people that crusade counsellors had sent to the Catholic churches wanting to be saved and the Catholics didn't know what to do with them. I don't know about you, preacher, but as for me, I will NEVER surrender a seeking soul to religious wolves who will condemn the gospel of the Bible and those who proclaim it fully.

*Voice in the Wilderness*

### Salvation Army Bows to "Gay" Agenda?

San Francisco's pro-homosexual politicians are using taxpayer dollars to punish institutions that do not toe the "gay rights" line. They recently tried to pull \$65,000 in federal funds from the local branch of the Salvation Army

after an official was quoted as saying that "Homosexuality... presents a serious threat to the integrity, quality and solidarity of society as a whole." Supervisors voted to restore the funds after the Salvation Army chapter promised it would not discriminate against homosexuals. The Salvation Army also agreed to launch pro-gay sensitivity training for its staff, work to hire more homosexual, and review its policy on homosexuality. The Salvation Army is a member of the NAE.

CC

### A Prophecy Come True

"Fifty years ago, our English churches were full, as your American churches are today. But we were satisfied with big congregations that focused on the pulpit and with routine attendance in the pew, and we were content with our shallowness. Consequently, people became disillusioned by an ineffectual church and indifferent to her message. And today our churches are empty. Roughly 10 percent of the people in England are in the church regularly, compared with nearly 60 percent of you Americans who attend worship. Your American churches are crowded with people today, but there is no Biblical or spiritual depth among your laymen, and religion is largely a sentimental Sunday affair which does not radically influence daily life. If something doesn't change, 50 years from now your churches will be as empty as ours are now. If I were an American minister, rather than concentrating on the people outside the church, I would spend all my time seeking the conversion and the deepening of those who are already church members."

~ Canon Green

## *THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH VS. THE UNIVERSAL INVISIBLE CHURCH*

By R. Penner

(The U.I.C. Program)  
[part 2 of 2]

Now that we have established that each of the components of the Universal Invisible church theory has no scriptural validity, neither has ever since its inception by the Protestants in the sixteenth century. We will examine some of the fruit produced by the promotion and acceptance of this theory. Primarily, this theory "calls Jesus a liar." He said in Matthew 16:13, that he would build his church. If the Holy Spirit placed the apostles in the church by way of a mystical baptism, and that not until the day of Pentecost, then the Holy Spirit would be building the church not Jesus. If there were no church before Pentecost, Christ died before starting His church. If we go back to our definition of a church; "an assembly of baptized believers organized to carry out the Lord's work," we can soon see if they qualified as a church. Indeed they do. As previously stated, they were all born again. His sheep were following Him, his disciples, and He gave unto them eternal life. John 10:27 and 28. According to the scriptures, they also had authority baptism (Matt. 3:6). Thirdly, they were organized. They had already both ordinances and even a treasurer (John 13:29). Finally, His church had a commission, as recorded in Matt. 28:19 and 20 and Mark 16:15. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matt. 28:19 and 20).

If the church wasn't started until the day of Pentecost, then the church would not have any commission either. Again, this theory is laced with blatant disregard for adherence to the scriptures.

The most hideous fruit produced by the spread of this theory, is the break down of the local church, because of neglect. It must be a Pastor's nightmare, to have a whole congregation of members, who are not committed to that body. This is a very real situation in many assemblies today. This theory promotes the idea of flying off to this conference, taking off to those special meetings; with no grass root commitment to any one church. It would be very hard to maintain Sunday School, with teachers such as that, or any church office as far as that goes.

How about the tithe? Where does that go? If the church is some universal invisible identity, I suppose anywhere somebody preferred. I am not guessing about this attitude of liberality with the tithe, I have seen it at work. Mal. 3:10 commands us to bring it into the storehouse. That storehouse was a very local visible place. 1 Cor. 16:2 states, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." This was a local visible church at Corinth. There was a reason, they were told to bring it there. Let's look at verse 1 of 1 Cor. 16. "Now concerning the collection for the saints." Notice the word order later in the verse. It was to be used to supply the needs of that local body. When there is a need in a believer's life, it isn't this Universal Invisible entity that meets the need. It is the God ordained New testament local church. What about missionaries? Does the U.I.C. program send them out? They try. Look at what we get, a bunch of worldly unlearned and untrained robots. There is not any mission board, that knows my testimony and the calling in my life like my local church does. Every example of a man being ordained in the New Testament was done through a local church. They saw his testimony and his calling, then, and only then, sent him out (2 Tim. 1:5 & 6).

The Bible warns against doing so without seeing or proving a man's calling, not to mention a blameless testimony (1 Tim. 5:22).

