WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. Admit that you are a sinner.

2. Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.

3. Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.

4. You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).

5. By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.

The Inspiration of the Bible

by B.H. Carroll
(1843-1914)

When it says “all Scripture,” there is a reference back to the preceding verse: “From a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures.” And nothing on earth is more clearly understood than that the Holy Scriptures that boy studied from the time he could learn at all, was that Book, or twenty-two books, called now the Old Testament. Every Jewish child in the land had access in some way to that volume.

There are twenty-two divisions of the entire Old Testament. I mean to say that the Jews thus divided it for convenience to themselves in its use, and they made just as many divisions as there were letters in the Hebrew alphabet, as you will find by reading the one hundred nineteenth Psalm, where that Psalm is divided into twenty-two parts, each part for convenience being named so as to correspond to a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. And so the Jewish division of the Old Testament into twenty-two parts, as set forth by Josephus, includes the thirty-nine books as we now have them.

Anybody who will give five minutes’ attention to it can receive a perfect demonstration of the historical correctness of the fact that our thirty-nine books of the Old Testament correspond to the twenty-two Jewish books. For instance, they put all the twelve Minor Prophets into one book, and they counted First and Second Kings one book. Their twenty-two and our thirty-nine correspond in text, and that volume of twenty-two books was translated into the Greek language and the translation completed at least one hundred and fifty years before Christ came into the world. That translation is the Septuagint.

Now that Book, subdivided into twenty-two books, was, by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself and by His apostles and by uninspired Jewish rabbis, called in a body the Holy Scriptures. It is the declaration of this text that every one of these sacred writings is - now here, just one word - God-inspired, i.e., in the Greek it is just one word. Every one of these books is God-inspired, and it means God-inspired in every part of every one of them. And it means much more that it is inspired in its words than it means inspired in the thoughts of the men who wrote it. Often the thought in the mind of the man who wrote it was not the right thought, but the words he wrote were from God, and it is verbal inspiration. Take the case of one of the prophets included in that list of twenty-two books.

When the revelation came to him, he was not expecting it at all. It was as much a surprise to him as it was to anybody else in the world. Take another case - the man who was inspired didn’t in any sense understand what he said and what he wrote. His thoughts did not enter into it at all. Very many of the ancient prophets recorded under divine direction and proclaimed under divine authority things that were as mysterious to them as they were to anybody else in the world. So, to make it an inspiration at all, it is absolutely essential that the words should have been inspired. Not only is this true, but in the case of some of them they were not themselves conscious that they were under inspiration at all, as when Caiaphas made a prophecy concerning Christ, so that the thought of the human writer had nothing to do with the inspiration.

This inspiration may be mentioned under three parts: First, its revelation; second, it’s record; and third, the authentication of the record. God may reveal His will to a man; or He may reveal to that man some event that will happen in the future and so far it is
NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

QUEEN OF SHEBA'S GRAVE DISCOVERED - For most of the 19th century, Sheba, the spice kingdom ruled by a queen in Solomon's day, was considered mythical by Bible critics. Since then, the evidence for Sheba's existence in southern Arabia began to mount. In the 1960s, Wendell Phillips led the first archaeological expedition to Sheba's ancient capital, Marib, and found evidence of a sophisticated, idolatrous society.

This month I visited the "Unearthing Arabia" exhibition at the British Museum in London, which displays some of the artifacts discovered by Phillips. I have also seen ancient artifacts from southern Arabia at the British Museum and the Louvre in Paris, as we describe in the book Bible Times and Ancient Wisdom.

Recently, archaeologists from the University of Oxford found a tomb outside of Marib that is believed to be that of the Queen of Sheba ("Archaeologists Discover Tomb," World News Daily Report, Feb. 6, 2015). The tomb dates to the early 10th century BC, and it contained the skeleton of a woman adorned with luxurious jewelry, inscribed clay tablets, and vases still containing traces of myrrh and frankincense. Dr. Joseph Lang, head archaeologist of the team, says, "The discovery dates back to the time of Solomon." The inscription on the tablet refers to "Bilqis, mqtwyt of Sheba," which means "Bilkis, high chieftess on Sheba."

