



CONTENDING FOR
FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIANITY

The Voice IN THE Wilderness



"The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight."

Mark 1:3

Published Monthly
Free Subscription



CONTENDING FOR
AMERICAN FREEDOM

March 2003

THE DIVINE BOOK - THE DIVINE BLOOD



**Dare deny this covenant of love
The Divine Book - The Divine Blood.**

**Holy Bible, Book Divine
Precious Treasure, thou art mine.**

**He scarlet wool and hyssop took
Moses with blood sprinkled the Book.**

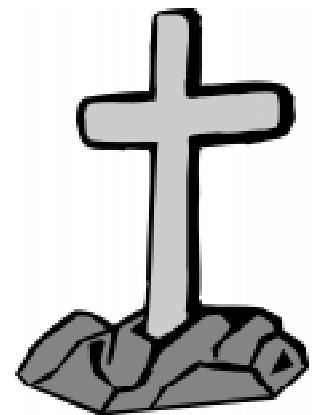
**The shedding of blood - the remission of sin
Precious and pure, for the souls of men.**

**God breathed upon His hallowed page
Redemptions story for age to age.**

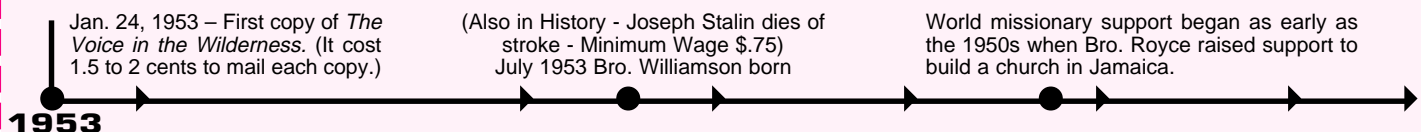
**That rugged cross, it is mine
Stained with blood, God's precious Divine.**

**Now earthly trophies I lay down
Then one day, for heaven's crown.**

- Ronnie L. Williamson



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MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Friends:

Did you know *The Voice in the Wilderness* is read every month by subscribers in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands? In addition, brothers and sisters along with missionaries around the world are blessed by this publication. From our office near Asheville, NC, copies are sent airmail monthly to subscribers in 26 countries and 7 Canadian Provinces. That does not include the thousands of copies printed and mailed in the Tamil language. The goal is to add several more languages to our translation ministry in the near future. Will you pray with us about this opportunity? Many military personnel receive *The Voice in the Wilderness* as well. I'm certain it is circulated among fellow soldiers and each copy gets well used.

The Voice in the Wilderness is a nonprofit, independent incorporation, founded by Rev. Dr. J. Royce Thomason D.P.D. Ph.D., evangelist and medical missionary. The organization is dedicated to the spreading of the whole gospel to the world, especially in foreign lands. The program consists of building mission stations and schools, supporting the American missionaries and native pastors, providing needy students with room and board, administering medical and dental services free, and preaching Christ to the lost. We are supported by the gifts of those who care. All gifts designated by missions will go directly without any deductions. Contributions to The Voice in the Wilderness for projects or to support the ministry of a missionary will be used as indicated by the donor following approved policies and procedures. Gifts are tax deductible and should be made out to The Voice in the Wilderness. *The Voice in the Wilderness Magazine* is a fundamental publication, published each month in behalf of the work of the Lord and the preservation of the liberties of our United States. Printed material from other sources does not necessarily imply an endorsement from this ministry. There is no subscription charge; all interested people of good will may have a copy sent regularly to their address simply by requesting it. Address all correspondence to Voice in the Wilderness, P.O. Box 7037, Asheville, NC 28802.

The lack of funds has caused us to restrain circulation in the jails and prisons. Thank the Lord for the ministries able to reach out to those incarcerated. The Voice in the Wilderness does mail copies to several prisoners, but we simply do not have the means and resources to have a significant ministry in this area. Keep in mind, this is a free publication; but also remember, it does cost. From research to PDF, graphics, layout, printing, binding, and mailing it's one dollar per copy. This printed missionary requires thousands of dollars per month to reach the thousands of readers around the world. Quite frankly, between this printed missionary and the faith promise support sent to about 40 missionaries monthly, a lot of prayer, patience and waiting on the Lord transpire in the process. Rarely is the money in the bank when it

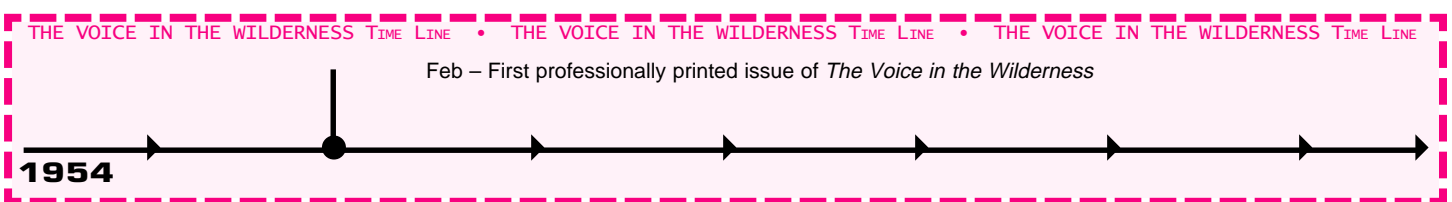
comes time to mail support to our missionaries. Thank the Lord for the few who share this vision with us and give sacrificially to make it possible.

Missionaries, pastors, educators, professionals, laymen, and brethren from all walks of life around the world receive this monthly publication. Letters of appreciation come into our office every week expressing how this printed missionary has been a blessing.

"Dear Dr. Williamson: We are so thankful to the Lord of the many blessings we have been receiving from your ministry. We are edified, encouraged, and updated. Life in the Philippines is so hard and we cannot help financially, but we desire to receive more of your magazine. We will help you through our prayers. May God Almighty bless you and may He use you more. Thank you so much. In Christ," A subscriber from the Philippines

Each month many await this informative friend to arrive in their mailbox. On their behalf, "Thank you" to all who support this work

(Continued on page 7)



A Look at The Book and The Blood

MAKING SPIRITUAL SENSE

“Cut the Bible anywhere, and it bleeds...” Who could author the controversy and confusion that has emerged surrounding the blood of Christ and the proliferation of Bible versions?

In my hand I hold the inspired, infallible Word of God that clearly presents from Genesis to Revelation the irrefutable truth about THE BLOOD. Inseparable are THE BOOK and THE BLOOD! Deep runs throughout The Divine Record this atoning story of THE BLOOD. “The atonement is the scarlet cord

running through every page in the entire Bible. Cut the Bible anywhere, and it bleeds; it is red with redemption truth.”¹

1 Peter 1:18 & 19 says, “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot...”

Death or blood, repentance or faith, conviction or preference, primary or secondary – men love to debate and even divide into their camps to delineate often their puffed up positions of superiority and scholarship. Frequently, it is simply a matter of “getting too big for ones own britches,” to put it in mama’s words. Spiritually speaking, the attitudes become quite visible and could that be sin’s ugly head revealing itself and rousing up?

