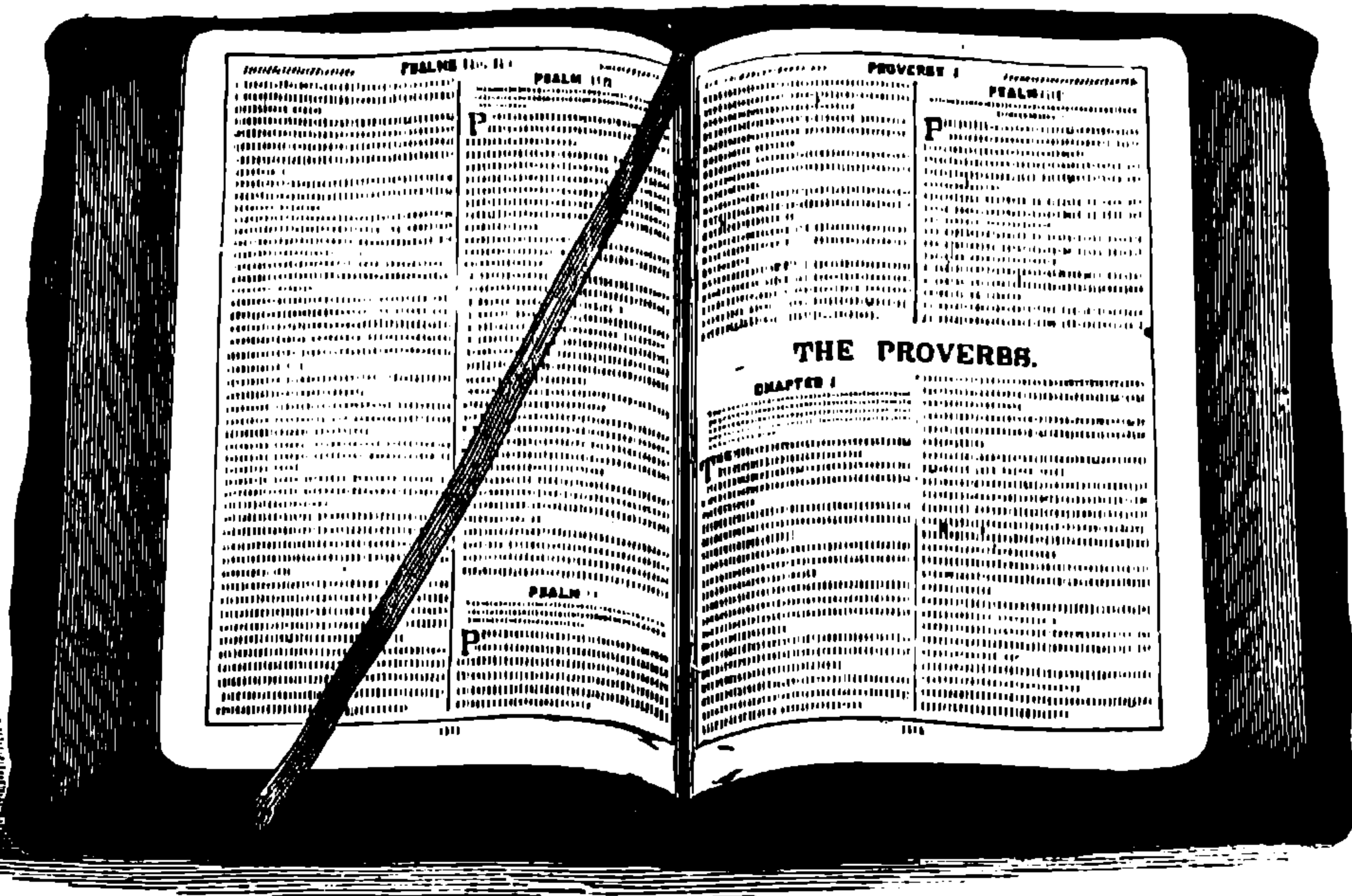


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Four Points about a Wonderful B

THE Bible is the best loved and the most hated b
the world. Satan and wicked men hate it, but thos
have through it been brought to God love and prize it
all else.

The Bible is the Book of God, and the Lord Jesus

self calls it "the Word of God" (John x. 35), immediately adding, "the Scriptures cannot be broken," thus imprinting upon the Old Testament Scriptures a divine title and divine authority. Again in Mark vii. 13, He calls the law of Moses "the Word of God," and tells the teachers of that day that they were making it of none effect through their traditions.

People sometimes say, How can the Bible be the Word of God when it contains things which wicked men have said and done, and even what Satan said in the Garden of Eden? We reply, had God not revealed it, we would never have known what Satan said. Of course, we know what he said was not true, but we know it is true that he said it,

because God said

that Satan said it. There are many things spoke wicked men contained in God's book, and God has rec these for His own purpose, but in every case the co clearly shows who the writer or speaker may be. Bu important to bear in mind that although in the Bibl is not always the speaker, yet

The Spirit of God is the Record

—always. This it is that makes the Bible an inf Book, for

God never makes mistakes.

