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BACK TO THE BIBLE

By REV. F. B. MEYER, B.A.

IN these days we hear a lot about criticism and the Bible, more or less true. But how absurd to think less of the Bible because of the errors of the translators! Behind the translators there is God, who lives for evermore! As the miracles of Jesus betray the power of God, and not the work of men, so I reply to the critics of to-day with the wonderful miracles of the Bible which are being performed day by day the wide world over as being conspicuous proofs that God is in the Book.

How absurd to talk of giving up the religious life because of the difficulties that present themselves in understanding the Bible! Which came first, religion or the Bible? Abraham was "the friend of God," Enoch "walked with God," and for thousands of years religious men bore witness to the power of God, before the Bible as we know it came into existence! Even supposing you put aside the Bible, men still ought to be religious. Bible or no Bible, right is right, and wrong is wrong. That argument is irresistible.

A seagoing man may tear up his chart, but that will not alter the configuration of the shore! The chart tells of rocks, of open waters, of harbors, but if men in their foolishness destroy the chart, they cannot destroy the surf which even now is breaking on the rock-bound shore. The chart did not make the rocks; the rocks made the chart! The truths of the Bible are true, not because the Bible says so, but because of the truth of facts. If you had climbed up Snowdon in the age of the Druids, or of any other age, you would have seen the same landscape, because that landscape was the handiwork of God, and true to God in the very nature of things!

Zoroaster, Confucius, Buddha, each had some fragments of the same truth, some of the same morals as are to be found in our Bible. I am not at all upset to find some of these same jewels in the Bibles and Korans of other races. These other teachers raise queries: Is there a God? Is there forgiveness? Is there a life beyond? Why is it right to do a thing, or wrong to do another? But only in the Bible is there *certainty*. They ask, Is there? The Bible says there is! These teachers illuminate only. The Bible empowers. Remember how Paul

speaks: "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God"; again he speaks of "the power of God unto salvation."

That the Bible is a living power to-day is the best proof of its inspiration. Supposing I possess an automobile— which I do not—and that I have to engage a chauffeur. I want a man who knows London. I get him to drive me to Waterloo or to Victoria, and I am satisfied, for I know the route, and I know he has taken me the shortest cuts, without mistake. But now I want to go to Godalming, in Surrey. Does he know the

way, for I have never been there before? I accept his word. I have trusted him for ways that I did know, now I will trust him for ways that I do not know!

In my early Christian life I trusted Christ for short runs, and He has safely led me through the known and the unknown way by year, until to-day I readily give myself into His care; I trust Him to be my Chauffeur, my Power; His Word is my Guide Book to every route through life.—S. S. Chronicle.



THE CHAIN BIBLE

Photo. by the Editor from the collection recently exhibited in College St. Library, Toronto. The tiny book is a copy of the smallest Bible ever printed.