

Bible Inspiration—Its Influence

Intro: Jesus stated as recorded in Matthew 7:20 “²⁰ Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.” The Gospel (the Bible) is a powerful book that has the ability to save man, but also has the power to change man. Romans 1:16-17 “¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” Hebrews 4:12 “¹² For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Aristotle first set forth the principle: Any effect cannot be great than its cause. Another way of saying it is: The cause is greater than its effect. What effect has been caused by the Bible? If man without the Bible devolves and with it evolves, then it proves that the Bible is greater than man: Man cannot produce this effect when left to himself (Jer. 10:23 “²³ O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: *it is* not in man that walketh to direct his steps”; Pro. 14:12 “¹² There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.”). Therefore, the Bible is not the work of man, it is greater than man.

We will notice that where the Bible has gone, man has been elevated; where the Bible has not gone, man has devolved. What are some of the Bible’s fruit?

I. THE BIBLE

- A. **It is a relatively small book.**
- B. **Yet, all the libraries in America could not hold the volumes that have been written about it.**
- C. **There have been more books written about the Bible than any other book.**
- D. **Consider what it has done.**

II. HUMAN FREEDOM.

- A. **The Bible teaches man has been created in the image of God.**
 - 1. Gen. 1:26 “²⁶ And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”
 - 2. This sets man apart and above the animal kingdom.
 - 3. While greatly discussed, the idea of image is God’s character and having the power of choice and dominion over the world.
- B. **Freedom of choice:**
 - 1. Nothing has elevated man’s freedom of choice than where the Bible has exerted its influence.
 - 2. Where the Bible has not exerted its influence, that power of choice is not generally known.
 - 3. For example, slavery.
 - a. All nations in the beginning (with the exception of the Hebrews) were based on slavery.
 - (1) They might not have begun that way but degenerated to that system.
 - (2) Rome, in Jesus’ day (the rulers of the world), had a population of 125,000 people of which about 60,000 (about one-half) were slaves (typical of most nations).

- b. Bible and slavery
 - (1) There are teachings in the Old Testament permitting slavery.
 - (a) Every 7 years the slaves were to be released.
 - (b) There were stipulations as to how a master could treat a slave, which if correctly applied would bring an end to slavery and did.
 - (2) True freedom of man is felt by Jesus.
 - (a) When Jesus came into the world, one-half of the people were slaves.
 - (b) He did not come to reform or change politically, socially, etc.
 - (c) His teachings, if correctly applied would abolish slavery.
 - (i) Slavery was abolished.
 - (ii) Where slavery held on longest (Arab nations) is where the Bible did not have as much influence.

C. Bible's influence

- 1. Man left to himself:
 - a. He puts his fellowman in slavery if he has the power to do so.
 - b. He also capitalizes on others enslavement.
- 2. Where the Bible's influence has gone, man elevates himself above slavery to freedom with the power of choice.
- 3. The Bible's effects are greater than man's effects.

III. ELEVATION OF WOMEN

A. Women's movement.

- 1. They have falsely charged that women are in subjugated roles today because of the Bible's influence.
- 2. Most are atheist who would destroy the Bible.
 - a. We find where the women's equality movements have had its greatest influence, they have left the Bible.
 - b. Those who embrace the Bible, leave the women's movements.
- 3. They speak of what they do not understand.

B. Historically that which has elevated woman is the Bible.

- 1. In ancient times in all nations other than the Jews, women were looked upon as a beast of burden. She was in a subjugated, subservient, slave role.
- 2. For example, in Asian countries if a girl child gets sick, they leave her for herself; however, if a boy, they will do everything to try and save his life because the man is the important one.
- 3. The Eskimos in Alaska the women are looked upon as cattle, a beast of burden
- 4. The Indians in America, the women did all the work; the man did all the fishing, hunting, and talking.
- 5. Even in the east today, women are in a position inferior to what the Hebrews had 1000 B.C.

C. Where the Bible has gone.

- 1. The Bible is that which took woman out of that slavery, beast of burden role.
- 2. It elevated her to where she stands more or less equal with man.
- 3. At one time it was said that a woman could not find a better gynecologist than a Hebrew woman because the Jews were bred to appreciate woman and that influence came out of the Bible.

IV. CIVIL LAW

A. Generally speaking, all nations of the world have been influenced by the Law given to Moses (the Ten Commandments).

1. The nations that have the greatest laws concerning human rights are those influenced by the Bible.
 - a. The words: *kindness, charitableness*, are not found in most ancient civilizations.
 - b. *Kindness* was totally unknown in the Roman world (they did not have a word for it).
2. No wonder Christianity made such a tremendous impact as Christians were kind, gentle, charitable, sympathetic, and meeting the needs of others which was totally unknown to the Roman world.

B. Statements:

1. William Blackstone (known as the father of modern law) said, “an enactment is not a law when it conflicts with the Law of God.”
2. Sir Matthew Hale (influential English barrister, judge, and jurist, most noted for his *The History of the Pleas of the Crown*) said, “Christianity is parcel of the common law.”
3. Daniel Webster said, “It seems to be a law of human condition that Christianity and civilization can live and flourish only together.”

