


# TIME SERIES NO.2

# BIBLE

**A WESTGATE  
MONOGRAPH**

# THE BIBLE

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## INTRODUCTION

**This monograph is No.2 in the present TIME series. It is an Introduction to the Bible. Our task is not a back foot defence of the Bible but to “let the lion loose” as Spurgeon said. My purpose in this monograph is to deliver what you need to know about the bible. You need to know about how it differs for other books and would want to be familiar with who its writers were. I give in small compass my findings in this respect thought the brevity of this monograph defies more than You need to have at your fingertips samples of the books of the bible. I select significant verses to make particular books stand out in the memory and deliver their message in a nutshell.**

**Christ is the bible’s central theme and to know Him & the power of His risen life is of the essence. To see the Old revealed in the New in terms of prophetic references makes enigmatic passages clearer and shows the heaven-earth interplay notably in the Apocalypse.**

**Since Paul is apostle to the Gentile church you need to appreciate something of the specifics of his letterwriting. We need to have some keys that open up the content of the separate books. This chapter will open the intriguing fascination of bible writers’ “fingerprints” to the reader. Finally, we need to know how we got it, its provenance.**

*Bob the Scribbler*

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## THE BOOK OF BOOKS

### “THE BOOK”

Chrysostom who said “Take the bible (*Βιβλία θεία*) before and after meals” was the first to coin the term “Bible”. “Give me the book” said *John Wesley*, let me be a man of one book!” Well spoken. As with Goliath’s sword - and the bible is the sword of the Spirit - there is none like it. Scripture can divide between your thinking - its content and its intent. Why? Because it has never been divorced from its overfall convening author - the Holy Spirit who is present everywhere it is read. The Reformers had a saying “The Spirit maketh the reading” by which they endeavoured to describe the power of this book to reach the conscience as well as the mind and to move the levers of the soul- the will and emotions- as well as inform the mind.

## RESPECTING THE BOOK’S SACRED MISSION

So may I plead with readers of every kind to turn from treating it like Shakespeare as a glorious piece of literature. That is tempting since the writers or sub-authors are hand-picked people and persons of the highest

intellectual and literary skill. Bullinger found as many as 181 figures of speech used in the bible. These are not tasked with deflecting us from the accurate linguistic meaning of the words of the bible and are not a passport for moderns to turn the bible into a genre library. Figures of speech add value to meaning but do not invert contextual sense. The idiom of such devices is not to be understood to be a sort of cat's tail to swing around the plain sense of a passage of scripture. What idiomatic usage does is colour the sense of a word or phrase.

### **LET SCRIPTURE INTERPRET SCRIPTURE**

Christian exegetes would do well to invest the interpretation of scripture with large use of intertestamental reference as, for example *Dr. D.A. Carson* does. Quotations and references are of the first order of relevance for exegesis. There are well over 2000 throughout scripture. Like *Dr. Carson and Dr. Beale* I worked on them - in my case somewhat earlier in the 1970's but was hindered by illness. However, I threw my energies in another direction where even greater advances are to be made to the furtherance of our understanding of God's word. That direction lies in the area of exposing the public afresh to the *prophetic power* of the word. Another area worth examination is that of linguistic devices used by biblical writers with a view to improved understanding of their subject matter and themes. **I deal with this matter under "Fingerprints"**.

### **BIBLE COLLEGES - SCHOOLS OF THE**

**PROPHETS** A generational change has come to Bible Colleges. The academic approach has swallowed the prophetic as Pharaoh's lean cows swallowed his fat cattle.

