

MORE DEAD FLIES IN THE PRECIOUS OINTMENT

Pastor Russell Points Out More Deceptive Additions to the Word of God Contained in Our Common Version Bible, But Shown to Be False Because Not Found in the Oldest Greek MSS.—One of These "Flies" Has Moulded Accepted Theology—Dead Flies Cause the Apothecary's Ointment to Stink (Ecclesiastes x, 1).



Not long ago I pointed out that the last twelve verses of St. Mark's Gospel in our Common Version are spurious—so recognized by all scholars, because these verses are not to be found in any of the oldest Greek MSS. and were evidently added to the Word of God in the seventh century or later. Moreover, we gave proofs of the untruthfulness of this addition. Is it true that whoever believes the Gospel of Christ may handle serpents with impunity and may drink deadly poison without harm? Surely not. It is nothing short of a sin for those who know better to acknowledge these verses and to use them to bolster up theories of Divine Healing. It is as much a crime to add to the Word of God as to take away from it.

Today I invite attention to some other dead flies, some other additions to God's Word, which have had much to do with twisting the theology once delivered to the saints. Take, for instance, the closing words of the Lord's Prayer:

"Thine is the Kingdom and Power and Glory."

These words, if uttered by our Lord, should be found in the old Greek MSS. But they are not found therein. They are, therefore, to be rejected as additions made by people centuries after Matthew's Gospel was written. These words were introduced when the faith of the Church respecting the Kingdom of Messiah was changed or changing from what it was originally. All through the New Testament the Second Coming of Christ in power and glory to establish His Kingdom and to glorify the Church, His Bride, is set for the end of this Gospel Age. But as the time grew long a change of sentiment came into the Church. It became popular and rich. Its bishops were respected. Finally the theory prevailed that God did not intend to delay the establishment of the Kingdom until the Second Coming of Christ, but did intend to establish it in the hands of the Church during this Age and to use the Church for the conquering of the world and the fulfilling of all the promises of the past.

In line with this the most prominent bishop of the time was recognized as Divinely appointed to represent Christ in the world and to reign over the nations in His stead and to bring about the Millennium, etc. This was the Bishop of Rome, who subsequently was styled the Pope and who claimed and was accorded the honorable title, "Viceroy of the Son of God." It is said that the equivalent of this title to this day is worn by the Pope on his tiara or three-crowned hat—*Vicarius Dei Fili*.

Thus the change came in the general sentiment of the "Christian world." Messiah's Kingdom was no longer to be looked for as coming, but was to be recognized as here. The Pope, as Messiah's reigning representative, was to be acknowledged. All Kingdoms that were to honor and obey Messiah were commanded to honor and obey the Pope. The various prophecies which tell of Messiah's Kingdom glory were applied to the Pope, and are still so applied.

As Messiah was to ride forth conquering the world and "wound the heads over many peoples," so the Popes in succession sought to do, to fulfill these prophecies. As the inauguration of Messiah's Kingdom is promised to be in the midst of a time of great trouble, it was not thought improper that Papacy should cause great trouble in the world in its endeavor to establish itself as the Kingdom of Messiah. As whoever would not receive Messiah was to be "destroyed from amongst the people," it was not considered wrong to destroy those who rejected and opposed the Papal Kingdom and to give them to the burning flame.

"Thy Kingdom Come on Earth."
The Lord's prayer was already in the Scriptures, and was known to many. It could not be eliminated. But some zealous person, fully believing that God's Kingdom had come, felt justified in amending the prayer to correspond to what he supposed were the facts. Hence the prayer which begins, "Thy Kingdom come," is made to end by saying, "Thy Kingdom has come in its glory and power."

If Papacy is the Kingdom of Messiah, it is certainly not what the Jews expected. It is certainly not what the masses of mankind had any reason to expect, although it is so accepted by the majority of Christendom.

