

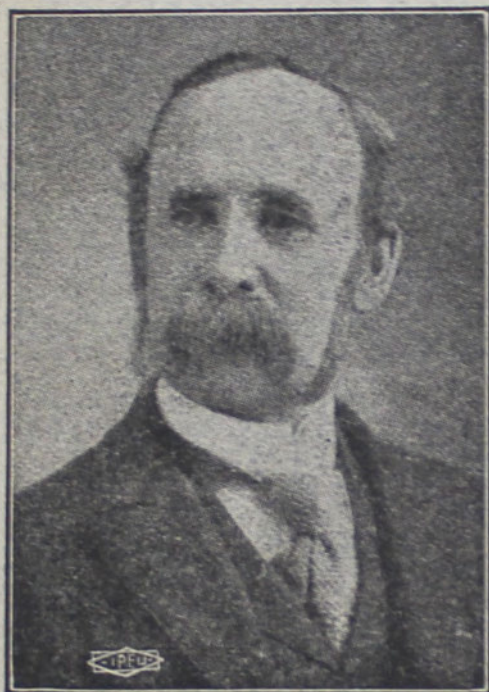
SPIRITUAL CHURCH of TRUTH  
REV. LOIS E. REICHERT  
49 ROSWELL AVENUE  
BUFFALO, N. Y. 14207  
PH : 874 - 0466

# Is the Bible the Infallible Word of God?

BY

HON. ROBERT ADDISON DAGUE

Author of HENRY ASHTON  
Public Ownership of Public Utilities, Etc., Etc.



THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER PUBLISHING HOUSE

106 Loomis Street, Chicago, Illinois

The **"Forward Movement Herald"** of Los Angeles, said:  
"Senator Dague is one of the ablest and soundest thinkers  
on social and economic questions in this country. He is  
now the ripened product of a wide and useful career as lawyer,  
editor and lawmaker."



## Commentary.

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Dean Farrar, the noted theologian and historian, discussing the absurd claim that the Bible is infallible, said: "Some of the books of Scripture are separated from others by thousands of years. They represent the fragmentary survival of Hebrew literature. They stand on very different levels of value, and even of morality.

The Rev. J. M. Buckley, D.D., at the close of thirty years of editorial work stated that he believed then as he did at its beginning, that the Bible was not the word of God, but that it contained the word of God, and that Moses could not possibly have written the Pentateuch.

The Rev. Dr. Aked says of the Bible: "Men turn to its pages and they find historical errors, arithmetical mistakes, scientific blunders (or rather blunders most unscientific), inconsistencies and manifold contradictions; and, what is far worse, they find that the most horrible crimes are committed by men who calmly plead in justification of their terrible misdeeds, the imperturbable 'God said.' "

"Most of us have been taught from our infancy that the Bible is an infallible book; that if it could be proved to contain a single error it would be worthless. That is a most dangerous doctrine. The Bible makes no such claim for itself; the theory of its infallibility is a purely man-made theory, that has driven hundreds of thousands of intelligent men and women into infidelity and irreligion."—Rev. Washington Gladden, Congregationalist.

"We need not be governed by what St. Paul said about women. All that he says about women speaking in church should be cut out of the Bible. The Bible would be a better book morally if many other things were cut out of it."—Rev. George Chambers Richmond, D.D., Episcopal.



# Is the Bible the Infallible Word of God?

BY ROBERT ADDISON DAGUE,

Late papers from the Philippines gave an account of the burning publicly of twenty-five hundred Protestant Bibles by the Roman Catholics of the city of Vigan, in Luzon. They made a bonfire of the books on the public square, or plaza.

A high school student—member of a Presbyterian church, and of the Y. M. C. A., has called my attention to this incident and asks me to explain the difference between the Catholic and Protestant Bible. He says his pastor tells him the Protestant Bible is the only true "Word of God," and is without blemish or error.

I am glad my student friend has an inquiring mind. Too many Protestants, as well as Catholics, believe without investigation what the preachers and priests tell them about their sacred book. In fact, not many of the clergy themselves know anything about how the collection of ancient manuscripts was accomplished, nor the many translations, interpolations, alterations and forgeries made in the original writings. How many Protestants know that the Roman Catholic Bible contains seventy-five books, while the Protestant "Word of God" has but sixty-six books?

Prior to the fourth century A. D. there existed hundreds of writings in which the author of each gave his theory about the creation, God, Jesus, heaven, hell, the trinity, and so forth.

There were disciples or adherents to each, and there were debates and violent disputings between the various religious factions. In 325 A. D., the Pagan emperor, Constantine, who murdered his wife and son, and committed other heinous crimes, declared that the warring



religious factions must unite in some common creed or faith. He, therefore, convened a council, or convention of priests and others to come together, bringing their sacred writings, and by vote sift them all down into one book. When the delegates had submitted their manuscripts they found there was a total of 308 books. The champion of each said his was the only genuine Word of God. A long and stormy session was held. Many of the delegates could neither read nor write, and were ignorant and quarrelsome. All were superstitious and fanatical. Frequent fights were indulged in.

