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Health Promoted by Righteousness. -- The Power of Thought.

“Be in health even as thy soul prospereth.” (3 John 2.)

IN this day of general awakening and independent thinking many are coming to realise the wonderful power of mind over the body. They fancy that this is something new, and some even appropriate as a name for their theories the “new thought”. Other names are Christian Science, mental healing, hypnotism, mind cure, etc. Peculiarly enough, all these writers find the best expression of their sentiments in the language of the Scriptures, although they ignore the Scriptural teachings as a whole and very evidently do not understand them. For instance, favourite among their quotations are these: “As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he,” (Prov. 23:7) ; “Be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds,” (Rom. 12:2) ; “Changed into the same image from glory to glory, as by the spirit of the Lord,” (2 Cor. 3:18) ; “Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap,” (Gal. 6:7). But notwithstanding tributes to the teachings of the Bible, so far as we can discern, few of these “mind-cure” teachers are really “believers” in the Scriptural sense of the word. Very generally, while referring to Jesus in a respectful manner, they give evidence that they do not accept Him as the only teacher—the sent of God. Rather, they seem to class Him with Plato, Socrates, Confucius and others of the good and great, and to accept His teachings as on a parity with theirs.

On A False Foundation.

We do not claim that these various theories are wholly bad. Satan now realises that it is impossible to shut out the light of the oncoming day. Hence, his transformation, by which he becomes a ‘eiders teacher, ate along what might be termed good lines in many respects. He would be, a teacher of gentleness, quietness of spirit, good thoughts, pure thoughts. In this capacity he is now flooding the world with spurious teachings, and making a special point of mental healing. Indeed, we cannot doubt that he even stands prepared to assist these theories, which he is now promulgating, by granting blessings of health and relief from disease to those whom he would more particularly associate with himself and his theories. This power is manifest to some extent in the healings done in the name of Mormonism, in the name of Christian Science, in the name of Spiritism, in the name of occultism, in the name of Mind Cure, etc.

The Scriptures everywhere recognise Satan not only as a malevolent being, opposed to God and to righteousness, but they declare that he does possess certain powers for evil. In olden times these were known as occult powers, and the Apostles wrote about those who were afflicted of the devil. Our Lord said of one poor woman whom He healed , “whom Satan bath bound, lo, these eighteen years.” (Luke 13:1 6.)

God declares in His Word His ability to completely control sin, and that, ultimately, He will do this—that Satan shall be bound during the thousand years of the Millennial Kingdom of Christ, during which time the world will be blessed and uplifted from sin and death and the malevolent influences that are now upon mankind. They declare that even in the present time God will permit the wrath of man and evil intentions of Satan only as far as He can use these ultimately for good, and that the remainder He will restrain. In other words, God at the present time is gathering out of the world the ‘Little Flock”, the Bride of Christ, whom He designates His -jewels”; and He uses Satan and evil men and the wicked conditions of the present time to try, to prove, to test, to polish these saints whom He is preparing for the Heavenly Kingdom—for joint-heirship with His Son in the work of the Millennial Age—the work of uplifting humanity, so many as will return to God and righteousness.

We might say, then, that the adverse influences of the present time constitute... grindstone upon which these jewels are polished, and that Satan, through his various agencies, is used of the Lord in turning the grindstone. Note the experiences of Job, and how God in his case gave Satan permission to try, to prove, to test that noble man—to polish

him. Note that the Apostle similarly refers to his own experiences, saying that a certain adverse' condition of the flesh was used of Satan to buffet him, but that the Lord as-cured him, "My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness." (2 Cor. 12:9.) Therefore, says the Apostle, I will glory in my infirmities, since I shall have correspondingly more of the grace of God wherewith to resist them and be profited 'by them. For, he declares, the light afflictions of this present time are working out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we look away from the things seen to the things that are unseen.-2 Cor. 4:17, 18.

"In All Deceitfulness Of Unrighteousness."