Although our protesting forefathers broke away from the Pope and denounced him as Anti-Christ and declared that he falsely sat in the place of Christ without authority, they, nevertheless, were imbued with the same error. They did not think to go back to the message of the Scriptures and to look for the Son of God to set up His Kingdom at His Second Advent and then to bless Israel and the world through His glorified Church. Instead they held to the Papal theory that God's Kingdom was set up and was conquering the world, and that thus

the Messianic reign mentioned in the prophecy is being fulfilled. They hold that Christ himself is the invisible King but that the Pope is not authorized to represent him. Hence this spurious addition to the Word of God is as acceptable to Protestants as to Catholics; indeed more so, if we may judge by the fact that the Catholic Bible omits the spurious words, while the Protestant Bible quotes them.

We here remark that according to Protestant theory Messiah's Kingdom is represented in the civilized nations of the world, especially of Europe. These all claim to reign "by the grace of God." In which case, of course, wars and battles between them are conflicts between the various parts of Messiah's Kingdom. And present military preparations on land and sea portend a most sanguinary conflict between these "kingdoms of this world," which think themselves and are called by Christendom "kingdoms of God."

How glad we are to see the Truth on this subject; that the Kingdom of God's dear Son has not yet been set up, in any sense of the word—that it is still future. It cannot be set up until this Gospel Age ends and the "elect" salutary few of every nation—Jew and Gentile—shall be changed from earthly to heavenly nature by the First Resurrection, which will qualify them to be "kings and priests unto God and unto Christ and to reign with Him a thousand years" (Revelation xx, 6).

It is well that all Bible students should mark this "fly" and extract it from the Precious Ointment, and notice how much sweeter and fresher the Lord's prayer is to them forever.

"Oh, What a Whopper!"

Thomas Paine was an enemy to the Bible and to the Christian religion, but largely so, we believe, on account of his poor understanding of it. And his misunderstanding of the Bible was largely due to the false doctrines handed down from the "Dark Ages" purporting to be biblical. Who can sympathize with the great infidel, Thomas Paine, who, when reading the last verse of St. John's Gospel, exclaimed, "O, what a whopper!" It reads, "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written" (John xxi, 25).

Surely any one of reasoning mind should see the absurdity of such a statement. Surely all Christian ministers should have informed the Lord's sheep under their care respecting what is and what is not the Word of God, the Bible, as it was recognized by the Apostolic Church and written down in the original Greek manuscripts. Why any Christian minister should assault me because I endeavor to do for the people what he has neglected to do I cannot understand. I must leave it to the Lord to judge between us. I am informed that hundreds of ministers went to the Editors of the papers which publish my sermons weekly and endeavored to have them discontinue their publication.

But the Editors perceive that their readers are no longer under the bondage of the "Dark Ages," but have begun to think for themselves, and that many of them are hungering and thirsting for the Truth respecting the Bible—the Christian's spiritual food and drink. To the claim that many read my sermons instead of going to Church the answer is, that Pastor Russell is preaching to the non-church-going ten millions who are in the majority and that it behooves the ministers to provide for their people the spiritual food for which they are famishing, if they would not lose them all.

Another Big Fly.

To the credit of such men as Luther, Calvin, Knox, Zwingli, Wesley and others living prior to our day we must explain that they had no opportunity for knowing of the spurious passages of the Scriptures. They, therefore, have no responsibility such as devolves upon ministers of our day who do, or should, know all about these matters. We cannot on this occasion make further investigation, take out more of these dead flies; but, the Lord willing, at some future time I John v, 7, 8 will have our attention. It is worthy of it. It has caused the Ointment to stink and has confused the minds of many of God's dear saints by the way in which the error in this case has been interwoven with the Truth.

My hearers should bear distinctly in mind that what I am here presenting is not at all in line with the presentations of the Higher Critics. Their method is to read through the Scriptures and judge of them by their own keen intellectual powers, and thus to discriminate between which were written by the Prophets credited, and which were additions. Their Higher Criticism claims a keener scent or mental discernment than ordinary mortals enjoy, by which they know these things whether others can see it or not.

I resent Higher Criticism and accept the Word of God in full. I reject nothing because of my own or other men's surmises, but merely go by the facts. If the oldest Greek MSS. do not contain certain passages of Scripture, how could they get into later MSS. except as spurious additions?