After many months of wrangling 233 manuscripts were rejected, and 75 were voted in as part of the Holy Bible. Several of the books selected were chosen by small majorities.

The book of Revelation was rejected by a majority vote several times, but its champion priest got a reconsideration of the vote and, finally, had it adopted by a small majority.

A historian says that toward the close of the session the delegates were so tired out and disgusted that several manuscripts were chosen to go into the book by the following method of procedure: They placed on the floor, under the table, all the manuscripts not yet voted upon. Then all the delegates withdrew to another room and prayed to God to cause the manuscripts that He wanted to be put in His book to jump up on the table, and that night several of them hopped right up.

That was satisfactory to the owners of the manuscripts so miraculously designated, but there were other delegates who asserted that an interested priest had slipped into the room and helped God to pick out the right books. But those suspicious makers of mischief were promptly suppressed by the Emperor. All the rejected manuscripts were burned and the seventy-five that had been adopted were bound in a book and labeled Holy Bible.

Many people protested, claiming that frauds had been resorted to in voting in certain manuscripts and rejecting others, but the Emperor soon silenced the objectors by promptly casting them into prison, vigorously apply-

ing physical torture or burning them at the stake. And in this way the Holy Bible or "God's Word" came into existence.

Historians say that all of the 308 manuscripts voted upon were copies. Even at that early date there were no originals in existence.

Put now you ask me about the smaller word of God, or the Protestants' Bible. It need hardly be said to any intelligent person that the sixty-six books of the Bible of the Protestants are the same as those of the Catholic. There was but one Holy Bible (the Catholic) from Constantine's time to the days of Martin Luther, the father of Protestantism, in 1534. Then came other councils, more revisions, alterations and changes in the Holy Book.

It was about this time that nine books were taken out of "God's Word." Those nine books Protestants have named the Apocrypha, but the Catholics say they are as much entitled to be called God's word as the other sixty-six books. The Apocrypha contains stories that seem so clearly visionary, ridiculous and impossible that Martin Luther and the early Protestants cut them out of God's word. Luther said the general Epistle of James is a book of straw and ought not to be in the Bible, but he was outvoted and it remains in the Bible as a part of the holy, infallible word.

There have been about 226 translations of the Bible into various languages, each of them differing from all others. Many of them are extinct. As many as a hundred still exist; no two of them alike. The Hebrew, the Samaritan, the Septuagint, the Gothic and Ethiopic versions are all different. The Syriac New Testament contains but 22 books; the Italic, 24; the Egyptian, 26; the Vulgate, 27. No two of the books are alike. Prior to 1604-1611 the differences in translations and so-called "Words of God," became so annoying that the pious King James brought together a commission of leading scholars, and the translation which bears his name became the authorized Bible of Protestantism. It was printed as a government monopoly and has remained unchanged.

Educated Protestant clergymen knew that King



James' Bible was very imperfect. One distinguished Bible scholar asserted that it contained several hundred errors in mistranslations, interpolations and alterations. Therefore, another revision was made by a committee of British and American Protestant scholars and divines, of the New Testament in 1881, of the Old in 1885.

In that new version hundreds of errors were corrected, whole verses and parts of chapters omitted, and the style of language changed. This latest, most scholarly and most accurate revision did not please the orthodox Protestant clergy, notwithstanding it was the work of their own ablest scholars. The reason was that the revisers found that the texts relied upon to sustain the doctrine of the trinity, or deity of Jesus, were not in the original manuscripts, but were forgeries, interpolated into the writings about the third century. For instance, in the King James version, I. John v. 7, says: "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one." This verse is not found in the new version. Why? This verse was not put in the new version of 1881 because the revisers (notwithstanding they were themselves trinitarians) discovered the verse to be a forgery, as were also several other paragraphs of the same import. The scholarly revisers were honest enough to acknowledge the forgery, notwithstanding the discovery knocked the Scriptural props from under the doctrine of trinitarianism and the atonement. That revision known as the Oxford revision was finished nearly thirty years ago, since which time the orthodox Protestant clergy have done all in their power to ignore and discredit it and suppress the truth. They have gone right on preaching trinitarianism, the deity of Jesus and the atonement, according to Scriptural texts in King James' version, which their own scholars and translators pronounce deliberate forgeries.

The new Oxford English Bible of 1881-1885 is the most reliable of all the many translations, but the orthodox Protestant clergy will not quote from it, for the reasons named. It is used by Spiritualists, Unitarians and other liberal sects.

Here let me say that the Roman Catholic clergy,



knowing how the book called the Bible was compiled, do not consider it as inerrant or infallible.

They attach no particular sacredness to the book, and, of course, say that the Protestant Bible is only part of the sacred Scriptures. They therefore object to the proposition to have an emasculated Bible used in the public schools. They had no squeamishness over burning twenty-five hundred of these bogus Bibles at Luzon. That church holds to the theory that the laity being illiterate are not qualified to read the Bible and form correct opinions about religion. They say the people should "receive" their knowledge from the priests. The church maintains that there is an 'unwritten word of God over and above the Scriptures.' This word is the interpretation of the priest, who is placed between God and the church member, as infallible interpreter."