The vilest fruit of this theory's promotion is the support of the ecumenical movement. This movement promotes the so-called unity of all so-called believers under one banner, no matter what church or doctrine. A good number of these people are not saved. I have a hard time receiving a salvation testimony of a person who believes works can and do save you. Eph. 2:8 and 9 blows that away, also Titus 3:5. How about those who believe infant baptism saves them? Are they saved? Ludicrous! Romans 10:9 and 10 is impossible for any infant to comprehend, and we won't even touch the baptismal regeneration side of that. Scriptural Salvation or the spread of the true gospel are not their goals. What are they then? Rome's old world domination by utilizing religion and politics. This goal does not and never did have anything to do with pure adherence to the scriptures. As we study Daniel's prophetic dream in chapter 2, we see the Roman Empire (the iron) has never died; it has just been laying low in preparation. However, the time is ripening, because all her daughter harlots are coming home, and bringing as many as they can with them. Rev. 17:4-6 undoubtedly refers to the Roman Catholic organization as the "Mother of Harlots." Verse 6 states, "...the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus..." The only thing that is going to come out of the ecumenical movement, is the eventual shedding of more believer's blood. They already despise us for not dancing, when they play their flutes.

Finally, who are the real New Testament churches? Who will be the "Bride of Christ?" Who from the days that Jesus started His church have been (local, visible) assemblies of (scriptural authority) baptized (by immersion) believers (those having their B.A. in Christ) organized (according to Christ's headship plans) to carry out the Lord's

commission (according to Mat. 28:18-20)?

There is only one name that qualifies to that criteria. The name "Baptist." By process of elimination, all other groups are disqualified. They are disqualified first by being started by some man 300-1900 years too late, and secondly by holding and promoting false doctrine.

The true Baptists have been the ones holding the torch, contending for the faith, and suffering for his sake, down through the ages. Cardinal Hosius of the Council of Trent, was quoted as saying, "If the truth of religion were to be judged by the readiness and boldness of which any man of any sect shows in suffering, then the opinion and persuasion of no sect can be truer and surer than that of the Anabaptists, since there have been none for twelve hundred years past, that have been more generally punished, than these people." There are many testimonies as such by our oppressors, who testify to our contending and suffering for the faith, down through the ages.

The Baptists will be the Bride, as recorded in Rev. 19:7, the Wife that "hath made herself ready." They will be the ones in New Jerusalem, recorded in Rev. 21:9 and 10. As we have shown, they are the only ones who meet all the criteria for the Bride. It was a Baptist assembly, who Paul referred to when he said, "I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a Chaste Virgin (the Bride) to Christ (the groom) in 2 Cor. 11:2. We also get a clear picture of the different people in heaven, recorded in Hebrews 12:22-24. The Baptists (Bride) are the general assembly and church of the first born. The scriptures differentiate between them and, the souls of just men made perfect. We know that our justification is Jesus and His shed blood. So, these people are generally saved. However, the scriptures does clearly differentiate between the two. The Bible is very perfect in its doctrinal tract, as it is consistent from beginning to end. From the  
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(Translation continued from page 1)  
had the autographs at that time.

3. The scriptures which Timothy had were called "holy," that is different; set apart. They were "set apart" in the sense that they were inspired and preserved, as God had promised in Psalm 12:6-7; Psalm 100:5 and other places. No other ancient writings could make such a claim; hence, no other writings could be called "holy."

4. Hebrew 1:8 and 10:5 quote from the Greek translation of the Old Testament scriptures authoritatively.

5. Hebrews 3:7 states, "the Holy Ghost said ..." and it was in Greek, not in Hebrew. It does not matter whether one believes that the author of Hebrews was quoting from the Septuagint or making his own translation; the fact is that he was writing in Greek and boldly asserted, "the Holy Ghost said." Why did he not insert Hebrew words at that point? Obviously, because a translation may be correctly called what the Holy Ghost said! The same is true of Hebrews 9:8 and 10:15.

6. If only the autographs are inspired, no one has the inspired scripture. Thus, no one could obey Matthew 4:4, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Did God intend for only those who had the autographs to obey this? Or did He intend for only those who could read Hebrew and Greek to obey this? The answer must be obvious to any thinking Christian. When God made this statement, and when Christ repeated it, did He not know that the scripture would be copied and translated many times? Again, if only the autographs are inspired, we cannot obey 2 Timothy 4:2 ("Preach the word"); nor can we obey Revelation 22:18-19 (warnings about adding to and taking away from Scripture). Neither could we have the benefit of 2 Timothy 3:16-17, being instructed and "thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

7. Without the uncorrupted Word of God, we have no salvation. 1 Peter 1:23-25 teaches that we are born again, of the incorruptible word of God, which liveth and abideth forever, and states that "this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." Note: THIS IS THE WORD ... that which they had heard. They had not heard the autographs, but, perhaps copies, and more likely, translations. Yet he stated that they were born again by the incorruptible word of God.

