



the Dean Burgon News

IN DEFENSE OF TRADITIONAL BIBLE TEXTS

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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE DEAN BURGON SOCIETY

AUGUST, 1979

Analysis Of "The Chicago Statement On Biblical Inerrancy"

[Installment Number 5]

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" (Cont'd.) Continuing the fourth division of the "CHICAGO STATEMENT ON BIBLICAL INERRANCY" as it appeared in the *Presbyterian Guardian* for January, 1979 (pp. 6-10), as published by the International Council On Biblical Inerrancy (ICBI), let us comment on a few other items.

4. Comments On ICBI'S "HOST OF EXCELLENT TRANSLATIONS" Of The Bible. The Chicago Statement mentioned:

Similarly, no translation is or can be perfect, and all translations are an additional step away from the *autographa*. Yet the verdict of linguistic science is that English-speaking Christians, at least, are

1 JOHN 5:7 ARTICLE

In our May issue of the DEAN BURGON NEWS, we carried an article about 1 John 5:7, and quoted the work of Rev. C. J. Drexler. It has sparked many reactions, most of them favorable, some unfavorable, but just about all of them requesting the documentation for a GIFT to DBS of \$1.50 (or 2/\$2.00). The questions which have been sent in have been genuine and sincere questions, and we are asking Rev. Drexler to look into each of them, as time permits, and in some FUTURE ISSUE of the DEAN BURGON NEWS, we will be making any corrections, additions, or clarifications that might be necessary as a result of such further research. Thank you for standing by patiently in the meantime.

EXCEEDINGLY WELL SERVED in these days with A HOST OF EXCELLENT TRANSLATIONS and have no cause for hesitating to conclude that the true Word of God is within their reach... [*Presbyterian Guardian*, op. cit., 1/79, p. 10].

Are the English-speaking people really "EXCEEDINGLY WELL SERVED... WITH A HOST OF EXCELLENT TRANSLATIONS"??

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

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2nd

2:00 - 5:00 p.m. — Executive Committee Meeting
5:30 p.m. — Supper
7:30 - 9:30 p.m. — Bible Preaching & Teaching

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3rd

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon — Bible Speakers
12:00 Noon — Lunch
2:00 - 5:00 p.m. — Speakers and/or Workshops
5:30 p.m. — Supper
7:00 - 9:00 p.m. — Bible Preaching & Teaching

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4th

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon — Bible Speakers
12:00 Noon — Lunch & Adjourn

For a list of motels and prices, write to: Dr. M. James Hollowood, 600 South Third St., Watertown, Wisconsin 53094.

THE DEAN BURGON SOCIETY could not name as an "EXCELLENT TRANSLATION" any translation into English which is not based both on (1) the Traditional Masoretic Hebrew Text of the Old Testament, and (2) the Traditional Received Greek Text of the New Testament, because we feel very strongly that these two original language texts of both Old and New Testaments are the very closest to the original autographs of any in existence today—barring none!

With this in view, note the following so-called "EXCELLENT TRANSLATIONS" which must, perforce, be ruled out of the picture: (1) The "LIVING BIBLE" (2) "AMERICAN STANDARD VERSION" (3) "DARBY TRANSLATION" (4) "REVISED STANDARD VERSION" (5) "AMPLIFIED BIBLE" (6) "PHILLIPS NEW TESTAMENT" (7) "BERKELEY BIBLE" (8) NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE" (9) "WUEST'S NEW TESTAMENT" (10) "BECK'S BIBLE" (11) "WILLIAMS' NEW TESTAMENT" (12) "TODAY'S ENGLISH VERSION—(GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN)" (13) "NEW BERKELEY BIBLE" (14) "NEW INTERNATIONAL BIBLE" (15) "R.C. CONFRATERNITY BIBLE" (16) "R. C. KNOX BIBLE" (17) "R. C. NEW CATHOLIC EDITION" (18) "NEW ENGLISH BIBLE" (19) "R. C. JERUSALEM BIBLE" (20) "R. C. R.S.V. COMMON BIBLE"!! [Cf. BIBLICAL TRANSLATIONS—AN INTRODUCTORY STUDY by the author, 44 pp., available for a GIFT to DBS of \$2.00]. Each one of the above 20 Bibles or New Testaments fails to measure up TEXTUALLY, either in the Old Testament, the New Testament, or BOTH!

