



the **Dean Burgon News**

IN DEFENSE OF TRADITIONAL BIBLE TEXTS

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NO. 21

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE DEAN BURGON SOCIETY

FEBRUARY, 1981

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DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE!

New Executive Committee Member Added

The Dean Burgon Society is pleased to announce that by vote of the DBS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, they have added the name of Rev. Robert J. Barnett to fill a vacancy. Rev. Barnett is the Pastor of the CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH in Grayling, Michigan, and has recently authored a new book entitled: *The Word of God on Trail* [Available from DBS by sending a GIFT of \$2.50 to our work and ministry].

Pastor Barnett is a graduate of the Grand Rapids Baptist College and Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and is a sound defender of "Traditional Bible Texts." He had a very successful BIBLE PRESERVATION RALLY at his church on January 10th of this year, and has been a Life Member of the DEAN BURGON SOCIETY for a number of years. Welcome, Pastor Barnett!!

Bible Preservation Rally at Grayling, Michigan

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH of Grayling, Michigan, hosted a state-wide BIBLE PRESERVATION SEMINAR and RALLY, Saturday, January 10, 1981. Interest in the subject was confirmed by a packed building. Registration revealed that there were 47 churches represented.

While most of the people came from North Michigan, there were people attending from as far south as Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Holland. Pastor Jim Johnson came nearly 500 miles from Schreiber, Ontario, Canada. Bill and Terry

Morgan and Mat Watt came 400 miles, representing Marathon Baptist Church in Ontario, Canada.

The three speakers were Dr. David Otis Fuller, Pastor Robert Gage, and Dr. D. A. Waite. Dr. Fuller, President of the "WHICH BIBLE? SOCIETY" and Vice President of THE DEAN BURGON SOCIETY, gave the opening challenge in which he said those who alter God's Word call the Holy Spirit a liar, and come very close to committing the unpardonable sin. Pastor Gage, Pastor of the WEALTHY STREET BAPTIST CHURCH in Grand Rapids, showed by charts how a bridge has been built between Fundamentalism and Liberalism, and how revised Bibles are a part of this bridge. Dr. Waite, President of both THE BIBLE FOR TODAY, and THE DEAN BURGON SOCIETY, dealt mostly with the Greek manuscripts and those who have translated them into the English language.

There were three hours of lecture by the speakers in the morning (one hour from each speaker) followed by a two-hour question and answer session in the afternoon. This question and answer session was the highlight of the day to many laymen who had their questions answered. Many facts were given on a level everyone could understand. Several laymen suggested more time be given for questions and answers in the future. Perhaps the biggest void in the meeting was the absence of opposing scholarship from our circles to publicly question and challenge the traditional views presented. Most Fundamental churches in Michigan were contacted several times about the meeting. There was a strange lack of scholarship to defend the new revised Bibles.

The following affirmation of faith in God's Word was signed by the vast majority of those present at the closing challenge and invitation:

I firmly believe that the TRADITIONAL OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES in Hebrew and the TRADITIONAL NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES in Greek were by verbal and plenary inspiration, revealed by God, and by His singular care and providence kept pure in all ages, and are therefore authentic. I also firmly believe God, according to His example in Acts 2:5-6, and His command in Romans 16:26, gave the English speaking nations His word over 300 years ago in the King James Version of 1611. I accept this TRADITIONAL ENGLISH BIBLE as the only Bible in English preserved of God and based on the TRADITIONAL HEBREW-AND GREEK TEXTS.

Perversion and confusion will only end in BIBLE PRESERVATION in direct proportion to the extent local New Testament churches support the TRADITIONAL, existing MAJORITY GREEK MANUSCRIPTS copied over the centuries by the believer-king-priests of the churches. We have abandoned our responsibility as king-priests to care for God's Word. We have permitted the world to pervert, print, and publish our Bible.

Take a vote in your church and see how many believer-priests were given a chance to approve any of the new perverted Bibles. How many "arms" of the church have inquired of the local churches to determine the Bible they may use?

Anyone desiring tapes of the seminar and rally, information on materials, or assistance in holding your own seminar and rally, please phone the Pastor of CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH in Grayling, Michigan (517-348-2264) or the Pastor of IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH in Roscommon, Michigan (517-275-5779).

By: Rev. Robert J. Barnett
DBS Executive Committee Member

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!

THE WORD OF GOD ON TRIAL

By Rev. R. J. Barnett
Member, DBS Executive Committee

Introduction

Can we believe God? Do we really have God's preserved word? Is there an absolute authority upon which our faith can rest? These questions make our study together one of the most explosive issues of our generation.

In the realm of human relationships, a man's name is no better than his word. In the divine realm, God has magnified His Word even above His name. "... For thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name" (Psalm 138:2). Man may be as good as his word, but God must have a preserved word which is perfect like His person. We dare not have a Bible which merely contains the Word of God. We must have a Bible which is the Word of God from cover to cover.

Today, God's Word is on trial. A handful of intelligentsia over the span of one century has altered the traditional Greek Text of the churches which was considered by faith perfect for 1800 years. These men have produced three different revised Greek texts which together have 2,165 Greek words removed, 335 Greek words substituted and 215 Greek words added to the traditional Greek text of the churches. These 3 revised Greek texts have been the basis for most of the 100 or more different translations and paraphrases of the New Testament produced in our generation.