The Catholic makes no Bible translations when he goes as a missionary to the heathen. He is himself infallible—his words have divine illumination and truth. The Protestant disputes this and believes that everything depends on the heathen reading the "Word of God." Hence, the hundreds of efforts to translate the Bible into the languages of the heathen. This they found to be an impossible task, as but few heathen languages have any alphabet or written language, and have no words in which the complex ideas and dogmas of Christianity can be expressed. This fact explains why Roman Catholics convert thousands of heathen where Protestants fail. Protestant foreign missionary efforts are now known to be chiefly for the benefit of the missionaries themselves, rather than for the heathen.

I have in the foregoing given my high school student friend, as briefly as I could, a history of the compilation of the two Christian Bibles.

I am glad he has an inquiring mind and a desire to know the truth. Millions of well-meaning, but ignorant, people honestly believe that the Protestant Bible is God's Word, without error or blemish. They have no knowledge, whatever, as to the manner in which it came into existence. Their pastors carefully avoid telling them that their Holy Bible is made up of a collection of ancient

writings of men who lived centuries apart from each other in the long ago. Some of the writings that got into the Bible are good, some bad, others very bad. Those ignorant, old ancients wrote the best they knew. They never dreamed that what they wrote would sometime be put in a book called a Bible and be regarded by superstitious, ignorant millions as the "Holy Word of God." I have no criticisms for them for believing that the earth is flat, and for thinking that God is but little better than a savage, who would have tortured in hell forever myriads of his own children, yet unborn, had not Jesus consented to be killed to assuage the intense wrath of His Father. I do, however, greatly regret the fact that the clergy of this age are either so ignorant or so dishonest, or both, as to go on teaching the coming generations that the Bible, either Catholic or Protestant, is "God's Holy Word," without blemish or error, and try to propagate a theology founded on the ignorance of men who lived in ancient times, also on the authority of a Pagan emperor and the forgeries of dishonest priests.

#### A REJOINDER.

[Note.—After the above was published in *The Progressive Thinker*, L. P. Rossevoid requested me to cite the authorities in support of my statements contained in the foregoing article.—R. A. Dague.]

In answering Mr. Rossevoid, I shall first state that there are in existence no known, definite or reliable historical records of the proceedings of the Council of Nicea which was convened in the year 327 A. D., by the Emperor Constantine, for the purpose of making one Bible instead of having over three hundred in his empire, each claiming to be the Word of God. The convention consisted of 318 delegates, ignorant, superstitious and quarrelsome. No written records of what was done were preserved. What we know of its doings have been gathered by diligent historians from tradition, and fragmentary manuscripts by early writers and historians. Daniel W. Hull, author and scholar, in a recent letter to me, said: "The Council of Nicea was a quarrelsome mob and



no reliable record of its proceedings are obtainable now. It is known, however, that it settled the 'trinity' question by bullying all the Arians out of the convocation and under the nod of Constantine.

"Mythraism, to which the Greek religion assimilated in several respects, became Christian, by edict of Constantine, who made Christianity the state religion, and the Mythraists complied by changing their name, but not their ritual, and that became the Catholic religion. Protestantism is but a child of this religion, being somewhat changed. The Lutherans and the Episcopalians are much like the mother church. All the others are offshoots.

"A comparison of Christianity with the New Testament—or rather the gospels—will demonstrate that they are as unlike real Christianity as a horse and a creeping sloth are unlike each other."

In my article of October 31, I mentioned several authorities, but will in this rejoinder give the names of others. I regret that the writings, on the history of the Bible, by William Denton, D. M. Bennett, Hudson Tuttle and John E. Remsburg are not now accessible to me, otherwise I might quote them in corroboration of statements made in my article, "Is the Bible the Word of God?" I will, however, herein quote other authorities.

In Haeckel's Riddle of the Universe, page 311, under the head of Primitive Christianity, he says:

"As to the four gospels, we now know they were selected from a host of contradictory and forged manuscripts of the first three centuries by the 318 bishops who assembled at the Council of Nicea in 327 A. D. The entire list of gospels numbered forty; the canonical list contained four. As the bishops could not agree they determined to leave the selection to a miracle. They put all the books (according to the Synodican Pappus) together under the altar and prayed that the apocryphal books, or those of human origin, might remain there, and the genuine, inspired books might be miraculously placed on the table of the Lord; and tradition says, 'that really occurred.' The gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John leaped up onto the table."

Professor G. Major Taber, scholar and writer, commenting on the action of the Nicean Council, says:

"It was at this convention that the Pagan Emperor Constantine settled the divinity of the Bible."

He further says:

"It was the opinion of Frederick the Great that from Constantine to the Reformation the whole world was insane. The rule of Catholic Rome for twelve hundred years produced a scene of horrible slaughter and is known as the Dark Ages."

Men who disputed the trinity and questioned the authority of Constantine and his ignorant and wrangling Council of Nicea to make a Bible were imprisoned, exiled or cruelly put to death. Rivers of blood have been shed to force the people to accept the Nicean Bible and the doctrine of the trinity.

