

the Dean Burgon News

IN DEFENSE OF TRADITIONAL BIBLE TEXTS

\$.40 a Copy • \$3.50 a Year

NO. 27

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE DEAN BURGON SOCIETY

March-April, 1985

Surprise!

I suppose you are somewhat SURPRISED to receive your DEAN BURGON NEWS #27 for MARCH-APRIL, 1985 just one month after receiving your #26 for FEBRUARY, 1985. We have said on page four, "DEAN BURGON NEWS--Published As The Lord Provides," and that is the way it must be. Since He has provided both time and funds for at least this one more issue, we are putting it into your hands just one month after our RESUMED ISSUE of February, 1985, after a pause since September, 1982. Please PRAY WITH US that THE LORD WILL PROVIDE for another issue in April, 1985, as well.

Short Articles Invited

We invite members of our DBS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, or DBS MEMBERS, or even DBS SUBSCRIBERS or DBS FRIENDS, if they have a short article that they feel would be helpful to our constituency, to SEND IT ALONG together with a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want it returned to you. We will consider these articles for possible inclusion in up-coming issues of THE DEAN BURGON NEWS. In the absence of such articles, your Editor will just have to do the best he can to fill each issue with helpful information and articles as the Lord might direct. LET'S HAVE YOUR ARTICLE!

Mail Permit Approved

Since we had not mailed the DBS NEWS for over a year, we lost our 3rd Class Non-Profit mail permit, and had to re-apply. We did this and finally, on March 1st, we received word that it had been approved. We had mailed our February DBS NEWS on Tuesday, February 26th (though it had been ready for mailing 7-10 days earlier) without waiting for the permit approval. The Post Office representative, Mrs. Johnson, told us we could pay the full 3rd class price of 12.5 cents per piece rather than 6 cents per piece at the non-profit rate, and when the permit came through, they could credit the over-payment to our account. This means that this present issue can be mailed without extra postage.

More Bible Materials

Here is a continuation of the list of Bible text materials, begun in our February issue, which may be of interest to our DEAN BURGON MEMBERS, SUBSCRIBERS, and FRIENDS:

59. "THE KING JAMES VERSION--SUPERIOR TRANSLATORS & SUPERIOR TECHNIQUES OF TRANSLATION" (#12-19) (CASSETTE) By Dr. D. A. Waite, for a GIFT to DBS of \$4.00.

60. "HOW WE GOT OUR BIBLE?" (#1228/1-2) (2 CASSETTES) By Dr. D. A. Waite, for a GIFT to DBS of \$7.00. Four talks to seniors in a

Christian High School on BIBLE TEXTS and BIBLE PRESERVATION.

61. "THE INSPIRATION AND THE PRESERVATION OF THE WORD OF GOD" (#1232) (CASSETTE) By Pastor J. Paul Reno, for a GIFT to DBS of \$4.00. Two good sermons on these vital topics by a fundamentalist.

62. "K.J.V. & LUTHER'S GERMAN BIBLE VS. N.I.V. & THE NEW WORLD TRANSLATION" (#1238) (44 lg.pp) by Paul Seeger, for a GIFT to DBS of \$3.00. The author is a Lutheran layman.

63. "THE CREDIBILITY OF THE MAJORITY TEXT" (#1239) (91 lg.pp) By Professor Robert J. Williams, Th.D., for GIFT to DBS of \$4.75. Dr. Williams is a Professor at Baptist Bible College, Clark Summit, PA.

64. "HOW WE GOT OUR BIBLE--OUTLINE LECTURES" (#1247) (22 lg. pp) by Dr. D. A. Waite, for a GIFT to the DBS of \$2.00. This is the WRITTEN OUTLINE followed in #60 above (#1228/1-2--2 CASSETTES). The outline background used to talk to Christian High School seniors.

65. "SEMINAR ON BIBLE TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS" (#1250/1-19) (19 CASSETTES, about 37 HOURS) by Dr. D. A. Waite, for a GIFT to DBS of \$60.00. A systematic analysis of Dean John William Burgon's method of textual criticism and a summary analysis of some of the so-called Bible translations.