C. Bible’s influence:

1. Our nation’s laws were founded upon the Bible.
 - a. It is sad that this nation which had its beginnings on religious pursuits are now throwing religion down the drain.
 - b. That which made our nation great is now being cast aside and we are destroying ourselves.
2. Geneva Switzerland:
 - a. In time past it was the fountainhead of Bible translation.
 - b. It is also the home of the League of Nations (the first worldwide international organization whose main mission was bring peace to the world).
 - c. It was the home of the Red Cross.
 - d. It was the home of the World Court or International Court of Justice.
 - e. All these are to guarantee the rights of men and tries to give a universal law of all nations.
3. Iran, Libya, and other Arab countries have shown they have no respect for human life and rights have never been influenced by the Bible.
4. Communities cannot exist when they ignore the laws which God established (such as New Harmony, Indiana).

V. MAN’S RESPECT FOR GOVERNMENT

A. Bible’s teaching:

1. 1 Pet. 2:13-14 ¹³ Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; ¹⁴ Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well”
2. Rom. 13:1-6 ¹ Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. ² Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: ⁴ For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do

that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil. ⁵Wherefore *ye* must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. ⁶For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing."

B. Without the Bible's influence:

1. A great deal of disrespect for law in general.
2. Even in our nation there is this general disrespect for law
 - a. This is because the Bible has been taken away in schools, homes, etc., with the result of lawlessness.
 - b. We observe this in the home, schools, churches, and governments.
3. Consider the South American nations and all their upheavals through the years.
 - a. They are not Biblically influenced.
 - b. They are Catholic influenced.
 - (1) Catholicism has been founded on teachings other than the Bible.
 - (2) Many of those nations any person receiving a Bible was thrown in jail (Bogota Colombia for example).
 - (3) Only since World War 2 was the Bible allowed to exist in countries controlled by Catholicism.

VI. MORAL INFLUENCE

A. Stealing, murder, lying, drinking, swindles, family abuse, gambling, immorality, etc., have never been corrected by books on atheism and agnosticism.

1. That which has stopped these things has been the Bible.
2. Mat. 22:39 ³⁹And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."
3. Rom. 12:20-21 ²⁰Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. ²¹Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

B. Kindness, sensitivity, gentlemanlyness, lady-likeness, charitableness have all come out of Biblical influence.

VII. OTHER SIDE EFFECTS

A. Literature: English literature began to a great extent with Biblical translation.

B. Education

1. The Bible extols knowledge.
 - a. Governments that attempt to control the citizenship are only able to foster and maintain themselves on the basis of the ignorance of the citizenship.
 - b. Educate the citizens and you destroy oppressive governments.
2. Catholicism
 - a. It is based on and maintained by the ignorance of the people.
 - b. Thus, they would not allow people to have the Bible because they would become educated.
3. Most colleges and universities were founded upon the Bible.
 - a. Most were seminaries to begin with.
 - b. Harvard was established as the first college in the United States and was to provide a more thorough study of the Bible.

C. Arts, architecture, painting, poetry, music have all been greatly influenced by the Bible.

1. Music
 - a. Handel:
 - (1) *The Messiah*
 - (2) *Saul*
 - (3) *Samson*
 - (4) *Joseph*
 - b. Haydn—*Creation*
 - c. Mendelssohn:
 - (1) *St. Paul*
 - (2) *Elijah*
 - d. Bach—All the passion music he wrote.
 - e. Sir Francis Scott Key—*The Star Spangled Banner*
 - f. Albert Pike—*Dixie*
 - g. Julia Howe—*Battle Hymn of the Republic*
 - h. Sir Edward Elgar
 - (1) Once called the greatest writer since Bach and Handel.
 - (2) *Apostle*
 - (3) *The Kingdom*
 - i. Schubert—*Ave Maria*
2. Art
 - a. Michelangelo:
 - (1) *The Bible* on ceiling of Sistine Chapel
 - (2) *The Creation*
 - (3) *The Flood*
 - (4) *David*
 - b. DaVinci—*The Last Supper*
 - c. Raphael—*Sistine Madonna*
 - d. Van Dych—*Christ and the Tribute Money*
 - e. Rubens:
 - (1) *Christ on the Cross*
 - (2) *The Descent from the Cross*
3. Literature
 - a. Non-religious
 - (1) Shakespeare
 - (2) Milton
 - (a) *Paradise Lost*
 - (b) *Paradise Found*
 - (3) Walt Whitman—*Passage to India*
 - (4) Ralph Waldo Emerson—*The American Scholar*
 - (5) John Bunyan—*Pilgrim's Progress*
 - b. Religious books abound.

Conclusion: Without the Bible man devolves; with the Bible man evolves. The influence of the Bible shows its inspiration. Truly as Jesus said in Matthew 7:16-20 ¹⁶ **Ye shall know them by their fruits.** Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? ¹⁷ Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree

bringeth forth evil fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. ²⁰ Wherefore **by their fruits ye shall know them.**”