From the fourth to the sixteenth century there were many translations and revisions of Constantine's or the Catholic Bible. The oldest manuscripts were written on papyrus (an Egyptian plant), also on the bones of animals, and on tablets of stone. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew, the New Testament in Greek. Much of the writing was in drawings and rude pictures. All the words were formed by capital letters and there were no spaces between words as we have in this day. As no blank spaces were used between words, the meaning of the writer was difficult to make out and hundreds of errors occurred in the translating, and no two translations agreed. None of the original manuscripts are in existence today. One of the most aged is preserved in the university library at Cambridge. It is called the Codex Bezae. It was presented to the university by Beza in 1581. It was found in a monastery at Lyons. It is written in Greek on one side and Latin on the other, and differs in many respects from all other Bible manuscripts. Our Bibles, both Catholic and Protestant, are imperfect copies of a copy of several previous copies, all abounding in imperfections, interpolations, alterations and forgeries. From the days of Constantine to Martin Luther the church became so terribly corrupt morally that Luther and other decent men protested against the



Pope selling "indulgences" to men to commit crime, and they protested against the shameless licentiousness and immorality of the priesthood.

The early Protestants said that the Roman Catholics had not translated the Scriptures correctly, therefore, in 1378, John Wycliffe issued a revised Bible. The monks, abbots, bishops and priests met and denounced Wycliffe as a heretic, and his revised Bibles were burned, and all who were found in possession of his books were hunted down as criminals. Professor Taber says:

"About one hundred years after Wycliffe, William Tyndale issued a revised Bible printed in English. A conspiracy was formed to seize his copies. He escaped and fled from Cologne to Worms, where Luther was at work in the Reformation. Thousands of his Bibles were seized and burned by the Pope's emissaries as a 'burnt offering most pleasing to Almighty God.' Father Faber, a Roman Catholic, said that the Protestant Bible is one of the strongholds of heresy in this world.

William Tyndale was burned at the stake by the Catholic priesthood October 6, 1536, as a heretic because in his revised Bible he exposed many of the forgeries put into the 'Word of God,' from the days of Constantine to his time.

In my article referred to by Mr. Rossevoid, I stated that the doctrine of the trinity, or of the Deity of Jesus, and the vicarious atonement were forgeries, proven to be such by the learned men who revised the Scriptures at Oxford in 1881-1885. I referred especially to one verse, namely, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one."

This verse is shown to be a forgery by the scholarly revisers who were themselves trinitarians up to that time. Dr. Adam Clarke, the great Biblical scholar, also said of that passage:

"This verse is not found in any of the manuscripts of the ancient Greek or Latin writers, and it is likely not genuine"

In his "Observations," page 478, he says:

"One hundred and thirteen Greek manuscripts are

extant, containing the First Epistle of John, and the text in question is wanting in 112."

The late John R. Francis, founder and long time editor of *The Progressive Thinker*, said:

"It is represented by critics that 127,000 errors have been found in the inerrant Scriptures, made by transcribers and translators. The interpolations are numerous, and frequently very important, changing the entire character of the book. Many of these were pointed out by the commentators, as were also the false renderings. The lately revised Oxford edition of the Bible directed attention to interpolations, made when and where no one can determine. The longest of these in the New Testament is that added at the conclusion of Mark, embracing all of the sixteenth chapter after verse 8 to the conclusion. The revisors say, in a marginal note:

"The two oldest Greek manuscripts, and some other authorities, omit from verse 9 to the end. Some other authorities have a different ending to the Gospel."

"In this interpolation occurs the information that after Jesus was risen 'he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he cast seven devils;' and in verse 16, 'he that believeth not shall be damned.' And in verse 18 is the test of a Christian: 'If they drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them:' a test no preacher is willing to accept.

"John viii. 1-12 is enclosed in brackets by the revisors, who say in the margin: 'Most of the ancient authorities omit chapter 7, 1-11. Those who contain it vary much from each other.' Those bracketed passages contain the story of the woman taken in adultery, with Jesus' statement, 'Neither do I condemn thee.'"

I repeat substantially what I said in my former article that the "Douay," or Catholic Bible of seventy-five books, and the Protestant "Word of God" of sixty-six books, were selected out of several hundred ancient and conflicting manuscripts, by order of a Pagan emperor; that shameless frauds and tyrannical authority were used in making the book called the Bible, that cruel persecutions were resorted to to compel people to accept the book, that it abounds in hundreds of additions, inter-



polations and forgeries, and that the authors of the writings contained in the book never dreamed that what they wrote would be put in a book called a "Holy Bible" and be worshiped by millions of superstitious, deluded people as the "Infallible, inerrant Word of God." I said that some of the writings that got into the Bible are good, some bad, some very bad. I firmly stand by that statement, prepared to prove its truthfulness by quotations from the Bible itself. Wars, kingcraft, polygamy, slavery, lying, cheating, stealing and intoxication are each and all approved, and in other parts of the book are condemned.

