

This Tract belongs to God. Receive the truth it contains, dear Christian Friend, as His loving message to you. Read and prayerfully compare it with His Word; then pass it quickly into other hands for Him.

Bible Study



NEEDFUL HELPS THERETO.



Our Redeemer prayed for his disciples—‘Sanctify them through thy truth’; and then added, ‘Thy Word is truth’ (John 17:17). He thus showed us a general principle, and one which experience demonstrates—that God’s truth is his agency for developing his children. Not general truths, however good and beautiful, as botany, astronomy, etc., but truths which God reveals in his Word, are those which tend to produce in us, if we heartily receive them, the graces of God’s spirit—the spirit of THE truth.

But the question arises—‘What is God’s truth?’, ‘What is God’s Word?’. For it will be remembered that at the time our Lord said, ‘Thy Word is truth’, the New Testament had not been written. It does not follow, however, that our Lord meant that the Law and the Prophets (the Old Testament) alone were to be considered the Word of God adapted and intended to sanctify us; but, rather, that all that God has caused to be written by the prophets, together with all the explanations of those Old Testament writings which he would supply through Christ’s teachings, and afterward through the writings of the apostles, were to be esteemed as God’s Word—revelations of truth which would sanctify those believing them, who act accordingly. This he clearly showed when he declared, ‘My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me’; “The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life’; ‘I have yet many things to say unto you,

but ye cannot bear them now; howbeit, when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth; and will show you things to come'.—John 7:16; 6:63; 16:12, 13.

It is evident then that the opinion of many, that the prophecies of the Old Testament are all fulfilled and not now worthy of reverent study, is a great mistake—a serious mistake, because it blinds them to the great and beautiful promises therein revealed which are still future and vitally associated with the true Christian faith and hope; and it is largely because of a failure to appreciate the Old Testament prophecies, that so many of God's children have gotten so sadly mixed on all the teachings of the New Testament—shown by the conflicting creeds of Christendom. The apostles were continually referring to the statements of the prophets and interpreting them, and reasoning from THAT BASIS. (See, for instance, Acts 2:24-32; 3:19-22; Rom. 11:2, 8, 9; Gal. 3.)

From the prophecies they deduced and stated conclusions regarding the Lord's will in the present age and declared his future purposes. (See Rom. 11:25-32; Acts 15:14-16.) No wonder, then, that those who ignore the Old Testament should but dimly understand the arguments of the New Testament which are based upon those previous revelations.—Luke 24:25.

Instead of recognising the various ages and dispensations—the Patriarchal age, the Jewish age, the Gospel age and 'the Ages to Come'—and recognising the work God is gradually perfecting through these ages, they think of God's dealings as almost aimless and without order. Hence, instead of rightly dividing and applying the various statements of Scripture, severally, to the various ages and dispensations to which they properly belong, they mix them all together and have a disorderly and seemingly contradictory mass which they cannot understand and can scarcely realise to be a revelation at all.

But, on the contrary, when the various ages are clearly in mind, and when the plan of God with reference to them is once seen, the Bible becomes an open book before the humble student—a great treasure-house of truth and grace, every statement of which can be definitely located. And when rightly applied to

its proper age—past, present or future, as the case may be—the whole record from Genesis to Revelation falls into harmony.

Many able and valuable works on the Credibility of the Bible are obtainable through any book-seller, or in any public library; but the most of these are written in a style for the scholarly only, and, filling several volumes, require more time than many are able to give for the information. Hence few people know, as they ought, the firm foundation which God's Word really affords for their faith; and, as a result, many have but little faith in and are often ashamed of the Bible.

But we want to call your attention to a very brief and pointed treatise on this subject—one which you can digest in a few hours and which will strengthen your faith in God's Word for the remainder of your life. It is contained in the first three chapters of a book entitled 'The Plan of the Ages'.—available to read online, or downloaded, at your own leisure. You and your friends need this 'Helping Hand'. Do not delay in getting it.

WHAT FRIENDLY REVIEWERS SAY.

'This volume takes up the subject at a point where the sceptically inclined will be most interested, and proceeds with the important theme in logical order, step by step. The author, while a close reasoner, is eminently Scriptural, bringing forth a 'Thus saith the Lord' to substantiate all his arguments. The subject and its treatment are deeply interesting'.

—Indiana Farmer.

'It is a strong writing, showing much research and excellent arrangement and method in its treatment of its subjects. None will doubt the honesty and earnestness, or the intended devotion to truth, of the author. From a scholarly standpoint the book will be marked as one of merited literary excellence'.

—Inter-Ocean, Chicago, Ill.

Companion Bible Keys—By same author.

'THE TIME IS AT HAND'; 'THY KINGDOM COME'; 'THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON';

'THE AT-ONE-MENT BETWEEN GOD AND MAN'; 'THE NEW CREATION'.

‘HOW READEST THOU?’

—LUKE 10:26.—

TIS one thing, friend, to read the Bible through,
Another thing to read, to learn and do;
’Tis one thing, too, to read it with delight,
And quite another thing to read it right.

Some read it with design to learn to read,
But to the subject pay but little heed;
Some read it as their duty once a week,
But no instruction from the Bible seek.

Some read to bring themselves into repute,
By showing others how they can dispute;
Whilst others read because their neighbours do,
To see how long t’will take to read it through.

Some read the blessed Book, they don’t know why;
It somehow happens in the way to lie;
Whilst others read it with uncommon care,
But all to find some contradictions there.

One reads with father’s specs upon his head,
And sees the thing just as his father did;
Another reads through Campbell or through Scott,
And thinks it means exactly what they thought.

Some read to prove a pre-adopted creed,
Thus understand but little what they read;
And every passage in the Book they bend
To make it suit that all-important end.
Some people read, as I have often thought,
To teach the Book instead of to be taught.