

beneficial; but it is now behind the times—it is antiquated—the world has outgrown it—and it should be set aside, like many other things which have had their day, and are now laid away in the lumber room of time. If you urge upon those persons the claims of the Bible, they, in many instances sneer at your credulity in believing it, and laugh at the book on account of its age. This is the argument which we find such men frequently employing to refute the claims of the Sacred Scriptures, upon human belief and acceptance—a kind of argument which on any other subject, we feel safe in saying, would not satisfy any intelligent man, although on this subject, with many, it carries almost as much weight as if it were a mathematical demonstration.

In reply to such men we might say, Go and stand upon the shore of that old ocean, which has been for thousands of years dashing its proud waves against the girdle of sand with which God surrounded it long before the first line of the Bible was written, and despise it for its age. Go and stand at the foot of that lofty mountain, whose head, decked with a wreath and crown of perpetual snow, seems to form the very battlement of the sky, and laugh at it for its age. Look upon that silvery moon and those bright stars, which adorn with their beauty the heavens by night, and tell them they are very old now, they have long ago served the purpose for which God placed them in the canopy of the firmament, and the world needs them no longer. Gaze up at that old sun, which, with his dazzling brightness, has lightened our world since before the period of man's introduction into it, and without whose light and warmth this beautiful planet would be a dreary, desolate waste, and mock him on account of his age; and then, but not till then, you may come and laugh at our old Bible, and tell us the world has outgrown it and needs it no longer. The truth is, although it may sound like a very strange paradox, the Bible is the oldest of all books, and yet it never grows old and decrepit with years.

But we may be asked, How is it that while all other systems have either been superseded altogether, or greatly modified, the Bible, as a system of doctrines and duties, should remain unchanged? We answer, All other systems are merely human; the Bible is divine in its origin. All other systems are imperfect; the Bible is perfect. The Bible, from the first word of Genesis to the last deep, lingering love-note of Revelation is *truth*, and truth cannot change. It is the same for all men and for all time. To say that society has got ahead of the Bible is but another mode of absurdly asserting that society has gotten ahead of truth.