The New Testament contains many excellent teachings. Here let me say that for nearly three hundred years the primitive Christians were communists (or near Socialists). They forbade the private ownership of lands and other property of public utility. They opposed the taking of interest, rents and profits. They disapproved of war, and advocated a universal brotherhood, and a universal peace. Christianity was gaining numbers and influence. The bloody Emperor Constantine was a crafty politician. He professed to be converted to Christianity. He convened the Council of Nicea and compelled all the warring factions to come together and unite on one book as the "Word of God." Of the 308 manuscripts submitted, 233 were rejected and burned and 75 were, after much wrangling, put into one book and labeled "Holy Bible." The Emperor put a stop to nearly all the communistic practices of the early Christians, and injected into their doctrines most of the creed and many of the forms and ceremonies of Paganism.

In brief, he "Paganized" the Christian movement, and it has remained Pagan in all its fundamental teachings and practices to this day. Instead of practicing the communism of Jesus and his followers, he, and the priests, stamped it out. The private ownership of lands and the monopoly of public utilities were allowed; the collection of interest, rents and profits were permitted; the slave trade and slavery promoted, the rich were favored, the poor exploited; kingcraft and priestcraft were fostered and strengthened; inventors, philosophers, reformers

were burned at the stake as heretics, and the Paganized church deluged the world with blood by the savage, inhuman wars its kings and rulers waged. The absurd doctrine of the trinity (or that Jesus is God) was hatched about this time, and Constantine and his Pagan contemporaries invented the grossly immoral doctrine of the "Vicarious Atonement," which is that men may commit all the crimes in the calendar and escape punishment by joining church, and conforming to certain forms and ceremonies. This infamous teaching was, in the course of time, construed to mean that the Pope, as Christ's representative, could not only forgive all the past sins men had committed, but could grant "indulgences" for them to commit crimes in the future on payment of a specified sum of money to the church. If that were done, the sin would be forgiven before it was committed.

Martin Luther and others in the sixteenth century, protested against this monstrous teaching, and they left the Catholic church and were named "Protestants." They, however, made the sad mistake of holding to the modified statement of the doctrine of the atonement as a cardinal plank in their creed. The difference between the Catholics and Luther was that the former said a sinner should pay cash to have his sins "washed out by the blood of Jesus," while the Protestant claimed "salvation is free," and they still sing:

"There is a fountain filled with blood,  
 Drawn from Emmanuel's veins,  
 And sinners plunged beneath that flood  
 Lose all their guilty stains."

The Pagan doctrine of the atonement briefly stated, is that bad men may be guilty of committing all the crimes known and then before they die repent, be baptized, and by virtue of church ceremonies, unload all their sins on Jesus, and by one great leap go to a heaven of eternal happiness, be given a crown, a harp and a halo and praise God endlessly for allowing them to escape all punishment for crimes they committed on



earth. Now they can look over the heavenly fence and enjoy seeing tortured forever, Spiritualists, Unitarians, Jews, Christian Scientists, billions of heathens and heretics generally who did not join church, be baptized and have their sins washed out by the shed blood of a young Jew who lived two thousand years ago. Yes, the "vicarious atonement" is not only a Pagan invention but a simple one. It has been preached from the days of Constantine to the present time. It is clearly stated by Billy Sunday as follows, namely: "A life of good deeds don't count. Man's morality is filth and rags in the sight of God. Believe in the shed blood of Jesus to wash away your sins and be baptized or you'll be damned," and in the good orthodox hymn:

"Jesus paid it all,  
All the debt I owe,  
Nothing either great or small  
Remains for me to do."

It is cause for profound sorrow to see millions of honest-minded, deluded people worshipping as "God's Holy, inerrant word," a collection of Jewish and Pagan writings that have been altered, added to and changed a hundred times—a book which, according to the ablest scholars in the Christian church, so-called, admit contains many positive self-contradictions as well as additions and shameless forgeries.

Spiritualists concede that the Old and New Testament writings show that there were prophets in ancient times who were often inspired just as mediums are today. All the well-authenticated phenomena and miracles of the Bible have been duplicated the past sixty years by Spiritualists. The ancient Jewish and Christian Scriptures contain inspiration, and so do the writings of prophets and mediums of India, China, Japan, Europe and America.

Jesus was a medium, prophet, healer—Spiritualist. Pagan emperors and crafty, dishonest priests have succeeded in deceiving myriads of people by telling them he is God and is to be worshiped as such. They say,

"God consists of Father, Son and Holy Ghost. The Son is as old as his Father, and the Holy Ghost is as much God as either of the others—that this is a mystery which neither men nor angels understand, but if you don't believe it you will be burned in hell forever."

The most scholarly men in the church frankly admit that the doctrine of the "trinity" is founded on forged passages in the Bible and it has been proven clearly that the atonement is a Pagan invention and that the Bible abounds in hundreds of additions to and changes of the original texts. It is a fact deeply deplored by intelligent, well informed people, that "Bible-idolatry" is a mighty stumbling block in the path of humanity to a higher and better civilization.



# Some Reasons Why I Cannot Accept Orthodox Christianity

BY

HON. ROBERT ADDISON DAGUE

THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER PUBLISHING HOUSE

106 Loomis Street, Chicago, Illinois

# The History of the City of London from the Foundation of the City to the Present Time

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*Author of Henry Ashton, The Industrial Army Bill, Etc.*

Orthodox Christianity, both Catholic and Protestant, for hundreds of years believed that the world is flat because the Bible so represented it, and that there were three days and three nights before the sun was created, and that the sun was especially made for the earth. Orthodoxy said the world was made out of nothing, about six thousand years ago. The astronomers and geologists, after a long hard contest, drove the church from that position.

