



Evangelist Wheeler's Defense of Bible

Evangelist Declares He Has Incontrovertible Proof of the Inspiration of the Scriptures and the Diety of Christ

Evangelist Charles T. Wheeler on Sunday night defended the Bible, the book which needs no defense except as it is from time to time assailed by the captious. Taking the Scriptures in a matter of fact way, as though they were a history, a narration, whose authenticity was at issue, the evangelist presented his proof of their inspired origin, and their truth, as though he were counsel addressing a court.

"When I was a young man," he said, "revival meetings did not appeal to me. It was my belief that they were sentimental froth, generally hysterical in their tendencies and largely appealing to people through play upon their emotions. There are many in every community who feel that way, doubtless many of that viewpoint here tonight. So in presenting what I consider incontrovertible proof of the inspired nature of the Bible I shall exclude anything in the least suggesting sentiment, and appeal solely to our judgment by intellectual consideration alone."

And this is exactly what he did. For one hour and thirty minutes there was not a sound in the auditorium but the voice of Dr. Wheeler, as the fifteen hundred people sat intent upon his statement. They were the jury, and the talk the speaker made was to most, if not all, convincing. It was a lecture or address more than a sermon, but as a theological effort it would rank with any sermon.

There were 350 in the choir Sunday night, including the "booster chorus." Dr. Ethel Knapp offered prayer.

The songs in the preliminary service, led by Prof. A. R. Forsythe included "A Volunteer For Jesus," "The Touch of His Hand on Mine," "Crown Him King of Kings," "Revive Us Again," "He Included Me," "Jesus Will Sustain You," "All Hail, Emmanuel," "Higher Ground," "I Will Not Forget Thee," "Nearer My God to Thee," and "How Firm a Foundation." Prof. Forsythe sang a solo, with choir chorus, "If Your Heart Keeps Right," and Mrs. A. G. Tuxhorn sang the "Sparrow" song.

The usual ruse, with a variation, was employed to induce the ladies in the auditorium to remove their hats. The introductory invocation was by Rev. Jas. R. Sager, pastor of the First Presbyterian church.

Rev. Wheeler before beginning his sermon commended the attitude of the Edwardsville newspapers, particularly mentioning the recognition of the meetings which has been given by the Intelligencer. The scripture reading was the 24th chapter of Matthew. The evening sermon was as follows:

The Bible Inspired of God, Jesus Christ, the Son of God

The words of Jesus, "Heaven and Earth shall pass away. My words shall not pass away. Matthew 24:35. The words of the Apostle Peter. "We have also a more sure word of prophecy where unto you do well that ye take heed as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn and the day stars arise in your hearts, knowing this first that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation (invention or suggestion) for the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man but holy men of God spake as they moved by the Holy Ghost. 2 Peter 1:19.

There is perhaps no grander thought than this that back of all the apparently capricious, conflicting and accidental changes of human history there is an infinite God whose omniscience and omnipotence should forbid that anything should escape his knowledge or evade his power. "Right forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne, Yet that scaffold sways the future and behind the dim unknown Standeth God amid the shadows keeping watch above His own." Prophecy unmistakably outlining events before hand shows that God is behind the curtain and that his hand controls and shapes the history and destiny of man.

The caprice is resolved into a consistent purposes, the conflict is only the apparent discard and disorder which is owing to our partial point of view. The accident becomes an incident in a grand harmonious plan where no chance can occur. It outlines the future. The past, the present and the future are brought together and the one grand scene is given in its unity. For this reason and for another there can be no more important study than that of the prophetic scriptures and that other reason is this, fulfillment of

prophecy puts the clear broad seal of God upon the inspiration of the Bible. Doubt becomes belief and intelligent belief becomes firm faith.

There are a number of incontrovertible proofs of the inspiration of the Bible and fulfillment of prophecy is certainly one of them. We have here a secure footing, a firm foundation for time and for eternity. Christ said, "One jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law until all be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away." The Hebrew student knows that the jot is the smallest character in Hebrew alphabet and the tittle is the little horn the Hebrew places on a consonant.

Think of Babylon founded by the descendants of Noah perhaps 2250 B. C. enlarged by Nimrod, re-built by Semirams, other sovereigns increased its size and beauty, Nebuchadnezzar gave it its finishing touches and brought it to its final splendor and magnificence. Queen City of the earth containing one of the seven wonders of the world, the hanging gardens, surrounded by a solid wall probably 87 feet thick and 350 feet high with 25 gates of solid brass on either side. It has 50 streets each fifteen miles long and 150 feet wide, a city of palaces and gardens and the great temple of Belus, a city sixty miles in circumference larger many times than London, Old London, London proper is tonight. Such the glory of Babylon in its splendor and prosperity. But Isaiah thus prophesied against it, "And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gemorrah. It shall never be inhabited neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation, neither shall the Arab pitch tent there, nei-

ther shall the shepherds make their fold there, but wild beasts of the desert shall lie there and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures and owls shall dwell there." Jeremiah thus prophesied against Babylon, "Recompense her according to her work. Her young men shall fall in the streets, her men of war shall be cut off, wild beasts of the desert and owls shall dwell there and it shall be no more inhabited forever." How unreasonable such statements, how unlikely of fulfillment. What foolishness to say that a city that has been growing in strength and beauty for 1500 years and from generation to generation has accumulated wealth and great treasures should be absolutely depopulated and become the sport of the winds. Yet Pliny in the second century found it utterly waste and unpeopled. Pausanias is on record telling us about the ruins along the Euphrates river; Benjamin in the 12th century speaks of palaces in ruins there and of serpents and

