

FAITHFUL TRUE WITNESS

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened." (Words of the Apostle Paul found in his Epistle to the Romans, chapter 1: 20-21).

In this text, the men to whom the Apostle referred were idolaters; those who made images of animals, of men, of beings half animal and half man, or of the sun, or of the moon, to worship them as if they were gods or God; they exchanged God for his creation (four-legged animals, etc.).

The Bible also teaches us, even through the Apostle Paul himself, that it is not only images that can be objects of worship; people, things, money for example, can become a god to us.

But what is interesting is that the Word of God, in this text, affirms that there is no excuse for idolaters or unbelievers; there are no reasonable, logical arguments to refute that the infinite universe, with its galaxies, including our planet and everything we see and know, due to its complexity, immutable physical laws, and perfection, was created and is governed by a superior intelligence and wisdom.

However, there are also atheists; those who believe neither in God nor in the Bible, and believe that everything was formed randomly, developed over millions and millions of years, fruits by chance.

In this sense, science is divided; and so, while some scholars formulate their theories, their equations, etc., proving the existence of God, others, in opposition, also present their theories affirming that God does not exist.

Those who do not believe in God or in His Word, which is the Bible, argue that it omits various things, that it contains errors, etc.

Regarding the omissions, in the Book of Deuteronomy attributed to Moses, in chapter 29:29, it is written: "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."

In fact, not everything is recorded in the Word; there are mysteries, hidden things that belong to God.

Furthermore, even regarding what is recorded, the language used by God is the language of man, or rather, the Bible was written in a way that man can understand it; the objective is that the Word be understood by everyone, from those who existed at the time of...

Moses, even scientists, intellectuals, and even the least educated people of our day.

In short, we can say that the Bible speaks of the creation of heaven and earth, of the fall of man upon becoming aware of good and evil, tells us about events such as the flood, recounts the history of the Israelite people, includes the Psalms, the books of the Prophets, and, most importantly, shows us, on God's part, a plan and action for the redemption and elevation (from creation to son) of man.

So, if the Bible recounted every act and event in detail from the beginning to the end, both in the spiritual and material worlds, including explanations of physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics—or rather, all the exact, human, and biological sciences—how large would it be? In what library would it fit? How many centuries or millennia would it take for someone to study and understand it?

Regarding the inaccuracies some have stated, as we have already said, the Lord God speaks to man using language that man is capable of understanding; for example, we can cite Psalm 19:3-6, which says: "They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."

There he pitched a tent for the sun, which, like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, rejoices like a strong man to run his course.

It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing escapes its path.
heat".

Starting in the 16th century, it was discovered that the Earth revolves around the sun; until then, humanity understood that the sun revolved around the Earth. Would God have included this explanation in the Bible when the Psalms were written? Would God have taught the psalmist about the Earth's rotation and revolution before inspiring him to write the psalm? Would humanity, with the science of that time, have been able to assimilate and understand this?

We can also use as an example a text from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, found in chapter 60:8, which says: "Who are these that fly like clouds and like doves to their dovecote?"

In the modern-day translation, this text reads: "What ships are these that come gliding like clouds, like doves returning to their dovecote?"

Ships gliding like clouds, what would be the coherence of this sentence?

It is understood that this prophecy was fulfilled when the Israelite people returned to their land in the Middle East by plane, after the re-establishment of their state in 1948.

Therefore, could the Prophet Isaiah, approximately 2700 years ago, have said that the people would return by plane? Could he have clearly described an airplane? Would the message have been understood by the people?

Thus, Isaiah, used by God, used the ship because it was the only known means of large-scale collective transport from his time until the 19th and 20th centuries, when buses, trams, trains, and airplanes were invented.

Even when we encounter what appears to be an inaccuracy, we can be certain that there is a message to be conveyed through that supposed error.

The fact is that we need the help of the Holy Spirit to understand what the Word of God wants to tell us.

Just as a hypothetical scenario, let's imagine that the Lord God had left in the Bible an equation, a system, or some other mathematical means that proved His existence; who would be able to understand it? Einstein in the 19th and 20th centuries, perhaps?

Thus, the Bible, although not universally recognized, is documentary proof of God's existence.

The Old and New Testaments were written over a period of approximately fifteen hundred years by various people, yet the Books complement each other harmoniously; it is as if they were written by a single person; and for us who believe, they were.

In fact, what gives the Bible its veracity, besides the account of great supernatural events, the depth contained in its texts, and the wisdom manifested in it, is the fulfillment of the prophecies.

