

The Remnant of Christ's Ecclesia

**What is the Purpose
and Message of the Bible?**

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THOUSANDS of books have been written about the Bible, but uniquely the Bible remains as an unchanging unified collection of books. Its original languages of Hebrew and Greek have been translated into all languages, and it has found circulation in countries that do not profess "Christianity".

The English "Authorised Version" came into being when King James the first, travelling from Edinburgh to London in 1603, was met by a deputation of Puritans with a petition containing seven hundred and fifty signatures, requesting a new translation of the Bible. The result was the publication of the Authorised Version of the Bible in 1611, upon which foundation Revised Versions, in the English language, have been established ever since.

It is to be noted that whereas the Bible continues in its unified, unchanging message, those who profess to revere it do not. The "Christian Church" has divided and splintered into uncountable Churches, Groups, and Fellowships, each arguing for their own interpretation of God's message. Yet surely the Bible has been sent not only to be read, but also to convey a simple, divine message for any to understand without ambiguity.

It is the purpose of this booklet to point out a number of passages of scripture in order to help any who read the Bible with the necessary belief, to perceive its theme.

What the Bible says about the beginning

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

(Genesis 1:1).

"... in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."

(Exodus 20:11).

"For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast."

(Psalm 33:9).

"And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good."

(Genesis 1:31).

Clearly a "believer" must in faith acknowledge that the earth with its many components has come into being, not by a slow development of chances, but by the miraculous working of a divine hand, a work infinitely beyond the experience or reasoning of mortal men. As the word of God in Hebrews 11:3 wisely reminds: "... things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."

Origin of Mankind

“And the **Lord God** formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” (note, not an immortal soul).

(Genesis 2:7).

“And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.” (verse 18).

“And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man, And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” (verses 21-24).

How simple to the mind of faith that God's creatures, male and female, were shaped by His own working. Is not this a concept far more honouring to Him than that of mankind developing over the ages from a primitive form of life?



The Downfall of Man

“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

(verses 16-17).

“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made (note, God made the serpent and that it was a beast, not a fallen angel).

And he (serpent casting doubt) said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

And the serpent said unto the woman (now denying), ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil (note: unto that time man and woman had only known good, for every thing God had made “was very good”, yet they had been warned that disobedience would bring evil upon them).

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked;” (in need of ‘a covering’). (Genesis 3:1-7).

“And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; (note: it was not cursed before, as a fallen angel supposedly would be) upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it (seed of woman) shall bruise thy head, and thou (serpent) shall bruise his heel.”

(verses 14-15).

(note: it was God who put or placed the enmity between, there is not the slightest evidence of a fallen angel fighting against God and man).

“Unto the woman he (God) said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast

hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it was thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” (note: a return to dust, and not a going to an after-life of heaven or hell).

God’s continued blessing had depended upon obedience to His simple command “Thou shalt not eat of the tree . . .” Disobedience through the temptation by the serpent ended the blessing and brought evil (death) which up to that time was not perceived or known, only warned about.



The Enmity

God said He would “put enmity” between the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman. The natural revulsion to the snake is not here implied for that would equally apply to man as well as woman; but the word of God specifically refers to enmity “between thee (the serpent) and the woman, and her seed. The firstborn of Eve was Cain and “Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him” (Gen. 4:8). Cain obviously made no effort to “bruise” the serpent, as he allowed his fleshly nature to govern his actions and in anger slew his brother, Abel. This fleshly nature is characterised as of the serpent and is not of God.

Christ said to the serpent reasoners of His day, “Ye are of your father the devil, (diabolos — dia, across — bolos or bolas, a weighted line with which to entrap a victim) and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar and the father of it.” (John 8:44). “He that is of God heareth God’s words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.” (verse 47). Christ’s rejectors therefore belonged to the thinking of the serpent. But Christ was the seed of the woman. For corroboration there is His genealogy going back to Adam (see Luke 3:23 etc.). Of all the sons of men, Christ, the only one to bruise the serpent “in the head” accomplished this by putting down every temptation in Himself, never sinning, and so conquered or “bruised” that serpent nature “in the head” (fatally). At His death He could say “It is finished”—the struggle to conquer the flesh’s influence in Himself was ended.