In this sense then from Genesis i. to Revelation xxii. (errors in translations excepted) we accept the Bible to be

The Inspired Word of God,

and we have with us the testimony of all the best men, aye, and of all the wisest men this world has ever seen.

Infidelity has produced men who were loud and blatant in their unbelief in the time of health, but when death came their courage evaporated in the presence of the great Hereafter. Conscience awakened spoke in tones of thunder of a life wasted, God defied, and an Eternity for which they were unprepared. But where will you find men among the ranks of the unbelievers to place beside Moses or

David, Samuel or Elijah, Peter, John, or Paul? might also mention many names in more modern times men of giant intellect and moral worth who have loved and lived for, and died triumphantly in the faith of Bible. We say the Bible is a wonderful Book, because

It has a Divine Author.

All Scripture is inspired of God, and because it is inspired of God, it

Is the Truth.

Men write books which contain many things that are true and some things that are doubtful, and a great deal that is

true at all ; and the reason is that men's minds are not infinite. Even the wisest men only know a little bit of any subject, and very often what seemed to be truth, they find on closer investigation to be error which has to be given up. But God is Infinite and All-Wise. He knows everything, for He created everything, and so His Book is a perfect Book, because it has a perfect Author. "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." One of the many proofs of its Divine Authorship is its power to mould the lives of those who accept its precepts. Sin gives way to righteousness, unholiness to purity, hatred to love, and misery to happiness. I entreat you, dear reader, make a daily practice of reading the Bible. It will be a light to your feet

and a lamp to your path. If you follow its direct will guide you to the Saviour. If you disregard its things, you do so at your peril and to the danger of your soul's salvation, for in it, and in it alone, is the salvation revealed.

The Bible is a wonderful Book, because

It treats of a wonderful subject

The central fact of the Bible is the love of God ; the central figure is the Son of God. There are a great many subordinate subjects, but, broadly speaking, the one great theme of revelation is the love of God in sending His Son into the world to suffer and to die, in order that God's rig

ness might be vindicated, sinners saved, and Satan defeated; and that where sin had reigned unto death, grace might reign unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Old Testament types and shadows all spoke of Him. The paschal lamb in Egypt; the sacrifices in the wilderness; the offerings in the temple all prefigured Him, who, in the fulness of time, came as the Holy spotless Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world.

The Bible is a wonderful Book, because

It speaks to the conscience.

This is another proof of its Divine Authorship. Other books appeal to the intellect, the imagination, or the emo-

tion, but God's Book speaks right home to the conscience. It sets before men a Divine standard of right, and everyone knows in his own heart that he has failed to come up to that standard. But men, instead of owning themselves to be wrong, try to make out that the Bible is wrong. No one ever spent his life in endeavouring to prove that Homer did not write the Iliad, or Josephus the Antiquities of the Jews, or Milton Paradise Lost; and some men have devoted the best part of their time and talents in the fruitless task of trying—but trying in vain—to show that Moses was not inspired to write the Pentateuch, Isaiah the prophecy bearing his name, or John the Apocalypse. We know they have often said it, but

They have never proved it,

and never will. Yes, they have failed. The Impregnable Rock of Holy Scripture remains unshaken in spite of all the efforts of sinful men, backed up by all the powers of Satan. "For ever, O Lord, Thy word is established in the heavens."

The Bible is a wonderful Book, because

It tells us of the future.

Other books tell of the past, or give details of current events, but when the line of the present moment is reached, all beyond it becomes mere idle speculation.

God's Book gives, with graphic touch and precise de-

inition, an outline of the course of time from the six of creation, right on till that supreme moment "time shall be no longer." It lifts the veil which in the future from mortal ken, and shows us the glory the ransomed around the throne of God, and the awful of the lost in that place where hope never comes. it does so in order that we may choose life, and shun second death. For the believer, death is no mere in the dark." He knows assuredly that "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life, and he that believeth not the Son, shall not see life." It tells of an opened way through virtue of the finished work of Christ, whereby we can righteously come out to lost sinners in the distance.

bring them into the place of nearness and blessing. It points the anxious to "the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." It warns the sinner that, unless he repent, the end of his course will be the lake of fire for ever. These are solemn issues, and in view of them I ask you, my dear reader,

Where will you be in Eternity?

I pray you do not rest till you can rightly answer this all-important question. Time is short. Life is fleeting. Death is busy. The coming of the Lord draweth near. Each moment as it passes is bringing you nearer to Eter-

nity. **Now**, the door of mercy is open for all : † it will be closed for ever. Oh ! make sure of you safety by coming to Jesus now.

“ Where shall I spend Eternity ?

This question now comes home to me !

What ! Oh ! what shall my answer be ?—

Where shall I spend Eternity ? ”

“ Eternity ! Eternity !

Where shall I spend Eternity ? ”

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