66. "ALL FIVE OF DEAN JOHN WILLIAM BURGON'S BOOKS" (#611,

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!

More Materials

1139, 1159, 1160, & 1220) (Over 2,000 pages) by Dean John William Burgon, Re-printed by BIBLE FOR TODAY, including REVISION REVISED, LAST 12 VERSES OF MARK, TRADITIONAL TEXT, CAUSES OF CORRUPTION, and INSPIRATION AND INTERPRETATION, for a GIFT to DBS of \$40.00. [INDIVIDUALLY, for a GIFT totalling \$56.00]. Here's a chance to get ALL of Burgon's reprints at a savings.

67. "AN ANSWER TO STEWART CUSTER'S BOOKLET, 'THE TRUTH ABOUT THE KJV CONTROVERSY'" (#1251) (200 lg.pp) by Dr. D. A. Waite, for a GIFT to DBS of \$10.00. A detailed, well-documented answer to the Westcott-Hort ideas of Dr. Custer.

68. "THE NEW TESTAMENT MAJORITY TEXT DEFENDED--PARTS I & II (A DEFENSE OF THE GREEK TEXT UNDERLYING THE KJV)" (#470) (85 lg.pp) by Dr. D. A. Waite, for a GIFT to DBS of \$5.00. Systematic defense of the Traditional Text.

69. "THE DIABOLICAL CURSE OF 'DYNAMIC EQUIVALENCY' TRANSLATION!" (#1255/3) (CASSETTE) by Dr. D. A. Waite, for a GIFT to DBS of \$4.00. Detailed exposure of this devilish method used in the NIV and other paraphrases! This is a BLOCKBUSTER and of VITAL IMPORTANCE TO OUR CAUSE!

70. "THE FUTURE OF THE BIBLE" (#1256) (192 pp) by Dr. Jakob van Bruggen of the Netherlands, for a GIFT to DBS of \$5.00. The clearest exposure of the DYNAMIC EQUIVALENCY error in print!

71. "REVELATION, INSPIRATION, PRESERVATION, TRANSLATION & SUPERIOR KJV TRANSLATORS" (#1255/1) (CASSETTE) by Dr. D. A. Waite, for a GIFT to DBS of \$4.00.

72. "THE KJV'S SUPERIOR O.T. & N.T. ORIGINAL LANGUAGE TEXTS" (#1225/2) (CASSETTE) by Dr. D. A. Waite, for a GIFT to DBS of \$4.00.

73. "THE TRUSTWORTHINESS OF THE BYZANTINE TRADITIONAL TEXT!" & "11 RULES FOR DEBATING THE TEXTUAL ISSUES" (#1258) (CASSETTE) by

Dr. D. A. Waite, for a GIFT to DBS of \$4.00.

74. "FIRST YEAR N.T. GREEK--NOW IN PROGRESS" (#1260/1-40) (40 CASSETTES--80 hours) by Dr. D. A. Waite, for a GIFT to DBS of \$175.00. Complete coverage of Davis's Beginning N.T. Greek Text as taught in the BAPTIST BIBLE SEMINARY sponsored by the BIBLE FOR TODAY.

75. "BIBLICAL TRANSLATIONS--THE DEFECTS OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV)--PART I" (#1267) (35 lg.pp) by Dr. D. A. Waite, for a GIFT to DBS of \$3.00. Many examples of the defects in the Greek "translation" of the NIV!

76. "BIBLE PRESERVATION DEFENDED BY 17TH CENTURY PURITAN, JOHN OWENS" (#1266) (CASSETTE) by Mr. Ted Letis, for a GIFT to DBS of \$4.00. Excellent documentation of John Owen's defense of the Textus Receptus and Bible PRESERVATION!

77. "THE NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV) DOWNGRADES OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST" (#1268) (3 lg.pp) by Everett W. Fowler, for GIFT to DBS of 5/\$1.50.