The skeleton and artifacts have been deposited in the National Museum of Yemen.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION CONTINUES DECLINE - According to the latest statistics, the Southern Baptist Convention continues its death spiral, with membership, the leadership and the congregations as a whole, were hit by 79,000 members since 2003. The median age is now 54 years old, and the loss reached a crisis point. Clearly, we are watching trends that stretch beyond the SBC churches and they were spiritually lukewarm even before the crisis reached a crisis. Clearly, we are watching trends that stretch across all of Europe. The issue here is one of trends, and these trends are more important to them than the laws of the country in which they live. Three quarters of the respondents hold the opinion that Muslims responding to Koopmans' survey in 2008 agreed that Jews cannot be trusted," and indications are strong that Muslim communities are increasingly of the opinion that Jews are safe targets. More and more, the leaders of the Muslims, and the leaders of the Jews, are being targeted against people of another faith. There are many reasons why some people are targeting Muslims, but the most important reason for this is the fact that the Muslims are setting up views off as those of a 'small minority' of Europe's Muslims.

In the past year, Muslim hate towards Jews in Europe has now reached a crisis point. Clearly, we are watching trends that stretch beyond the SBC churches and they were spiritually lukewarm even before the crisis reached a crisis. Clearly, we are watching trends that stretch across all of Europe. The issue here is one of trends, and these trends are more important to them than the laws of the country in which they live. Three quarters of the respondents hold the opinion that Muslims responding to Koopmans' survey in 2008 agreed that Jews cannot be trusted," and indications are strong that Muslim communities are increasingly of the opinion that Jews are safe targets. More and more, the leaders of the Muslims, and the leaders of the Jews, are being targeted against people of another faith. There are many reasons why some people are targeting Muslims, but the most important reason for this is the fact that the Muslims are setting up views off as those of a 'small minority' of Europe's Muslims.

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they can recognize, and in the light of God’s bright day stand up and say, “Here I am. I take my stand. I follow that Book. You must know that God loves me and that my soul is precious in His sight.”

Well, I shall tell you the way. It is to come directly to the Lord Jesus Christ. Come to Him face to face. I do not pretend to put Him before you here in the Flesh, but I do say to you today that He is here in the Spirit, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and that He is sensibly here, and that His power is here, and that if you will come to Him as your mind sees Him, as your soul recognizes Him, and say, “Lord Jesus Christ, I am here according to thy promise that if I would come You would not cast me out; I come to you, I come to you, and I say, ‘Help, help, Lord, for I perish.’”

I have your soul this day.

O sinner, sinner, if you would know the things that make for your great peace, you would know, first of all, the method of saving a sinner? Outside of that Book there is none, and there is not a man living, who has intelligently studied the Word of God, who, in worldly parlance, would he called innocent, and who, in the light of God’s standards of right and wrong, but whose hearts, in the sight of God, were alienated from Him, who did not love Him, who loved pleasure more than they loved God; who did not worship Him; who, if they worshiped Him at all, worshiped Him only in an empty form and denied the power, the vital and eternal spiritual power, of religion. And I have seen them, under sharp conviction of sin, see for mercy and find peace in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I have seen Christians who, with this perfect standard of life and conduct from a worldly standpoint nothing could be said, and who, regarding to the world’s standards of right and wrong, but whose hearts, in the sight of God, were alienated from Him, who did not love Him, who loved pleasure more than they loved God; who did not worship Him; who, if they worshiped Him at all, worshiped Him only in an empty form and denied the power, the vital and eternal spiritual power, of religion. And I have seen them, under sharp conviction of sin, see for mercy and find peace in the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Protestant Views on the Inspiration of the Bible. History alone allows us to establish the fact that Jews and Christians have always believed in the inspiration of the Bible. But what is this belief worth? Proofs of the rational as well as of the dogmatic order unite in justifying it. Those who first recognized in the Bible a superhuman work had as foundation of their opinion the testimony of the Prophets, of Christ, and of the Apostles, whose Divine mission was sufficiently established by immediate experience or by history. To this purely rational argument can be added the authentic teaching of the Church.