Nor should I be considered as fault-finding with our Common Version of the Bible. While it is not without its faults, it has so many excellent qualities and beautiful translations that I prefer it to any other and generally use it. But I must not, I cannot, approve those portions of it which all orthodox scholars admit to be spurious. We must not handle the Word of God deceitfully. If we do we must expect darkness instead of light, confusion instead of harmony.

Our Bible's Ter-Centenary.

Just three centuries ago our English Common Version Bible was published.

This year its Ter-Centenary is celebrated. It is a grand book. It has done a grand work. The fact that it is not perfect must not condemn a work possessed of so many glorious qualities. It was the result of seven years' labor on the part of forty-seven persons learned in the languages and appointed by King James of England for its preparation. They labored to some disadvantage by reason of the command given them to follow an earlier translation styled, The Bishop's Bible, and to alter it as little as the original would allow. They were also instructed that if the Tyndale, Coverdale, Matthew, Cranmer or White-hurth translations and the Geneva Editors agreed better with the text, theirs should be accepted as instead of the Bishop's. The translation was, perhaps, the best that could be made at the time.

Published by King's authority, it is now venerated by English and American Protestants as though it had come direct from the finger of God. This is a mistake. We are to worship God and to reverence His Word and to search as carefully as possible to have the precious Ointment provided by the spirit of the Truth free from all dead flies—free from all human additions and mistranslations and superstitions of the "Dark Ages."

The basis for our Common Version was the Latin Vulgate, which was diligently revised and compared with the Greek MSS. of the time. But there were few Greek MSS. known at that time, whereas at the present time there are over 700. Three of these are quite ancient.

(1) The Sinaitic MS., found in a convent on Mt. Sinai so recently as 1820. This is acknowledged to be the oldest Greek MS. known in the world. Its date is estimated to be about the year 331 A. D. This MS. is now in the possession of the Russian government at St. Petersburg.

(2) The Vatican MS., 1209, is credited with being next in age. It was found amongst old MSS. in the Vatican Library and is still there and catalogued. The date of its writing is estimated to be about the year 350 A. D.

(3) The third of these oldest known Greek MSS. of the New Testament is styled the Alexandrine, because it was found in Alexandria in Egypt. It is now in the British Museum, where any visitor can behold it in a glass case. It is supposed to have been written about A. D. 450. The readings of all three of these Greek MSS. can be secured and the variations between their readings and our Common Version are so simply arranged as to leave no excuse for ignorance on the part of Bible students. Our Common Version with notations of these MSS. can be obtained through any bookseller.

A Responsible and Sacred Trust.
Prof. Tischendorf, writing respecting these ancient Greek MSS., says—

"To treat such ancient authorities with neglect would be either unwarrantable arrogance or culpable negligence. Indeed, it would be a misunderstanding of Providence if, after all these documents had been preserved through all the dangers of fourteen or fifteen centuries and delivered safe into our hands, we were not ready to receive them with thankfulness as most valuable instruments for the elucidation of Truth."

The Truth in the Love of It.
The Lord speaks of some who receive not the Truth in the love of it, and tells that they ultimately will be ensnared by the Adversary. Evidently heart-honesty is one of the most precious elements in the Divine sight. It is not sufficient that we should be Christians in name merely and with form and ceremony. It would not be sufficient in the Lord's sight that we should worship sect or party or even the Bible. It is the Divine Truth that we must reverence next to the Divine person.

It is not sufficient to have Bibles on our center tables merely, nor sufficient to carry them under our arms. We must "eat" the Word of God—that is to say, we must, as spiritual children of God, feed upon His message. And this truly implies careful discrimination to discern between God's inspired Revelation and all human additions and admixtures. There is, therefore, a difference between reverencing and loving the Word of God and reverencing and loving a particular translation, errors and all.

"Thy Word is Truth."