78. "JOHN OWEN VS. BRIAN WALTON: A REFORMED RESPONSE TO THE BIRTH OF TEXT CRITICISM--WESTCOTT-HORT-TYPE ATTACKS IN THE 17TH CENTURY" (#1278) (59pp) by Mr. Ted Letis, for a GIFT to DBS of \$3.50. (Goes with the CASSETTE #1266 above, #76).

79. "OUR AUTHORIZED BIBLE VINDICATED" (#1123) (265pp) by Dr. Benjamin G. Wilkinson, for a GIFT to DBS of \$7.50. This is a Reprint by the Bible for Today. It is an excellent defense of our Authorized Bible! Well documented!

80. "A PLAIN INTRODUCTION TO THE CRITICISM OF THE NEW TESTAMENT--4th Edition" (#1285) (920 pp) by Dr. Frederick H. A. Scrivener, for a GIFT to DBS of \$40.00. This is a Bible For Today re-print by copy machine (custom made to order) and therefore is higher in GIFT price. This is over 100 years old, and has been out of print and hard to find. It is an excellent and indispensable volume and fol-

lows the Burgonian methods for the most part. Scrivener cites with approval Burgon many, many times.

81. "ISAIAH 9:6--PROOF OF 'WONDERFUL, COUNSELOR' INSTEAD OF 'WONDERFUL-COUNSELOR'" (#1287) (20 lg.pp) by Trinitarian Bible Society plus some pages from Hebrew grammar and lexicons by DAW, for a GIFT to DBS of 3/\$1.50.

We'll have more books and materials having to do with the Bible Texts as they become available, and will let you know about them. Help us get many of these into circulation!

Defects In The Hodges-Farstad-Nelson Majority Text

By Rev. D. A. Waite, Th.D., Ph.D.

I promised, in our February issue of the DBS NEWS, that our next issue (this one) would have an article on "WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE SO-CALLED 'MAJORITY GREEK TEXT' OF HODGES & FARSTAD?" Here it is. The full title of this book is: "THE GREEK NEW TESTAMENT ACCORDING TO THE MAJORITY TEXT." It is edited by Zane C. Hodges and Arthur L. Farstad. The consulting editors were Jakob van Bruggen, Alfred Martin, Wilbur N. Pickering, and Harry A. Sturz. It was published in 1982 by Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, Tennessee. I firmly believe this "GREEK MAJORITY TEXT" is DEFECTIVE in a number of ways--both minor and major. Here are some of its DEFECTS, in my opinion:

DEFECT #1

1. DEFECT #1: THE HODGES 'MAJORITY GREEK TEXT' IS IN ERROR ABOUT 'INSPIRED AUTHORS.' In the INTRODUCTION (p. ix), it is stated:

"The New Testament was originally written by its INSPIRED AUTHORS in the Greek language."

This is the very first statement made by the editors. There is not a single shred of Scripture about the "AUTHORS" being "INSPIRED," but rather, 2 Timothy 3:16 clearly says

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that it is the "SCRIPTURE (that is, the WORDS) that are "IN-SPIRED" or "God-breathed." Our DEAN BURGON ARTICLES OF FAITH (p. 2) are very clear on this point.

DEFECT #2

2. DEFECT #2: THE HODGES "MAJORITY TEXT" IS NOT THOUGHT BY THE EDITORS TO BE THE "EXACT FORM OF THE ORIGINALS" BUT IS "PRELIMINARY" ONLY. The editors stated:

"[1] The editors do NOT imagine that THE TEXT OF THIS EDITION REPRESENTS IN ALL PARTICULARS THE EXACT FORM OF THE ORIGINALS. [2] Desirable as such a text certainly is, MUCH FURTHER WORK MUST BE DONE BEFORE IT CAN BE PRODUCED. [3] It should therefore be kept in mind that the present work, The Greek New Testament According To The Majority Text, is both PRELIMINARY AND PROVISIONAL. [4] It represents a FIRST STEP in the direction of recognizing the value and authority of the GREAT MASS OF SURVIVING GREEK DOCUMENTS." (p. x, numbers in brackets added.)

