

the Dean Burgon News

IN DEFENSE OF TRADITIONAL BIBLE TEXTS

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VOL. I, NO. 7

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE DEAN BURGON SOCIETY

JULY, 1979

An Answer To "What Is The 'Inspired' Word Of God?"

By Rev. D. A. Waite, Th.D., Ph.D.
President, The Dean Burgon Society

(Installment Number 5)

(Written by Dr. Edward M. Panosian, Chairman of the Division of History at BOB JONES UNIVERSITY, as printed in FAITH FOR THE FAMILY February, 1979, pp. 1, 3-4)

(Continued from June, 1979 issue)

II. THE ANSWER ITSELF—#5 (Cont'd)

8. ITEM #8.

A. FAITH FOR THE FAMILY'S Statement. "Just as men were vehicles through which He chose to give the Word, so also were men given the responsibility **TO HAND DOWN TO EACH SUBSEQUENT GENERATION THAT SAME WORD.**"

(From February, 1979, FAITH FOR THE FAMILY, Bob Jones University, lines ##48-53 of the magazine.)

B. The Issue. What is the CLOSEST to the "SAME WORD" as the originals that we should hand down from generation to generation?

C. My Comments. We of the DEAN BURGON SOCIETY have stated most clearly in our ARTICLES OF FAITH on "THE BIBLE," that we feel very definitely that the CLOSEST original language texts to the autographa, or original autographs, are as follows: (1) The TRADITIONAL MASORETIC HEBREW TEXT for the Old Testament; and (2) The TRADITIONAL RECEIVED GREEK TEXT for the New Testament. We have also

stated that the finest, most accurate, and in every way the BEST English translation of these TRADITIONAL ORIGINAL LANGUAGE TEXTS is none other than the AUTHORIZED (KING JAMES) VERSION! We, too, as Dr. Panosian, are very much interested in handing down "TO EACH SUBSEQUENT GENERATION THAT SAME WORD." For this reason, we have organized and founded THE DEAN BURGON SOCIETY in order to HOLD THE LINE on the various changes and alterations (both by way of addition, omission, or modification in some other way) in both the original language texts as well as in the English translations of these texts. We truly seek, with Dean Burgon, THE TRADITIONAL TEXT which has been handed down through the ages by God through the Church Fathers, the Greek Manuscripts, the Versions, and the Lectionaries. However, until we have the time to research thoroughly the TRADITIONAL TEXT, we, with Dean Burgon again, must wait patiently lest we REVISE the texts too soon, as WESTCOTT and HORT have done to the hurt and harm of



D. A. Waite
President

**DEAN BURGON SOCIETY
Annual Meeting
October 2, 3, 4, 1979
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Watertown, Wisconsin**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE meeting will be on Tuesday, October 2, 1979, at 2:00 p.m., and continue to 5:30 p.m. Supper will be from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The FIRST PUBLIC MEETING will be Tuesday Evening at 7:30 p.m. The Meeting will continue on Wednesday and will probably be adjourned Thursday at 12:00 noon.

Further information will be given in later issues of the Dean Burgon News.

the entire Christian Church!

9. ITEM #9.

A. FAITH FOR THE FAMILY'S Statement. "Our not having the original autograph manuscripts written by the human Bible writers is no more a hindrance to our knowledge of the words of God than the destruction of the original copy of our Declaration of Independence would be to our knowledge of its very words. The copies of both are legion; and, far more, the Bible is preserved by GOD." [op. cit., lines ##60-69].