Our Master's prayer for all of His true disciples, or footstep followers, was and still is, "Sanctify them through Thy Truth; Thy Word is Truth." Whoever would have the sanctifying influence of the Divine Word should so far as possible rid himself of every unsanctifying admixture of human tradition and interpolation. The true sanctification or setting apart of the heart to know and to do the Lord's will could not be content to accept with the sanctifying Truth defiling errors, chaff and nonsense.

If thousands are turning away from the Bible there is a reason. It is not the pure Truth that drives them away, but the foreign admixture and the shrewd misinterpretations handed down to us by our well-meaning but deluded ancestors of several centuries ago. It is high time for all to manifest to God their love of the Truth by spending some of their time in studying it—in learning its precious lessons and in telling forth its "good tidings of great joy to all people."

"This one thing now to read the Bible through.
Another thing to read, to learn and do;
This one thing now to read with delight,
And quite another thing to read it right.
Some read to prove a pre-adopted creed,
Thus understand but little what they read;
And every message in the Book they bend
To make it suit that all-important end.
Some people read, as I have often thought,
To teach the Book, instead of to be taught."

M. FANGER'S STORE WILL OPEN SOON

The New Line of Goods Will Arrive in About Two Weeks or Less.

M. Fanger will depart the fore part of the week for the big eastern markets to purchase his new line of goods for the Plattsmouth store, which will be opened and ready for business in about two weeks. Mr. Fanger expects to carry an up-to-date line of goods in every department, and the millinery line will be one of the finest ever displayed in Plattsmouth, everything bright and new, and his trimmers are at work now in the wholesale house making up his large line of pattern hats that will be placed upon display shortly after the opening date of the store. He makes this announcement that the ladies who are looking for something new and stylish in the millinery line will only wait for his immense stock they will surely find just what they want.

His line will comprise all the new creations in dress goods and dry goods, also a great assortment of colaks, coats, capes, etc., and ladies' tailored garments. Watch this paper for the date of opening, the line of goods and the prices that will be offered you.

BRIDGE TRUST UNDER FIRE IN LEGISLATURE

A Lincoln correspondent says: The "bridge trust" was under fire in the senate today, Senator Skiles declaring that such a combine existed and Senator Banning followed with an explanation of the evils of the present system. The two senators had introduced a bill aimed at the alleged trust. This measure, senate file No. 272, was ordered engrossed for a third reading.

Skiles said that the bridge contractors have such a close understanding that they simply apportion the counties in which each wishes to do business.

Under the present law a contract is let in each county once a year covering the construction of all bridges costing over \$500 and the secretary of the state board of irrigation is required to furnish plans for all such structures.

Banning said that the yearly contract system, was devised to give bridge companies annual monopolies on bridge building in each county. He said that counties were being forced to pay about \$1,000 for 100-foot bridges which could actually be bought and set up profitably for \$1,200. Bridge contractors get \$1,500 usually for a sixty-foot bridge which Banning asserted was not worth more than \$800.

Placek insisted that the yearly contract system was necessary in order to get contractors to keep enough material in each county to meet the requirements, but he did not believe a carload of reserve bridge material could be found in all Cass county. The bill carries an appropriation of \$3,000 to cover the expense of preparing bridge plans.

Smallpox in Town.

A case of smallpox is reported at the home of Superintendent B. D. Evans. His sister, who is visiting here from Colorado, was taken ill on Thursday of last week, but it was not definitely known to be smallpox until Tuesday of this week, when Dr. Worthman had the house quarantined. The doctor states, however, that it is a very light form and anticipates no serious results from it.

The fact that the Ladies' Aid society met with Mrs. Evans on last Thursday, when the patient was taken with a fever, is causing no little amount of worry on the part of the ladies who were present.—Louisville Courier.

Wedding at Elmwood.

A special from Elmwood, under date of March 10, says: Miss Rosa Gustin and Henry Vogt were married yesterday afternoon at the home of the bride's uncle, Mr. George Kuntz, their future home. Miss Lizzie Vogt and Mr. George Kuntz were in attendance. The Rev. Mr. Goetz of the German Evangelical church officiated. Over 100 guests were present.