So, where is the "HOST OF EXCELLENT TRANSLATIONS" if, indeed, the preceding versions are not properly based upon these Traditional Bible Texts in the original languages? The Authorized (King James) Version IS based upon both the Traditional Masoretic Hebrew Text for the Old Testament and the Traditional Received Greek Text for the New Testament, and is an "EXCELLENT" translation both by way of grammar, accuracy, clarity, and idiomatic rendition of the original languages into acceptable—even EXCELLENT—English. A

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!

very FEW other New Testament or Old Testament translations are also based upon the Traditional Bible Texts of the Old and New Testaments, but aside for these, there are NONE.

Since there is NOT a "HOST OF EXCELLENT TRANSLATIONS" then how can the ICBI in their Chicago Statement say that "THE TRUE WORD OF GOD IS WITHIN THEIR REACH"?! Can it be the "TRUE WORD OF GOD" which in some way tells the reader that, for example, Mark 16:9-20, are spurious and never appeared in the original book of Mark?! I think not! Can it be the "TRUE WORD OF GOD" which in some way tells the reader that, for example, John 7:53—8:11 are spurious and never appeared in the original book of John?! I think not! Can it be the "TRUE WORD OF GOD" which in some way tells the reader, for example, that I Timothy 3:16 does NOT read that it was "GOD" who was "MANIFESTED IN THE FLESH" in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ?! I think not! These various versions are replete with doubts and questions which are cast upon genuine, reliable, accurate reflections of the original text of the Bible, and, when measured by the standard of the Authorized (King James) Version of the Bible, fall far short of its excellence by any standard you can name.

5. **Comments On ICBI'S Statement That "NO SERIOUS TRANSLATION" Of The Bible Will "DESTROY ITS MEANING."** The Chicago Statement mentioned:

...NO SERIOUS TRANSLATION OF HOLY SCRIPTURE WILL SO DESTROY ITS MEANING as to render it unable to make its reader 'wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus' (2 Tim. 3:15). [*Presbyterian Guardian*, op. cit., 1/79, p. 10].

I cannot accept this statement at all. What is meant by a "SERIOUS TRANSLATION"? No translations are specified. The reader is left to his own assessment of what a "SERIOUS TRANSLATION" is. Any translations which depart either from the O.T. or N.T. Traditional Texts do not, in our judgement qualify as "SERIOUS" translations, because they are failing to translate the original language words (Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek) which they are supposed to be translating—substituting instead words of their own devices and imaginations! This is dangerous! This is damaging! This is DESTRUCTIVE of the various doctrines and teachings wherever they are touched in these places in question. There is "DEATH IN THE POT" in every single translation which is based on some form of the text other than the two texts described above in paragraph #4!

6. **Comments on ICBI'S Use Of "EVANGELICAL IDENTITY" To Describe Those Who Have "DENIED THE FULL TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE."** The Chicago Statement mentioned:

...If this is not seen and if for the time being basic evangelical doctrines are still held, PERSONS DENYING THE FULL TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE may claim an EVANGELICAL IDENTITY while methodologically they have moved away from the evangelical principle of knowledge to an unstable subjectivism, and will find it hard

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 6)

(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 July, 1979 issue)

II. THE ANSWER ITSELF—#6 (Cont'd.)

11. ITEM #11.

A. **FAITH FOR THE FAMILY'S Statement.** "The matter of dispute today among those WHO SHOULD BE BRETHERN in obedience to the Word of God is the TEXT OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, THE GREEK TEXT." [From February, 1979, FAITH FOR THE FAMILY, Bob Jones University, lines ##74-78 of the magazine.]

not to move further. [*Presbyterian Guardian*, op. cit., 1/79, p. 10].

It is not clear whether "MAY claim" means that these people might "RIGHTFULLY" claim, or whether it means that these people "MAY" in the sense of possibly claim, yet in reality they have no basis for such a claim. On the meaning of "may" rests my objection to this wording. I do not believe for a moment—as even Dr. Harold Lindsell, a leading New-Evangelical writer and spokesman, has written in **THE BATTLE FOR THE BIBLE**, a person denying the strict and complete INERRANCY and INFALLIBILITY of the Bible does not in any sense merit the name "EVANGELICAL" because he has cast off the most important basis for such a claim! The rest of this statement above makes sense and is certainly true. To make it clear, they should say, that "though some who deny the full truth of Scripture 'CLAIM' to be 'EVANGELICALS,' this claim cannot be maintained in fact!" This would have made it crystal clear, if that is what they wanted to say. If they did NOT want to say that, or virtually the same as that, then there are serious problems with their position on this point.