I. Keep it simple – Why do men make clear passages so complicated?

Start with the wrong premise, ask the wrong question and likely the conclusion is tragically flawed. If the Bible has errors, if there is no absolute authoritative source of information, how can the final word be drawn?

“...My words shall not pass away...” (Matthew 24:35). “All scripture is given by inspiration of God...” (II Timothy 3:16). “...Thou

shalt preserve them” [His words] (Psalm 12:6 & 7). Has God preserved His Word that today man might speak definitively from Divine record? Or is it all up for grabs from some eclectic hodgepodge of critical sources patched together by the higher minds that by self-appointment assumed the textual set of final say? Does the one who is eternal and sovereign, the one true and living God find Himself impotent to preserve for all generations His inspired, infallible Word? “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (II Peter 1:21). Once in the miracle and power of it all, God gave His Word complete and inspired; but now it’s up to some elitist pool of scholarly minds to sort through a group of texts that differ significantly, and yet, compile in a methodically scientific fashion a collection bound and stamped Holy Bible.

Critically speaking, if the word (critical) can be used here, these modern day versions differ in translation. What percentage proves heresy? If the blood or deity of Christ is compromised in some verses but clear in others, does that version still deserve credibility? Does the doctrine of inspiration mean

(Continued on page 10)



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“The voice of one crying in the wilderness.” A fundamental voice on the issues.

(Also in History - National Organization of Women founded.)



1966



The Making of

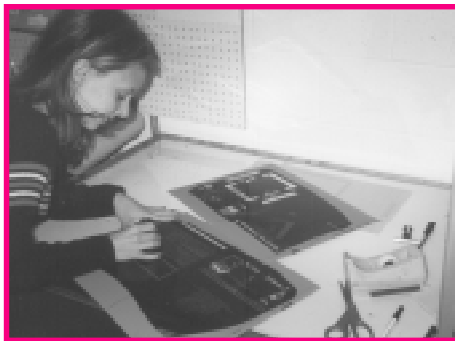


The Voice IN THE Wilderness

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of printing *The Voice in the Wilderness* let us look at the production of this wonderful publication. A brief window of time is available from start to finish. Often we would like more time to proof, and spit and polish the final product, but deadlines will not permit. It is amazing all the steps that go into this paper. Each month the Lord helps us meet the challenges and somewhat stay on schedule.



#1 After *The Voice in the Wilderness* is written and compiled by Bro. and Mrs. Williamson, it is sent to Ron, our graphics expert, for layout and graphic design. When final proofing and approval are complete, Ron sends the final copy to film.



#2 When the final proof is complete, *The Voice in the Wilderness* goes to film. Brandy is examining the film after it has been stripped up and is ready for the plate burner.



#3 Walter prepares metal plates exposed from the film, and develops them through a chemical process much as a photograph would be developed. Metal has to be used for the plates because the many thousands of impressions would wear out any less durable substance. The plates are then placed on the Web press for the actual printing of *The Voice in the Wilderness*.



#4 Floyd Styles, (owner of ValuePrint, Inc., seen here on the right), along with his press operator Jeff oversee the Web press as it prints the thousands of two-color copies of *The Voice in the Wilderness*. The Web press is an incredible piece of equipment and does a great job under the expertise of ValuePrint's trained staff.



#5 Becky, the collator operator, and Floyd Styles prepare to assemble and stitch the 16-page *The Voice in the Wilderness* as it nears the end of a very involved production process.

(Continued on page 5)

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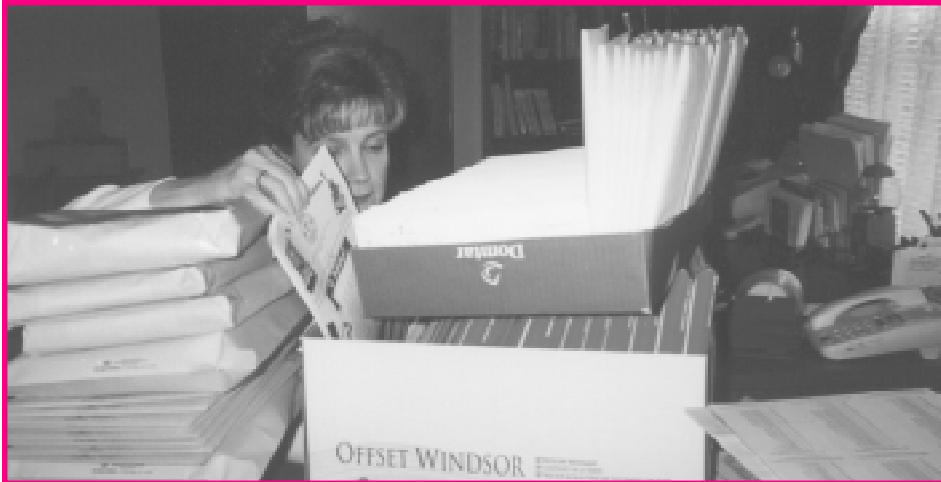
(Also in History - Abortion legalized.)



May 1973 - Ronnie and Terry were married

1973

(Continued from page 4)



#6 Sister Terry at **The Voice in the Wilderness** office, (right and above), labels and packages hundreds of papers each month for mailing to individual missionaries overseas, as well as churches stateside. She personally handles every piece of mail that can not go bulk rate.



#7 Our bulk mailer, Jewell, handles the labeling and mailing of the many thousands of *The Voice in the Wilderness* magazine each month. As you can see, the bulk mail fills a good percentage of a room.

Nuggets of Gold



1. Even when opportunity knocks, a man still has to get up off his seat and open the door.
2. An atheist is an unbeliever who prefers to raise his children in a Christian community.
3. The highest knowledge is the knowledge of God.
4. Keep your head and your heart going in the right direction and you'll not have to worry about your feet.
5. A sharp tongue and a dull mind are usually found in the same head.
6. You can often gauge a man's ambition by whether he hates his alarm clock or considers it his dear friend.



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The Voice's first 16-page issue

The Voice began missionary support early in its history on the Island of Cheung Chou.

1974

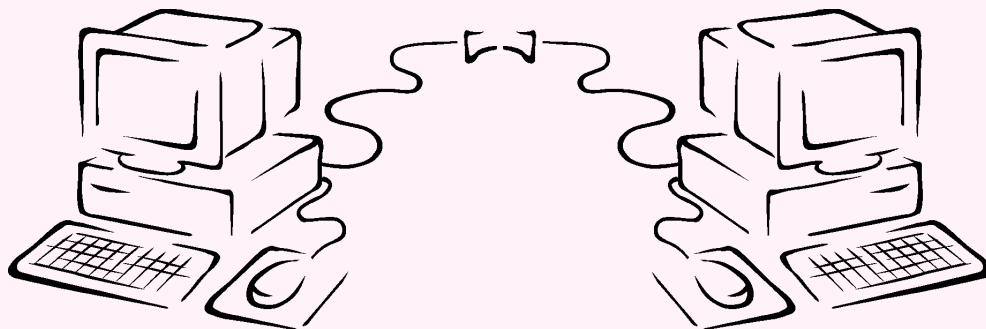


YOU ARE THE KEY!