Evangelist Formerly The Man With a Message With Mercantile House.

Dr. Charles Thomas Wheeler, is one of the really big men in evangelistic circles of the United States. He ranks with men like Sunday, Biederwolf, and Hart who have been bringing about a revolution of ideals throughout the nation.

Dr. Wheeler is a Jayhawker, a Kansan, by birth and training. He lives at 806 Lakeside Place, Chicago but the demands of his work permit him to see but little of his home.

Like many others constrained to be absent from home, he is an ardent home lover and is never so happy as when there. He has a wife and four children, two sons and two daughters.

Dr. Wheeler is a graduate of the old school of ex-senator Long, and assistant general Thickett, and other men who have risen to prominence, who attended in the days of Dr. Wheeler and Prof. Mykranz.

His ambition during his student days was for the profession of the law; this caused him to go to Chicago where he entered the Chicago Law School; he attended the night classes and worked during the day in the wholesale house of Marshall Field and Co. Advancement in business made his duties heavier as well soon he was working nights as well as days. Becoming more and more immersed in business he ceased studying law and did not return to it.

He remained with Marshall Field and Co. for several years and had risen to a position of trust when his conversion occurred, when he became active in Christian work.

His love for the work grew and he felt constrained to resign his position and study for the ministry. Friends sought to dissuade him, including Thomas T. Templeton, a member of the firm who made him a flattering offer if he would remain. But having caught the vision of a life of active Christian service, he felt impelled to follow it. He therefore resigned and began studying for the ministry. Then the World's Fair came on with its great Congress of Religions, and its great six-months Evangelistic Campaign under Dwight L. Moody, and participated in by the greatest preachers of Christendom, men like Rabinowitz of Russia, Monod of Paris, Stucker, Court preacher of Germany, Inwood of Ireland, McGregor and McNeill of Scotland, Henry Varley and Charles Spurgeon, Jr., and others of London, and men like Cook, Gordon, Pierson, Brookes, Wharton, Dixon and Torrey of our own country. Mr. Wheeler was directly associated with Mr. Moody throughout this entire period, and very justly looks upon this as one of the most priceless privileges of his life.

He became the pastor of the Metropolitan Tabernacle and Institute, Kansas City, Missouri, in nineteen hundred, where his multiplied activities in the pastorate, and in realms of philanthropy, reform, and evangelism soon brought him into the public eye. His tremendous philippic on "The Child of the Louisiana Lottery, Kansas City's Disgrace," was the death blow to the gambling methods pursued in connection with Kansas City's pride, Convention Hall. Dr. Wheeler has now been in evangelistic work for a number of years, and though still under forty years of age, is already recognized as one of the very best men in the country. It

is giving him scant praise to say that he is one of the sanest, safest and strongest men in the work, and those who have watched his rise and have seen his strength waxing with the passing of the years, are looking for even greater things in the days ahead.

His work is pre-eminently successful with men, especially college men, and degree of Doctor of Divinity, came to him by unanimous vote of college faculty and board of trustees in appreciation of his splendid work. Dr. Wheeler has given much of his time for the last few years to the simultaneous movements in the cities, and has held meetings in many of the larger cities east and west with great success.

Dr. Wheeler is general secretary of the Interdenominational Association of Evangelists, which is a national society composed of 300 prominent workers in that line. He is also secretary-treasurer of the Evangelistic Insurance Alliance, of which Rev. Billy Sunday, is president and is a director of the Family Altar League of America.



Evangelist Charles T. Wheeler

Following the Fair, and until he concluded his studies, he was pastor of the Humboldt Park church, Chicago. He was then ordained by Ecclesiastical Council and installed pastor of the Pilgrim church, Pueblo, Colorado, where he remained for six years endeavoring himself to thousand and becoming an active and living force in the life of the city and of the state.

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scorpions and wild beasts in the caves and dens of the ruins, while the Geographical Society in the December number tells us of populous Bagdad and also of the trip to Babylon and the ruins there which have the appearance of irregular misshapen hills "heaps on heaps." The Arabian shepherds will not fold their flocks there and no amount of Backneesh will constrain the Arab Shek to pitch tent there. Damascus, older than Babylon, still exists and has remained much the same for thousands of years. Jerusalem as much as it was centuries and centuries ago, but Babylon the Great has fallen and remained uninhabited with the passing of the years. God's word did not return unto Him void.