My plea to the learned “makers and shakers” of thought in our colleges is that in the academic approach we do not set out on a fanciful trip to convince bible students that their task is specifically literary interpretation. The bible does not constitute a series of literary geniuses as Homer and Plato, Horace and Lucian or Tolstoy and Dostoyevsky, Dickens and Byron, its materials from A to Z represent the Spirit of Prophecy. We are not training literateurs but people fully skilled in what the scriptures principally teach. We shall not with impunity develop a new high-brow evangelical liberalism that *de facto* makes the bible subject to us whilst *de jure* projecting the view that it is authoritative over us. That is tantamount to hypocrisy. We are bound to remember that to deserve the imprimatur of the Holy Spirit like the Holy Men of the past who were carried along in vision so that they wrote wiser than they knew of the Christ yet to come and events far into the future we need to share both that prophetic vision and that holiness. Praise God for every humble bible scholar - we need them all - but let's deem ourselves “scribblers” by comparison with the inspired “writers” of the scriptures and we shall not plume ourselves unduly or draw men and women after us in defining away the text entrusted us for the glory of God by opening up a new Age of Origen. The bible is and shall ever remain before all else the sword of the Spirit of Prophecy with a solid factual prophetic message aligned with blessing and warning as encapsulated in the Apocalypse 22.7 and 22.18-19.

## **SCRIPTURE IS PROPHETIC**

We are dealing with the prophetic scriptures and our approach eschews the subjectivity and individuality of our time in favour of reverence for historical authenticity and

the verbal inspiration of the scriptures as originally given and essentially unprejudiced by provenance. The verbal choreography of a welter of modern translations where words are made to dance to cultural, gender regulated and reader applied tunes easily passes under the radar of precise adherence to the originals and can be presumed allowable only where we honour and encourage readers to consult the original manuscript authority above the replicated and titivated texts.

## **PROPHETIC PENMEN**

### **ANCIENTS SPOKE WISER THAN THEY KNEW**

Writing on the canon of the NT *Leitzmann* says “The apostles were recognized as the only unconditionally legitimate vehicles of the Spirit whose writings came to be regarded as capable of standing beside the OT.” It is notable that Barnabas who is designated as an apostle by the Holy Spirit(cf. 1Cor.9.6, Galatians 2.9)

The origins of writing are now acknowledged to recede far beyond the advent of Egyptian papyri. I believe the prediluvians were writers and that Enoch wrote on prophetic matters (Jude 14). Further I believe God chose men with vision to convey his message. Peter tells us “Holy men spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” and this “movement” was not merely in their souls for Peter tells us they were “carried along” by the Holy Spirit - doubtless to view and speak or write about events long in the future-events may I add which they could not place in an absolute time frame (1Peter1.11).

## **THE PROPHETIC PRIORITY-MOSES**

Some like *Dr. Keller* urge us to understand the bible as history. Many today with very good reason emphasise that

the main feature of scripture is devotion. Both insights are vital but God is over all and He is “the beginning and the ending” the one “who was and is and shall be”. When God met Moses He emphasized the “Is” and the “Sall be” which characterize the prophet. *Moses* had many skills but he was first and foremost God’s man-a prophet. He was devoted to the Lord from that moment and spoke to His generation and prophetically to all future generations of the Jewish people and indeed his prophetic words will echo till the end of time.

### **ABRAHAM WAS A PROPHET**

When the Lord spoke by vision to Abimelech King of Gerar in the rescue of Sarah He said “He (Abraham) is a prophet”. Not only so but Jacob made telling prophecies (including a reference to Shiloh - the peacemaker in Gen.49.10) and Jospheh was given prophetic vision. Moses Too spoke of “One like unto me whom God would raise up” and he predicted the Leiathan gas and oil field of today in Deuteronomy 33.24.

### **WHEN THE JUDGES JUDGED**

During this period a mkotley group of men were raised up by the Angel of the Lord who first guided Joshua. We are allowed to see the detail of how He moved the nation forward in Judges 13 where the coming Lord (13.20-22) speaks 5 times during two appearances to Samson’s parents and showed tht He himself was “the” sacrifice that alone pleased God.

### **PROPHETS AND KINGS**

During the entire period of the Monarchy as our Lord said God kept sening prophets. At least 20 of them are recorded

as speaking or writing in our bibles. They reminded the nation of historic failures and providences, called for devotion to the Lord and prophecied concerning God's will and the coming of Messiah.

## **DAVID**

King David had seers in his court but he himself under divine inspiration in many psalms showed himself obedient to the Spirit of prophecy. Psalms 22 and 69 are distinctly Messianic and David sang them with delight as he was carried onward into deeply somber meditation on the death of Christ.