In these words the Apostle points out that Satan ,will be granted by the Lord special power in the end of this age, and that as a result there will be especially severe testings upon the people of God. We are to closely discriminate between Divine permission and Divine authorization. We are to remember that "God tempteth no man" (James 1:13), and that it is a totally different matter that He permits Satan to tempt. Thus, the Lord would separate the wheat class from the tare class, and not only so, but divide the wheat class. into two 'portions, two classes, a "Little Flock- of "more' than conquerors," and a "Great Company", loyal at heart, but not sufficiently zealous' to be counted worthy of a place as members of the Bride of Christ.

So much for the reasons why God permits Satan now to masquerade as the champion of pure thoughts and righteous living and to deceive and lead, astray all those who, having the Word of God in their hands, have loved the error rather than the light, or, as the Apostle puts it, they receive not the truth in the love of it; therefore, there comes now to them strong delusions that they may believe a lie, that they may all be condemned that it may be manifested that they were not worthy of the glorious things which God has in reservation for those who love righteousness and hate iniquity, who love the truth and hate falsehood. (See 2 Thes, 2:8-12.)

Selfishness and Falsehood Rewarded.

We are not uncharitable but truthful when we sly that in the case of many of these false teachings the reward of health is sought from selfish motives purely; nor are we too severe when we say that health is frequently secured as a reward for systematic, falsification. The very teaching is that the facts are to be denied, and that the denial, the untruth, is to be insisted upon until it becomes a very part of one's being. Those who take this evil mind-cure are taught to lie to themselves as well as to others, and to say, "I have no pain, I have no aches, I am well, thoroughly well." This systematic lying is rewarded, no doubt, by the father of lies, who, if he had the power to inflict with all manner of diseases in olden times, doubtless has considerable of the same power to-day, and if he has power to inflict, would also have power to release from his affliction.

But, do you say, how could Satan be interested in such a propaganda? We reply: (1) That all who follow this prescription and learn to lie thoroughly to themselves thereby vitiate their own minds and consciences, so that thereafter they cannot reason correctly, because they have lost the foundation of truth. Their minds are in confusion, at least upon every religious subject. (2) By this so-called new light, new thought, new mind, science, etc., the Adversary directs and draws away from the true light, the true science. the Word of God. He kept it hidden for centuries, called the "dark ages"; then subsequently, as the Reformation light broke in, he endeavoured to turn it aside and to twist it and to misrepresent it; so now, when the true light is shining forth, showing that the Word of God is grand and beautiful and harmonious, and that our difficulties in the past were mistranslations and misinterpretations of the Word, Satan draws attention away from it entirely to what his unwitting votaries style the power of the new thought, the new mind. (3) Those whom Satan is using in this direction, as we have already seen, quote Scriptures freely wherever they can pervert them to an apparent support of their theories, but they do not really believe the Scriptures, neither do they really believe in Christ. Does this seem a hard saying?

We answer that by their works they deny Him, for although they use the name of Christ—as, for instance, Christian Scientists they really deny the foundation of His teachings. They deny, for instance, that man was ever perfect, in the image of God; they deny that he ever fell from perfection into sin; they deny that a death penalty was upon him; they declare that there is no such thing as sin and death, that belief in these are merely mental delusions that should be put away. And if they deny sin and death, of necessity, logically, they must also deny a redemption from sin and from death; and if they deny the redemptive work of Christ they as surely deny that He is the Redeemer.

"Look Unto Me And Be Ye Saved."

We are opposed to Satan and all his healing falsehoods and all the various delusive arguments by which he is now seeking to put darkness for light, and to make the true light of God's Word appear to be darkness.

While, therefore, others are selfishly looking to mind-cures, hypnotism, Christian Science, Spiritism, Occultism and

other “isms” for the cure of their maladies, let us hearken to the voice from heaven, saying, “Look unto Me and be saved”. (Isa. 45:22.) Let us be content to have what the Lord has promised us in His Word and to desire no more. Spiritual Israel enjoys God’s favour during this Gospel Age, but is not promised health, wealth and prosperity of an earthly kind.

