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His Unshakeable Throne



The task of Christians today is not the restoration of Christ to His place of preeminence, for that is His place, and no one can expel Him from it or restore Him to it. But the fact of His preeminence can be ignored or denied. This is just what has happened in our secular life—in politics, in business, in education, in philosophy—even in some circles of Christianity. But some day His majestic kingship will be recognized and at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Almighty God has promised to Jesus Christ a world dominion which the dictators of Europe cannot usurp, and when it is ushered in, the forces of hell shall not prevail against it. —*Union Signal*

*An excerpt from an address of Mrs. C. Adrian Heaton, National Director
W. C. T. U. Evangelistic Department at the Worship Service of the Francis
Willard Centenary, Rochester, New York.*

LT. D. W. W. 1884
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Women Elders? No!

REV. F. M. FOSTER, PH. D.

I. Dismiss sentiment! Probably Eve was the most beautiful, attractive and gracious of all women. Read Genesis 3-6. Maybe you will see more in it than that Adam just happened along.

II. There are 'she-men' and 'he-women' who try to get into places for which God did not make them or equip them. Such are borne with, but not admired.

III. When any doctrine, ordinance or law of the Bible is rejected the conflict shows that what God said stands. The vindication may not come tomorrow; but it comes. Our first parents chose between God and the devil and wrecked the race. The ten spies shouted down the truth. Israel listened. They were about to stone Moses! They were sent back into the wilderness for thirty-eight more years. Israel growled at the bread which God gave them; and deadly serpents came squirming, twisting, writhing, striking, all through the camps; "and much people of Israel died." Nadab and Abihu shouted, "Our fire is just as good as the fire taken from off the altar." They gathered a great company against Moses and Aaron. The earth opened her mouth and swallowed them up. Achan secreted things forbidden at the fall of Jericho. He and his sons and his daughters, his oxen and his sheep were stoned and burnt with fire. It seemed a small matter for Uzzah to steady the ark.

With God there are no small matters. Uzzah died. Jeroboam made two idol calves; one for Bethel and one for Dan. God said He would destroy his posterity. He did. He said He would destroy the posterity of Ahab. He did. Heads of seventy of his sons were laid in two heaps at the gate of Samaria. Uzziah pushed himself into the priest's office and offered incense. God then and there smote him with leprosy. He hastened to get out of the temple. Aaron and Miriam upbraided Moses for taking too much authority. Miriam, who seems to have been the aggressor, was immediately smitten with leprosy. Wailing repentance, she was put out of the camp seven days. These illustrations of God's judgments are given to establish this:—Doctrines, ordinances and laws of God are to be believed and obeyed. Whoever teaches otherwise invites disaster.

WOMEN'S PLACE

Everything God made was perfect. Without doubt the most beautiful of all things created was woman. She was not created as a head or leader, but a help meet for man. She had her work assigned, and a gracious and glorious work it was, and is. Her sphere, like man's, was limited. In no instance was she a patriarchal head. Male children were circumcised. When Israel was numbered, women were not counted. Women were not required to go up to the three feasts. Women were not in the priesthood, or in any levitical office. Women did not bring sacrifices. Women did not bring the half-shekel to the sanctuary. Women were not called to handle sword or spear. Women were represented in their husbands and fathers.

IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES

No woman was called to be an Apostle. No woman sat at the table when the Lord instituted the Supper. No woman administered the sacraments. No woman was commissioned to preach. No woman occupied any office in the New Testament church. "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach nor to usurp authority over the man; but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived; but the woman being deceived was in the transgression." (I Tim. 2:11, 12.) "Thy desire shall be to thy husband and he shall rule over thee." (Gen. 3:16.) "For the husband is head of the wife, even as Christ is head of the church. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let wives be subject unto their own husbands in everything." (Eph. 5:23-24.) "Obey them that have the rule over you." (Heb. 13-17.) "—being in subjection to their own husbands, even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him Lord." (I Pet. 3:5, 6.) "And the things which thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." (I Tim. 2:2.) "Lay hands suddenly on no man." (I Tim. 5:22.) And God means men! No woman had 'hands laid on her.'

IF WOMEN WERE ELDERS

I. They would "lay hands" on men being ordained as elders and deacons.

II. Sitting in Session (the case might be her own husband,) the wife-elder would rule, acquitting, suspending, excommunicating—contrary to the Scriptures quoted above.

III. Appointed elder to Presbytery, she would rule on cases that came up for adjudication.

IV. Sitting as delegate in Synod she would rule on cases of discipline, exercising authority over men—contrary to the Scriptures.

V. If a man was to be ordained to the ministry by the Presbytery, she would sit in judgment on his qualifications.

VI. At the communion, the woman-elder would serve the tables.

THE EFFORT TO HAVE WOMEN ELDERS IS AS REVOLUTIONARY AS IT IS UNSCRIPTURAL!

Suppose one would say—I have as good right to fill the office of elder as men have! Better listen to God. "Nay, but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the things formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?" (Rom. 9:20).