B. The Issue. How do we determine, from the copies we have available to us the "VERY WORDS" of the originals?

C. My Comments. The TWO various printed texts (in the Greek New Testament, for example), are formed from OPPOSITE principles, and yet Dr. Panosian wants us to believe that BOTH Greek texts are God's Word! Such could never be possible since there are almost 6,000 differences between them, in the New Testament alone. [There are thousands upon thousands more variations between the TRADITIONAL HEBREW MASORETIC TEXT which the DBS holds is the best, and the Rudolf Kittel BIBLIA HEBRAICA footnotes which make from 20,000 to 30,000 changes in the Old Testament alone!]. Note some of the OPPOSITE principles between the DEAN BURGON approach and the WESTCOTT-HORT approach to the Greek New Testament Text:

1. Different Concepts Of The Bible.

Dean John William Burgon believed the Bible was verbally inspired and inerrant in all matters of which it speaks! His marvelous work on INSPIRATION AND INTERPRETATION (over 500 pages of it) should be REPRINTED IMMEDIATELY to be able to put it into the hands of thousands and thousands in order to let him speak to this current controversy over INERRANCY of the BIBLE!! [Should anyone of our readers wish to donate \$2,000.00 to this task, or any major portion of it, we'll try to make this our SECOND RE-PRINT by the DBS this summer! Let us hear from you if you are interested in this! DAW] On the other hand, WESTCOTT & HORT did NOT believe the Bible was VERBALLY and PLENARILY INSPIRED of

THE DEAN BURGON SOCIETY, INC. proudly takes its name in honor of Rev. John William Burgon (1813-1888), the Dean of Chichester in England, whose tireless and accurate scholarship and contribution in the area of New Testament Textual Criticism; whose defense of the Traditional Greek New Testament Text against its many enemies; and whose firm belief in the verbal inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible, we believe, have all been unsurpassed either before or since his time!

God and thus INFALLIBLE and INERRANT! They felt it should be interpreted and handled like any other merely HUMAN BOOK!

2. Different Concepts Of Rules For Determining The True Text. Dean John William Burgon believed in using SEVEN TESTS OF TRUTH in the determination of what the true text of Scripture was, including a consultation of what (1) the Versions, (2) the Church Fathers, (3) the Greek Manuscripts (both uncial and cursive), and (4) the Lectionaries had to say on a given text of Scripture. This was a laborious and painstaking method, and Dean Burgon excelled in such a method. On the other hand, however, WESTCOTT & HORT tended to pick the ONE large capital letter "UNCIAL" manuscript "B" or VATICAN and blow it up out of all proportion as the "ORACLE" itself, almost the very equivalent of "THE VERY WORD OF GOD"! Such servile worship of this document, disfigured as it is in such obvious and extensive ways, and differing so frequently from the vast majority of the other manuscripts, is wholly unwarranted by the evidence! "Aleph" or SINAI is also put second in command to "B" by WESTCOTT & HORT along with several other very corrupt and unreliable "uncial" (capital letter) manuscripts of early date. Though the latter method takes less time, the former method is the only way of arriving at the Traditional Text of the Greek New Testament used from the very first, and is very laborious and painstaking indeed!

10. ITEM #10.

A. FAITH FOR THE FAMILY'S Statement. "The text of the Hebrew Old Testament was a SETTLED QUESTION already in Christ's day." [From February, 1979, FAITH FOR THE FAMILY, Bob Jones University, lines ##70-72 of the magazine.]

B. The Issue. Is the "TEXT OF THE HEBREW OLD TESTAMENT" indeed a "SETTLED QUESTION" today?

C. My Comments. I certainly wish this statement of Dr. Panosian were true! I believe it is true, and I'm glad that he believes it is true too. However, for many, many people—and I include many evangelicals and even some fundamentalists in this group!—it is NOT a "SETTLED QUESTION" at all! I'm holding in my hand as I write BIBLIA HEBRAICA as edited by Rudolf Kittel and published by the American Bible Society of New York originally in 1937 and reprinted in 1950. It has a total of 1434 pages in it, and contains the TRADITIONAL MASORETIC HEBREW TEXT in the body of the work, BUT makes all kinds of changes and emendations in the footnotes, challenging frequently on every page this Traditional Masoretic Hebrew Text which the DEAN BURGON SOCIETY feels is the very closest to the original Hebrew of any text in print today! An estimate of the number of changes per page is anywhere from 15 to 20. Since there are 1434 pages in all, this would make anywhere from 21,510 to 28,680 CHANGES in the Old Testament HEBREW TEXT as suggested by Rudolf Kittel, the apostate higher critic from Germany! This text was used by Dallas Theological Seminary when I took my five years of Hebrew from 1948 to 1953. It is used in most—if not ALL—of the so-called neo-evangelical schools, seminaries and colleges; liberal