Indeed, the spiritual Israelite is exhorted to have such an appreciation of the spiritual blessings offered him as would prompt him to gladly surrender all of the earthly blessings that he may have the heavenly—even to the extent of laying down wealth, strength, life itself in the service of the Lord and on behalf of the brethren. -We ought to lay down our lives for the brethren,” says the Apostle. (1 John 3:16.) And the laying down of life frequently means the laying down of health and strength—it means self-denial in the interests of others. It is the reverse of seeking first physical health and personal advantage. Its rule is: Seek first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness and all earthly blessings shall be added unto you according to the heavenly Father’s wisdom of what would be for your highest welfare.

The true. Christians, the Elect, are urged to set their affections on things above and not on the things of the earth, for they are reckoned as dead to the world and as having become alive as new creatures in Christ and, therefore, as enjoying with Him superior joys.

“Be In Health—Even As Thy Soul Prospereth.”

The Scriptures acknowledge sin, sorrow, pain, suffering, death, and they teach us to sympathize with those who are thus afflicted. They show us how all these are the works of the flesh and of the devil, that Satan was a murderer from the beginning, that it was all through his lie that our first parents were led into disobedience. They show that Satan’s course since has been to lead men downward through falsehood, through the perversion of their minds with all manner of untruth and impurity. They show God’s condemnation of sin and His declaration of sympathy, and the manifestation of that sympathy and love in the providing of Christ as man’s Redeemer. They show that ultimately the Redeemer is to be the King of the world and to take His great power and bind Satan, and destroy all unrighteousness, and lift up the poor fallen race during the Millennial Age, called in the Scriptures the “times of restitution of all things which God bath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.” (Acts 3:20, 21.) They tell us that this will be accomplished at the second coming of Christ, and that in the interim, between the time of the sacrifice of Christ and the establishment of the Kingdom in power and great glory, a special work is in progress: namely, the selection of a Little Flock of footstep followers who, hearing of the grace of God, are so moved thereby to love righteousness and hate iniquity that they accept the Master’s invitation to walk in His footsteps of self-denial.

“A More Excellent Way.”

We have been surprised that Christian people of considerable development and experience have been attracted by the literature and theories of mind-cure, etc., when we have heard them comment upon the good, helpful advice given in some of these writings. We have been astonished that they did not seem to know how much better, advice is given in the Word of God, in comparison with which all such writings are foolish.

In illustration: These various “new-thought” instructors give out as a piece of news, as something thoroughly original with themselves, the declaration that fear is the basis of much of the pain and sorrow and disease of mind and- body which prevail. There is truth in this beyond a doubt, a truth not only recognised and taught long ago by physicians of every school, namely, that to fear a disease is to induce the disease: but the same lesson in much its best form is taught in the Scriptures. For centuries the Word of God has been telling such as have the ear to hear that while “the fear (reverence) of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”, the “fear of. man bringeth a snare”. Does it not again declare that “fear bath torment”—restraint or trouble? Does it not exhort God’s people, saying,. “Fear not their fear, neither be afraid, but sanctify the Lord in your hearts, and let Him be your fear, and Him be your dread”? In other words, fear and dread nothing except what would be displeasing to God and therefore wrong and injurious toward yourself and others.

On the other side of the question, do not the Scriptures hold out hope and courage in a way that no other writings in the world ever did?. Do they not say, “Be of good courage, and He- shall strengthen thine heart”? Do they not apply this mental medicine to all of life’s* affairs and interests, as, for instance, assuring us that the Father knoweth what things ye have need of, and that He is more willing to give the holy spirit to them that ask Him than are earthly parents to give good gifts unto their children? Do they not assure us that “as our days, so shall our strngth be”, Do they not tell us that “no good thing” will be withheld from them that walk uprightly”? Is it not written, “The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms “? “Thy help cometh from the Lord”; also, “Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid”; “Take no anxious thought for the morrow”; “Cast all your care upon Him, for He careth for you”: “It is God that girdeth me with strength”; “When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee”.