IV. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This has been a very brief analysis of the "CHICAGO STATEMENT ON BIBLICAL INERRANCY" which was drafted by the INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON BIBLICAL INERRANCY (ICBI) in Chicago in October, 1978 by some 284 "evangelical scholars." Though there are some very sound and worthy positions taken in this "CHICAGO STATEMENT," there are also some very weak and unworthy positions as well—positions with which the DEAN BURGON SOCIETY cannot, in all good conscience, go along. Biblical INERRANCY and INFALL-

B. **The Issue.** Are those who see the Greek Text of the New Testament differently from their other Christian "BRETHERN" any less genuine "BRETHERN"?

C. **My Comments.** I think I understand what Dr. Panosian was saying here in this sentence, but I want to make it very clear that any differences which the various Christian "BRETHERN" might have on the New Testament Greek text (and there are MANY such differences certainly), do not "DE-BRETHERNIZE" the opposite side in the argument. Not at all. If we're saved by God's grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-10), we are "BRETHERN" and there is nothing or no one who can change this fact. Because we ARE "BRETHERN," we seek to shed as much light as possible on this "matter of dispute" so that there might be a narrowing of the gap which stands between us in the two camps.

12. ITEM #12.

A. **FAITH FOR THE FAMILY'S Statement.** "But with hundreds of manuscripts—actually thousands—available today, WE CAN SAY WITH CERTAINTY THAT WE HAVE EVERY WORD OF THE WORD OF GOD." [From February, 1979, FAITH FOR THE FAMILY, Bob Jones University, lines ##85-89 of the magazine.]

B. **The Issue.** Do we have "WITH CERTAINTY" "EVERY WORD OF THE WORD OF GOD," and if so, how is this determined?

C. **My Comments.** It is certainly true that there are "thousands" of manuscripts and other textual materials today for the Greek New Testament. Kurt Aland, back in 1967, classified a total of 5,255 Greek manuscripts or lectionaries that bear witness to the New Testament Greek text available today. There are, perhaps, even more in 1979. He gave the following totals: (1) 81 papyrus fragments; (2) 267 uncials (written in CAPITAL LETTERS or majuscules); (3)

IBILITY, coupled by the PLENARY and VERBAL INSPIRATION of the Bible is one area which is vital and important so far as it goes. But the matter of the TEXTS of the Bible and, from these "TEXTS" the "TRANSLATIONS" of the Bible, is a matter which is also of very vital importance, because it is a "TRANSLATION" which puts people in touch with the very WORD OF GOD. It is vital, therefore, that these TRANSLATIONS not only be excellent as to their methods employed in translating from one language to another, but also that these TRANSLATIONS be based upon a TEXT of the original Hebrew and Greek which is the very closest possible to the originals! Here is where the "rubber meets the road"! And yet in this very vital spot is where THE DEAN BURGON SOCIETY and the INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF BIBLICAL INERRANCY must, indeed, part company. Our convictions are based on entirely opposite premises in this vital area of Biblical study. We will be looking at the ICBI in the months to come to see whether or not their principles of both TEXT and TRANSLATIONS will be more solidly based than at present. Time will tell.

2,764 cursives (written in small letters or minuscules); (4) 2,143 lectionaries (lesson books for public reading of Scripture with Greek New Testament quotations used in them) for a total of 5,255 documents available bearing witness to the New Testament Greek text. [Cf. "IN DEFENSE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT MAJORITY GREEK TEXT" by the author, available for a GIFT to the DEAN BURGON SOCIETY of 3/\$1.00, 15 pages, 1974].