C. M. Seybert, marshal of Louisville, came to the county seat today to bring in Fred Wren, bound over by Judge Mayfield for stealing \$195 in gold from the lady with whom he boarded. Wren's bond was fixed at \$1,000, which he failed to furnish, and he was accordingly brought to jail by Mr. Seybert.

A pair of match Shetland ponies for sale. William Gilmour, Plattsmouth, Neb. Route No. 1.

THE NEW WAY OF SMOKING MEAT

By applying two coats of WRIGHT'S CONDENSED SMOKE directly to the meat with a brush after the meat has gone through the salt, it will be thoroughly smoked, will have a delicious flavor and will keep solid and sweet and free from insects through the entire summer.

Wright's Condensed Smoke

is a liquid smoke and contains nothing except what is obtained by burning hickory wood. It is put up in square quart bottles only, each with a metal cap. NEVER SOLD IN BULK. A bottle will smoke a barrel of meat (250 lbs.). For sale by all druggists at 75c. Every bottle guaranteed. Ask druggist for FREE BOOK, "The New Way." Be sure to get the genuine WRIGHT'S CONDENSED SMOKE. Made only by

THE E. H. WRIGHT CO., Ltd., Kansas City, Mo.

SOLD AND GUARANTEED BY

\$195.00 IN GOLD WAS STOLEN

Mrs. Anna Dean Loses That Amount and Charges Fred Wren With the Theft.

One hundred and ninety-five plunks in gold would be enough to make the average person's eyes water just now when money is so scarce, yet this is the amount that Mrs. Anna Dean, who until about a week ago was Miss Anna Brunkow, claims was stolen from her Sunday. She charges Fred Wren, who has made his home with the Brunkow family for the past ten or twelve years, with the theft.

Wren has put in the majority of his time for the past six months or more lapping up booze and making life miserable for the town marshal. Sunday he hired a livery team and was driven to the Rock Island depot at Meadow, where he purchased a ticket for Omaha, but left the train at Albright. He had a pocketful of gold and was foolish enough to display it before several people before leaving town. Mrs. Dean filed a complaint against Wren early Monday morning and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Marshal Seybert went to Omaha and put in the day searching for him, but without success.

A description was left with the Omaha and South Omaha police force, but as he has not been apprehended it is supposed that he went to other parts.

Mrs. Dean states that Wren owes her more than \$100 borrowed money.

Since the above was put in type Wren has returned and is now in jail awaiting his preliminary hearing.

If he did take the money one thing is certain, he hasn't it now. He has the appearance of having indulged in what some term a "good time."—Louisville Courier.

Left Hospital Today.

George Sherwood, who has been in an Omaha hospital for three months with a broken leg, accompanied Dr. J. S. Livingston to Plattsmouth today and will visit with his parents for some time. George is able to get about on crutches and his many friends hope that he will soon be able to do so without them. He is doing nicely and the healing process is so far along that he will soon be well again.

For Sale or Trade.

One Decker Brothers square piano, second-hand, but thoroughly repaired, tuned and in good condition; one riding lister, one good rubber-tired buggy, one riding sulky plow and riding cultivator. O. P. Munroe, Opposite the Postoffice.

Frank Little of Murray drove into the city this morning and looked after business matters for a few hours.

SEED That Grow!

Best Red Clover Seed, per bushel, \$8 50	Green Russian Oats, per bushel, \$ 60
Timothy, per bushel, 5 75	White German Oats, per bushel, 60
Fancy Nebraska Alfalfa, test 100 per cent purity, growth 97 per cent, per bushel, 11 50	Kern Oats, per bushel, 60
Kentucky Blue Grass, per bushel, 3 50	Rye, per bushel, 1 00
Alsike, per bushel, 10 00	Hard Spring Wheat, (golded drop) test 64 pounds, per bushel, 1 25

Car load Genuine Pure Red River Early Ohio seed potatoes \$1.35 per bushel sacked or \$1.40 delivered at your town. They will be higher.

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Johnson Bros., Nebraska City, Nebraska