Their Rock Is Not Our Rock.

What a rock foundation is thus presented in the Word of God for those who have the proper faith and can claim these promises. How trifling in comparison are the words of the worldly-wise of our day, who are attempting to give the world the “new thought” — attempting to take away their fear, and instead to give them hope and courage. We might say, without fear of contradiction, that the only strength their position contains is gained from the occasional misapplication of Scripture. The peace, the joy, the rejoicing, the blessing, the comfort, the refreshment, the rest of heart set forth in the foregoing expressions of ; sympathy and love and assurances of help, given in God’s Word, are all and only for the Lord’s beloved ones. These “new thoughts” are antagonistic to the Bible, and anti-Christian, in that they teach unregenerate men and women to ignore the sin which separates them from God, and to claim to be God’s children and to appropriate thoughts of peace and of Divine favour. The Bible, on the contrary, denounces such doctrines as “doctrines of devils”, because they ignore Him who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and aside from whom none can come unto the Father nor under Divine blessing, nor properly have peace with God.

Cleansed, Transformed, Renewed.

These philosophies of men seem to parallel the truth only on a false basis. This is further evidence that they are not merely of human origin, but that the father of lies has had to do with their arrangement and propaganda. They give out as a brand new thought that all disease is the result of filth, mental, physical, or both, and the proper course for man is to put away sinful thoughts, impure affections, from his mind, and to fill it instead with good things, that his body similarly should be cleansed by an abundant use of water, inwardly and externally; that the system should not be clogged by gluttony, else the blood will become impure and sickness result; that the air we breathe should be pure and plentiful, and that physical exercise is necessary to promote health. To all this we agree; it is all good, it is all useful, and we wish that all mankind—the world and Christians—might appreciate it and obey its suggestions. But it would be a mistake to suppose that these things are new to a Christian who is informed respecting the teaching of the Word of God. Is he not therein taught by the Apostle. “Cleanse yourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and of the spirit (mind)”? Is he not urged to be abstemious and instructed—“Let your moderation be made known unto all men”?

“The Perfect Law Of Liberty.”

It is not a new thought that love should be the guiding, the controlling impulse among men everywhere, but the Bible first of all presented this teaching — love for God and the brethren, love for kindred, love for our neighbours, yea, even love for our enemies. It is the Bible that pre-eminently teaches that perfect love filling our hearts will cast out fear and selfishness, and that, relieved of these—which are the representatives of darkness—our whole bodies may be full of light and be refreshed and reinvigorated and strengthened, and that thus we may be blessed, not only in the life to come, but also in the life that now is. But we hold, with the Scriptures, that while a kind of love may be possible to the world, the real, genuine love which is of God can come only through the begetting of the holy spirit, and that all other loves are merely fragments or imitations of this true love. This love alone will stand the careful inspection and criticism which the Apostle gives us in 1 Cor. 13.

In proportion as we do by faith grasp the promises, and in proportion as we daily strive to live so as to maintain our relationship with the Father and with the Son, and with their precious promises, in that same proportion our faces will show all these—joy, peace, patience, love. These will gradually become more and more written in the lineaments of our faces, visible to all. And more and more will our health and strength prevail, spiritual and physical. And it is proper in this connection to remember the instruction of the Apostle, that we should not think about the evil and undesirable things, but think about the pure and good and noble things. Undoubtedly a poisonous effect upon the system is engendered by thinking about sinful or injurious things of any kind; undoubtedly also the body and mind are both strengthened by thinking about things noble and good and pure. The Apostle’s words are, “Whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good repute; think on these things”. And let us remember that the new commandment of the Master was that we should love one another; and the Apostle declares that “Love is the fulfilling of the law”, and again the Master says that we should love even our enemies.