Think of Tyre, that famous city of Phoenicia, built 1400 B. C. the theatre of an immense commerce and navigation, the nursery of arts and science, in whose markets the ships of Tarshish sang, "A city very glorious in the midst of the seas." Listen. "Many a nation

shall come up against thee as the sea causes its waves to come up. They shall destroy thy walls and break down thy towers. I will make Tyre like the top of a rock. It shall be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea. It shall be built no more." At the sunset hour of any night in this our century, you may look upon the site of ancient Tyre. It is a flat rock in the sea. You may look at the fishermen drag up their nets and spread them there. Men may scoff and jeer and laugh at the Bible, they would do better to take their shoes from off their feet for the ground where on they stand is holy ground.

Without describing the ancient capital of Assyria, the city of Nineveh, allow me to call your attention to prophecy concerning it. "I shall cast abominable filth upon thee and set thee as a gazing stock." In what way could a prophecy such as that be fulfilled. What apparent misuse of language, but what is the testimony of history. Abominable

filth was cast upon Nineveh for 2500 years it has been one of the buried cities of the world, the plow passed over it, men have planted and gathered, have sown and reaped over the city that was beneath them, and now a portion of that city has been exhumed. You may walk the street of a dead city while ruins of Nineveh are to be seen in the museums of London, of Paris, New York and Chicago. Unbelievable as were the words, history for it, abominable filth was cast upon the city and it has become a gazing stock. Doubt yourself if you wish, doubt your senses for they often deceive you, but do not doubt the inspired word of the living God.

We have considered cities, suppose we consider nations. Consider Egypt, the mother of the arts and sciences, the nation that gave us the alphabet, writing, astronomy and government, with her great college of Thebes visited by Pythagoras, at Memphis visited by Thales and Democritus and Heliopolis where Plato studied; the nation that had a marvelous civilization thousands of years ago, a vast irrigation system and great libraries, the builder of the pyramids, the land of the sphinx and then consider this prophecy concerning her, "I will make the land waste and desolate, the rivers dry. You shall be the bases of kingdoms and no more exalt thyself. I will sell the land unto strangers, there will be no more a Prince of Egypt."

Fifteen Hundred People in the Audience on Sunday Night Hear His Famous Dissertation on the Bible

then. My friend said. "I took out my Bible there in that scene of eternal desolation and I read, "They shall call her nobles but none shall be there." And I called and my only answer was the echo of my voice." Israel still exists but the Edomites have perished from the face of the earth. God's word did not return unto Him void.

Consider Ammon, "I will make Rabbah a stable for camels and the Ammonites a couching place for flocks." The Bedouins of the desert so use the caves and excavations of that country today, their sheep and goats and camels by the thousand water there and rest there. "By this unfailing sign shall you know that a proclamation of my will is from my hand. Through my chosen messengers I will show you things to come. I have told you before it come to pass, that when it is come to pass, ye might believe."

Consider Jerusalem and tiny Palestine. We never quite realize how small this city and country is and yet how great a part it has played in the history of this world. It is only half a mile from the Jaffa Gate at the West to the Mosque of Omar at the East while the entire length of the city from the Damascus Gate at the north to the Zion Gate at the south is barely two-thirds of a mile and in spite of the fact that the streets are narrow, winding and crowded you can walk from one end of Jerusalem to the other in ten minutes.

The entire city, 210 acres is less than a third of a square mile and is about the size of "the Loop" district of Chicago, while Palestine from north to south, from Damascus to Beer-Sheba is about the distance from Albany to New York and so narrow is Palestine that if Chicago were paced across it with one end at the Sea of Galilee the other end of the city would be washed by the waters of the Mediterranean. We could profitably spend hours on prophecy fulfilled in the history of Jerusalem alone, prophecy concerning pretenders, wars, famine, pestilence, earthquakes, signs in the heavens, persecution and tribulation.

Let us consider only a few words Jesus said, "Where the eagles gather there the carcass is." Jerusalem was soon compassed by armies and above every Roman standard stood the silver eagle. Jerusalem was to be trodden down by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles were fulfilled and she is perhaps tonight with the possible exception of Constantinople the filthiest city in the world. She has been the scene of continuous desolation, a historical marvel with her people scattered midst the nations of the earth and herself ruled by Romans, Sarcens, Arabians, Egyptians and Turks. They were told that destruction would come as lightning shining from East to West. They expected trouble from the sea coast on the west but the Roman legions came from Olivet and the east, lightning bolts of war crashing down. They were told that they should suffer great tribulation. History for it, their suffering and misery were indescribable. Men ate their sandals straps and girdles, they fed upon straw and the women ate their own babies. They were told that Jerusalem should be plowed as a heap and the Roman soldiers plowed up the very sewers and aqueducts themselves.

They were told by Jesus that the temple should be desolate, that not

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