Re-Printing Of Sound Books On Textual Criticism

We are announcing the beginning of steps to get out our FIRST re-print of an old, out-of-print book, beginning during the month of June and July! We are beginning this project with the publication of 147-page (+ xii pages or 160 pp. in all) book entitled A GUIDE TO THE TEXTUAL CRITICISM OF THE NEW TESTAMENT by Edward Miller, M.A. Miller was the successor of Dean John William Burgon, and was the editor of a number of Burgon's books published after his death. In this brief little book, we are given in a very brief form the sound principles of Dean Burgon that he followed, and that THE DEAN BURGON SOCIETY wants very much to popularize again in our own day. Though the book was originally published in 1886, the truths about which it speaks are every bit as applicable today as 100 years ago! Miller takes up the following topics: (1) Importance of Textual Criticism; (2) History of Textual Criticism; (3) The School of Extreme Textualism (Westcott-Hort & Company); (4) The Rival School (Dean John Burgon & Company); (5) History Of The Traditional Text Till The Era Of St. Chrysostom; (6) History of the Traditional Text From The Era of St. Chrysostom till The Invention Of Printing; (7) Materials of Textual Criticism; (8) Principles Of Textual Criticism; and (9) Seven Appendices.

From this it can be seen that the re-publication of this little book is of inestimable value in our present educational purpose to see to it that sound principles of Textual Criticism again gain the acendency in the schools, colleges, seminaries, classrooms, pulpits, and homes in our nation!

CAN YOU HELP US RAISE \$2,000.00 FOR THIS CAUSE? We wish to begin this project just as the Lord sends in the funds to do so. We have \$100.00 in hand towards it already from one of our LIFE MEMBERS of the DEAN BURGON SOCIETY, and we'd like to have the total amount in hand by AUGUST 15th, 1979. Can YOU help us? Any funds left over on this FIRST BOOK to be reprinted, will be applied toward the SECOND \$2,000.00 to be used in re-printing our SECOND BOOK (which we'd also like to start on this summer), which will be, probably either INSPIRATION AND INTERPRETATION by Dean John William Burgon, or, perhaps THE LAST TWELVE VERSES OF MARK by Dean Burgon. We're not certain of our SECOND volume's title as yet until we get into the FIRST RE-PRINT and get it going well.

Because of the limited quantities we will probably be working with, we will probably have to put the PRICE of our FIRST BOOK on

schools, seminaries and colleges; and even FUNDAMENTALIST schools, seminaries, and colleges. This huge number of suggestions for CHANGING the Hebrew Old Testament Masoretic Traditional Text by 21,000 to 28,000 times indicates that this question is a LONG way from being a "SETTLED QUESTION"! I only wish that it WERE settled!!

[To Be Continued]

Analysis Of: "The Chicago Statement On Biblical Inerrancy"

[Installment Number 4]

By Rev. D. A. Waite, Th.D., Ph.D. President, THE DEAN BURGON SOCIETY

(Continued From Last Month)

D. The Chicago Statement On Biblical Inerrancy (CSBI) "EXPOSITION." We now come to the fourth and final division of the "CHICAGO STATEMENT ON BIBLICAL INERRANCY" as it appeared in the Presbyterian Guardian for January, 1979 (pp. 6-10).

1. Comments on "Infallibility, Inerrancy, and Interpretation." The statement stated:

INFALLIBLE signifies the quality of neither misleading nor being misled and so safeguards in categorical terms the truth that Holy Scripture is a sure, safe, and reliable RULE and GUIDE in all matters.

TEXTUAL CRITICISM by Edward Miller (160 pp.) at a GIFT to our DEAN BURGON SOCIETY of about \$7.00. If any of our subscribers or members wish to order their copy on a PRE-PUBLICATION GIFT BASIS, we'll be glad to RESERVE YOUR COPY for a GIFT of \$5.00! The more pre-orders of the book we receive, the more accurately will we be able to project our total print-run. Our Editor and his staff are already in the process or working on this FIRST BOOK. We expect it to be completed sometime during the month of AUGUST, 1979, if at all possible, and as the Lord supplies the funds!