But that “generation of vipers” (Matt. 12:34) bruised Him in the heel; (the flesh) bringing Him down, through the crucifixion. This then was the fulfilment of God’s promise in the beginning, for Christ became and was the lamb without blemish, “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” (Revelation 13:8). Allegorised when, “unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord make coats of skins, and clothed them” (Gen. 3:21) which meant an animal sacrifice was made in the very beginning, typifying the covering of the shame of sin which God would provide through Christ, the perfect sacrifice. Note how specifically Christ was the seed of the woman. To Mary His mother it was declared, “And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall (note: shall ... He was not such before; therefore not the slightest inference of a pre-existence). He shall be called the Son of the Highest (i.e. God was His Father): and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; (i.e. an eternal reign over the descendants of Jacob, the nation of Israel) and of his kingdom there shall be no end (i.e. an

everlasting kingdom, where there have always been kingdoms, upon this good earth). Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:31-35). Truly in this miraculous conception Jesus Christ was "the seed of the woman" who should "bruise" the serpent in the head, where evil thoughts arise, destroying the flesh nature, sin, in Himself.

Sin is exceedingly sinful, there is no excuse for man, this is what God requires us to recognise. We deserve to die and we **do** die (therefore it is God-dishonouring to imply that death becomes the gate-way to life). God's just sentence in the beginning was death for transgression; we cannot please God without an unqualified acceptance of this truth. Christ must be recognised as the only sinless man, He "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4:15).

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood (His perfect life to the shedding of His blood upon the cross) to declare His (God's) righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his (God's) righteousness: that he (God) might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." (Romans 3:23-26).

To believe, then, that Christ is the Seed of the Woman promised in the beginning, and provided by God in due time as the perfect sacrifice, "Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth" (1 Peter 2:22) is to honour God by accepting Christ's declaration, through His own death, an example, that God is right in condemning to death all men, because of sin, even to the death of the sinless Christ. For even in Christ's mind, the serpent, the flesh's thinking, with its temptation to transgress, was ever at work until His thoughts ceased as He triumphed over sin, even in willing sacrifice. For had Christ not died He would still have been subject to sinful temptation because of His mortal nature. Now to Christ are given all those who have the faith of Jesus, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed." (1 Peter 2:24).

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few,

that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God, i.e. a seeing with God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”
(1 Peter 3:18-21).

These God-given words tell us that the gospel of Christ was available in ante deluvian times, i.e. it was preached, or He was preached, while “the longsuffering of God waited” prior to the universal deluge, yes, just as He was preached in the Garden of Eden. And, as eight persons were saved, by water, i.e. Noah and his family through the ark (anti-typical Christ) so “baptism doth also now save us.” But it is not to be merely an immersion but rather through “the answer of a good conscience toward God”, a seeing with God, without which individuals may be placed in water but are not baptised, rather only immersed to no avail. It is so important to be “in” Christ. “For many shall come in my (Christ’s) name, saying, I am Christ; (i.e. saying Jesus is the Christ) and shall deceive many (Matthew 24:5). “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” (1 Corinthians 15:22). All undoubtedly are in Adam, though evolutionists deny this. But all in Adam are not all in Christ; but only those who are called and baptised into His name.



Summarising

The endeavour in this small publication is to bring to the reader's attention the actual words of the Bible. Many who claim to be followers of Christ overlook or reject its simple truth. Deception is very great, not only in the religious world, but also in the so called scientific sphere. The cleverness of many scientific minds cannot be denied, but when such challenge the accuracy of the Bible or dispute the simple meaning of God's record, they only reveal their foolishness. "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God (even the scientist has been made by God). For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain." (1 Cor. 3:19-20). "... the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Cor. 2:14).

The word of God is the only sure rock in the shifting sands of man's speculations and theories, not only about himself, but also about the earth and the universe of which it is a part. Those who would undermine the credibility of the true and simple record concerning the beginning of life upon this earth, actually deny the words of Jesus Christ, the son of God, who in His teachings endorsed God's account of the creation of man as we have it in the divinely preserved Bible to this very day. The appeal therefore is; be not deluded by clever yet erroneous exposition. Do not allow yourselves to be blinded by scientific jargon. Researchers and theorists are constantly being disproved as new ideas and new scientists emerge into the academic world. And the theory of evolution as propounded by Darwin still **remains a theory**, for after so long a time it is still the unproven word of a man. The devout mind will dismiss evolution as a falsity because it endeavours to deny and challenge the unchallengeable. It is God, the Eternal King, who has formed all things in His supreme wisdom, and has laid upon record the reason for it, and of His purpose yet to be fulfilled. To the reader therefore, we say, please read these scriptures as a child would read them, in faith, remembering the words of Christ:-

"Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven"
(i.e. the kingdom which is to be of heaven). (Matthew 18:3).