WOMAN'S HIGH PLACE

I. They are the comforters in the world's sorrows; especially is this seen in storm and stress, and since Florence Nightingale, in the tears of war. Here men step aside for the loving touch of woman's sympathetic heart!

II. They are queens in the home. A man can not make a home; it requires the gracious presence of woman and her guiding hand.

III. The Mother, filled with a mother's love, whose lap is the baby's and little children's throne, sits as the one who moulds the children's characters, who teaches them to lisp the little prayer—"Now I lay me," and to fear God and love Him. She directs and moulds the boys who are to be leaders in the church and world, and the girls who are to follow in her footsteps as she follows God. "The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world." *No higher place can be given to*

any than God has given to woman. Where they are dissatisfied and aspire to get into man's assigned place they soon find they are misfits, and in God's overruling providence, are soon out of sight.

If the question—should women be elders? were put to the women of the Covenanter Church, it would, it is believed, be lost an hundred to one, and that 'one' would probably be in the class mentioned at the beginning of this article.

SECOND PRIZE

HOW ARCHAEOLOGY HAS GIVEN ME NEW FAITH
IN THE BIBLE

ALBERTA McDONALD, *Southfield*

(2nd prize in the Ohio Conference Essay Contest)

As I read my Bible, I experience a feeling of trust; I have no desire to question its words. If the Bible says that Moses wrote the book of the law—why he surely must have, for the Bible is the word of God, written by men who were inspired by His spirit. Nevertheless, attacks have been made upon its authenticity.

ANCIENT WRITING

How do we know that Moses could write? Doesn't it seem a little unreasonable that there could be such literary advancement during those early years? Perhaps the accounts commonly attributed to Moses were handed down by word of mouth for many centuries.

Yet now we have several sources of proof that writing was not only known, but actually used by common people even before the birth of Moses. Perhaps the greatest discovery was that of the Tel-el-Armarna letters discovered in 1887, but which were not deciphered and published to the world for some years later. On the Nile River about 180 miles from Cairo, in the village of Tel-el-Armarna, a peasant woman uncovered a number of tablets. When eventually their secret was revealed, it was clear that they were the letter file of the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the reigns of Amenhotep III and IV, whom Breasted dates as living in the years 1411-1358 B.C. This places the inscription midway between Abraham and Moses. The tables are written in the Babylonian Cuneiform and the language is an archaic form of language used by the peasantry of Palestine today. The letters are inscribed upon clay tablets which is further proof of their genuineness. Some are well-written as by professional scribes and others are poorly spelled and written in an unskillful manner as if to indicate that comparatively uneducated people could write.

We have further proof in discoveries at ancient Lachish in Palestine, greatest of the fenced cities of Judah. The finding of the Lachish letters was an outstanding discovery. This most sensational Palestinian excavation was announced in our newspapers in early February, 1935. It was the finding of a number of letters written on potsherds in the debris of the gate tower of the city. The letters were written in the time of Jeremiah and give us a vivid picture of those terrifying days

when the Babylonians were descending upon Judea. There is reference to a prophet whose words were similar to the prophecies of Jeremiah. Scholars believe the reference to be to that incident in Jeremiah 26:20-23, where the king Jehoiakim had men pursue Urijah, the son of Shemiah into Egypt and bring him back to be killed.

Comparatively little writing has been found in Palestine, making the Lachish letters of double importance. Their choice of writing paper is responsible for this deficiency. Most writing was done on papyrus which easily deteriorated and was lost after three thousand years. Writing has been found in the dry climate of southern Egypt, but only when deeply buried under dry ground. Fortunately for us, there were people at Lachish who wrote on more lasting material than papyrus. A bowl was found, dated shortly after the time of Moses, and inscribed with letters which have been translated to resemble a verse in Deuteronomy. The writer of the Lachish letters apparently was a commander of the garrison of a town some distance away. He wanted his message to be safely delivered, so he wrote with pen and ink on potsherds.

These two pieces of work prove beyond any doubt that writing was commonly used for literary purpose. Surely Moses who received the best education possible in his day, would have no trouble in writing the Pentateuch.

ANCIENT LAWS

In December 1901 and January 1902 while excavating at Susa (known to Bible readers as "Shushan, the Palace" in the Book of Esther), Monseieur J. de Morgan "found among the debris three large fragments of a block of black diorite stone. They fitted perfectly together and when joined formed an upright monument nearly eight feet high" containing "forty-nine columns, four thousand lines, and about 8,000 words." When it had been deciphered and translated, it was found to be a code of laws engraved by the order of Hammurabi, king of Babylon, who lived in 2067-2025 B.C., according to the Encyclopedia Britannica. The monument was originally set up in Babylon but it was carried away by an Elamite conqueror to Eusa. The question naturally arose as to the relation of the code to the Mosaic legislation. The Hammurabi code silenced forever those who insisted that such an elaborate code was impossible at such an early date. Here was a code quite as elaborate as that of Moses, originating hundreds of years before he was born.