YOU might be a person who is led of the Lord to contribute as follows:

- I'll be ONE person who'll send a GIFT of \$2,000.00 for the whole thing.....
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I'll be one of FOUR persons sending a GIFT of \$500.00 for 1/4th of it.....
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I'll be one of TWENTY sending a GIFT of \$100.00 for 1/20th of it.....
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Similarly, **INERRANT** signifies the quality of being free from all falsehood or mistake and so safeguards the truth that Holy Scripture is entirely true and trustworthy in all of its **ASSERTIONS**. [*Presbyterian Guardian*, 1/79, p. 9].

I have difficulty with the expression that the "HOLY SCRIPTURE" is merely and solely (as stated above by the CSBI), a "SURE, SAFE, AND RELIABLE RULE AND GUIDE IN ALL MATTERS," rather than its being in reality "SURE, SAFE, AND RELIABLE IN ALL MATTERS"! An "INFALLIBLE" "GUIDE" or "RULE" is **NOT** identical with or similar to or the same as the Bible being *per se* "INFALLIBLE" in and of itself! This is a **WEAKENED** statement, and it should be strengthened.

I also find difficulty with the proposition that the "HOLY SCRIPTURE" is "INERRANT" only in the sense that it is "ENTIRELY TRUE AND TRUSTWORTHY IN ALL OF ITS ASSERTIONS." But what does it "ASSERT"? Why is this word, "ASSERTIONS," used in this sentence? In the INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WORLD EVANGELIZATION (ICOWE) in Lausanne, Switzerland, in July, 1974, where Mrs. Waite and I went as Reporters, a similar subject came up in the final, tenth day PRESS CONFERENCE on Thursday, July 25, 1974, with Dr. John Stott from 8:33 to 9:14 a.m. Stott, the drafter of the LAUSANNE COVENANT (or at least the principal on the Drafting Committee), explained their wording in that Covenant when they stated the Bible was "WITHOUT ERROR IN ALL THAT IT AFFIRMS." He made it clear that this does **NOT** mean that the Bible is "INFALLIBLE" *per se*, in and of itself, but **ONLY** "INFALLIBLE" in whatever it might "AFFIRM." This did not include, as Stott stated, "What little phrases may say, but what the Bible is AFFIRMING." [Cf. this Author's "ICOWE REPORT—1979, p. 227, available from THE BIBLE FOR TODAY, 900 Part Avenue, Collingswood, New Jersey 08108 for a GIFT of \$5.50, 254 pp. in all]. If the word, in the present CHICAGO STATEMENT ON BIBLICAL INERRANCY, "ASSERTIONS" is similar in any sense to the Lausanne Covenant word, "AFFIRMS" or "AFFIRMATIONS," then we have need to fear greatly! If this is the case (and we do not know their exact meaning, then it leaves areas of doubt and dispute as to the completeness of the "INERRANCY" of the Bible. This is a semantical distinction, but it is a distinction, nonetheless. And by all means, we should learn to "distinguish the things that differ."

2. The Chicago Statement Mentioned "CULTURE" In Connection With "INFALLIBILITY and INERRANCY." The statement mentioned:

God utilized the **CULTURE AND CONVENTIONS** of his penman's milieu, a milieu that God controls in His sovereign providence; It is misinterpretation to imagine otherwise Although Holy Scripture is nowhere **CULTURE-BOUND** in the sense that its teaching lacks universal validity, it is sometimes **CULTURALLY CONDITIONED** by the **customs and conventional views** of a **PARTICULAR PERIOD**, so that the application of its principles today **CALLS FOR A DIFFERENT SORT OF ACTION.** [loc. cit.]