We are in agreement on the vast number of manuscripts and other textual materials available for us today. We are also in agreement that somewhere within these vast numbers of manuscripts—over 5,255—we have "WITH CERTAINTY" "EVERY WORD OF THE WORD OF GOD." This is a departure from the position usually taken by those who espouse the Westcott and Hort theory of textual criticism. The Westcott-Hort followers generally say that we have no certainty whatsoever as to "EVERY WORD OF THE WORD OF GOD." They feel that we can NEVER know "WITH CERTAINTY" the very Word of God that was contained in the original autographs. We are happy that Dr. Panosian agrees with us, and others such as Wilbur Pickering [Cf. *IDENTITY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT TEXT* (191 pp.), available for a GIFT to DBS of \$9.00] that somewhere in the manuscripts and other materials that we have on hand, "EVERY WORD OF THE WORD OF GOD" is to be found. The only place where we might DIFFER is on the issue of what methods should we use in the area of textual criticism which would enable us to arrive at exactly WHICH WORD or WORDS (where there is a difference in the manuscripts) is/are the very WORD OF GOD, and which is/are SPURIOUS!!! Methodology is important in the answer to this question. THE DEAN BURGON SOCIETY advocates the methodology of Dean John William Burgon as mentioned before. Most of the followers of Westcott-Hort, on the other hand, prefer their methods in general, which are diametrically opposed to those of Burgon and his school. Those of us, who, like Dr. Panosian, believe in the INERRANCY and INFALLIBILITY of the Bible in the originals and also in the PLENARY, VERBAL INSPIRATION of the Bible in the originals, have a tremendous responsibility before us to ascertain "WITH CERTAINTY" amidst the mass of various readings and findings exactly what is "EVERY WORD OF THE WORD OF GOD."

[To Be Continued]

Dean Burgon Said It—"THE LEISURE TIME OF BEING A DEAN"
"Let me...in giving the present Volume to the world, be allowed to request that it may be accepted as a sample of HOW DEANS EMPLOY THEIR TIME,—the use they make of their opportunities. Nowhere but under the shadow of a Cathedral, (or in a College,) can such laborious endeavors as the present *pro Ecclesia Dei* [For the Church of God] be successfully prosecuted." [Rev. Revised, p. xxxii].

The New King James Bible

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

On June 15, 1979, I received from the publishers [Thomas Nelson] a "REVIEW COPY" of their recently published "THE NEW KING JAMES BIBLE—NEW TESTAMENT" (407 pages). While there are many things about this translation about which I am personally displeased (and, perhaps, after more in-depth study, I might be sharing some of them with our readers of DEAN BURGON NEWS in some future issue), there is, at least ONE THING about which we of THE DEAN BURGON SOCIETY can be justly thankful to the Lord Jesus

Christ about this project, and that is the underlying Greek Text they selected on which to base their translation process from Greek to English. They stated in the INTRODUCTION:

The New Testament of the NEW KING JAMES BIBLE is a useful and accurate revision, [which we dispute, in part, to be mentioned at a later date] BASED ON THE TRADITIONAL GREEK TEXT UNDERLYING THE 1611 EDITION OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE. [op. cit., p. v]

Prior to the publication of this NEW KING JAMES BIBLE—NEW TESTAMENT, we were led to believe that originally the publishers did NOT have in mind to use the same "TRADITIONAL GREEK TEXT UNDERLYING THE 1611 EDITION" for their Greek basis. Instead, we had learned they intended to CHANGE that underlying Greek text in at least 1,000 places or more.

Circulate These Books

HERESIES OF WESTCOTT & HORT. By Dr. D. A. Waite, President of the Dean Burgon Society. 52 pages. This book gives solid information revealing clearly the theological heresies of Brooke Foss Westcott and Fenton John Anthony Hort. This book is important, since it was their false textual theories which paved the way for nearly all the modern versions of the 20th Century. Dr. Waite has done a scholarly job in researching the writings of these two 19th Century scholars and revealing just how unsound they were in doctrine. The quotes have been carefully documented, so that the scholar as well as the average Christian can be well informed on this subject. Yours for a GIFT to the Dean Burgon Society of \$2.50, paperback.

"GREEK NEW TESTAMENT — RECEIVED TEXT" This text is the Greek Text of the New Testament which underlies the King James Version and is published by the Trinitarian Bible Society. It is a clear, large-style, print, with a durable binding. Every Christian worker, every Sunday School teacher, every Pastor, every missionary, every Christian College teacher, and everyone else should have a copy for his library! Yours for a GIFT to the Dean Burgon Society of \$6.00 for the cloth-bound edition.

WHICH BIBLE? 5th Edition, Edited by Dr. David Otis Fuller, Vice President of the Dean Burgon Society. 350 pages, fully indexed. A defense of the King James Version of the Bible, and the Traditional Greek Text underlying the New Testament. Yours for a GIFT to the Dean Burgon Society of \$5.00, paperback.

TRUE OR FALSE? Edited by Dr. David Otis Fuller. 305 pages. This is a sequel to *Which Bible?* and further explains the defects in the Westcott & Hort false textual theory which has captured the minds of present-day liberals, neo-evangelicals, and Bible—believing fundamentalists as well. Yours for a GIFT to the Dean Burgon Society of \$5.00, paperback.