The Voice in the Wilderness has been blessed with some very faithful prayer partners and financial supporters. May our Lord bless each of you! A few have carried the load for many. During 2002, about 14% of the total *The Voice in the Wilderness* subscribers gave to help with this ministry and the printing of this publication. Praise the Lord for this elite group of friends.

For those who have not contributed, may I ask you to help us carry the light of the gospel to the areas the Lord has given us opportunity. Doors are open; but quite frankly, more than 14% is needed to get the job done. If you have not responded, please do not wait. The Voice in the Wilderness needs your help now! To make it as clear as possible, we simply need at least 300 first-time givers to contribute \$100 to this missionary ministry. Current projects are waiting for your help. Perhaps many could give even more while even the widow's mite will be blessed by our Lord. Thanks for your vision and caring! Again, we have always depended on you to give enabling this work to continue to go forward for HIS GLORY!



NEW MINISTRY WEBSITE NOW ON-LINE

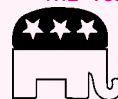
Thanks to Bro. Wes Adams *The Voice in the Wilderness* is now available through our new website: www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org. This will give those who have access to the Internet opportunity to download the entire publication or print out a single article of interest. Due to our travel schedule however, time does not permit my wife and I to answer your emails. Sorry, but with just the two of us handling the ministries responsibilities, we can not provide email access through the website at this time. Thanks for your understanding. However, I pray access to *The Voice in the Wilderness* publication through this website will be of benefit.

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"Good reports from missionaries: Major Gardner, Davis, Hardy, and Muller"



(Also in History - Reagan and Republican sweep.)



1980

(Continued from page 2)

financially. You are a part of ministering to thousands each month.

Please don't forget *The Voice in the Wilderness* publication is a tool of ministry in its own right. We humans are peculiar and have biased notions about a lot of things. For example, folk from time to time send a check with some interesting comments. One contributor sent a gift for missions but stated, "I don't want this money spent on buildings." That's fine, and we try to honor those stipulations; however, where do orphans sleep and eat or get out of the rain and cold? How do doctors and nurses attend to patients if no shelter or facility is available? In a similar vein, contributors send support for missions but do not want their gift used for printing, vehicles, salaries, etc. Individuals have the right to their opinions and how they want funds earmarked, however,

please understand there are so many facets to this ministry. Yes, *The Voice in the Wilderness* publication is a tool of ministry and even though thousands receive it free, many never give to help with its cost. If you could, please consider a gift at this time. It would be deeply appreciated.

Then, in the words of Bro. Royce, *The Voice in the Wilderness* publication is the lifeline of all we do. Through this little paper virtually all the monies needed for our missionary work is raised. Presently, such a small percentage of subscribers give toward this endeavor that on many fronts we are unable to maximize all the many opportunities available. These are urgent days, and we need your help. Will you pray with us? Will you stand with us financially and make a gift today? Now please don't write me a letter saying, "Ronnie, Bro. Royce never asked for money. You

talk about money in every issue." First of all, I've got copies of this paper dating back to the 1950's and indeed Bro. Royce made financial needs known to subscribers repeatedly and consistently. However, there are a few readers who do not want to hear about money. But by and large, most who give faithfully are very much interested in all we do and what the needs are. We do pray, and trust me, if it were not for the answer to those prayers; this work would have shut down years ago. Most reasonable folk understand that; and from our hearts, we thank you.

Again, thanks for your friendship; and it is our sincere desire to bring Glory to our Lord and be a blessing to our constituency. Keep Jesus first, for He is coming again very soon! God Bless!
For Christ and Souls,
Bro. Ronnie



A news e-mail stated that "The ACLU doesn't want any crosses on Federal property." Duh! What country are these ACLU people from?



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"Bro. Royce reports some of the best days for the work financially."

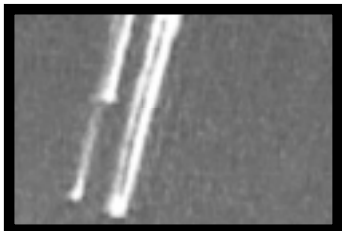
(Also in History - Berlin Wall comes down.)



1987

NEWS BITS

FROM HERE AND THERE



SPACE SHUTTLE

COLUMBIA – “The Columbia is lost,” said President Bush, after he telephoned the families of the astronauts to console them. “The same creator who names the stars also knows the names of the seven souls we mourn today,” Bush said, his eyes glistening. “The crew of the Shuttle Columbia did not return safely to Earth, but we can pray they are safely home.”

High over Texas and just short of home, space shuttle Columbia fell to pieces Saturday, raining debris over hundred of miles of countryside. Seven astronauts perished – a gut-wrenching loss for a country and world already staggered by tragedy. NASA appointed an independent commission to investigate. *ACT* 2/2/03

PENNSYLVANIA'S FETAL HOMICIDE LAW

– A Pennsylvania judge has upheld that state's fetal homicide law. His opinion involved a pregnant woman

who was kicked in the stomach, causing the death of her 15-week-old, unborn child. The judge ruled that it was a homicide – but took great pains to assert that if a woman wants to kill her baby by abortion, “that’s okay.” Mary Spaulding Balch of the National Right to Life says the ruling is illogical. While Balch thinks it is good that the court recognizes an unborn child can be the victim of a crime, “it is kind of schizophrenic to say that the distinction between this child—and another child who would be the victim of abortion—is ‘wanted-ness’.” Pennsylvania is one of 27 states that carry fetal homicide laws. *Agape Press* 2/1/03

DO WE NEED HISTORY FROM HOLLYWOOD AND TED TURNER?

Hollywood is releasing the Civil War epic Gods and Generals, and conservative reviews are cautiously optimistic. The movie examines the deep Christian faith of the conflict's leaders on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line. Ted Baehr of Christian Film and TV Commission worked with the movie's director – Ron Maxwell – on a companion book for the film. He thinks the entire project will have a very broad appeal. Baehr says Maxwell wanted the project to

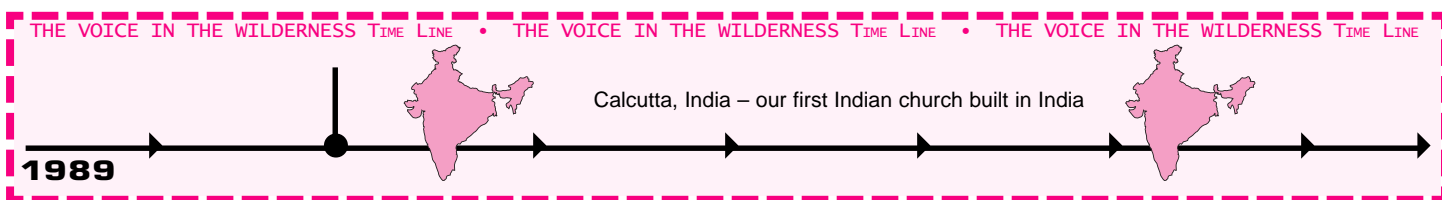
be as accessible to as broad an age group as possible – given that it is a war movie – so he chose to tone down the violence. “It’s actually a very moral, very pristine movie” Baehr says. He adds the film maintains a Christain message, despite being financed by Ted Turner. *Agape Press* 2/1/03 [Can Hollywood or Ted Turner get any truth right? I **do not** go to the movie house, and I ask all Christians to stay away. We don’t need that crowd to write history.]