Orthodoxy said that God did not originally intend to make a woman—in fact never thought of it until he noticed that Adam became tired of associating with animals and was lonesome; then God made a woman from Adam's rib. Philosophy demonstrated that the male and female principle is inherent in vegetables, fowls, fishes, and animals as well as humans, and none but ignorant people in this day believe that stupid Bible fable.

The "Holy Scriptures" say that the first man was made in a day; an adult person, fully endowed with mental and moral faculties. Charles Darwin and other heretical scientists drove the church from that mythological, false position. No scientist believes that fable.

Orthodoxy said death came into the world because the first man and woman ate of a fruit of which they were ordered not to partake—that death is a penalty for sin.

Science shows that death, so-called, is as natural as birth, and that there could be no birth without death, and that in reality there is no death. That which is so-called, is change, a mere readjustment of matter which is alive from protoplasm to man.

Orthodoxy said Joshua caused a day to be lengthened

to the end that he might have daylight in which to finish the brutal murdering of his enemies in a ferocious battle.

Astronomy has proven that no such event ever occurred. Had General Joshur stopped the revolution of the earth, the whole universe would have been thrown into chaos and ruin.

Orthodoxy said Noah housed in an ark a male and female representing all the animals and living things on earth.

Mathematicians have demonstrated that, according to the dimensions of the ark given in the Bible, such an event could not have taken place, as there would not have been room for a tenth of as many creatures and food as would have been necessary to put into it. No scientist believes the flood and ark story.

Orthodoxy said that God set a rainbow in the clouds after the flood as a reminder of his pledge that he would not again destroy the earth by water.

Science proves that there have always been rainbows ever since the sun shone on falling waters and that the rainbow story is a myth.

The Christians' Bible said that God forbade the children of Israel to eat animal "flesh that dieth of itself," but he told them they might sell the diseased meat to strangers who did not know it was tainted. Infidels, agnostics and heretics said such an act would be most diabolical and unworthy of an ignorant savage.

The orthodox "men of God" long taught and practiced polygamy, and said God sanctioned it in his holy word. Modern law and customs forced the pious polygamists to abandon the practice.

Orthodoxy taught on the authority of the holy scriptures, that God was so angry toward his children that he repented and was sorry he had made human beings, and once he became so angry that he put "lying spirits" in the mouths of his own prophets to influence the people to do certain things, so that he might make a claim that he had a sufficiently good excuse for killing a lot of them. He hardened Pharaoh's heart that he might slay all the eldest children of a nation. Under the guidance of God, Moses ordered all the wives and



mothers of conquered nations put to death, but the young girls were divided up among the soldiers. The Bible says that God himself declared that he is a "man of war" and creates evil as well as the good. "He moved King David to number the children of Israel" and because David did so, God "waxed in wrath" and slew seventy thousand innocent people.

Voltaire, Thomas Paine, Ingersoll and other heretics so ridiculed these and other orthodox beliefs, and historians so surely proved the Pagan origin of the "Holy Bible" that the modern church no longer burns men and women at the stake, gouges out their eyes and tears out their tongues, for disbelieving the old fables of the Bible.

Orthodoxy taught for thousands of years that God demanded the shedding of much blood of animals and fowls to appease his wrath, and their holy Bible says that on one occasion the incense of a burning bullock "ascended into heaven" and that "God smelled the sweet savor" thereof, repented of the evil he had sworn he had intended to do unto the children of Israel, and refrained from committing wholesale murder which he had taken an oath to do.

Orthodoxy taught that in no way could the awful anger of God be appeased except by the shedding of blood. Nothing so pleased God as the killing of many animals and humans. Up to about two thousand years ago there was no escape for people from an endless hell except as they industriously propitiated God's wrath by the frequent killing of bullocks, goats, doves, and so forth, and burning the dead bodies on an altar to the end that Jehovah might sniff the sweet savor of burning flesh. There, however, came a time when God and the Holy Ghost and Jesus held a consultation, and they evolved a "great plan of salvation." God said he demanded killings and plenty of blood. Jesus, being more tender than his father, pleaded that if God would soften a bit he would consent to go to earth and have his blood spilled. He would let the sins of all the rascals on earth be loaded onto him and all who heard of the plan and accepted it as a good one would be sent to heaven, while those myriads of people who have never heard about it,

or having been told about the "plan" have some doubts as to its reliability or its reasonableness, will be tortured in hell forever.

Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Paine, Theodore Parker, Horace Greeley, Colonel Ingersoll and other scholars and heretics have clearly shown that this bloody sacrifice, custom and belief known as the "Vicarious Atonement" are Pagan doctrines. They so vigorously assailed the "plan" and so convincingly demonstrated its Pagan origin that the intelligent clergy diplomatically avoid preaching about it now. Ignorant, illiterate sensationalists of the Billy Sunday stripe, still threaten people with damnation in hell forever if they entertain any doubts about the reasonableness or authenticity of the bloody plan.

