

Following the Biblical Stream:

By Philip E. Busby

Part I

Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. (Rom. 10:17) One of the reasons this is true is that as we read the Word of God, we find God has known and does know what He is doing! This becomes even more apparent when we look at history in conjunction with the Bible. History shows us that God's Word hit the nail on the head every time; and if we can put aside false teaching, then we will see there is no better time than the present to understand just how "right on" the Bible is. It is no coincidence that God brings His people (the Israelites) out of Egypt and establishes them as a nation right before we see the emergence of people like the Assyrians and Babylonians. Man and the devil trying to rebuild the idea of controlling the world from one government. Why? Because false religion and control over people has a great impact on forgetting God. But where sin abounded grace did much more abound! (Rom. 5:20) So, God made sure that His name would never be blotted out from the earth, and gives us a blessed people to carry His name before us even unto this day! No matter how much secular people try to say things like, "The Jews made up a religion from borrowed parts," it does not change the facts! The story of the Bible is right in line with what has and is happening. The Jewish nation was entrusted with the oracles of God. It is the work of false prophets that have tried to convince the world that what God gave them is nothing more than just "another religion"! You don't have to find Noah's ark to know that the Bible is more than a collection of tales! Everyday events show us things Noah's ark could not even come close to proving.

This is why I want to start out by teaching the story of the Bible. The Bible's story is really the story of mankind! There are those that try to put secular teaching into this story. One example is the idea that the seven days of creation are really millions of years, and that God used the process of evolution to create the world. I have to say, there is almost nothing I find sillier than people who think

it necessary to meld the ideas of man to explain the power of God. God's miracles are just that - miracles! They are things we can not do on our own but to God are simple. We do not need to explain the crossing of the Red Sea by finding a high ridge of sand that Israel could have used to walk across. In this series, you will find none of that! When the Bible says they walked across on dry ground, we will take that as fact. Not because we can duplicate the action or explain it, but because the Bible said it happened just that way!

Now, one of the things you will find to be true about this ministry is, we do not just hit the high points of the Bible and move on. For those of us who were raised in Sunday school or have attended church as an adult, we have been over the Bible stories many times. However, one of the things that surprises me the most is that there is still a general illiteracy to the chronological order of these events. For most of us the Bible is just a collection of stories without continuity. The fact this is true, is just one of many results of what I like to call "Fractional Christianity." If you stick with me through this series you will hear me use a lot of terms like that. I will try to take time to explain what I mean as I go. I will also try to write books on these subjects so you can have a further understanding of what I'm talking about. Fractional Christianity is the process most of us grow up in or will find by attending most churches. It is a process of teaching by jumping all around the scriptures so you can take what you want and use it in support of what you want to teach. I'm not saying every teacher and preacher who takes several scriptures and preaches on them is doing this, but at the same time, there is little effort to help people know the Word as a whole. Every time you hear a sermon, you should read all around the scriptures that were used, to make sure the preacher is not taking the scripture out of context! As I said before, I will take time through this series to talk about these things more.

We will start with this series because it is important for us to understand the Bible as a whole. People are always asking me where they or some-

one they know, that is not familiar with the Bible, should start reading. I know many people believe, those new to the Word should start somewhere in the New Testament, but that is wrong! The answer is simple, start at the beginning. The only thing that makes the beginning hard to understand is, many believe they already know the New Testament, and this is putting it all backwards! You do not understand what is taught in the Old Testament by knowing the New Testament story! You understand the story of the New Testament by understanding the Old Testament. I believe this is one of the biggest fallacies we have in our churches today, and I think it would be a great help to many to start at the beginning and go through the Bible.

We will talk not just about the Biblical record but also the historical events surrounding these things. Now, I know, I said we are not a ministry that just hits the high points, but in this first series we do want to lay a foundation. We will take the time to look at many things along the way, so this series will be much more than just the Bible stories in order. However, we will not do a Bible study on each verse of each book. We will go through the Bible and then we will come back and take it a book at a time.

In this series, we will look at dates. I understand that there is a lot of argument about this subject, but we will not be proclaiming anything too particular. What I mean by that is, we won't be pinpointing month and day for a particular event. At the same time, I do want to point out when these events took place in general so we get a sense of how the world unfolded, and brought us to our modern time. While the Bible does not give us dates, it does give us genealogy. It also makes it very clear that there were only so many generations between certain events. This gives us a pretty good idea of what time periods we are talking about. Once again, you need to keep in mind that we are looking at the Bible as the unmovable cornerstone of this study, not the foolishness of men. We take what God said as true, and the world has its own system of looking at things. We will talk more about this from time to time, through this study, but let me just get the ball rolling by simply reminding

you that the carnal mind is enmity against God. (Rom. 8:7) You have to realize the things carnal men like to state as fact, are not just things they have come to believe, but they are actually trying to say the Bible can not possibly be true.

Men like to use a stretch theory. As they go back in history, they find places where they feel the time is not set in stone, then they stretch those places to add extra time. Of course, the further back you go the easier this is to do. It is hard to say that World War II lasted a thousand years! We all know that isn't true. There are still those living among us that fought in it. It is even difficult to say the Romans ruled for 10,000 years, because the records surviving from the time don't give you that freedom. However, if you go back to a time where there are few to no records that have survived, you can stretch that period into thousands, millions or even billions of years! As you compare the record the Bible gives with the record that man lays out, there are no real disputes until you get past the time where the Bible is the only record, and other writings or records are few. Once again, we will not go with man's made for evolution record, we will go with the Word of God!

Well, that's all the space I have for this time, but if you are still thinking this is just a high points series, let me say (anyone who has been at the Institute can tell you this is true) this first series will take us a very long time. If you are looking for the quick Bible study that will take you through the Bible in a few short lessons, I'm afraid this series will not be your cup of tea. However, if you have always wanted to know the Word in depth, then come along with me, because I think we're going to get along just fine! So, write us today, subscribe to this newsletter, and I'll see you next time!