READING, WRITING, & RANTING

– Thousands of Oakland public-school students skipped classes to attend a “teach-in” [in January]. Pupils heard speaker after speaker denounce military action against Iraq. No pro-war presentations were heard. Organizers called the event a timely exercise in critical thinking.

“We are the establishment,” Dan Siegel, the school board member who proposed the teach-in, told the *Los Angeles Times*. Critics took Oakland's school board to task for authorizing something so blatantly partisan. Officials claimed they couldn't find pro-war speakers.

(Continued on page 9)



(Continued from page 8)

Nearby San Francisco plans a similar teach-in in the next few weeks.

The *Times* reports that between 5,000 and 10,000 students participated as a substitute for the regular schedule. They heard shrill speakers like Ling Yee, a former radical member of the Berkeley City Council. "Americans attack people of color," she exclaimed. "We should not tolerate this."

A previous teach-in in 1999 was held for Mumia Abu-Jamal, the convicted cop killer and leftist martyr. Oakland's school board also stirred controversy in 1997 with its assertion – later retracted – that Ebonics was the primary language of some black students. This year, officials say they need a \$100 million bailout from the state to avoid bankruptcy. *World*, 2/03

[Is this approach neutral? – duh!]



BENNY HINN – NBC's *Dateline* reported former Benny Hinn employees claim his priority is to bring in millions of dollars to finance a lavish personal lifestyle. Reports gave Hinn's plans to build a \$3 million house on the West Coast. Several supposedly healed at Hinn's crusades died a short time later. Hinn declined an interview.

PERSECUTIONS – Christians face beatings, imprisonment, torture, and death in over 40 countries. Remember, non-Muslims are targets for war, which is central to Islamic doctrine and practice.

KIDS, GUNS AND DR. PHIL

– Dr. Phil put toy guns in front of young boys and watched them actually "play" with them (who would've guessed?). "There are five children a day killed with guns through either accidents or suicides," Dr. Phil said, in spinning his gun control agenda and mangling the truth in the process. "Five children a day in America are killed with guns." The five children per day figure add up to over 1,800 per year. Dr. Phil specifically said gun "accidents and suicides." Yet the Centers for Disease Control, which track all causes of death, reports only 86 accidental deaths in kids aged 14 years and under in the year 2000, and 110 suicides, for a total of 198. Still not exactly 1,800. Maybe Dr. Phil will make sure he has some facts in hand before spouting off next time. *America's 1st Freedom* 2/03



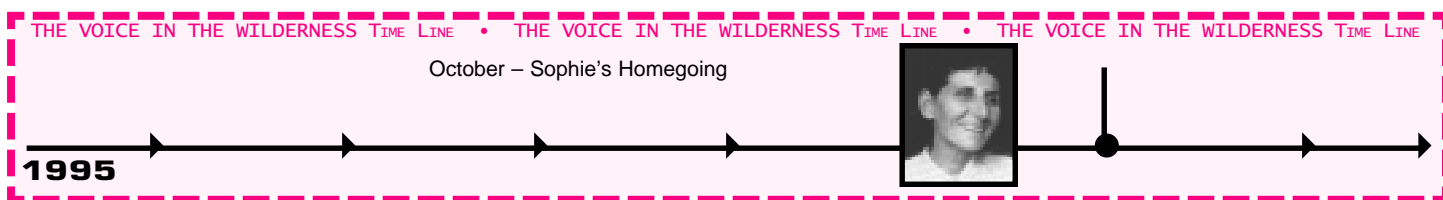
NEW DELHI, INDIA – When Samuel was judge of ancient Israel, Dagon fell on his face in the Philistine temple at Ashdod. But that

didn't happen because Dagon was clumsy. It happened because Dagon was just a dumb statue that God knocked over. It was just a big man-made toy with no batteries.

The same is true of all false gods—including the Hindu god Krishna. A reminder of that occurred recently at a Hindu temple near New Delhi in the village of Narsinghpur. Local Hindus had raised \$417,000 to build a 108-foot image of "Supreme Lord" Krishna. But the idol of Krishna was just like the idea of Krishna. It was merely man-made. After six years of construction, the giant concrete and steel statue was almost finished. Workers were giving it a final polishing. That's when God actually finished it. He knocked it over. "This was a bad omen," said Shivram Sharma, the temple priest. "It toppled in no time." *God's World News/Top Story* 2/4/03

SLAVERY DISCLOSURE

TIME – Starting February 6, corporations seeking business with the city of Chicago will be required to disclose whether they ever profited from the slave trade. Orchestrated by Mayor Richard M. Daley and two aldermen, Dorothy Tillman and Ed Burke, it is based on a California law passed two years ago, "Slavery Era Disclosure Ordinance." "You're going to be surprised to see some of the companies," says Tillman. Still, the ordinance is not a punitive measure and unclear whether it can be enforced. *Newsweek* 1/27/03



(Continued from page 3)

anything today? Is it important whether God has preserved His Word for every generation of church history? You tell me. Each and every one of us must decide where we stand. Take a look at the following verses and versions considering THE BOOK and THE BLOOD:

KJV

Luke 4:4 "And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."

Colossians 1:14 "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:"

Hebrews 1:3 "...when he had by himself purged our sins,"

1 John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

NAS

Luke 4:4 "And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'man shall not live on bread alone.'"

Colossians 1:14 "in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

Hebrews 1:3 "When He had made purification of sins,"

1 John 1:7 "but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."

NIV

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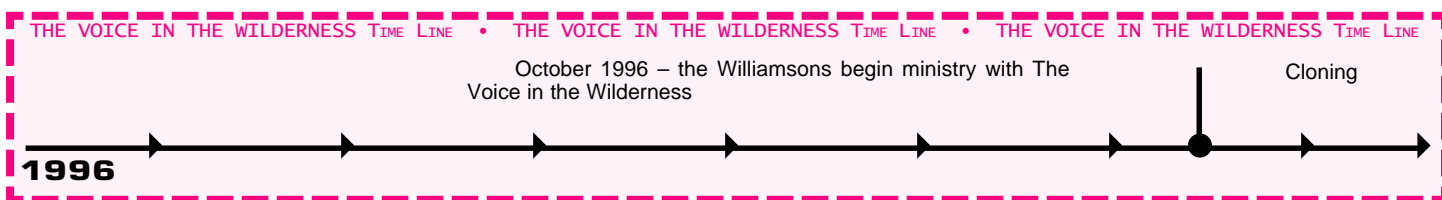
II. Are the elite minds indispensable?