As daily and hourly we seek to cultivate this spirit of love, and to allow it to dominate in our words and thoughts and deeds. in the same proportion will be the measure of our blessing, because in this we will be “doers of the Word and not hearers only”. We are not, however, to place too high an estimate upon the present life, and health and earthly blessing and joys; rather we are to be content with such things as we have, and to realise the Divine supervision of our affairs and to allow all of life’s experiences to bring us more and more of the peace of God which passeth all understanding, and which should continually rule in our hearts. But while not seeking to save the present life, but rejoicing in the privilege of laying it down prudently in the Lord’s service as opportunity offers, we will, nevertheless, find that the rest and peace of mind which come through believing and through following the Lord will be a favourable influence as respects our physical health, peace, joy, blessing. We who believe enter into rest now, and yet, as the

Apostle declared, "There remaineth a rest for the people of God." (Heb. 4:9.) We will attain that in our change in the First Resurrection—"we will be satisfied when we awake in His likeness.—(Psa. 17 :1 5.)

"As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." This is not to be understood as meaning that whatever a man thinks is true. That is a false definition; the correct thought respecting this statement is that what a man may seem to be outwardly is not necessarily a correct view of his real character; his heart, his will, his intention, is the real man as God sees him.

If, therefore, our hearts condemn us not we have peace with God; but if our hearts condemn us we know that God is greater than our hearts and knoweth all things, and we should not have peace, but should repent of wrong-doing and come again into harmony with God, where we may enjoy true peace.

The Apostle illustrated this, saying, "If any man seem to be religious and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart. that man's religion is vain." (James 1:26.) So surely as his heart is changed, so surely as he is begotten of the holy spirit, so surely as the spirit of love dwelling in his heart more and more abounds richly, it will affect not only his actions but also his looks and his words. He will seek to bridle his tongue, to bridle all of his passions, to be emptied of his former ambitions and desires, and to be filled with the noblest, the purest, and the best, which come from the fountain of grace and truth in the Divine revelation.

The Power Of The Will.

The majority of mankind, fearful and discouraged, fail to make the, best possible use of their talents and opportunities. The Scriptures instruct those who have entered the school of Christ that the will is the first matter that is to be settled—that a double-minded man, who has never a settled purpose in respect to his life, is unstable in all his ways. They urge positiveness—a full consecration of heart, mind, body, talents, everything to the Lord: and to those who take this position of a full consecration the Scriptures give valuable assurances, which should strengthen every fibre of the human body; as the Apostle expresses it, "Gird up the loins of your mind and hope to the end." And again he says, "Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might"; "I can do all things through Christ. who strengthened me"; "According to thy faith be it unto thee". Oh, what marvellous power has come to weak and fainting hearts through the fixing of the will—the conversion of the will to do and to be in harmony with the Lord at any cost; and the appropriating then of these promises, exceeding great and precious, which belong to no others than this class! How many have found that thus the Lord's strength was made perfect in their weakness after they had taken the proper step of consecration — after they had exercised the faith which He called for, and which is necessary for our development! No wonder these can rejoice in the Lord; no wonder the Apostle says that they are able to rejoice in tribulation, knowing that tribulation is working out the lessons of patience, experience and hope, and fitting them for the glorious things to come.

PEOPLES PAPER AND HERALD OF CHRIST'S KINGDOM.

“The Stranger goes to Church.”

SOME weeks ago a reporter of the Melbourne newspaper “The Sun” attended one of our Bible Studies in Melbourne and followed the study in John 15 with interest. Obtaining further information on our gatherings and the work carried on from this Institute, his report appeared in the “Sun” on 9th July. As over 407,004 of this paper were printed, no doubt quite a witness has been given in this way. With one or two minor corrections the report is as follows:—

A small band of Bible students who take their name from a Greek community mentioned in the, New Testament meet each Sunday in a hall at 254 Swan Street, Richmond.

They call themselves Bereans, from the 17th chapter of Acts: “They (the Bereans) received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily.”