This is a most deadly danger! To say the Word of God is "CULTURALLY CONDITIONED" and by that meaning that it contains "customs and conventions of a **PARTICULAR PERIOD**" with the freedom and conclusion that you might be able to draw from such a position being that you might, in the "APPLICATION OF ITS PRINCIPLES TODAY CALL FOR A **DIFFERENT SORT OF ACTION.**" I have seen this very argument used to do away with the prohibition against women being "deacons" since in 1 Timothy 3:12, they could not possibly be the "HUSBANDS OF ONE WIFE." The one holding to this position stated in the Chicago Statement could merely say that Paul was using "CUSTOMS AND CONVENTIONS OF A **PARTICULAR PERIOD**" and we are not obligated to follow or **APPLY** these conventions the same today, but have perfect liberty to say that they "CALL FOR A **DIFFERENT SORT OF ACTION.**"! This is dangerous indeed! The same could be used against Paul's prohibition for women to be **ELDERS-BISHOPS-PASTORS** (cf. 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6; 1 Timothy 2:11-15). The same could be used (and **IS** being used by the **WOMEN'S LIBBERS** today) in the area of making the wives be in subjection to their own husbands (Ephesians 5:22-33). This is, in my judgement, an extremely **WEAK** position on the Bible's **INERRANCY** and **INFALLIBILITY**, because of what value, then, does the Bible's **INERRANCY** and **INFALLIBILITY** become if all you have to do is to claim that the particular verse in question is merely a "CUSTOM OR A CONVENTION" and hence need not be applied in the same way today!! Men will begin to see as many "CUSTOMS AND CONVENTIONS" in the Bible as people looking at it!

3. Comments On "TRANSMISSION AND TRANSLATION" Of The Original Text. The Chicago Statement stated:

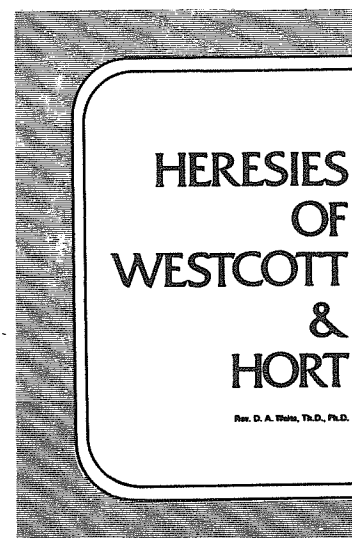
Since God has nowhere promised an **INERRANT TRANSMISSION** of Scripture, it is necessary to affirm that only the autographic text of the original documents was inspired and to maintain the need of **TEXTUAL CRITICISM** as a means of detecting any slips that may have crept into the text in the course of its transmission. [op. cit., pp. 9-10].

While it is certainly true that the **INERRANT** and **INFALLIBLE VERBAL AND PLENARY INSPIRATION** of the Bible applies to the autographs or originals as they were written, it can also be said that when any of the copies which we now have in our possession in either the Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek, give us without any question the exact wording of the originals, then that exact wording is also **INERRANT, INFALLIBLE, and is the VERBAL, PLENARY WORD OF GOD!!** This was not said in their statement, but indeed **SHOULD** have been said.

Another comment on this subject is that nowhere in the Chicago Statement is there any hint of what sort of "TEXTUAL CRITICISM" these men have in mind "as a means of detecting any slips that may have crept into the text in the course of its transmission." Here the **DEAN BURGON SOCIETY** would no doubt take wide difference and divergence with the **INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON BIBLICAL INERRANCY!!** They would no doubt (that is, the **ICBI**) hold to the false and

erroneous **WESTCOTT AND HORT** theories on so-called "TEXTUAL CRITICISM." Our **DEAN BURGON SOCIETY**, however, would hold to the views of **DEAN JOHN WILLIAM BURGON** and his endeavors to arrive at the **TRADITIONAL GREEK TEXT** which was used from the very first in the early church by entirely different procedures. The **SEVEN TESTS OF TRUTH** are those of Burgon, including what **ALL** the Versions, **ALL** the Manuscripts, **ALL** the Church Fathers, and **ALL** the Lectionaries have to say about any given verse in the New Testament. **WESTCOTT AND HORT**, however, were content to limit their sources of "SCRIPTURE" to the **VATICAN** and **SINAI** manuscripts ("B" and "Aleph") and a few other old uncials of the same corrupt family! These two positions are **POLES APART** and can never be reconciled one with the other. If one of them is **TRUE**, then the other one has to be **FALSE!** They are not merely "CONTRARY," but they are "CONTRADICTORY" by logical definition!