8. Any correctly translated scripture, in any version, would be correctly called the inspired Word of God, if it is from uncorrupted texts. Many verses in the Vaticanus (et al) are exactly the same as in the Textus Receptus. They are truly God's Word. It is those places where scripture has been changed which are to be rejected. Likewise, John 1:1 reads exactly the same in the King James and The New American Standard Version. We cannot condemn a verse merely on the basis of the book or manuscript in which it is found. The issue is whether the verse is correct.

**ANSWERS TO OBJECTIONS**

OBJECTION 1: Are the italicized words inspired?

ANSWER: The King James Version is not the only one to use italicized words; several others do also. When translating from one language to another, it is impossible to give a word-for-word rendering.

Inserted words (usually italicized) are necessary. The Greek language omits the verb sometimes and is perfectly correct, according to rules of Greek grammar. However, in English, this would make an awkward sentence to say the least, and in some cases, would greatly hinder one's understanding of it. An example: in 2 Timothy 3:16 "IS" is in italics. It is obviously necessary!

If we translated John 3:16 in a word-for-word literal rendering, it would read, "So for loved the God the world that

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**"HOW READEST THOU?"**

It is one thing to read the Bible through,  
Another thing to read to learn and do.  
Some read it with design to learn to read,  
But to the subject pay but little heed.  
Some read it as their duty once a week,  
But no instruction from the Bible seek;  
While others read it with but little care,  
With no regard to how they read, nor where.  
Some read it as a history, to know  
How people lived three thousand years ago.  
Some read to bring themselves into repute,  
By showing other how they can dispute;  
While others read because their neighbours do,  
To see how long 'twill take to read it through.  
Some read it for the wonders that are there,  
How David killed a lion and a bear;  
While others read it with uncommon care.  
Hoping to find some contradictions there!  
Some read as though it did not speak to them,  
But to the people at Jerusalem.  
One reads it as a book of mysteries,  
And won't believe the very thing he sees.  
One reads with father's specs upon his head,  
And sees the thing just as his father said.  
Some read to prove a pre-adopted creed,  
Hence understand but little that they read;  
For every passage in the book they bend,  
To make it suit that all-important end!  
Some people read, as I have often thought,  
To teach the book instead of being taught,  
And some there are who read it out of spite  
I fear there are but few who read it right.  
So many people in these latter days,  
Have read the Bible in so many ways  
That few can tell which system is the best,  
For every party contradicts the rest!  
But read it prayerfully, and you will see,  
Although men contradict, God's words agree.  
For what the early Bible prophets wrote,  
We find that Christ and his apostles quote:  
So trust no creed that trembles to recall  
What has been penned by one and verified by all.



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first picture of a church in the wilderness to the last church in Heaven (the bride), the picture is consistent: a local visible called out assembly. My experience and conviction is that a very many believers do not know what the scriptures teach about a New Testament church, merely because they have not taken the time to find out by searching the scriptures.  
There is coming a day when their apathy and slothfulness will reap its reward or lack of reward.  
The Universal Invisible church theory is so blatantly opposed to scripture, and its fruits are far reaching for

those who hold to it.  
A scripture that warns us, that even if we are striving for Christ's purpose, if it is not in compliance with his criteria for his church, it will leave him lacking.  
"And if any man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully." 2 Tim. 2:5. □

(Translation continued from page 7)  
the Son of him the only-begotten he gave, that all the ones believing into him not may perish, but may have life eternal."

No version is consistent in italicizing words. For instance, in 2 Timothy 3:16, the King James Version italicizes "IS", since there is no Greek equivalent for it; but there is no Greek equivalent for "GIVEN BY", either! The New American Standard Version italicizes "DOOM" in 1 Peter 2:8, but not "BECAUSE".

There is nothing wrong with the insertion of words, if they be correct. They are necessary for our understanding.

Also, Christ quoted from the Greek translation of the Old Testament, as recorded in Matthew 4:4. He was quoting Deuteronomy 8:3. The King James Version, which was translated from Hebrew, shows the word "WORD" in italics, indicating that it was added by the translators. They were perfectly correct in doing so, since the English would not be clear without it. Those who translated the Hebrew into Greek also added the word "WORD" (logos, in Greek). They were also correct, as proven by Christ's quotation of it! And He emphasized that we should live by "every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Clearly, then, a translation can be called the Word of God ... every word of it. Christ did so!

