

Bible Course in Questions and Answers

BY JOHN P. SCOTT

LESSON 1

- Q. Who wrote the Bible?
- A. The 66 books of the Bible were written by at least that many different men, ranging in social status from peasant to king.
- Q. Do any of the original Bible manuscripts exist today?
- A. No. Our oldest manuscripts are copies of copies of copies.
- Q. What are the three most important of these copies?
- A. The Vatican (Rome), Alexandrian (British Museum), and Sinaitic (Leningrad).
- Q. About how old are the oldest manuscripts?
- A. Approximately fifteen hundred or sixteen hundred years old.
- Q. Upon what materials were these old manuscripts written?
- A. Upon the skins of sheep, calves, and antelope, which were made into parchment or vellum, and written on by hand. Clay tablets were also used which had the letters pressed into them and then baked hard. Papyrus, made of reeds cut in strips and pressed together crosswise, was also used. This was written on with reed pens and ink made from vegetables.
- Q. From what Bible was the King James Bible taken?
- A. The King James Bible was taken from the Bishops' Bible.
- Q. How does a literal reader understand the Bible? A spiritual reader?
- A. A literal reader sees only the form or outer "cloak" of the Bible. A spiritual reader finds the hidden, inner messages under the cloak.

- Q. Are there any mistakes in the Bible, and how did they occur?
- A. There are many mistakes in the Bible which occurred through its being copied by hand, misread and misinterpreted by the copyist, and through deliberate interpolations.
- Q. What system did the ancient writers use to conceal deeper teachings?
- A. A key-word system in which one word has two meanings, and in which unimportant literal stories conceal important principles.
- Q. How many different esoteric interpretations are there to the Bible? May one story be interpreted correctly more than one way on the same plane?
- A. There are seven planes of interpretation to the Bible, each one of greater depth. There are several different interpretations of each story on one plane, which do not conflict. For example, the Astronomical, or Astrological, the Cosmic, and the individual formula for personal application.

LESSON 2

- Q. Why is the missionary spirit wrong from the occult viewpoint?
- A. Different races need different systems at the present time.
- Q. What was the Jehovistic system of religion and why was it necessary?
- A. It was a system of immediate punishment and reward. A religion of this kind was necessary because of the primitive consciousness of a people who could not understand anything higher.
- Q. Why were hidden messages concealed in the literal text of the Bible?
- A. So that each person could get the exact spiritual food needed at the time.

- Q. What did the writers of the Thorah say in regard to reading it?
- A. The reader was asked not to confuse the literal book or outer "garment" with the spiritual book or "body" which was beneath the "cloak."
- Q. What does St. Paul say of the story of Abraham's two sons (Gal. 4:22)?
- A. That it is an allegorical teaching.
- Q. What is the "milk" and the "meat" which St. Paul speaks of in the Bible?
- A. The "milk" is the literal interpretation (required for the "babes" in evolution), and the "meat" is the hidden, deeper meaning for the "strong."
- Q. Explain the creation of a Solar System as described in Genesis.
- A. God selects a certain space, infuses His vibration therein, which produces heat, moisture from the cold of space, incrustation, and light. Thus, Genesis gives the scientific Nebular Theory, except that the Nebular Theory does not recognize the Fiery Nebulae as *Spirit*.
- Q. Describe the Saturn, Sun, Moon, and Earth Periods as shown in the Bible.
- A. The Saturn Period is described as being formless and dark; the Sun Period brought light; the Moon Period brought the division of waters in steam and condensation; while the Earth Period describes incrustation. (See *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*, by Max Heindel, for details.)
- Q. Describe the Polarian, Hyperborean, Lemurian, Atlantean, and Aryan Epochs as related in Genesis.
- A. "And God called the dry land earth," etc., describes the Polarian Epoch. "Let the earth bring forth grass," etc., describes the Hyperborean. "Let the waters bring forth . . . the moving creature . . . and fowl," etc., describes the Lemurian. "And God said, Let the earth bring forth . . . let us make man," etc., describes the Atlantean Epoch. "And on the seventh day . . . God rested," describes the Aryan Epoch.

(To be continued)

If Reincarnation Be True?

BY ERNEST CRUTCHER, M. D.

IF THIS life be all; if this fitful fever end at death; if the fortuity, and ever impending dissolution by accident, disease or old age, shall be the finis of humanity, how senseless, silly, wasteful, and cruel the design that made man and put him in perpetual hazard and necessitous endeavor to escape pain, and to secure the ever important food and shelter incident to subsistence while undergoing this travail called "living."

Why the pains and endurements of life, has been the puzzle of philosophers and priests throughout all history. The silence of Nature and her compulsions to going-on of all sentient beings, shout thunderously; nor is this a complex sentence. For silence may be eloquent and vocally resonant.

If this be all, a thoughtful mind inquires, why the worlds about, all much larger and seemingly more important than the tiny sphere man occupies. If this be the end, when death shall come—as come it does to each, regardless of age or circumstance—if death is the end, how absurd and wasteful that life ever began.

Or, if there is no end, nor surcease, why the clinging and fight for continuance of even the most wretched entity? Pure doggedness, desperation, resentment perhaps, may provoke resistance and battle with the elements and enemies to life. Going on and on, not always cheerfully, happily, hopefully, even though intuition may sustain the conviction of perpetual existence throughout the ages; perhaps oppressed by a consciousness above and superior to belief, that life *is* and persists; that life is an ever unfolding, ever abounding, ever gracious activity, despite any care, depression, dejection, loneliness of soul; a pertinacious and persistent progression towards a high calling of God, unimaginable, but towards a never-to-be-reached yet ever advancing goal or attainment, with other heights appearing if the sought-for be attained—other