COUNTERFEIT OR GENUINE? Edited by Dr. David Otis Fuller. 217 pages. This book gives, in condensed form, the various arguments of Dean John William Burgon and others in favor of the genuineness of Mark 16:9-20 and of John 7:53—8:11, which the Westcott and Hort followers have rejected as spurious. Yours for a GIFT to the Dean Burgon Society of \$5.00, paperback.

Whether or not this information was correct, THE DEAN BURGON SOCIETY is very happy, indeed, that at least the GREEK TEXT which was used as a basis [and we are, at this point, simply taking their word for it, although we have checked in such crucial spots as Mark 16:9-20; John 7:53-8:11; 1 Timothy 3:16; etc.] was the very same TRADITIONAL RECEIVED GREEK TEXT as used for the Authorized (King James) Version which Greek Text THE DEAN BURGON SOCIETY believes very firmly is the very closest Greek text in print today to the original autographs of any other in existence! We cannot say, however, whether (in later editions, perhaps), the publishers will DESTROY this "TRADITIONAL GREEK TEXT" used as its basis by the inclusion of such questioning footnotes as they have inserted in 1 John 5:7, which will tend to bring the kind of doubts in God's Word to the minds of those not familiar with the various problems involved as similar footnotes which are used throughout the New Testament sections of the various modern versions such as NIV, NASV, LB, NEB, TEV, and others which are NOT founded on the "TRADITIONAL GREEK TEXT UNDERLYING THE 1611 EDITION."

We would hope that the publishers will continue to maintain their firm Greek textual basis as they have chosen for their first edition throughout, without caving in to the various critics—both friends and foes—who will seek to take them off of this FIRM BASE of operation!

Be very clear, however, that this brief comment is NOT to be taken as an endorsement, whether by this writer, or by the DEAN BURGON SOCIETY of the TRANSLATION process, necessity, or product itself! THAT is an entirely DIFFERENT subject, and, perhaps, will be taken up at a later date. THE DEAN BURGON SOCIETY still maintains its defense of "TRADITIONAL BIBLE TEXTS," including most especially the Authorized (King James) Version of the Bible—Old and New Testaments. It's still the very best in the English language today, we feel, for reasons which we will explain in more detail later. "PROVE all things; HOLD FAST that which is good." (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

OUR READERS RESPOND

VIRGINIA: I have read the Dean Burgon Paper and am very much in favor of what you are doing for preservation of the Word of God and exposition of trashy translations.

CALIFORNIA: Praise The Lord—Count Me In—

MICHIGAN: As I do not know whether you have seen this article concerning the Textus Receptus written by a professor of history at Bob Jones University, I am sending it to you. I am also including the notification of the article in the January issue of the paper. I think you will agree that Dr. Bob Jones is not defending The Textus Receptus, but is obviously attempting to discredit it.

ALASKA: I certainly wish your new society the best. These

are fast-changing times; may we do the best with them. I will be arranging an evangelistic tour for this summer throughout most of Alaska so please keep us in mind and in your prayers. If there is anything we can do for you, for BFT, or for the DBS in Alaska, please let me know. We are trying to develop good contacts with good, non-compromising, fundamental churches up there. If you have knowledge of any let me know. When we get back I can let you know of the ones we find.

HAITI: My heart was thrilled to learn of this new society, and the stand they have taken. As I have watched the liberal trend, and it is just as evident on the mission field as it is elsewhere, I feel like those who take a stand are being pushed into the background while "Living Bibles" in many languages are flooding the world.

MISSOURI: Decided to give ten percent of my income tax refund to help you and Dr. Fuller in your mission of upholding the King James Version of the Bible, thus am enclosing check for \$20.00.

SEND GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS! All gifts to Dean Burgon Society are tax deductible!

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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PENNSYLVANIA: Thank you for sending "THE DEAN BURGON NEWS". I found it to be very informative and encouraging to read. Subscription is enclosed. I was especially interested in Section III. B. 7. of the Articles of Faith, concerning the "REVISED TEXTUS RECEPTUS" and "THE NEW KING JAMES VERSION" published by Thomas Nelson Inc. Any more information of this subject would be appreciated. It would seem to me, knowing the wiles of the Devil that this so called "new Bible" has the same odor of satanic influence as all the other Modern Versions.

UTAH: We are glad to see a Bible Society being raised up in defense of the King James Bible and Text!

THE DEAN BURGON NEWS

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