John 16:13 says "...when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth..." Does the believer from the pulpit to the pew need to be proficient in Hebrew and Greek to guide in all truth? Was the promise not given to every believer that through the Holy Spirit each child of God could study the scriptures with divine guidance discerning truth from error? Have we regressed to this Romanish/Reformation era where only those of the established church hierarchy hold the secrets of illumination? Beware of this elitist mentality. Nothing wrong with degrees, and scholarship, but remember the "Spirit will guide you into all truth." Does that eliminate the Pastor/Teachers and those gifted among us? Absolutely not! Read 1 Corinthians 12 and other passages to see the significance of as well as the warning against viewing one member superior to another.

The church today has God's Inspired, Infallible, and Preserved Word. There are no errors in His Holy Book and every believer can live by that Truth and die by that Truth. Every preacher and teacher can stand firm, holding forth the Bible and confidently declare, "Thus saith the Lord."

Issues abound, and if the believer does not have absolute authority for answers "what can the righteous do?" This is where the proliferation of Bible versions becomes such a critical issue. For me it is simple, and this is what

(Continued on page 11)



(Continued from page 10)

I believe!

In the following visual you will see the problem with the many Bible versions being produced today. Their source is obvious. I believe God has preserved His Word for us today from the original manuscripts or “autographa” down through the manuscripts received by the church and traditionally used in translation until the late 1800s. It is through this pure and preserved lineage we have the Authorized or King James Version of today. Note it is not the English of the 1600s, but it is the English used in the meticulously accurate translation of God’s Word. Neither Shakespeare nor other great writers achieved the beauty and faithfulness found in the KJV English. Scholars have commented that “The vocabulary of both testaments of the KJV Bible is surprisingly small; a few more than six thousand words are used – less by half than the vocabulary of Milton and about one-third the vocabulary of Shakespeare.”² The KJV is accurate in translation, beautiful in language, easy to read, and masterful in memorization.

Please take careful note the root and origin of today’s modern versions. You can do the comparison, or should I say contrast, yourself. The NIV, NASV and others omit and rewrite. Not only do their translators seemingly take liberties, but also those who associate with and endorse these modern versions reflect the very compromise God’s Word clearly condemns. Are all KJV readers “true Bible believing fundamental Christians?” The answer is no. However, we are talking about the

source of the truth not just individuals. If the source is the pure, preserved Word of God, error will be exposed. However, if the source is corrupt, error is inevitable. Statements like “not found in some manuscripts” or “this should have been translated” lead to “there are errors in the Bible.” Check it out for yourself and note not only the words omitted but also the entire passages missing. These modern versions are not easier than the KJV to read, which has been proven historically in the American school system as well as through Dr. Rudolf Flesch’s test of readability. The source of the modern versions is apparent. The big money driven publishers exploiting the Bible market is as plain as the nose on your face. Which Bible – if anybody is confused, that confusion is not of God nor is this revisionary, money driven, proliferation of corrupt Bible versions of God. We do have God’s inspired, infallible, preserved Word for the Church today, and the source is clear as well as which translation!

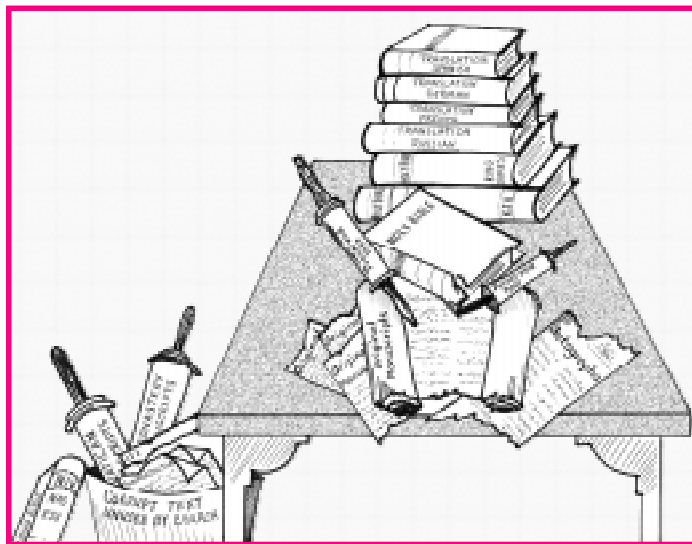
before it is rejected? If one manuscript has obvious errors, and the same is true of the second, third, and entire collection of manuscripts until the translators must pick and piece together a Bible, can it be reliable? Can truth originate in error? Would God providentially preserve His Word through obviously corrupted text?

On the other hand, would it not make spiritual sense, let alone stand to reason, that His promise to “preserve His Words” and that His “Words would not pass away” include a reliable source of texts for translation? Also, with His promise to “guide into all truth” would be His provision of a translation that is more than someone’s eclectic pick-and-choose among thousands of flawed manuscripts. Then in light of the Great commission and the need for Bibles in many languages does it not make spiritual sense for translators to use one reliable source of texts than to repeatedly sort through thousands of manuscripts with thousands of discrepancies to arrive at a translation for a particular language group?

Oh, you say, but the missionary does not have that process once the critical text is complete. Yes, and that stresses my point further. Now, the poor missionary must rely on the eclectic text that have repeatedly gone through edition changes in order to translate into a needed language version a Bible that had been lost among this vast assortment of manuscripts. Yes, complicated and confusing, but no, that is not of God!

May I introduce you to a religion that is quite emphatic about preservation? I hold in my hand a

(Continued on page 12)



One percent error leads way for two percent and ten percent. How many words or verses can a version change or omit



(Continued from page 11)

copy of the Koran. It is written from right to left in Arabic. Surah I, The Opening (Fatehah) says, "In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. All praise is due Allah, the Lord of the Worlds." Surah II, The Cow (Baqarah) continues, "Alif Lam Mim. This Book, there is no doubt in it, is a guide to those who guard (against evil)." In the English preface to this Koran are these words:

"I invite those who may be reading this Qur'an for the first time to look deeply and objectively into its meaning. The Muslims were promised by Allah that this book would always remain free from falsehood, alteration and misinterpretation. We are the only people following a Divine religion who can claim to have a book which is pure and unaltered, which had been given to the Prophet directly from God and written down in his lifetime and preserved unchanged thereafter."

Did you notice the wording? "The only people...who claim to have a book which is pure and unaltered...preserved unchanged..."

Did you know the Koran boasts of being the only preserved Word of God?

Dear Christian reader "Sadly I can say I have lived long enough to hear preachers I respect and have fellowshiped with say things like there are errors in the Bible, this is not in the original manuscripts, or even express that the NIV, NAS, and other versions differ little from the KJV and must be given

some consideration or legitimacy.