Notice these four points:

[1] If their Greek text is NOT the "EXACT FORM OF THE ORIGINALS," why publish it? Wherein is it better than the Textus Receptus (which I believe is the closest to the original)? Wherein is it better than the Westcott-Hort false Greek text? The reason, I believe, is MONEY! If Nelson waited until Hodges and Farstad came up with the "EXACT FORM OF THE ORIGINALS," there would be no PROFITS NOW!

[2] If "MUCH FURTHER WORK MUST BE DONE" to produce the "EXACT FORM OF THE ORIGINALS," why hasn't that work been done by the editors and Nelson BEFORE publication? Why are they going off "half-cooked" and producing something that is only "half-baked"? The answer again, I believe, is MONEY! They want MONEY NOW and PROFITS NOW rather than to wait until they

can arrive at the "EXACT FORM." Is there any substitute for the best?

[3] If this Greek text is "PRELIMINARY AND PROVISIONAL," why is it printed? Why isn't it left in the editorial rooms of Nelson publishers awaiting the finished product? Again, the reason, I believe firmly, is MONEY!

[4] If the editors claim this is the "FIRST STEP" in recognizing the "VALUE AND AUTHORITY OF THE GREAT MASS OF SURVIVING GREEK DOCUMENTS," why do they use as few of those documents as they have used? As we'll see later in this critique, they have used only PARTIAL papyri testimony, only PARTIAL uncial testimony, only PARTIAL cursive testimony, NO lectionary testimony, NO ancient version testimony, and NO Scripture quotations of the Church Fathers. If this methodology shows us how much the editors respect the "VALUE AND AUTHORITY" of these "SURVIVING GREEK DOCUMENTS," I fail to see it. This is pure hypocrisy on their part!

DEFECT #3

3. DEFECT #3: THE HODGES "MAJORITY TEXT" CLAIMS TO BE AGAINST THE WESTCOTT & HORT SYSTEM, BUT ADOPTS THEIR "GENEALOGICAL METHOD." The editors wrote:

"In this present edition, WHEREVER GENEALOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS COULD NOT BE INVOKED readings overwhelmingly attested among the manuscripts have been printed in the text." [p. xii].

What they mean is that they DO NOT REALLY BELIEVE IN THEIR OWN SO-CALLED "MAJORITY TEXT" POSITION IF THE WESTCOTT & HORT FALSE CONCEPT OF "GENEALOGY" IS POSSIBLE!! This is, again, hypocrisy on their part. The editors continued:

"It is true, of course, that most modern textual critics have DESPAIRED OF THE POSSIBILITY of using the GENEALOGICAL METHOD. Nonetheless this method remains THE ONLY LOGICAL ONE. If WEST-

COTT AND HORT EMPLOYED IT POORLY, IT IS NOT FOR THAT REASON TO BE ABANDONED." [p. xii].

So they are going to "OUT-Westcott and Hort" Westcott and Hort—only they are going to do it better! Dean Burgon, in his book, REVISION REVISED [available for a GIFT to DBS of \$15.00 as #611, 591pp], pp. 253-257, discusses Westcott & Hort's "FACTOR OF GENEALOGY." He wrote:

"High time however is it to declare that, in strictness, all this talk about 'GENEALOGICAL EVIDENCE,' when applied to Manuscripts is—MOONSHINE. . . . And perforce all talk about 'Genealogical evidence,' where no single step in the descent can be produced,—in other words, where no Genealogical evidence exists,—is ABSURD." [op. cit., pp. 255-56]

Burgon uses the analogy of some bodies in a graveyard when he wrote:

"The living inhabitants of a village, congregated in the churchyard where the bodies of their forgotten progenitors for 1000 years repose WITHOUT MEMORIALS OF ANY KIND,—is a faint image of the relation which subsists between extant copies of the Gospels and the sources from which they were derived. That, in either case, there has been repeated mixture, is undeniable; but since the Parish-register is lost, and not a vestige of Tradition survives, it is idle to pretend to argue on that part of the subject." [op. cit., p. 256].