[to be continued]



NEW BOOK PUBLISHED ON HERESIES OF WESTCOTT & HORT

We are glad to be able to announce the publication, in booklet form, of "THE THEOLOGICAL HERESIES OF WESTCOTT AND HORT—AS SEEN IN THEIR OWN WRITINGS" by Rev. D. A. Waite, Th.D., Ph.D. (42 + x = 52 pages). Dr. Waite is President of our **DEAN BURGON SOCIETY**, and wrote this study originally in January of 1978. This booklet form makes it easier to read and should be in the hands of every school, college, seminary, church, mission board, Sunday School, parsonage, church library, and home in the country!! It contains about 125 separate **QUOTATIONS** from **FIVE BOOKS** written either by **WESTCOTT** or **HORT** themselves, covering over 1,291 pages of their own writing in all. These quotations cover all of the ten major divisions of **THEOLOGY**, and show conclusively that they held to **HERETICAL** doctrines as judged by the Bible itself. Those who follow the **WESTCOTT & HORT** false textual theories should know exactly what these men actually believed on some of these **MAJOR DOCTRINES** of the Bible! Yours for a **GIFT** to the **DEAN BURGON SOCIETY** of **\$2.50** for one. Quantity prices upon request.

OUR READERS RESPOND

MICHIGAN: We have recently had a meeting with Dr. David Otis Fuller and he mentioned the formation of the Dean Burgon Society. As we are vitally interested in this work, please put us on your mailing list and inform us of any membership requirements.

PENNSYLVANIA: Here is the recently adopted addition to our Church Constitution, I promised to send you. Use it any way you please. "We accept the Authorized Version of 1611 (commonly called the King James Version) as the Word of God, preserved in accordance with Psalm 12:6,7 and Matthew 24:35, and as the official Bible of this church, required for all functions."

TENNESSEE: I received a copy of the "Dean Burgon News". I praise the Lord for such an organization with such worthy objectives.

BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA: We have appreciated your position on the Authorized (KJV) Version of the Bible and defense of that translation, along with the traditional texts in both Hebrew and Greek. If there is anything which we can do at this end of the world in furtherance of the intended aims and purposes of the Society, please let me know.

KENTUCKY: Sign me up in your Dean Burgon Society... sounds great! I do hope the Lord will bless all the efforts of you men of God in standing for the true Word!

NEW YORK: Officers of the American Bible Society have expressed interest in subscribing to your periodical, THE DEAN BURGON NEWS. Please send one copy for the period of one year addressed to:

NEW YORK: Thank you for sending me the first issue of the Dean Burgon News. Enclosed is a check for \$2.50 for a subscription to the Newsletter... I will be especially interested in how the Society responds to Prof. Hodges' Majority text.

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THE DEAN BURGON SOCIETY

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

I have a copy of the "Articles of Faith, Operation, and Organization" of The Dean Burgon Society, Incorporated. After reading these "Articles," I wish to state, by my signature below, that I believe in and accept such "Articles." I understand that my "Membership" is for one year and that I must renew my "Membership" at that time in order to remain a "Member" in good standing of the Society.

I wish to become a member of The Dean Burgon Society for the first time.

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CALIFORNIA: Please send me information re your Society. I am hoping it will open a way for more A.V. Bible material.

VIRGINIA: What do you, and your Society, think of the article, "What Is the Inspired Word of God?" by Edward M. Panosian? (Faith for the Family, Feb. '79) I suppose I was offended by it because I am just an "ill-informed saint", and am not as well educated as some people. So, if any of you all are better informed and educated than I (and certainly some are since I have "only" a Bible Institute education—which did not teach me anything except my old King James Bible!) would you please tell me if I was wrong in taking offence.

THE DEAN BURGON NEWS

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