Objections about italicized words are groundless.

**OBJECTION 2:** The translators were not consistent; they were wrong to translate one Greek word by several English words.

**ANSWER:** We must distinguish between a translator's choice and a translator's error. For example, in Roman 7:7-8 the Greek Noun EPITHUMIA and its corresponding verb EPITHUMEO are translated by three English words: LUST, COVET, and CONCUPISCENCE. We

cannot charge them with error here. In their day, the three words meant essentially the same. The same is true of the translation of the definite article from Greek to English. Not all translators agree when it should or should not be done. Neither the King James nor the New American Standard always translates the article.

However, it is not a matter of error, but of personal judgment, as every translator knows. We may disagree with a translator's choice of words, but cannot necessarily call that an error. The English words STORY, FAST, TIE, POST, and WATCH all have at least two different meanings; sometimes three. This situation exists in any language.

Synonyms may mean the same in one situation, and have different shades of meaning in another. For instance, CAR and AUTOMOBILE may be referring to the same thing, or differentiating between a railroad car and an auto mobile. The context must determine.

**OBJECTION 3:** If the translation is inspired, it would be wrong to have a marginal reading or to suggest another possible word.

**ANSWER:** When suggesting another translation of a word or phrase, there is no thought of correcting the translators or the scripture. Such suggestions are given because of the changes in the English language in the past 300 plus years. Also, various false doctrines which are popular today, but were unknown in 1611, have confused the understanding of many people. Hence, it is often necessary to resort to Greek and Hebrew to clear up such misunderstandings.

New Testament writers sometimes paraphrase Old Testament scripture. Examples:

Matthew 12:17-21 (from Isaiah 42:1-3); Romans 3:10-18 (from Psalm 14:1-3; Psalm 5:9; Psalm 140:3; Psalm 10:7; Psalm 59:7-8; Psalm 36:1).

Therefore, different words may be used when teaching the same truth. Hence, a translation in English from uncorrupted texts would be equally inspired as a translation in Spanish from the same texts. Also, two English translations that say the same thing, though using different words, would be equally inspired IN THE SCRIPTURES WHICH AGREE. It is in the places where there is a different teaching, or an omission, that we must choose.

In the introduction to the original King James Version, we find words of wisdom about marginal readings:

"Some perhaps would have no variety of senses to be set in the margin, lest the authority to the Scriptures for deciding controversies, by that show of uncertainty should somewhat be shaken. But we do not hold their judgment to be so sound in this point. ... there are many words in the Scriptures, which are never found there but once ... so that we cannot be helped by comparing parallel passages. Again, there are many rare names of certain birds, beasts and precious stones, etc., concerning which the Hebrews themselves are so divided among themselves for judgment, that they may seem to have defined this or that, rather because they would say something, than because they were sure of that which they said, as St. Jerome somewhere said of the Septuagint. Now in such a case, does not a margin do well to admonish the reader to seek further, and not to conclude or dogmatize upon this or that without investigation?"

## CONCLUSIONS

1. The Textus Receptus, from which the King James Version was translated, is God's preserved word, because of the promises in Psalm 12:6-7; 100:5 and 1 Peter 1:23-25. If Vaticanus, Sinaiticus, p46, p66, p75, etc., are the uncorrupted scripture, people did not have God's pure Word for the many centuries when they were lost.

2. The only way anyone

knows anything about manuscripts and versions is by faith. We must believe that the Textus Receptus is the Textus Receptus, that Nestle's footnotes are correct, that the current King James Version is the same as the original one, simply by faith. There is no way to prove or disprove these things to everyone.

3. Faith must be consistent with the Word of God (Romans 10:17). Hence, believing that something is God's Word must be in keeping with God's promise of preservation, rather than being based on the reliability of a scholar or group of scholars.

4. I believe that the King James Version is a correct translation of uncorrupted manuscripts in both Hebrew and Greek and is worthy of being called the inspired Word of God.

The fact that I cannot answer all the problems which have been raised does not affect my faith in the copy of God's Word which I possess. My faith in the clear doctrine of providential preservation would override any unanswered questions about textual criticism. The same situation exists between the doctrine of creation and the discoveries of scientists which seem to contradict creation.

Faith which is based on a clear promise is stronger than objections which are raised by our lack of information.

Since God has promised to preserve His Word for all generations, and since the Hebrew and Greek which is represented by the King James Version is the Bible that all generations have had, and since God has so signally used the truth preached from this Bible, I must follow it and reject others where they differ. □