Orthodox Christianity said, God and Jesus are one and the same and the Holy Ghost is as much God as either one or both of the others, and that Jesus is as old as his father, and that this is a mystery not understood by angels or men, but if you don't believe it you will be damned forever. This is the doctrine of the "Trinity." Bruno and Servetus and hundreds of honest intelligent men, knowing that the Trinity is a Pagan invention founded on forged paragraphs put into the Bible in the days of Constantine, protested against it. The orthodox arrested them, starved and beat them to death in dungeons, tore off their finger nails, bored holes through their tongues with hot irons, and burned them alive by slow fires.

The heretical thought of modern times drove the church into a corner on these propositions and have it caged, but orthodoxy still beats upon the bars and growls and exhibits its teeth and claws, and says God will torture in hell forever all Unitarians, Spiritualists, Christian Scientists, Jews, and other heretics.

The church said that God had foreordained and predestinated a part of the human family to eternal hell "for his own glory," and that millions of "elect babies" not yet born, were predestinated to eternal damnation. The growing intelligence of modern times has so shamed the clergy that such fiendish doctrine is now rarely preached.



Orthodoxy said kings are ordained of God to rule over their fellow men, and when the attempt was made by our Revolutionary forefathers to establish the American Republic, and it was proposed to guarantee religious liberty and the free exercise of the right of every one to worship God according to his own conscience, the clergy throughout Europe vehemently denounced the movement and said God would eternally damn the infidels who were trying to establish a Godless and heretical Republic. Thomas Paine, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, the Adamses, and other non-orthodox men out-generated the clergy and the American Republic was established.

Orthodoxy contended that both the Old and New Testament Scriptures authorized the slave trade and that negro slavery was a divine institution approved by God. Garrison, Phillips, Wade, Greeley, Gerrit Smith—heretics all—with other brave heretical souls, fought the church to a finish and forced it inch by inch to a sullen silence.

Orthodox Christians, for centuries, imprisoned, hung and burned at the stake, thousands of poor, ignorant old women as witches, and quoted the "Sacred Scriptures" for such atrocious practices. Liberal, intelligent heretics enacted laws to prevent the church from continuing such insane cruelties.

Orthodoxy said the Bible is authority for the statement that King Solomon was the wisest man that had ever lived or ever would live; yet he had several hundred wives and more concubines or mistresses than wives. Orthodoxy held woman in bondage for centuries. The clergy said all women born or yet to be born must suffer God's curse, because of an unknown act of the first woman. Their Bible says: "Let woman keep silence, and if she wants to know anything let her ask her husband." "Wives, obey your husbands." "Man was made for God; women were made for men. It is a shame for women to uncover their heads in church."

To Mrs. Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and other heretics is due the credit for securing to women all the liberty that they now enjoy. The claim made that ortho-



doxy is entitled to woman's emancipation and enlarged civil and religious rights is false.

The church, whenever it had the power, has imposed fines and other punishment upon those citizens who "desecrated the Sabbath," or the first day of the week. This they did because the Bible said that after working six days creating the world out of nothing, "God rested on the seventh day." Learned historians have proven that Sunday, or the first day of the week gets its sacredness from Paganism instead of from primitive Christianity. It is a Pagan and not a Christian day.

Othodoxy claims it is the true representative of the practice and teachings of Jesus. Historians prove that the larger portion of the fundamental doctrines of the orthodox church were borrowed from Jewish and Roman Paganism, and that in neither doctrine nor practice is the so-called Christian church truly Christian. The ablest scholars of the Protestant church have the honesty to admit that the doctrine of the Trinity, or the deity of Jesus, is based on forged passages of Scripture. Jesus said nothing about the "fall," the "Virgin-born God," the "Trinity," or the "atonement," through which bad men might escape all the consequence of a life of crime. He distinctly and emphatically taught that every one should be rewarded according to the deeds done in the body. He denounced the hypocritical rich, drove the money changers from the temple, associated with the poor, healed the sick, and preached and practiced Communism or near Socialism. The orthodox neither preach nor practice what Jesus did.

Since the days of Emperor Constantine who Paganized Christianity, the organized church has been a mammon-worshiper. It has championed slavery, and war, and kingcraft and priestcraft and practiced everything Jesus opposed, and opposed everything he taught and practiced.

But does not orthodoxy teach good morals? There are many honest, moral individuals who are orthodox, or think they are, but their standard of morality is no higher than that of Masonry or Spiritualism, or Socialism, or labor unionism—no higher than that taught by



Buddha, or Confucius or Thomas Paine or Ingersoll.