They claim to be undenominational and to have no creed but the Bible. They say that human creeds are a hindrance and that many denominations have not progressed, still living around the leaders of the past. It was through dissatisfaction with the established denominations, which, they thought, did not encourage Bible study, that the movement began in the United States and Britain in the latter half of the last century. In Britain it is now known as the Associated Bible Students.

The Berean cause came to Australia 50 years ago, and the first Berean Bible Institute in Melbourne began in 1918, and is now in Ermington Place, Kew. Leaders say that the work is voluntary and that it makes no appeals. Main “mission” work is through publications, lectures and “Frank and Ernest” broadcasts in three States.

Several hundred followers are attached to ecclesias at Richmond, Geelong (Vic.), interstate capitals and other centres; and others are in isolated parts of country districts, as well as in New Zealand and throughout the world. A small group at Birchip (V.) shared in the Lord’s Supper there recently.

Weekly meetings (they are at 3 and 6 p.m., in Richmond) are conducted informally around a table. After a few hymns, and a prayer led by one of the group, students are invited by the chairman to contribute “thoughts” and questions on the chosen Bible passage and to quote other texts in support.

Bereans do not smoke, drink, attend football, races or entertainments. This abstinence, they say, is not a directive but in the spirit of “May I sacrifice?” Adherents are baptised by total immersion in rivers, the sea or in any body of water that might be handy. Baptisms are often conducted during four-day. Christmas Conventions in Melbourne.

Bereans observe the Lord’s Supper annually, believing that Christ intended it as a remembrance of His sacrifice, to replace the old, yearly Jewish Passover. This year’s observance was on 19th April.

No membership records are kept, but all who sincerely have faith in Christ’s sacrifice and seek to walk in His steps by faith and full consecration to God are recognised as fellow Christians.

Our Pilgrimage.

A scorching wind, a withering blast,
A desert stern and bare,
A journey long, with scarce a song;
But still my Lord is there.
A sky of blue—no clouds in sight
A pleasant garden fair
With birds and flowers, and happy -hours;
My Lord is also there.
Then teach us Lord in want, in pain,
In happiness, in rest
To trust in Thee whate’er our lot
And teach us Lord to murmur not,
For what Thou doest is best.

“The Manner of Christ’s Return and Appearing.”—This most important subject explained in detail in this 64-page booklet. Most enlightening. Paper cover, price 9d.; 6 copies for 4/-.

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FRANK & ERNEST TALKS Geelong, 3GL, 222 M. Sundays 10 a.m.

Sydney, 2KY, 294 M. , 8,15 a.m.

Perth, 6KY, 227 M. , 4.45 pan.

The Age of Man.

ONE of our brethren has recently sent a cutting from the Geelong (Vic.) “Advertiser” of July 7th, part of which reads as follows:—

“Discovery of three skeletons by two American anthropologists recently has given rise to new concepts of man’s early evolution. The human bones, dug up in Northern Iran by a University of Pennsylvania professor and a young Harvard University graduate student, are said to be 75,000 years old and probably art the oldest human remains ever found.”

The Biblical answer to the wild guesses of evolutionists is very clear and satisfactory to all who adopt the right attitude and desire to learn the truth on this and all other important subjects , found in God’s Word. The following short article is presented from the standpoint of the Scriptures:—

In the first place, the Bible plainly declares that man was a special, direct creation of God—not a creature that came into being haphazardly, or through “slow, infinitesimal steps of perpetual progress”, or by “survival of the fittest”. The account of man in Genesis is perfectly clear that “God created man in His own image, clear, in the image of “God created He him; male and female created He them”. (Gen. 1:27.) He was formed of the elements of the earth, after which he was infused with the breath of life. by divine power, “and man became a living soul.’ —Gen. 2:7.

