

Seven Wonders of the Bible

By Rev. F. Lincicome

"Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of the law" (Psa. 119:18).

Students of history tell us about the seven wonders of the world—and I recently heard a preacher in Chicago telling his radio audience about the seven blunders of the world. I wish to point out the Seven Wonders of the Word.

1. The Wonder of Its Preservation. It has been the most-hated Book in all the world. "Emperors have decreed its extermination, atheists have railed at it, agnostics have smiled cynically upon it, higher critics have carped at it, modernists have moved heaven and earth to disprove it, radicals have ranted and raved over it, scoffers have scorned its promises, free-thinkers have derided it; but all of its enemies have not torn one hole in its vesture, nor diluted one drop of honey from its abundant hive, nor broken one string of its ten-thousand-stringed harp; nor stayed its triumphant progress by so much as one brief hour." Voltaire boasted he could and would destroy in a few brief years what it took Christ 1800 years to establish. Tom Paine declared he had cut down the trees of Paradise and so thoroughly uprooted them that no human power could make them grow; but Thomas was mistaken, for, since he gave utterance to that saying, more than 990,000,000 Bibles have been sold. The Bible has survived more battles than all the armies of the world, and been swept by more storms than any ocean.

2. The Wonder of Its Unification. The unity of the Bible, in the opinion of the late Dr. G. Campbell Morgan, is the greatest proof of its supernatural inspiration. The Bible is one. The New Testament is hidden in the Old, and the Old is revealed in the New. "In other words, the New Testament is latent in the Old, and the Old is potent in the New."

The Bible is the word of one Mind, through the agency of many men and many minds. They tell us it is not a book—that it is a library of sixty-six books. Others tell us it is a book with sixty-six chapters. There is no real unity in a library, but there is in a book. We prefer to think of the Bible as a book having sixty-six chapters. The Bible was written by different human authors, yet by only one real Author. It is composed of the writings of forty different men, but they wrote as the Holy Spirit dictated. Notwithstanding the many authors came from all walks of life, there is a remarkable unity in the Bible. What explanation have you to offer for this marvelous unity? There is just one, and that is that the writers were under divine inspiration and direction.

3. The Wonder of Its Circulation. The circulation of the Bible speaks to me of its inspiration. After more than two thousand years it is the world's best seller. A decade usually sees the death and burial without hope of resurrection of the average textbook. There is scarcely a textbook ten years old that is not out of date, due to the progress of the age. Most books begin to die before the ink dries on their pages. It is safe to say that the number of copies of the Book and portions of the Book put in circulation during one year exceeds in number all the sacred books of all the other religions which have been in circulation since the beginning of the human race, and the demand for the Bible is rapidly increasing.

4. The Wonder of Its Operation. Contrast any country of the world which has had the Bible with any country which has not, and you will see immediately how this Book operates in the lives of men. For three thousand years it has been the most potent on earth. It has been, and still is to this moment, a greater power than Greece and Rome and Babylon ever were. It has begotten and fostered the purest virtues, the sublimest manhood, and the noblest benevolence that has ever been on earth.

A million well-known men and women have, by its power, been saved "from the guttermost to the uttermost." The Bible has transformed individuals, uplifted communities, permeated literature, influenced philosophy, forged empires, dominated civilization, and demands attention wherever it has gone.

If we be ignorant, the Scriptures will instruct us; if out of the way, they will bring us home; if out of order, they will reform us; if in heaviness, they will comfort us; if dull, they will quicken us; and if cold, they will influence us.

5. The Wonder of Its Translation. The Bible, or portions of it, has been translated into more than one thousand languages and dialects. All Homer had to say was written in twenty languages; all Shakespeare had to give to his day was given in forty languages; all Tolstoy had to offer was given in sixty languages. There are only two other books, aside from the Bible, which have been written in one hundred languages. The Imitation of Christ, by Thomas a' Kempis, has been published in 103 languages, and Pilgrim's Progress, by John Bunyan, has been published in 118 languages. And it is significant to note that both of these books embody the truth of the Scriptures.

6. The Wonder of Its Fascination. Thousands read it every day; many read it through every year, and you can do the same if you will read but three chapters each week day and five each Sunday. Each time one reads it through, it becomes more and more fascinating. Certain portions of it have been read scores of times with increasing interest. Men cling to it when they die. What book is it that is carried to the battlefield by millions of soldiers? What book is it that is found in almost every hotel?

7. The Wonder of Its Inspiration. I argue its inspiration from the perfection of the Book. The Bible is either the Word of God or the work of man. If it is the work of man, then man ought to make one as good. In fact, he ought to make a better one, for he has greater resources from which to draw. Those who wrote the Bible lived on the hills of Palestine—a smaller country than the county in which some of you live. They did not have the learning of the schools; did not have printing presses, libraries, steamboats, the telegraph. Science had not revealed the secret of the rocks beneath nor the stars above. If man cannot write a better book, this proves that man has degenerated or it proves that the Bible is from a higher source. The very fact that the Bible is beyond human comprehension makes us feel certain that it is of divine invention.

The Bible is a stereotyped book—the only perfect book that ever came from the hands of its author—the only book that cannot be improved or mended.—The Free Methodist.

Misjudging Through Misunderstanding

By E. L. Glover

In 1950 a friend took me to the Fairmount Campground which was to me a great joy indeed.

In the evening I was walking across the grounds by myself, when from behind me I heard the words: "You do not need to tell me he is blind, he can see as well as I can."

Now this woman thought she spoke the truth but she sadly misjudged a man who would give almost anything to be back in the active work of the Lord. If she could see no better than I, her husband would be in danger of having ants in his apple sauce and flies in his pies. The truth is I am totally blind in one eye and have less than two-fifths sight in the other eye.

If this woman had considered before speaking the hasty words, the feelings of another would have been spared, and she would have arrived at a more nearly accurate conclusion. You see I have attended the Fairmount camp since 1914, and since 1928 have been a director; also I was the treasurer for many years. Every foot of ground is familiarly sacred to me. Walking across its hallowed ground is like walking through my own backyard. When the party thought to criticize me I was walking up a well beaten path of white crushed stone against a dark background. Because the unseen speaker did not take into consideration all the facts she was harsh in her judgment of another.

Now if we would always learn all the facts before passing judgment how often the unkind words would never be uttered.

If we each understood the other a little better, and knew the peculiar trial through which the other one was compelled to go, very often the criticism would never be uttered, but in place of the harsh critical words would come words of sympathetic praise.

Misjudging can often be very cruel. It has caused many a man to give up in his struggle against the forces of evil. It has left long ugly scars on other sensitive spirits, and has brought grief to the great heart of God.

A young man was fitted with glasses in an Indiana city, then made a long trip to Arizona. Soon his vision was so impaired that he could not see clearly, everything seemed blurred and indistinct. The young man thinking he was losing his eyesight returned to the one who had fitted him with glasses to inquire the trouble. The eye specialist examined him carefully, then examined the glasses. He went into an adjoining room for a few minutes then returned and placed the same glasses on the young man. To the young man's great joy he could see everything clearly. The specialist said: "Your trouble was that your glasses were coated with alkali dust which ordinary washing would not remove." Is it possible that when I look at another and see faults and blemishes that I may be needing to have my glasses washed. "First cast the beam out of thine own eye" were the solemn words of our Lord.

"Judge righteous judgment." Think lovely thoughts, be charitable in attitude toward others and soon you will begin seeing "diamonds in the rough," you will see the rose instead of the thorns, and you will enjoy the sweetest fellowship with some men of whom you had thought only unkind thoughts.—Wesleyan Methodist.