

NEWS

Nova Montgomery was back in our service Wednesday night after having her first chemo treatment—**Dale and Vickie Rockett** were also in our service Wednesday night after Dale's cancer surgery and quarantining—**Paul Relph** was back in our service last Sunday morning following his foot surgery—**Linda Davis** was back in our service last Sunday morning following the fall she had recently—**Ron Traughber** is making good progress in his recovery from surgery recently—**Gene White's** surgery was not as long and difficult as had been feared
(continued on page 3)

ELDERS
Bob Arnold 563-2977
Leon Goff 572-6809
Richard Montgomery
936-577-4819

DEACONS:
Ricky Davis 572-9428
Ken Ferguson 572-4135
Pat Marshall 572-9347

SERVICES:
Sunday
Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 5:00 PM

Wednesday
Ladies Class 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

PREACHERS:
Drew Nelson 254-541-3815
Leon Goff 572-6809

Assignment

March 20, 2022

Scripture and Lord's Supper
Paul Chapman

Song Leader
Richard Montgomery

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—Jimmy Lewis Opening
—Ken Ferguson (Closing)
PM—Bob Arnold (Opening)
—Terry Jordan Closing

Announcements

A.M.—Pat Marshall
P.M.—Pat Marshall

(call Ken Ferguson if unable to serve)

Think It Over—If you were to die today...Where would you spend eternity? To all who love God, and to those who do not, but should, to all who are weary and heavy laden; to all who are lonely and sad; to all who sin and need a Savior, and to whosoever will come a hearty welcome is extended.

Southside
Church of Christ
P.O. Box 242
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Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

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The Bible—God's Revelation (1) (By Fanning Yater Tant)

The following article was sent to me by David Tant, Yater Tant's son. Yater gave the lecture at Abilene Christian College in 1937, when he was 37 years old. Be sure to read this. (Leon Goff).

*"But beyond this, my son, be warned: the writing of many books is endless, and excessive devotion to books is wearying to the body." These are the words of Solomon as found in **Ecclesiastes 12:12**. In his day the books were made and written only by hand. Hundreds of scribes would devote all of their time to copying the books that were written, and Solomon said that of making many books there is no end. Since the introduction of printing in the year 1453, the making of books has become one of the world's greatest industries. Every year literally millions of copies of books are printed. In the great library of the Louvre in Paris, France, there are so many books that if a person should begin rapidly reading them at the age of fifteen, and should read only the introduction to each book, reading ten hours every day, taking out no time for Sundays or holidays, he would die of old age before he had even gone through the first alcove. In the Congressional Library at Washington there are almost as many books. They are of every description and on every subject imaginable. To this collection there are being added more at the rate of several hundred a year.*

Of all the millions of books that have been printed, however, there is one book that has influenced the thought of mankind, and has shaped the history of the world, more than all the other books combined. If you could stack up in one pile every book that has ever been written on any subject by any man, and could place that over beside this one book of which I speak, I mean the Bible, you would find that the Bible has influenced the course of history more than all other books combined. It has caused more people to suffer martyrdom; it has been the storm center of more disputes and even more wars; it has been the cause of kingdoms and empires crumbling into dust. The tremendous influence this book has had on the human race is beyond calculation. When correctly used, it has brought the greatest blessings of earth to the children of men; when missed and perverted by

unscrupulous. When, it has been the occasion of more sorrow and bloodshed than any book ever written.

In every age there have been men who have not believed the Bible. The skeptics and infidels have always been side by side with the most ardent and zealous believers. In one day we have seen a strange phenomenon; we have seen the wave of infidelity reach the highest crest in all history, and we are now witnessing an about face on the part of thousands of those who have been part of that great wave. Ordinarily movements of this kind are spread out over two or three hundred years, but the tempo of our age has speeded things up, and within the last seventy-five or or eighty years—since the works of Charles Darwin gained prominence in 1860—we have seen infidelity sweep over land like a hurricane; within the last twenty years that hurricane seems to have completely spent its force and to be receding almost as rapidly as it arose. The greatest scientists of our day, and the men who are the deepest thinkers, are more and more coming to recognize some great creative power outside and above the universe which the scientists of a generation ago would have decried as rank superstition.