Evolutionists, on the contrary, frankly scoff at these Biblical statements, or explain them away as being “an allegory”, which is but another way of saying that the Genesis account is a “fairy tale”. They would do away with the whole story of Adam and Eve if they could, for it doesn’t fit in with their evolutionary scheme. But if we discard this Genesis narrative, we also must dispense with much of the Bible—both the Old Testament and the New—for it is referred to by more than one inspired writer, right on down to the last section, the Book of Revelation. Jesus Himself is called “the second- Adam”, who will yet do for the race what the first. Adam failed to do by reason of *disobedience. In the New Testament Adam is positively called “the first man” (1 Cor. 15:45), and it reiterates that “Adam was first formed, then Eve.”-1 Tim. 2:13.

Again, the Bible is at variance with evolution: because it plainly shows that man fell from perfection to degradation, sin and death; but according to Darwin there has been no such thing as the “fall of man”. On the contrary, say the evolutionists, man has been steadily rising, as have all other animal and vegetable forms of life, from .the .very begining of creation of the first living cell, millions or billions of, years- ago. It should be clear to anyone that “evolution of man” and the “fall of man” are two diametrically opposite ideas that cannot be harmonized. If we accept the theory of human evolution, then we must discard the Genesis story of the downfall of man in Eden.

This means that we also must discard many other portions of the Word of God. The New Testament refers again and again to that original transgression, and declares that “in Adam all die” (1 Cor. 15:22) ; that “Adam was not deceived, but the -woman being deceived was in the transgression” (1 Tim. 2:14) ; and that “by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin”. (Rom. 5:12.) It is evident that if we reject all those essential portions of the Old and New Testament because they do not coincide with Darwinism, then we undermine all confidence in the inspired Word of God in favour of “vain philosophy” and “science falsely so-called”. This is why a few ardent evolutionists would destroy the Bible if they could. But the Bible is true, and will endure for ever, while Darwinism will be forgotten.

Again, a problem which Darwinists have never been able to explain away is this: If man has been on earth for hundreds

of thousands of years, or even for twenty thousand years, multiplying as usual during all that time, why is the planet today so sparsely populated? At the present rate of increase it would not have taken long to amass a population of two billion—even after making allowance for destructive wars, famines and pestilences. Why, then, do we not have far more than two billion people now on earth, if humanity has ‘been multiplying here for as long as Darwinists claim?’

The average rate of increase of various nations and races during a given period of time is not so very difficult to compute. Some peoples, of course, have had more hardships than others, which has limited their increase; but it should be possible to strike a fair average and thereby approximate what the increase of the entire human family should be during sixty centuries. Dr. Williams in his “Evolution Disproved” mentions the example of the Jewish people. Perhaps no race has experienced greater hardships throughout the centuries than they have suffered. Hence their known rate of increase, under such unfavourable circumstances, should furnish a conservative clue as to what the average rate of increase of the world at large should have been during the nearly 6,000 years since the actual dawn of human history.

If Jacob had lived 60 instead of about 38 centuries ago,, could he within that time have propagated a race which would now number 2,000,000,000 souls—almost equivalent to the world’s present population? If so, then why could not Adam have done precisely the same thing? If, starting with one human pair, it would be possible, in 60 centuries, to produce a generation of about two billion people—such as exists on this earth to-day--that would dispose of the necessity of insisting upon an extreme age for the human race, at least on that score. Let us now see what Israel’s average rate of increase has been since Jacob’s day.

Jacob, the grandson of Abraham, was the father of the Jewish nation; his twelve sons were the heads of the twelve tribes of Israel. Jacob was born about 1900 B.C., or a little over 38 centuries ago. The Jewish Yearbook of a few years ago estimates the present number of Jews throughout the world to be about 17,000,000. It is a simple problem in mathematical progression to determine at what rate the house of Jacob has increased to produce this number.

The figure 2, doubled successively for only 24 times (i.e., 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, etc.) yields a product of about 17,000,000. Evidently, therefore, the Israelites have doubled their population about 24 times during the 38 centuries since Jacob’s day. This would be one doubling every 160 years, approximately. If Israel, throughout its centuries of repeated servitudes, dispersions and pogroms, could double its population every century and a half, it would seem that all other people should have been able to do the same. Certainly the entire world must have been able to double its population at least’ once every two centuries, if Israel could do it every 160 years.