## **MAJOR AND MINOR PROPHETS**

Alexander Cruden enumerates 16 prophets official prophets within this category in his famous concordance and adds 12 others who are recorded as prophets of God in the OT. It pleased God to clothe himself with all these and who knows how many unnamed holy and committed servants in the pleasure of His will to bring words of justice life and judgment over the 1000 years since David.

## **JESUS THE PROPHET**

Matthew records (21.11) that Jesus was known as the prophet of Nazareth who in that synagogue declared Himself the fulfillment of the Messianic dream. Old Simeon declared at Jesus' presentation at the temple that He would be called "the prophet of the Highest". Our Lord prophecied the manner of his own death and in Matthew 24 *et alii* the nature of the end of the Jewish dispensation under Roman assault. He also gave to his servant John the most detailed depiction of the Church age and of the final



Heptad of judgment in the last times besides the sort of the New heaven and earth and New Jerusalem.

## **NEW TESTAMENT PROPHECY**

Peter prophesied in his general epistles of the denial of the flood (2Peter 3.4-5) and of the day of Christ's coming at which time atomic and other discoveries would be made (2 Peter 3.10). He also prophesied of the passing away of this world. Jude prophesied of the last days and men who follow only "nature's instincts". Paul prophesied the Rapture of the saints in 1 Thessalonians 4 16ff and of our times when those enlightened with the gospel would turn instead to myth (2Timothy 4 4). John the divine set in writing the Aocalypse which is nothing less than an unveiling of the bitter judgments that must fall upon the disobedient between the rapture and the glorious return of Christ. When a man or woman reads this awesome book they should never afterwards disparage the place of prophecy both as an inspiration to holiness and a warning against godlessness.

## **ITS PAGES – SAMPLE TEXT**

### **THE LAW**

*Genesis* "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (*Lord Kelvin* - "There is nothing is science that teaches the origins of things"- not even the big bang)

*Exodus* "I am the Lord that brought you out of Egypt"

(*Henry Erksine* taught his children this Shorter Catechism quote & testimonial to Almighty God in 1690 at Chirnside)

*Leviticus* "Be ye holy as I am holy" (In this book is the 7-fold revelation of God the Sanctifier - *Rev. Stanley Banks*)

*Numbers* “As Moses lifte up the serpent” (This “Look and live” brought Spurgeon to Christ)

*Deuteronomy* “Remember the Lord that redeemed you”(Newton’s epitaph summarised “Infidel, libertine, slaver by Christ’s mercy preserved & appointed to preach the faith...”

## **THE FORMER PROPHETS**

*Joshua* “The sun stood still” (Hebrew "Sun, stop working." its gravitational pull stops. Earth slows. Day lengthens)

*Judges* “Every man did what was right in his own eyes”(Individual moral mores are highly infectious)

*Ruth* “Intreat me not to leave thee”(God rewarded Ruth for her faithfulness to Naomi)

*1 Samuel* “Man sees what is before his eyes but God sees what the heart possesses”(David was a man after God’s own heart)

*2 Samuel* “The bearers of the ark of the LORD marched **six steps at a time**” [*The distance of a ministering priest from the ark outside the veil*]

*1 Kings* “I, I only am left” (Sleep fresh air food a new task and God’s good company cure depression)

*2 Kings* “He did evil in the sight of the Lord”

## **THE WRITINGS**

*1 Chronicles* (16.21) “He reprov'd kings for their sake”(Ezra’s broadbrush on God as King of Israel)

*2 Chronicles* (36.23)“All kingdoms the Lord God of heaven has given me and charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem”( The Lord as king has the last word)

*Ezra* (9.8)“A little grace, a nail in His holy place”(Revival is one of God’s delicacies and cordial blessings)

*Nehemiah* “Lord, remember me for good”[God answers the arrow prayers of busy saints who pray and work]  
*Esther* (4.14)“You are come to the kingdom for such a time as this”[God’s timing is right - His scepter is always held out]

*Job* (19.25)“I know that my redeemer lives; in my flesh I will see God” [Vision of Christ in Glory sustains suffering saints]