For more than a thousand years the so-called Christian church governed all Europe. The result was that civilization declined, education was discouraged, superstition increased, and millions degenerated morally and mentally in that long stretch of centuries known as the "Dark Ages." The clergy taught that the only subject of importance for men to consider was to save their souls from endless hell into which a God, changeable, jealous, wrathful, and malignant would plunge humanity unless they believed the doctrine of the Trinity and accepted the atonement. The priests became not only grossly licentious, and bigoted, but insanely superstitious; heretics were beheaded, burned at the stake, and tortured by all the devices that genius could invent; libraries were destroyed for it was taught by the church that all wisdom was contained in the Bible and all other books were "profane." If orthodoxy had not been combated by heretics and martyrs, civilization would have been blotted out and the human race degenerated into savagery. The doctrine of the "vicarious atonement" has cursed mankind beyond all estimate. It is still the chief corner-stone of both the Catholic and Protestant orthodox churches. Until it is abandoned the world will be cursed by bloody wars waged by Christian kings and crime of all sorts will continue. It is a well known fact that the most abandoned criminals, with few exceptions, firmly believe in the orthodox doctrine. This is not hard to account for. These men have been taught by the church that they were "conceived in iniquity and born in sin" because of Adam's transgression, and that they are totally depraved by nature. They are taught that any time before death, though they may have committed every crime in the calendar, they can escape all punishment for their evil deeds and become pure as angels of light by accepting a free pardon bought for them through the shed blood of a young Jew who was one-third God, murdered two thousand years ago according to a "Great Plan" agreed to by the other two-thirds of God. Why should they not sow wild oats and gratify their animal propensities and eat and drink, and



steal, and murder and have a "good time?" All they have to do to escape all the consequences of such a life is to shift their sins onto the Savior and sail away to heaven, be given a halo, a harp and a crown, and felicitate themselves on their good fortune while chuckling over the ill luck of the stupid donkeys who are being burned in hell for not taking out an insurance policy in the "Great Plan of Salvation." They enjoy singing that good old orthodox hymn:

"There is a fountain filled with blood,  
Drawn from Emanuel's veins,  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood  
Lose all their guilty stains."

The doctrine of the atonement, or that all punishment for wrong doing can be escaped by believing that "Jesus died and paid it all; all the debt I owe," has encouraged millions of bad men to continue in wickedness. They each intend to accept the pardon before they die.

The bloody kings of Europe who are responsible for wholesale murder at the time I write, expect to be "pardoned" or "absolved" from all punishment for their heinous crimes. The theory of the atonement puts a premium on crime. It is still a cardinal doctrine of the orthodox church. Many of the more enlightened and honest of the clergy avoid preaching the Paganistic invention, but ignorant, sensational pulpiteers of the Billy Sunday brand, do not try to sidestep, but boldly admit that the chief corner stone of the church is that a life of honest deeds is valueless, and that "man's morality is filth and rags in God's sight," and that all who do not believe in the atoning blood of Jesus Christ shall be burned in hell forever, notwithstanding they may have lived noble, moral lives. "Believe or be damned" is the orthodox gospel.

Spiritualists, Unitarians, Universalists, Christian Scientists, infidels, agnostics, and other non-orthodox have so effectually combated this false and pernicious doctrine, that the more intelligent clergy have taxed their ingenuity to put another interpretation upon the dogma or refuse to discuss it.



Orthodoxy represents God as a being not unlike an earthly king sitting on a throne; he is austere, changeable, vain, and greatly pleased by flattery and worship. He has to be told ceaselessly by his subjects on their knees before him how great, and strong and good he is, and how we poor worms of the dust would have been sent to hell long ago if he had dealt justly by us—not for what we did, but because a remote ancestor of ours ate some forbidden fruit. He is so jealous that he will often kill little babies because their mothers love them better than they love him. Often he neglects to send needed rains, and the Christians have to hold meetings and get down on their knees and beseech him to send some water to save their corn and potatoes. Often they have to weep, and plead, and coax and flatter him for favors.

Heretics, so-called, no longer fear that they will be burned here or hereafter, for refusing to believe that God so nearly resembles an old savage war-chief of an African jungle—a God who demanded that his only begotten son be put to a cruel death, otherwise he would plunge into an eternal hell myriads of living people and countless other myriads not yet born. They are not afraid they will be forever damned for thinking that unchangeable law governs all things from microbes to the wisest personal being in the celestial spheres, and that the infinite universe is pulsating with life from the smallest atom of matter to the mightiest central sun, and that all things visible and invisible, are alive, and that Nature in its totality is Life—Infinite Intelligence—God, and that man is an essential part of the universe. Liberalists, non-orthodox, believe that humans are students in Nature's school. Here we are in the kindergarten department. We are toddling infants now, but we possess inherent God-powers which will unfold and develop here and hereafter. We shall have lessons to learn in this department and in all the succeeding ones. When we shall have mastered the lessons of one grade we shall be promoted to the next. No spilled blood of bullocks, goats or gods will enable us to skip hard les-

sons and sneak into higher grades on the merits of another person be he God or man.

To the doubters, the heretics, the brave seekers for truth, is due all the credit for securing to us the civil and religious freedom that we enjoy today.

Orthodoxy looks backward for all its wisdom—says all truth has been revealed, and regards with awe and superstitious reverence the writings of ignorant half-civilized men of ancient times, as the infallible and holy word of God.

Liberalism, while not ignoring the records of the past and willing to accept truth whether presented by saint or heretic, Christian or heathen, looks to the future for more light. Heretics decline to believe that books made by men are without error, but seek to understand the infallible book of Nature.



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