Tonight I want to tell you some of the reasons for our acceptance of the Bible as an infallible, inerrant, inspired revelation from God himself. Our faith in this book has been built exactly as our faith in a human being is developed—by seeing it tested in a thousand different ways, and meeting every test and every examination with unimpeachable honesty and complete victory. In no single instance has any test revealed an error or an inaccuracy or a false statement of fact in the Biblical record. The keenest minds of two millenniums have sought in vain for contradictions and discrepancies. They are not there. In a thousand ways, unknown an unknowable to the writers

of these pages, their every word and every syllable has been tested. The result has always been the same. There has always been absolute triumph for the accuracy of the inspired writing.

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Archaeology

One of the fields in which the Biblical record has received its most searching test and its most glorious corroboration has been the field of archaeology. The spade of the scientist has made contact in a thousand different places with the writing of the prophets. In every meeting place identical stories have been revealed. What the prophet said, the archaeologist, working from a different angle and for a different purpose, has found to be exact truth. May I cite you to a few examples of this type of proof?

Around the southern end of the Dead Sea the pottery and the archaeological evidence reveals a very well-developed civilization dating back to the third millennium before Christ. Suddenly, about 2000 years B.C., all civilization in that area came to an abrupt halt. On this the word of the archaeologist is unhesitating and unequivocal. The record of the ruins speaks with an unmistakable voice. The pottery, vessels, implements, weapons, toys, household articles all are clearly of a civilization prior to the year 2000 B.C., or thereabout; then for a space of hundreds of years there are no remains of any sort. The next articles the archaeologist can find are all of a period many hundreds of years this side of the time of Abraham. The record is there, the atheist cannot deny it. For what it is worth, that is exactly what the evidence reveals.

What is the meaning of that evidence? Is there any explanation for this sudden and obviously catastrophic end to a civilization? Has history any word? Has the ethnologist any explana-

tion? Had the unbeliever any solution to the puzzle? When we turn to the Biblical record, the explanation is clear and simple. Both Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by fire and brimstone being rained upon them from the heavens in the time of Abraham, about 1900 B.C. furthermore, this whole region around the southern end of the Dead Sea is composed of a stratum of salt about 150 feet thick, over which there is a layer of marl and free sulfur. The earth stratum here shows a tremendous rupture, indicating that at some far time in the distant past there was an earth disturbance of unprecedented fury. The countryside for miles around shows an unbroken scene of desolation—a region of burned out oil and asphalt. Had the writer of Genesis been an eye-witness to the destruction of the Cities of the Plain, he could not have given a more accurate description of what the archaeologist declares actually happened. His word is in total with the record of the rocks. Only a willful and perverted intellect would seek to deny it or evade its implications.

There is a second particular to which I will refer (among hundreds which might be cited in this field of archaeological corroboration. That has to do with the building of the treasure cities, Pithom and Ramses. These two cities were built by the Pharaoh who had begun to oppress the Israelites slaves. His harsh and cruel measures are too well known to need repetition. Suffice it to say that as a punishment to Israel he denied them the straw with which ordinarily they were wont to make bricks, compelling them to go out into the fields and countryside and gather stubble and roots of whatever binding matter they could find. These are statements of the scripture, straightforward and without reservation. The writer of Exodus makes them without any hedging or any possibility of a double mean-

ing. He simply writes of the things as facts which actually happened exactly as he describes them. Little could be he dream that his word would ever be analyzed and subjected to the most searching scrutiny of critics. He was not writing with any thought that his word would be tested.

When, however, the test is applied, what are the results? The ruins of Pithom were excavated in 1883 by Naville of the University of Geneva. In his book, *Moses and the Monuments*, Dr. Melvin Grove Kyle gives a graphic description of the ruins of Pithom: “The bricks are laid in mortar, contrary to the usual Egyptian custom, and contrary to the observations of explorer in Egypt previous to the time of Naville’s discovery of Pithom. The lower courses in at least some of the store chamber are laid with brick filled with good chock straw; the upper courses are made of brick having in them no binding material whatever, and the middle courses are made of brick filled with stubble pulled up by the roots. The impress of the roots is as plainly marked in the brick as though cut by an engravers tool.” This is in full and perfect harmony with the record of the inspired writer. There is no discrepancy in any single particular; there is no departure in the archaeological record from the Biblical narrative. The two witnesses are found in perfect agreement.

(To be continued)

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NEWS (continued from back page)

——Remember **Nova Montgomery, Dale Rockett, Bob Arnold, Charles Davis, Rance Hockaday, Kenneth and Beverly Amerson, Kenny Ferguson, Ricky Davis, June Johnson, Randy Blackmon, Frank White, Willie Don, William and Yvonne White, Judy Hinson and Catherine Moss—Remember our Shut-in: Marion Shurtleff**