*Psalms* (42.5,11)“Why art thou cast down O my soul”(‘Have a straight talk with your soul’ *M.L.J.*)

*Proverbs* (1.7) “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”[Earliest cameo “a sinner before a righteous God]

*Ecclesiastes* “All is vanity”(1.2)[God is judge 11.13]

*Canticles* “I am my beloved’s”(2.10)[*Bernard of Clairvaux* 86 sermons on Chapt.1-2 “Lover of the soul”]

## **THE LATTER PROPHETS**

*Isaiah* “He was wounded for our transgressions”

*Jeremiah* “

*Ezekiel* “I will put my Spirit in you and you shall live”(37.140)[ Dry bones Israel is rising again]

*Daniel* “A rock cut without hands shattered the image”(2.45)[Christ’s kingdom is coming]

*Hosea* “When Israel was a child I loved him” (11.1)[As Hosea’s love for the harlot so God’s covenant with Israel]

*Joel* “I will pour out my Spirit...the sun will be turned into darkness”(2.29-30)[The Church Era & Kingdom Age]

*Amos* (4.11)“Let judgment run & righteousness as a mighty nahal” [No Wady of justice-rather a river of right]

*Obadiah* (17) “On Mount Zion shall be deliverance and there shall be holiness; Jacob shall possess their possessions”(God resolves agelong land hiatus cf Edom)

*Jonah* (1.17)“The Lord had prepared a great fish” (Type of the Resurrection par excellence)

*Micah* “What does the Lord require - do justly love mercy walk humbly” (*Gladstone, Adam Smith* “The true ideal”)

*Nahum* (1.15)“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news”(News of Nineveh’s fall & Isaiah Rabshakeh’s ruin spell **amnesty** as does the gospel)

*Habakkuk* (2.4)“My just one shall live my life by faith in me” (*Luther* remembered these words in Rome & left for Wittenburg)

*Zephaniah* “The Lord is mighty to save-He will quiet you”(3.17)[Palavachi-as a mum a child lost in a store]

*Haggai* !I will shake all nations-desire of nations will come”(2.7) [cf. Is.2.19,13.13,Jl3.16 Mt. 24.29, Mk13.25, Heb12.26, Apoc 6.15 –Geo physical shake of last days]

*Zechariah* “What are these wounds in your arms?”(Zech13.6) [Messiah confirmed as He returns]

*Malachi* “The sun of righteousness will arise with healing”(4.2) [A new day with Elijah as the precursor]

## THE GOSPELS & ACTS

*Matthew* “Thou shalt call His name Jesus”(1.21) [One quarter of the gospel is taken up **the King’s** actual words]

*Mark* “The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many” 10.45)[“Ox like” gospel. Mark is Peter’s interpreter –cf *Papias*]

*Luke* “His heart went out to the widow of Nain-“Don’t cry” (7.13). [“Christ’s manhood– cf compassion]

*John* “God so loved the world”(3.16)[“Eagle-like”]

*Acts* “You shall receive power & be witnesses”(1.8)[Acts of the Holy Spirit”(Pierson)]

I have continued and expanded the NT letters section under “God made the bible reader friendly” to enable better cover the bible’s doctrinal and devotional content.

## **ITS SPINE & BINDING –CHRIST**

### **REDEMPTION’S STORY**

The **Emmaus discourse** of Luke 24 would have been one of the most illuminating ever given. It turned gloom to exhilaration and demonstrated Christ’s redemption as centre stage in all history. Our Lord followed that thread from Moses through all the scriptures in what must have been the most thoroughgoing analysis of Messiah ever given. Jesus is on record as saying “You think you know the scriptures but these are they that testify concerning me!”

### **SAVIOUR AND JUDGE**

Christ fulfils the need of the soul, the family and the world by his substitutionary death as the Lamb of God.. He is “our peace” and the long awaited “peacemaker”(Shiloh) and as “Suffering servant” attracts to Himself all who suffer as one who sews our future into one piece with His. He is the archtypical highpriest and the King of kings who sees of the travail of His soul and whose wrath long withheld in His consummate perseverance falls upon the disobedient in days of tribulation and is expressed in the judgment of nations at His coming and against the wicked of all ages from his Great White Throne.

