

## THE WONDERS OF THE BIBLE.

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The Bible clearly teaches that in this dispensation two things besides the Jew are to be very prominent—the “ecclesia” (the church called out), and the “apostasia.” We are seeing both of these things to-day. There was nothing that seemed more unlikely at one time than an apostasy within the Church; but we ought to see in the present condition of things the fulfilment of prophecy; and our faith in the Bible, instead of being shaken, should be confirmed. There is not a feature of the present apostasy that is not foretold in the Word of God. The Apostle, writing to Timothy, speaks of those who should arise in the latter days desiring to be teachers. And this is the first time in the history of the Christian Church that apostasy has been led on by professing teachers of religion. In the past history of the Church, when a minister has pretended to be a teacher, and has departed from the faith, he has instantly been silenced by the great body of the Church.

## THE HIGHER CRITICS.

But what do we see in these days? We see the professed teachers of religion in pulpits, theological halls, and colleges, leading on the apostasy, and drawing many disciples after them. It is a most remarkable thing that Paul, in the Acts of the Apostles, should say, “I know that after my departure shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.” A wolf is an outsider, who comes in to tear the flock. “Also of your own selves shall men arise speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.” We are now living in a day when these words are having a remarkable fulfilment. First, the wolves: these higher critics came first from Germany. And now among ourselves: the Bible. This very day vindicating its inspiration by what is happening before our eyes. The very apathy and lethargy of people in this matter is another proof of the Scripture’s infallibility: “Because iniquity shall wax, the love of many shall wax cold.” Christ Himself indicated the very trend of modern higher criticism when He said, “If ye believed Moses ye would have believed Me.” Where did the higher critics begin? With Moses. They disputed him, and now they are disputing Christ.

## THE BOOK OF DANIEL.

Let me speak of some of the questions raised by these men. We had a hint the other day that Daniel was pronounced a book of fiction. If so, it is the most remarkable book of fiction I have ever had anything to do with. If you will read the 9th chapter of Daniel you will find there a most marvellous and accurate arithmetical computation. The Book of Daniel is the first book in the Bible to introduce the numerical element to any great extent. And these figures are so audacious that no man would ever have dared to put his pen to them if he had not had Divine guidance. Take the passage concerning our Lord: “Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks and three score and two weeks.” Now, a “week” is a period of 7, and 69 weeks would be 483 years. The only thing, then, we have to do is to find the point of starting. There were at least three decrees that went forth in reference to the restoration of Jerusalem. Take one of these, and to that date add 483 years, and you get the exact day on which Christ rode into Jerusalem on an ass! And so with the others. May we not infer, then, that the prophecies in that book still unfulfilled will have a similar fulfilment in the future?

## SEVEN TIMES.

Look at some other of those prophecies. In the history of Nebuchadnezzar the expression “seven times” frequently occurs. Now a “time” is a year of 360 days, and seven times 360 gives us 2520. That is divisible into two periods of 1260 years each. In the book of Revelation you will find these expressions—forty and two months, and “time, times, and half a time.” A “time” being a year, a “time, times, and half a time” is three and a half years, which is forty; two months, which again comprises 1260 days—counting 360 days to the year. And twice that period gives us 2520 years, which cover the times of the Gentiles. In the Book of Revelation the period assigned to the manifestation of the false prophet and the treading down of Jerusalem is this period of three and a half years—1260 days. Now, the decree which made the Pope the temporal sovereign went forth in 606-10, the temporal sovereignty

of the Pope being established during those four years. Adding 1260 to 606 we get 1866; adding 1260 to 610 we get 1870. Now, from 1866 to 1870, as you know, went on that stupendous series of events which left the Pope a prisoner in the Vatican.

## THE SCIENTIFIC SIDE.

There is another point on which I should like to say a word. We hear it said that the Bible is very weak on the scientific side. My friends, it is we who are weak on that side. I have all my life had an interest in three subjects—mathematics, natural science, and history; and I have naturally in my study of the Bible noticed particularly how it speaks in relation to these. I have noticed two or three things. First, that the Bible is an organic unity. What are the laws of an organism? Cuvier made them three; that every part is necessary to the complete organism; that all parts of it have reference to each other, so that they match each other, as eyes and ears; and, that all parts of the organism shall be pervaded by the spirit of life. On these lines the Bible is an organic unity. All the parts of the Bible are essential to completeness; each part of it plays into the other, Leviticus interpreting Hebrews; Genesis, John; Joshua, the Acts of the Apostles; Daniel, Revelation; and, it is throughout pervaded by the Holy Spirit. Now, turn to the scientific side of the question. Some people say that the Bible makes an awful mess of geology. Now, what are some of the discoveries of geology? Geology teaches the fact of an original abyss of waters, from which emerged land; and that on the land animal life appeared in stages ascending from the lower to the higher. That is exactly Moses’ order. Who taught Moses’ geology? Comparative anatomy teaches us that types are determined by the proportion of the brain to the spinal column. In the fish, for instance, it is 2 to 1; in the reptile,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 1; in the bird, 3 to 1; in the mammal, 4 to 1, and in the man, 33 to 1. That is exactly Moses’ order—fish, reptile, bird, mammal, man. Who taught Moses comparative anatomy?

## FOUR WAYS OF LIFE.

In the 12th chapter of Ecclesiastes, to take another illustration, we have descriptions of four ways in which life goes out of the human body. “Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.” What are the four ways in which life goes out of us? Through the brain; the lungs; the heart; and the nervous system. Now see how marvellously Solomon has indicated these. When surgery was unknown, and the great facts about anatomy were unknown, Solomon wrote, “Or ever the silver cord be loosed.” And if you take the neck you will find that where these wonderful bones play into each other, there runs up a silver cord—the spinal marrow. Then, if you pass a line round the top of the cranium and lift it off, there is the “golden bowl,” which holds the brains, open to view. Come down to the chest, and you have something exactly like a pitcher, and takes in and throws out air, just as a pitcher takes in and throws out water. And, lastly, you have the “wheel at the cistern.”

## MYSTERIES OF MOTION.

Take something still more wonderful. One of the most recent discoveries in science is that motion is a universal law. If you could set up a rod in this room and set it in motion, it would begin to give sound. And if you continue the motion and increase the rate, it would cease to be apparent to the ear as sound and would become apparent to the eye as color. More than that, if the motion continued to be sufficiently rapid, light would appear. What does that show? That light and color and sound are akin. And the reason we don’t hear color is that the hearing faculty is too coarse to receive impressions beyond a certain degree; and a more delicate nerve—the eye—has to come into play. But, all the same, sound is color, and color is sound. And every ray of light emits sound, if our ear were delicate enough to hear it. Now, take the Bible, and you find that color, and light, and sound are spoken of in the same language. How did that happen? “Or ever the morning stars sang together.” “Thou makest the outgoings of the mornings to give forth