On several occasions I have been caught smack dab in the middle of this KJV, new versions, textual debate. There are families, churches and Christian colleges divided over this thing. Some ministries are torn as where or even whether to take a stand. From the pulpit to the pew there is division. There have been some hot personality clashes. Many have chosen to keep church or school loyalties no matter what. Permit me to give a brief outline that may make some spiritual sense. I trust most reading this desire to do what is right and certainly desire to have God's inspired, infallible Word to read, study, and guide their lives. That being the case, consider this:

III. How can we know?

A. The Accessibility – Do we have accessibility to the original writings or autographa? By the way, did Paul, Timothy, Peter, or other New Testament writers have the original Hebrew manuscripts? Yet, they said, "Thou hast known the Holy Scriptures" (II Tim 3:15); "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..." (II Tim 3:16); "We have also a more sure word..." (II Peter 1:19); "They have Moses and the prophets" (Luke 16:29). Even though the New Testament writers did not have the original OT manuscripts, they had no doubt about possessing God's Holy Word.

B. The Ability – If each and every believer could access the original manuscripts, would each believer have the ability to read the original language? Yet, each believer is told to read and heed the scriptures. Memorize, meditate, study and obey are all a part of the believers responsibility. God has preserved His Word so that obedience is possible regardless of ability in original languages.

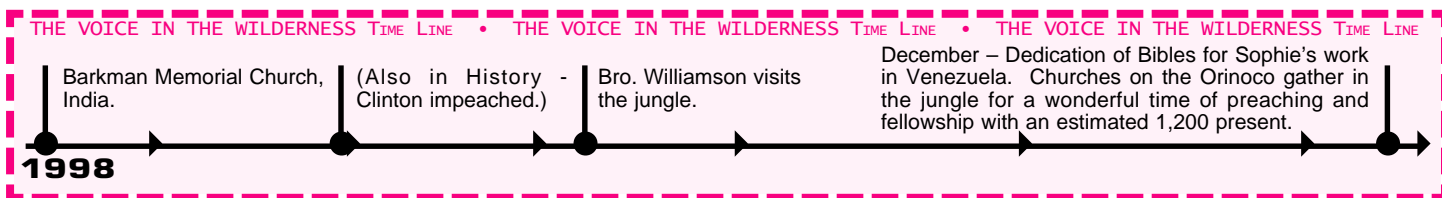
C. The Availability – "Jesus answered and said unto them, ye do err, not knowing the scripture, nor the power of God." (Matthew 22:29) Without the availability of God's Word, how could that be true? Paul reasoned out of the scriptures (Acts 17:2), and believers are comforted (Romans 15:4). How can we study to be approved unto God (II Timothy 2:15) if God did not make His Word available?

D. The Attack – "Yea, hath God said..." (Genesis 3:1). Don't forget for a moment that Satan is a liar and there is no truth in him (John 8:44). The devil desires to destroy, cloud the truth, and I am fully persuaded, bring confusion and division by the modern day proliferation of Bible versions. At first a small percentage of changes then a gender-neutral version and total deception. Be warned – God's inspired, infallible, and preserved Word is under attack.

E. The Association – Who is it exactly that is pushing these versions? Whether it's Rupert Murdoch, secular publishing giants, or even big money "Christian" publishers be assured it's not fundamental Bible believers and churches. Please read April 2002 *The Voice in the Wilderness* "The Bible's Money Trail."

F. The Argument – Was God's Word lost amongst several thousand flawed manuscripts and through some folk smarter than us all by a pick-and-choose labor of scientific scholarship compiled what God could not preserve? How many generations have had accurate scriptures if this Critical (eclectic) Text is to be accepted? Before the Critical Text, what generation had the Word of God? Why the confusion? Who is the author of confusion? Why and when did the confusion start? Have you checked out

(Continued on page 13)



(Continued from page 12)

what the proponents of this Critical Text and proliferation of new Bible versions believe about the inspiration of scripture, as well as the preservation of God's Word for today? Before the confusion, had God not blessed the Texts used for so many years by the translators of the KJV? In those Old Testament Masoretic and New Testament Textus Receptus Texts, God has promised to preserve His Word and is that so hard to believe? What did these Critical Text translators think about infallibility? How can each believer be accountable or obedient to scripture if it is uncertain the Scripture exists today? Where is pulpit integrity if there is doubt in the Text of Scripture?

G. The Answer - Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away"(Matthew 24:35). The Bible repeatedly asserts the inspiration, infallibility and preservation of Holy Scripture. From stone and clay tablets to animals' skins and scrolls, God breathed His Word to Holy men by the Holy Spirit. Manuscripts preserved the Word of God for the early church as down through the ages God continued to give His Scripture to generations after generations. The printing press eventually made the Bible even more available until even the farmers and mothers could read the wonderful Good News for themselves. Translators worked diligently to provide God's Word in various languages. Many died as the enemy tried to stamp out the Holy Scripture. But God's promise is sure. As Moses took the blood and sprinkled the Book, "...Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you" and by God's blood He purchased His church so to this day we may have His Word preserved, sealed in blood.

Even the blood of martyrs has brought to us today the text from which the King James Bible was translated. It is not the KJV versus the NIV or some other new translation. The point is clearly the source used for translation, whether English, Spanish, French, German, KJV, NIV, NAS, etc. The source, for example, of the KJV is the Hebrew Masoretic Text and the Greek Textus Receptus. As seen in our visual, the modern versions came from the Critical Text which were texts corrupted and unused by the church for 1500 years.

God has preserved His Word for this generation in Text that has resulted in the KJV as well as Spanish, French, German, Russian, and many other languages. From the pulpit to the pew, believers can be confident in "thus saith the Lord."

My dear reader, look upon the Book embossed in gold with the title Holy Bible. "Sing them over again to me, Wonderful words of Life; let me more of their beauty see, Wonderful words of Life."

"Holy Bible, book divine, Precious treasure, thou art mine."

"We praise Thee for the radiance that from the hallowed page, A lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age."

"Mid the storms of doubt and unbelief we fear, Stands a Book eternal that the world holds dear; Thru the restless ages it remains the same - 'Tis the Book of God, and the Bible is its name!"

God has spoken. His Words are very clear and very simple to understand. Please do not make it complicated.

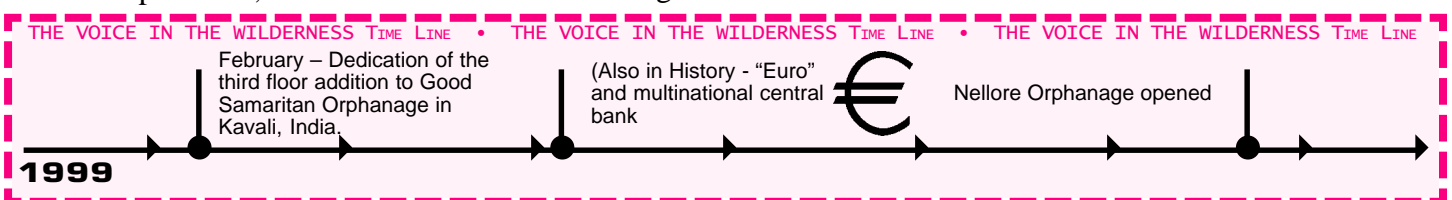
I hold in my hand a copy of *The Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin. Listen to these remarks: "The publication of Darwin's *The Origin of Species* in 1859 marked a dramatic turning point in scientific thought. The volume had taken

Darwin more than twenty years to publish, in part because he envisioned the storm of controversy it was certain to unleash. Indeed, selling out its first edition on its first day, *The Origin of Species* revolutionized science, philosophy, and theology. Darwin's reasoned, documented arguments carefully advance his theory of natural selection and assertion that species were not created all at once by a divine hand..."