In the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, chapter 46:9-10, it is written: "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.'"

In the Book of Genesis, the first book of the Word, God already told Eve that her descendant would crush the Serpent's head; and all the others, passing through the Psalms, the Prophets, among them the Prophet Isaiah, who prophesied the most about the Lord Jesus seven hundred years before his birth, and among the prophecies he affirmed that: "the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel".

Notice the depth found in the text of the Prophet Isaiah, in chapter 49: 15 and 16, as follows: "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yes, they may forget, yet I will not forget (.

"Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me."

What poet, or what philosopher, would write something like this?

But the question that arises is this: Did the Universe, with all its perfection and complexity, come about by chance?

Now, let us speak of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faithful and true witness, as related by the Apostle John in the Book of Revelation, chapter 3:14, which reads: "To the angel of the church"

In Laodicea it is written: "These things says the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation."

When He was present, in physical form, among us, He bore witness to God the Father.

And what lends credibility to his testimony are the miracles he has performed.

Thus the Apostle John, in chapter 15:24a of his Gospel, related the following words of the Lord Jesus Christ: "If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin;".

No one has ever walked on water, healed lepers, opened the eyes of the blind, made a mute speak, made the paralyzed walk, resurrected the dead, multiplied loaves and fishes, and finally died and was resurrected; all the prophecies concerning him were fulfilled.

Indeed, he was Emmanuel; God, who is Spirit, manifested himself in the world through him.

It's also true that we have magic experts, illusionists, but, without meaning to belittle them, they are just magicians who use tricks, create illusions, and enchant their audiences.

There are also some things that catch our attention; I remember an indigenous man who, on a television program, put a coin in the fire and when it was glowing red-hot, placed it on his tongue. A lot of smoke came out of his mouth, along with a burning sound; the program's host almost panicked, but afterwards, the indigenous man calmed down.

as if nothing (had happened).

There are also the fakirs, who are known for walking on nails, on hot coals, who They attribute their achievements to mind control.

There are also natural phenomena such as hypnosis, which, through suggestion, regression, etc., is used in various fields.

Science has also advanced considerably; wonderful things have happened in the fields of medicine, technology, etc.

But, despite the tricks, the mysteries, the phenomena and even science, to this day, no one has ever seen the powers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Because, if there were at least a few, there wouldn't be sick people in hospitals, blind or paralyzed people, people with mental problems, etc.; how much would these people be earning to resuscitate someone, a loved one, an important person?

Finally, the Lord Jesus died and rose again. His tomb is empty.

But someone will say: I didn't see any of these miracles of Jesus.

I also say that I didn't see them.

However, despite these miracles having occurred before many people, there are the testimonies of the Apostle Matthew and the Apostle John in their Gospels, who were disciples of the Lord.

Jesus and his disciples witnessed these events; in the Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 19:15b, it is written: "by the testimony of two or three witnesses shall the matter be established."

In the Gospel of the Apostle John, chapter 16:7-11, there is a statement by the Lord Jesus which we will transcribe below: "But I tell you the truth: It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you."

When he comes, he will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in me; of righteousness, because I am going to the Father, and you will see me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world has been judged.

Not believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God, despite all the miracles he performed, is the crucial sin of humanity.

Regarding justice, since the Lord Jesus Christ, God the Son, was among us and was rejected, that is, since the world rejected him, now it is necessary to believe in him, in his words, by faith, without seeing him.

Regarding the Judgment on the Cross, the Lord Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing"; these words were spoken in relation to men, not in relation to Satan, because he knew what he was doing. Therefore, by placing the Lord Jesus, the incarnate God, on the Cross, or, according to the Word, by expelling Him from the world of the living, the prince of this world condemned himself.

In conclusion, according to God's own Word, the justification on the part of man that he did not believe in Him because His existence was not proven will not be accepted; there will be no excuse; in the face of the perfection and complexity of creation, there are no arguments capable of justifying this. to refute the existence of God.

Also, no one, no man in his right mind, can claim innocence before God. We lost this ability with Adam, when he became aware of good and evil by eating the fruit.

Furthermore, God will not accept anyone who does not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, despite all the miracles he performed among us.

Finally, as this last biblical text we read teaches, and despite all the arguments from the Word we have used, it is the Holy Spirit who convinces the world; and faith is a gift from God; it is He who calls and chooses. I also believe that the inspiration to write and make this publication came from the Spirit.

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Texts, with the exception of paragraph 6, page 2, extracted from the translation by JOÃO FERREIRA DE ALMEIDA – Revised and Updated.