### **MEDIATOR**

To man lacking a way to return to God Jesus Christ is presented in the **New Testament** as the Mediator

approved of God whose ambassadors propose His offices to the whole wide world. He says “All sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven” ...save refusal of the Spirit of God that conveys that grace. Our Lord spoke of Himself as the true vine bringing joy to life, as the door to fellowship and liberty, as the resurrection and life ensuring continuity with springlike resumption of bodily and spiritual life in a higher and eternally sustainable plane of being.

### **BIBLE IDIOMS - CUMULATIVE EVIDENCE**

Christ, who divided history as we record it unites people of every race, both sexes and all languages and in their tongues **the bible** is found or shall be within a generation spelling out His redemption plan for the repentant sinner and His “out-redemption” plan for the raptured church. The manna and the bronze serpent depict Jesus Christ, the Tree of life and David the shepherd king depict Him. He is Moses’ “Rock that followed Israel”, that “stone cut without hands” of Daniel, that “Captain of the Lord’s host” at Jericho, that “Angel of the Lord” in Judges, the “Shiloh” of Jacob, the “Wrestler of Peniel”, the “Rock of Ages” of Isaiah. Everywhere in all the scriptures the signature and presence of our pre-existent Lord looms large.

### **THE HEAVENS DECLARE HIM THE BIBLE REVEALS HIM**

*Homer* wrote the Iliad - an account of Odessus warfare. He then wrote the Odessey which covers his long absence and ultimate marriage. In something of the same manner the skies tell the story of Christ- the difference being that whilst a coterie of wise men from the east might read the

skies and learn from the zodiac the bible lies open to the whole world whilst the zodiac has been plagiarised. The work of the maker of all is, however, told in **the skies** by the zodiac signs by parallel with scripture. There is the story of His virgin birth VIRGO, of the price He paid LIBRA, of His conflict & victory SCORPIO & SAGITTARIUS. There also is sign of His sufferings CAPRICORN, of the multitude of His church PISCES (including the Andromeda and Cephus galaxies - speaking of those netted and released). ARIES tells of the vigour of the Lamb in His power, TAURUS of Christ the judge, GEMINI of His two natures, CANCER (the crab) of His possessions. LEO spells out His rule, ORION His coming as light(Hebrew OR). It is well to remember that the Zodiac was first a spiritual concept that has been vulgarized and applied to man's fortunes not God's revelation. The Hebrew Zodiacs are found tassellated on synagogue floors - one from close to the time of our Lord you can view near the Tiberias' hot springs.

### **GOD MADE SCRIPTURE READER FRIENDLY**

The bible begins with awesome decrees of Almighty God and its early doctrine is set in the Torah which Christians find formidable if not forbidding stuff. I have tried to resolve that problem in a commentary which turns the entire Pentateuch into a Christian reader's yearbook where you follow a topic for a week in line with rabbinic divisions but radically reshaped for Christian and Messianic readers. The bible comes to a delectable conclusion despite enveloping persecution and tribulation for from Romans to Revelation the Christian is afforded "intimate letters" which you can read as if they were written to cheer you on your way to Glory by Paul or Peter

or John or Barnabas from the very heart of Jesus and only yesterday. A sailor once said I want to sweep out my heart; I am buying a bible!”. That’s what these letters will do for you - they will hugely forward the purifying of your heart and mind. The result will be that you like Abraham to whom the Lord said “Walk before me and be thou perfect” will truly become “a friend of God” as you meditate and pray and as the bible speaks.

## **GOD’S LETTERBOX**

So take up the challenge to read through that glorious section of scripture that is Romans to Revelation. Explore to your heart’s content. Your Christian life will come on by leaps and bounds. Read these letters again and again. One saint read Romans through every year. I recommend reading them all and certainly don’t miss out the last one which contains seven special deliveries from the Lord in the Apocalypse 1-3.