Charles L. Surret in his book, *Which Greek Text?*, writes "There seems to be a parallel between the integration of Darwinian Evolutionary thought into the theology of committed Bible-believers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries with that of the acceptance of Westcott-Hort at the same period in history. The mood, especially in Europe and North America, favored scientific investigation as an ultimate source of truth. The Liberals capitalized on this "modern" way of thinking to produce what has become known as Higher Criticism. Fundamentalists rejected those Liberal conclusions, but still felt the need to accommodate what they thought were the findings of science. In the area of Creationism, Bible-believers replaced the long-held view of six literal days of creation with some type of evolutionary explanation, such as the "Day-Age" or the "Gap" theory. Christians today do not castigate the late C.I. Scofield nor doubt either his salvation or sincerity on the basis of his Gap Theory beliefs of creation. Simply put, he and others like him did not have the information to combat what they thought were conclusions forced by science and scholarship."³

Whether C.I. Scofield or others like Dr. M.R. DeHaan, men are fallible and

(Continued on page 14)



(Continued from page 13)

often surcome to pressures and influences about them. Those of the Critical Text adapted that scientific approach. DeHaan's *The Chemistry of the Blood* attempted to answer questions medically and scientifically. However, you cannot simply put His Book and His Blood under a microscope or in a test tube to scientifically analyze and base your doctrine.

The Bible and The Blood are inseparable. The enemy, the devil, has ruthlessly attacked God's people on these two fronts. George Bernard wrote "In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, A wondrous beauty I see; For 'twas on that old cross, Jesus suffered and died, To pardon and sanctify me." How precious, how divine are His Book and His Blood. In his sermon "The Precious Blood of Christ" Charles Spurgeon said, "Here, powers of speech would fail to convey to you an idea of the preciousness! Behold here, a person innocent, without taint within, or flaw without; a Person meritorious, who magnified the law and made it honorable – a Person who served both God and man even unto death. Nay, here you have a divine Person – so divine, that in the Acts of the Apostles, **Paul calls His blood the "blood of God."** [Emphasis added]

"...The blood is a mighty melter. Alchemists of old sought after a universal solvent: the blood of Jesus is that. There is no nature so stubborn that a sight of the love of God in Christ Jesus cannot melt it, if grace shall open the blind eye to see Christ. The stone in the human heart shall melt away, when it is plunged into a **bath of blood divine.**"²⁴ [Emphasis added] Did you note the words "blood of God" and then "a bath of blood divine." Webster defines the word "divine" as (1) of God (2) extremely good. Could that

word in relation to the blood, the precious blood of Jesus do damage to the doctrine of the incarnate Christ, the Son of Man? Absolutely not. This is not a question of "Human **or** Divine" but rather the truth of "Human **and** Divine." Why are people struggling so with these "**or**" questions? Human **or** Divine? Blood **or** Death? Death **or** Resurrection? Repentance **or** Faith? What is the deal with this "**or**" question? It seems "good folk" are determined to keep sticking their "**or**" (oar) in the water to make waves rather than move the boat forward. Divine, meaning "of God," seems so simple to me. It is not a matter of human "**or**" Divine but rather Human and Divine. The "Kenosis" of Christ (Gr. Kenoo – Philippians 2:7) was not a ceasing to be God, but God manifest in flesh. When Peter said "the precious blood of Christ" 1 Peter 1:19 (please note "ye were not redeemed with corruptible things") and Paul preached "the church of God, which he (God/Christ) hath purchased with His (God/Christ) own blood," they were speaking "of God's/Christ's blood. Is that not Divine blood, blood of God? It is not a matter of human or Divine but rather human and Divine, which is the incarnate Jesus Christ. Commenting on Acts 20:28 Matthew Henry says, "The world is God's by creation, but the church is His by right of redemption..." "...This proves that Christ is God, for He is called so here, where yet He is said to purchase the church with His own blood: the blood was His as man, yet so close is the union between the Divine and human nature that it is here called the blood of God; for it was the blood of Him who is God, and His being so put such dignity and worth into it as made it both a valuable ransom of us from evil, and a valuable purchase for us of all good, nay, a purchase of us to Christ, to be to Him a peculiar people:..."

Again for 1 Peter 1:19 Matthew Henry says "The blood of Jesus Christ is the only price of man's redemption...it is the blood of an infinite person, being the Son of God, and therefore it is called the blood of God, Acts XX:28."

Jesus is described by many writers as fully God, fully man, the God-man. Certainly we all agree there is none nor ever will be any one like Jesus.

1. From "**In the beginning,**" **THE WORD and in the conception "she was found with child of the Holy Ghost."** Jesus is like no other.

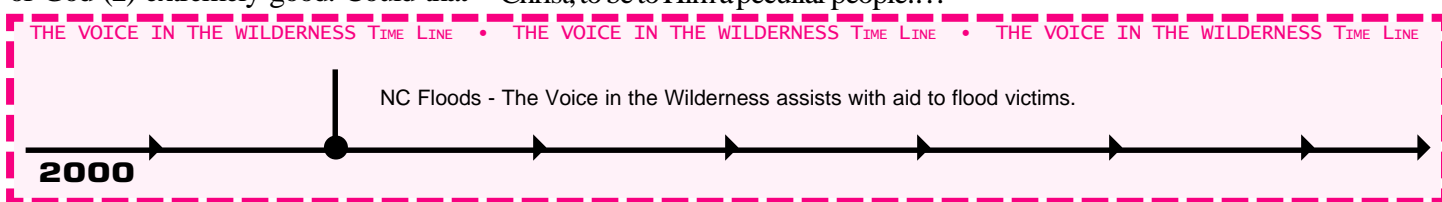
2. "**In the bringing forth through His virgin birth He is "Emmanuel, God with us."** There is none other like Jesus.

3. And "**In the being**" of His humanity and deity obviously, without question Jesus is unique. Thus the blood of Christ may reasonably be described as "**Human and Divine.**"

Pastor D. T. Young of Edinburgh and London preached from Hebrews 9:19 "The Crimson Book." Under point number I, "The Book" is an Eternal Subject of Blood-Sprinkling. Young says, "How much nobler a "Book" is ours than the Book Moses had! Woe be to us if we undervalue it, depreciate it, or neglect it! Compare the Mosaic Bible with the Christian Bible, and it is "as moonlight unto sunlight, or as water unto wine." Nay, it is the cold grey dawn to the blazing meridian. Yet thank God for "the Book" that Moses sprinkled.