If Adam and Eve were created nearly 6,000 years ago, as the Bible states, and the world’s population has doubled once every two centuries (which is even slower than the persecuted Jews have multiplied), then, there have been about 31 doublings since Adam’s day. And if we take the figure 2 and double it for 31 times it yields the number, 2,147,483,648, which, in fact, is approximately the present population of the world.

Now if man has been multiplying on this earth even for 50,000 years or longer, then why does not the world have a greater population than about two billion to-day? If Adam and Eve had been Jews, and had doubled the population as rapidly as the house of Jacob is known to have multiplied during the past 38 centuries, there now undoubtedly would

be more people on earth than we have. But figuring even more conservatively than the Jewish rate of increase, we thus find that we still are able to account for the present world population by starting with only one pair just 6,000 years ago. The Bible thus stands corroborated by plain statistics and common sense, while the wild guesses of the evolutionists have neither science nor reason to support them.

If the age of man is only about 6,000 years, and started with but one pair in Eden, as the Bible says, then it is evident that the total number of persons who have lived and died within that time could not have been much in excess of 20 or 25 billions. It is easily possible for that number of people to be supported on this earth simultaneously under the perfect conditions of Christ’s Kingdom. The Bible is not unreasonable, therefore, when it declares that all that are in their graves shall come forth, and that “whosoever will” of both the living and the dead shall be restored to the condition of perfect manhood from which Adam fell, and will be privileged to live forever upon this earth which also then will have been perfected.

The earth will never become over-populated, because the Creator will cause the propagation of the race to cease, eventually. Jesus implied this, when He said that in the resurrection they will neither marry nor be given in marriage. Adam and Eve were commissioned to “multiply and fill the earth”, but not to overfill it. That commission now has been almost fully complied with.

Evolution has sought to turn the resurrection into an absurdity, but science and reason are now making evolution the greatest absurdity of all; and God’s Word is being steadily corroborated.

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AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THE BIBLE.

(W. G. Thompson.)

I am the oldest book in existence, having outlived the storms of thirty centuries. Men have endeavoured to banish me from the face of the earth; they have hidden, torn and burnt me, and have done to death tens of thousands of my faithful witnesses. No other book has been more bitterly hated; no other book has been so dearly cherished; no other book has been so misrepresented and misunderstood; but to-day, while so many of my foes slumber in death, I still live on.

It is not for me to speak of the conflicting creeds laid to my charge, but on behalf of the one true purpose of my revered Author I appeal to reason. Look at the stately trees of the forest; the living green of the meadows bespangled by a thousand lovely, flowers; the singing birds that delight themselves amid the beauties of nature; the blue dome of heaven, illuminated by the sun, moon, and stars that space out a universe too immense for man to fathom; and know that the Creator of these things has a wise and loving purpose equally great and beautiful on behalf of man. —Isa. 55:6, 13.

There is revealed within my covers a plan so broad and a design so deep as to be beyond the power of human, origin. My story centres around the Redeemer, who by the grace of God tasted death for every man. Based upon this atoning sacrifice all the dead will be raised, and the whole earth made glorious with life and happiness everywhere, without a trace of sorrow, pain or death —Isa 11:9; 60:13; Rev. 21:1-7.

My message has blessed every follower of Jesus. It has inspired them with hope; encouraged them to zeal, comforted them in sorrow, and strengthened them in faith, till they have laid down their all in death, awaiting their grand reward. Like the crystal springs from the mountainside which flow on and on to refresh the luxuriant verdure on the plains below, so in the glad day now at hand the waters of truth will

Impart their life-giving blessing to the willing and obedient of mankind, who will forever, with one sweet accord, praise, love and adore my beloved Author.—Rev. 5:8, 13.

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