## **READER FRIENDLY**

### **LETTERS - CORDIAL FOR YOUR SOUL**

*Romans* The letter written in Corinth during the winter of A.D 57-8 confirms the central tenet of the gospel

“Justification” and presents 46 arguments in its support

*1 Corinthians* Written Spring A.D.57 in Ephesus to

counter disorders-notably marital. Enhanced by powerful statement on the resurrection and Worship

*2 Corinthians* Posted during summer-fall of A.D.57 ffrom Macedonia it cheers the church (4.7-18) and us,

*Galatians* Composed autumn-winter A.D.57 and precursor ot Romans to counter in house Jews bent on circumcising Gentile believers. A blow for Christian freedom and the life of faith in reponse to the love of Jesus (2.17-21)



*Ephesians* Written A.D.61-3 simultaneous with the next two & Philemon whilst Paul was imprisoned in Rome. He encourages us to walk & fight spiritually on the base of our call and enrichment by union with Jesus (1.3-23)

*Philippians* To a most supportive church founded A.D.50-51 by Paul. Classic passage on Christ's humility (2 1-11)

*Colossians* Notable for teaching against Gnostic style angel mediation & mystery and Paul's prayer of 1.9-12.

*1Thessalonians* First Pauline letter from Athens as follow up after A.D.51 founding and to show that the dead in Christ would come back with Him at the Parousia 2

*Thessalonians* The sequel A.D.52 to show the Parousia was not imminent –first apostasy must come.

*1Timothy* A.D. 65-6 to Timothy of Lystra who visited Paul(Phil.1.1 Col.1.1) now leader of Ephesus church. Features teaching on bishops, creed(3.16)with teaching on women, apostasy slaves etc.

*2Timothy* A.D. 66-7. Nero's persecution after the fire of Rome give the backcloth. Grievous times foreseen when we need the bible(3.14-17)

*Titus* To the leader of the church in Crete A.D. 65. Directions on church order & elders-also on "good works"

*Philemon* An appeal to a Christian slave owner to take back a runaway who was saved in Rome. A jewel of mediation

*Hebrews* Almost certainly by Barnabas with Alexandrian style. To encourage Jewish believers with Jerusalem's imminent siege(circa A.D.69. Highlights Christ's greatness (Ch.1-3 &5). Classic on men of faith (Ch.11)

*James* Before 66A.D. when James was summoned to proclaim "Christ is not God" from the temple gallery but did the opposite. Notes trial, the tongue, works of faith

*1 Peter* Written after Paul's martyrdom in 66 A.D. with practical notes on holy living, servants & husbands & wives & trial(4.12-19) and Christ's victory(3 18-22)

*2 Peter* Written A.D.67 on assurance versus fables. Seven steps in our progress in fith(1 5-11). Highlight on the parade of History & the day of the Lord (Chpater 3)

*1 John* Written during John's pastorate in Ephesus (A.D.90-100) Late 1st c. Subject Christ come in the flesh. It emphasizes Jesus is the life, love incarnate and light fo the world. There are 72 uss of the cognitive conjunction οτι which tell us more about this book than anything else. They cry aloud that we as Christians have an insight into and clear awareness of God and His will that is not "Gnostic" in the sense of "private and hidden" but is "personal and revealed."

*2 John* John neatly rebukes asking if those walking in truth are walking in love. Attached to 1 John and of the same issue and period

*3 John* Pen an ink for general use – personal contact vital during persecution. Encourages Gaius. An evangelist of the Ephesian Church having been refused admission by Diotrepes prompts a second application to the proud leader.

*Jude* A.D.67 by a half brother of our Lord. Nine memoranda to warn the churches- exemplified by one on "the fall of angels"(v6) and another on Christ's coming (14-15).

*Revelation* Written from Patmos in A.D.95 with 7 tribulation sequences following the "seven church" chapters that appear to symbolize the entire era of Christianity. A vision given by the Ascended Lord where John is conducted through end time polemathy with heavenly perspectives throughout. Together with John we

are shown all this and the glory of Christ's return with views the Holy City New Jerusalem in the setting of the new heaven and earth.

### **YOU CAN OBTAIN FINGERPRINTS**

I cannot within the scope of this monograph cover the volume of Holy Writ but I will give you some samples of style and fingerprint developed by simple linguistic usage and devices.