Even Wilbur Pickering in his Identity of the New Testament Text (1977 edition, pp. 44-47), refutes this "GENEALOGICAL METHOD." And yet he is listed as a "consulting editor" to the Nelson "MAJORITY TEXT" book. Their volume used the "GENEALOGICAL METHOD" in two places: (1) John 7:53-8:11;

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and (2) the book of Revelation. [op. cit., p. xii].

DEFECT #4

4. DEFECT #4: THE HODGES MAJORITY TEXT" USED VON SODEN'S PARTIAL REFERENCES TO THE GREEK MANUSCRIPTS RATHER THAN TO EXAMINE 100% OF THOSE MANUSCRIPTS FIRST-HAND. The editors stated:

"For the EVIDENCE of the MAJORITY TEXT, the present edition rests HEAVILY upon the information furnished by HERMAN VON SODEN in his Die Schriften des Neuen Testaments (1 1/2/3, 1911, II, 1913). . . . only RARELY can von Soden's data be corrected with confidence." [op. cit., p. xv].

Rather than going to the MANUSCRIPTS themselves—either uncial, papyrus, or cursive—Hodges, Farstad, and Nelson Publishers have taken the quick, easy, and, I might add, slipshod and shortcut method of taking SECONDARY EVIDENCE rather than PRIMARY EVIDENCE in determining their so-called "MAJORITY GREEK TEXT." There are at least THREE dangers involved in this decision of theirs: (a) They relied upon another man's research, rather than on their own. Hence, there might be many errors contained therein.

(b) Von Soden's textual apparatus did not include 100% of the kinds of Greek manuscript evidence which should be included and was therefore not broad enough to be thorough. (c) Von Soden's textual apparatus did not even include 100% of the evidence in the areas that he did include and was therefore incomplete and partial only.

To illustrate (b) above, let me remind you that there are FOUR types of Greek manuscript evidence for the New Testament text. The numbers given for each are those of Kurt Aland as of 1967, which is a close enough approximation for our purposes here: (1) PAPYRUS fragments [81]; (2) UNCIALS [267]; (3) CURSIVES [2,764]; and (4) LECTIONARIES [2,143]. The grand total is 5,255. The Hodges-Farstad-Nelson text, via von Soden's apparatus, made use only of some of the (1) PAPYRUS fragments; (2) UNCIALS, and (3) CURSIVES. They made NO USE WHATSOEVER of the readings from the 2,143 LECTIONARIES by their own admission (cf. p. xviii). In other words, they completely, willfully, and very foolishly DISREGARDED 2,143/5,255ths [40%] of the manuscript evidence out of hand and from the very first!

To illustrate (c) above, even in these three different areas of

text which von Soden did make use of (PAPYRI, UNCIALS, & CURSIVES), the Hodges-Farstad-Nelson text is woefully deficient and partial in that it did not even use 100% of the data available from these above three sources. The editors allude to only 8 of the 81 PAPYRUS fragments (cf. p. xvi), and to only 4 out of the 267 UNCIALS (cf. p. xvi). In discussing the von Soden apparatus with a textual critic favorable to the present work (M.R.), he informed me that von Soden did NOT allude to all 2,764 CURSIVES either, but only about 1,600 to 1,900 of them (if my memory serves me correctly as to the number). The box score, therefore, in even these three areas where they did attempt to use the Greek manuscript evidence available to them is as follows: 8/81 PAPYRI (9.87%); 4/267 UNCIALS (1.49%); and 1900/2764 CURSIVES (68.74%). They made use of 1985/3112ths of the available resources from these three areas (63.78%). When you include the LECTIONARIES (2143) which they eliminated entirely, you find they used only 1985/5255ths of the available resources or no more than 37.77% of the available textual data. I ask you, my THINKING friend, their text is a "MAJORITY" of WHAT?!! ("DEFECT #5"—To Be Continued).

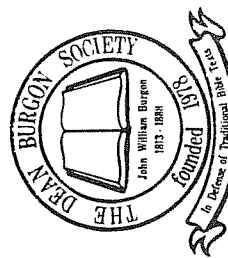
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March-April, 1985



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Published as the Lord Provides

The Dean Burgon Society

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Collingswood, NJ 08108

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