"When Moses sprinkled his Book with blood he proclaimed an eternal necessity. The Bible must evermore be blood-besprinkled. Only a Crimson Book can meet our heartmost needs. And the Christian Bible is all over, and through and through, sprinkled with blood. Yes,

(Continued on page 15)



(Continued from page 14)

with “the Blood of Jesus Christ,” which Paul did not scruple to call the Blood of God.

“Meanwhile, who can deny that the Bible is blood-besprinkled? We do not like that word “blood.” “The red word,” one of our novelists calls it. But the very word runs through the Bible. And the doctrine of the atoning virtue of Christ’s blood is the great characterization of scripture. It is prophesied in the Old Testament, and in the New Testament revealed. The whole book is crimson with redemption. I cannot pretend to be able to explain the mystery of the fact, but assured fact it is.

“Our Bible is sprinkled with the divine Redeemer’s blood. Let sneerers dub the Book as gory; we glory in its ruby redness. To us the blood-besprinkledness of the Bible is the guarantee of its everlasting veracity.

“How know we whether we can safely accept its words? The blood of Jesus streaks its every page. The Book is sealed with Jesus’ blood.”⁵

Out of the thousands that read this, many may disagree. I personally have preacher friends who do not hold this view of The Book and The Blood. The intent here is not to alienate or divide saved, Bible believing people. However, in these days of drift and compromise, I see a dangerous trend creeping in among us. Music, dress standards, associations, and tolerance of issues that once would have immediately been scripturally addressed are now overlooked, excused and even embraced.

In conclusion, in *The Power of the Blood of Jesus* Andrew Murray says, “We read in I John that ‘there are three that bare witness on earth, the Spirit, and the water and the blood: and these three are one’ (I John 5:8). The water refers to

baptism unto repentance and the laying aside of sin. The blood witnesses to redemption in Christ. The Spirit is He who supplies power to the water and the blood. So also the spirit and the blood are associated in Hebrew 9:14, where we read, ‘How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience.’ It was by the eternal Spirit in our Lord, that His blood had its value and power. It is always through the Spirit that the blood possesses its living dower in heaven and in the hearts of men.

“We know how this was set forth in the Old Testament laws of the offerings. A clean beast took the place of a guilty man.

“There was reconciliation in the blood. But that was not a reality. The blood of cattle or of goats could never take away sin; it was only a shadow, a picture, of the real reconciliation.

“Blood of totally different character was necessary for an effectual covering of guilt. According to the counsel of the Holy God, nothing less than the blood of God’s own Son could bring about reconciliation. Righteousness demanded it; Love offered it. ‘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.’ (Romans 3:24-25)

“It is no wonder that forever mention will be made of that blood in the song of the redeemed, and through all eternity. As long as heaven lasts, the praise of the blood will resound. ‘Thou wast slain and hast redeemed us unto God by thy blood.

“Oh, the divine, wonderful power of the blood! Through the blood we enter into the holiest.

“Since the days of the Reformation,

it is still apparent that in proportion as the blood of the Lamb is gloried in, the church is constantly inspired by a new life to obtain the victory over deadness or error.

“Where the holy blood of the Lamb is sprinkled, there God dwells, and Satan is put to flight. In heaven, on earth, and in our hearts, that word as the announcement of a progressive victory is valid: ‘they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb’”⁶

Colossians 2:9 says “For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” Commenting on that verse Matthew Henry writes, “Under the law, the presence of God dwelt between the cherubim, in a cloud which covered the mercy-seat; but now it dwells in the person of our Redeemer, who partakes of our nature, and is bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh and has more clearly declared the Father to us. It dwells in him bodily; not as the body is opposed to the spirit, but as the body is opposed to the shadow. The fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ really, and not figuratively; for he is both God and man.”

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” (1 Peter 5:8) “...earnestly contend for the faith...there are certain men crept in unawares” (Jude 3 & 4), and we must not become a casualty. May we all hear our Lord say, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.” Amen. Even so come, Lord Jesus.”

¹ *The Great Doctrines of the Bible*, William Evans, p.70.

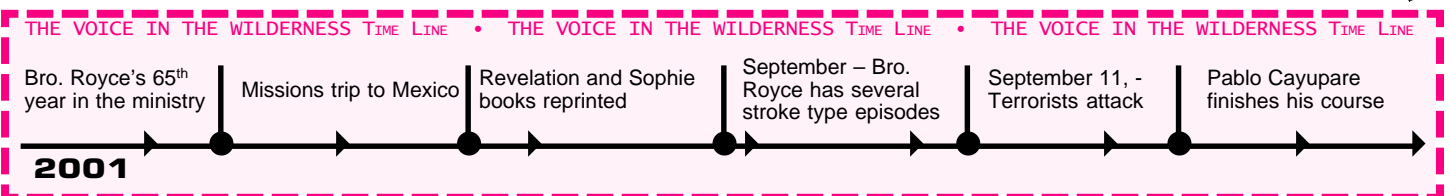
² *Through the Ages*, Gaebelstein

³ *Which Greek Text?*, Charles L. Surret, p 13.

⁴ *Sermons on the Passion and Death of Christ*, Charles H. Spurgeon, pp. 33 & 39.

⁵ *The Crimson Book*, Dinsdale T. Young, pp. 3,8,10.

⁶ *The Power of the Blood of Jesus*, Andrew Murray, pp. 36,37,47,51,113,158.



BIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: Are homeschoolers being isolationists?

A: Yes—but that doesn't mean that what they're doing is wrong.

However you educate your children, you're being isolationist. For instance, those children who attend public schools are being isolated from a Christian philosophy in virtually everything they're taught. Children who are homeschooled or sent to a good Christian school are isolated from being indoctrinated in a humanist philosophy.

The point is, it's not a matter of whether one is an isolationist or not, but what you're going to isolate children from. We should want to do our best to train them up foundationally, beginning with the book of Genesis, so that they'll have a foundation for their doctrine and be able to defend their faith. We also train them to understand the humanist philosophy and its evil foundation of evolution, so they'll be able to fight it.

All Christian parents should be isolating their children from being influenced by evolutionary humanism – whether they homeschool or not. Our young people should have a Christian worldview based on the authority of God's Word. [Amen!]

Q: If the Bible was allowed in public schools, wouldn't this be promoting a religion? Isn't public education supposed to be neutral? [Also see Reading, writing, and ranting in News Bits]

A: From a biblical perspective there's no such thing as neutrality. Scripture says that you either walk in light or darkness—you're either for Christ or against Him—there's no in-between. When the humanist threw the Bible out of the public schools, they simply replaced it with the religion of humanism. Just because public education doesn't mention God doesn't mean it's neutral. In fact, the philosophy that's being taught to students now is that they can think, believe, and act apart from God. That's the religion of humanism.

Children are being told they can determine truth apart from God—that fallible man is the authority. Thus even Christian children who are in this system come out thinking like humanists. When they get into positions of authority, such as in government, they don't make correct decisions based on God's Word. They tend to think that the Bible is simply an interesting 'guide book' to life that you somehow add to your thinking. We need to build all our thinking on God's Word—starting right from Genesis.

Answers in Genesis.org 1/03 [Jesus said: "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."]

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