**MOSES' FINGERPRINTS** Moses wrote the Torah. The Torah divides neatly into a yearbook. This rabbinic devotional pattern I have found applies throughout the book so that each of 52 topics is able to be illustrated sevenfold-a fabulous teaching method.

*Genesis 12-17*

*This is life's great challenge-to go alone with God-Hudson Taylor-"One man with God is a majority".*

- 1. Abram goes alone "Go yourself" (Leave Ur -Come with me!) Yes Lot went and dad went and Sarah went-but the call was to Abram -and the response personal*
- 2. Sarah goes alone And the LORD smote Pharaoh and his household with great scabs or eruption in the body because of the promise or oracle or affair of Sarah*
- 3. Lot alone. And Lot also, travelling with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents. And the earth could not carry them on a common seat (Hebrew "pasturage or Sabbath rest") for their acquisitions were so great it was not possible they could rest as one. And Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between me and you, my herdsmen and yours for we are wealthy kinsmen. I you go south I go north*

4. *Abraham fights alone* One who escaped explained this to Abram the Hebrew who dwelt by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite brother of Aner and these men had a covenant with Abram. When Abram heard Lot was taken captive he drew out an army of 318 (elite) young men born and trained in his house and pursued to Dan. 5. *Abraham goes outside the gate like Jesus* This is a most remarkable case of where vision becomes reality. And he did that (ACT 1)-he was taking action to go out (Hebrew Hiphil performative) (in the vision) outside the gate (typical of going out to Him who suffered without the camp)

6. *Lonely vision* As the sun sank Abram fell deeply asleep and a frightening deep darkness fell upon him. This represented a time after Abram's death. ...13 And the Lord said, "Know for certain that your seed will be a stranger in a land that is not theirs and they will be enslaved and brought low over 400 years.

7. *Hagar alone* The angel of the LORD (Torah shorthand for Messiah pre-incarnate, the Word of God) found Hagar at a desert water fountain - at a fountain in the desert of SHUR. She had journeyed about 100 miles possibly by donkey

## **DAVID'S FINGERPRINTS**

David writes many songs but the collection of 56 Mizmor psalms stand out as music combined with doctrine. *The early use of the word refers to fruits which are to be looked for in the Mizmor-so it is a basket like that of Jacob in Genesis 43.11*with: A little balm; a little honey; some spices and myrrh, some pistachio nuts and almonds and a double portion of silver by hermeneutic "healing for soul

*and spirit; the sweet scent of prayer; the sacrificial emphasis; the precious foundation of peace by righteousness by grace; the sleepless vigilance of God*

## **MATTHEW'S FINGERPRINTS**

Moving into the New Testament the Gospel of Matthew has of course five discourses and the gospel writer takes us through 70 “imperatives of surprise” (“Behold”) and we finish looking at the glorious surprise of the commission as Christ’s final imperative – “Go ye into all the world and **behold** I am with you all the days”. Considered as a book for disciples there are 66 lessons from an equivalent number of references to disciples in the gospel. I set down No 51 Matthew 28.8 Jesus presents resurrection evidence

*And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to bring news to His disciples. The word for "run (Greek δρομew) speaks of running swiftly and the length may have been similar to once round a hippodrome. These ladies did not delay and their enthusiasm carried them along like deer at bound.*

*Never throughout all history has there been such thrilling news with such a solid base.*

*(1) An angel in word and action confirming the event*

*(2)The guards shivering to virtual death*

*(3)The tomb empty before the stone was rolled away*

*(4)The Earthquake which dissolved the tomb seal.*

## **JOHN'S FINGERPRINTS**

John the Divine uses a telling sequential device “After these things” both in the gospel and in the Apocalypse.

*μετα ταυτα* – John’s phrase authentically detailing that which is “immediately subsequent”] – an authoritative marker phrase vital to the order & interpretation of the gospel and the Apocalypse (cf. Jn.2.12, 3.22, 5.1, 6.1, 7.1, 19.28, 21.1 Rev.4.1, 7.1, 7.9, 9.12, 15.5, 18.1, 19.1) The vital significance for interpretation is that in John the 3 ½ year ministry of the Lord’s grace fits in seven sequences and in Revelation the seven year Heptad of the Lord’s wrath fits in seven sequences. That both the Gospel and the Apocalypse represent a short work of Grace and Judgment respectively within their respective sequences sets down an important marker and guides us as to the sense of the the Apocalypse. The gospel has also another set of markers- the Feasts of Israel but the Apocalypse has only one set. My challenge to scholars is to look for authorial **fingerprints** throughout scripture that will further our understanding of Holy Writ and deepen our devotion and develop renewed awe at the glorious composition of scripture.

## FORGET EDITORS – EMBRACE AUTHENTICITY

### THE CANON

The “Canon” is the rule by which the church recognized writings that are divinely inspired scripture to be accepted for the teaching of revealed truth and the gospel within the church.

The OT canon was complete with 39 books recognized at Jamnia in AD 90. The NT canon was recognized at the Councils of Laodicea and the 39<sup>th</sup> Pascal Letter of *Athanasius* in 363 and 367AD respectively and in the west at Carthage in 397 AD.

## **ERROR VERUS ANOMALY**

The prophets did not err and the Holy Spirit is the primary guardian of truth but notwithstanding anomalies do exist in scripture but after working on the entire text of scripture I treasure the view that its integrity is assured.

The so-called longer ending of Mark(16.9-20) is found in 618 out of 620 manuscripts making rather a laughing stock of what today's redactors call an "addition".

In *Taylor's* "Living Bible" paraphrase of Zechariah 13.6-7 "What are these scars on your chest?" he will say. "I got into a brawl at the home of a friend" with the footnote "Evidently self-inflicted cuts". *Taylor* lost his voice half way through his loose treatment of truth. A psychiatrist who examined him concluded it was "self-punishment for tampering with what he believed to be the word of God".

*Origen* of Alexandria(184-254) sought to re-align the plain literal sense of scripture. He subordinated the Logos or Son of God to the Father as one created. He neglected the figure of Jesus Christ as man living and teaching on earth. This supplied the basis for 4<sup>th</sup> century Arian doctrine. His symbolic handling of fact is in danger of being repeated in today's neo-academic approach.

## **LET THE CREATOR'S PRAISE ARISE**

Nearer to our own time on came *Westcott* with his letter of 4.3.1890 to the Archbishop of Canterbury "Noone now I suppose holds that the first three chapters of Genesis give a literal history"- pray Sir what are they then? Myth?

Fables? His fellow scholar *Hort* wrote "The book that most engaged me is *Darwin* - my feeling is strong that the theory is unanswerable – I am inclined to think that Eden never existed". That's only the beginning of the story -what

about the ending - does heaven exist, Sir or only Cambridge?

## **ESSENTIALS INVIOULATE**

Don't allow yourself under any constraint to forget the unqualified affirmation of Jesus Christ "Till heaven and earth pass not a jot or tittle shall in no wise pass from the law (Torah /Old Testament) till all is fulfilled" (Matthew 5.18). The dignity of the NT is ensconced in Revelation 22.18 by two statements acting as supporters of name of Jesus. In that verse three from the end of the bible we read "I warn everyone who hears the word of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds God will add its plagues. If anyone takes away words God will take away his share from the tree of life."

## **COMPANION COMMENTARY**

It may interest you to know that I have produced a commentary on the original text of the Bible which is on CD and can be obtained through pay pal using the internet website by googling *westgatebiblecommentaries.co.uk* . The commentary has as its distinctives adherence to the Spirit of prophecy and absolute respect for the verbal inspiration of Holy scripture as originally inspired. My motto in interpreting scripture is "Courage and Clarity" – my self styled *nom de plume* is "scribbler" by which I space my lowly endeavours from the critical brand of scholarship and copycat teaching that will not go with scripture against the stream of popular ideas. I have sought to follow the Master who was known by His "thorough" work (He did all things well) I promise you that the bible and its content will never cease to enthral you with the Companion Commentary to fire within your soul ever new



appreciation of the wonder of prophetic text that the Lord has communicated to His servants the prophets and apostles through the ages making His glorious will and word accessible to us all upon whom the ends of the world are come.

**FINIS**

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