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The DEAN BURGON SOCIETY is a tax-empt, non-profit, religious corporation, and as such *must* have the GIFTS of God's people to maintain itself both now and in the future. If the Lord so directs you, please do the following things for the DEAN BURGON SOCIETY:

- (1) Send the DBS a generous GIFT right now.
- (2) Put the DBS on your PERSONAL and/or CHURCH BUDGET, and send us a generous GIFT each month.
- (3) Subscribe personally to the *Dean Burgon News* for \$3.50 per year in the U.S.A. and \$7.00 per year in Canada and foreign countries.
- (4) Send us GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS to the *DBS News* at \$3.50 per year (\$7.00 for Canada and foreign) for as many leaders, pastors, key laymen, friends, seminary teachers, Bible school teachers, and others whom you think should get it each month.
- (5) JOIN the DEAN BURGON SOCIETY yourself for a GIFT of \$7.00 per year.
- (6) Urge others to join the DEAN BURGON SOCIETY as well, for a GIFT of \$7.00 per year.
- (7) PRAY much for our DEAN BURGON SOCIETY in these coming months. God is able!!

In defense of the old traditional Greek Text, we shall present the testimony of our forefathers. Historical orthodoxy must be carefully considered when we face doctrinal change or confusion. Second, we shall hear the Bible speak in self-defense. Third, we shall listen to the testimony of the Bible's author, Jesus Christ, concerning Bible preservation. Fourth, we shall hear God's revealed plan for Bible Preservation. Fifth, we shall expose the unreasonableness and lack of faith in the birth of modern Textual Criticism. Sixth, using current facts and common sense we shall project the growing urgency of the problem into future possibilities.

To prevent unfounded criticism, may we inform our readers that we are not going to do an inductive study of both sides of our subject. Volumes have already been written dealing with the subjective details, unproven theories and confusing jargon common to Textual Criticism. We reject by faith the false presuppositions of unbelief, the applications of natural science to a supernatural book, and the resulting conclusions of modern Textual Criticism. We shall call for a return to the traditional texts of the churches, the Masoretic Text of the Old Testament and the Greek Textus Receptus of the New Testament, to be accepted by faith as the inerrant, infallible Word of God. The King James translation into English is exalted because it is the only popular translation based solely on these original language texts.

To avoid criticism from educational scholars in our Bible colleges and seminaries, may we remind you that some of you first introduced us to the subject of Textual Criticism by using the deductive method. Many Bible college freshmen are instructed to purchase a newer English translation based upon a revised Greek text for "more accurate Bible study." Certainly scholars who used such methods to teach young college students a scientific position will not wish to be too critical of using this method to present a position based upon faith to pastors and laymen in our churches.

All of us would agree that the authority of the Bible is the single most important issue of the 20th century. Our forefathers fought liberalism at the beginning of the century defending the inspiration of the Bible. Your author firmly believes we shall close out the century defending the authority of the Bible because of divine preservation of Bible contents.

The main purpose of this book is to glorify the God of the Bible. It is not the purpose of this book to bring division, but rather direction, to the subject. Because there is so much ignorance and uncertainty even among Bible scholars on the subject of Bible Preservation, it behooves us to show abundant love and patience towards those who do not readily agree with us. As soon as sufficient light is shared to dispel darkness, a natural division will come into Christian circles separating faith from unbelief. May God

An Answer to "What Is the 'Inspired' Word of God?"

[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]

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

[Installment #17]

Item #25

A. *Faith for the Family's Statement*

"The importance of these [that is, the manuscripts of the so-called 'ALEXANDRIAN TEXT' as used by Westcott and Hort] was their ANTIQUITY, while the RECEIVED TEXT was DERIVED FROM MANUSCRIPTS OF THE LATE MIDDLE AGES, the WESTCOTT-HORT TEXT was from those of the FOURTH CENTURY." [February, 1979, *Faith for the Family*, Lines #221-225]

B. *The Issue*

(1) Was the "IMPORTANCE" of the Westcott and Hort manuscripts really their "ANTIQUITY"? (2) Was The "RECEIVED TEXT" derived only "FROM MANUSCRIPTS OF THE LATE MIDDLE AGES"? (3) How powerful an argument is the "ANTIQUITY" of the "WESTCOTT-HORT" "MANUSCRIPTS" alone? (4) What is a safer guide to the very original words of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament?

C. *My Comments*

1. Was the "IMPORTANCE" of the WESTCOTT AND HORT manuscripts really their "ANTIQUITY"? No, the importance of Westcott and Hort's manuscripts was not really their "ANTIQUITY," but the fact that they had been REJECTED as SPURIOUS and as DOCTORED DOCUMENTS viewed with great SUSPICION on the part of the great majority of the believers in churches all over the then-

enable us to speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15), that believers may mature into a "faith which worketh by love" (Gal. 5:6).

Your author makes no claims to originality or scholarship. Being a pastor, I do claim the highest divine office on earth for the acknowledgement and proclamation of divinely revealed truth. If this book is wrong in message or motive, your author deserves and demands the judgment of God. If you can prove this book wrong, please do so in Christian love and stop trying to ignore or sidestep the facts of the issue.

We have two basic schools of Textual Criticism today. One uses naturalistic methods to correct a corrupted Bible, and the other claims an unbroken, uncorrupted line of Bible Preservation down to our present age. Their differences are too great for both to be right.

[TO BE CONTINUED]

known world! The Westcott and Hort text, as Dean John Burgon so ably states: was a "POISONING OF THE RIVER OF LIFE AT ITS SACRED SOURCE" [cf. #804, "WHEN WOULD BURGON REVISE T.R. & KJV?" by DAW, for a GIFT to DBS of \$4.00, p. 7]; was "CONSTRUCTED THROUGHOUT ON AN UTTERLY ERRONEOUS HYPOTHESIS" (cf. #804, *op. cit.*, p. 7); was "UNTRUSTWORTHY FROM BEGINNING TO END" [cf. #804, p. 7]; was guilty of "HAVING DELIBERATELY REJECTED THE WORDS OF INSPIRATION IN EVERY PAGE, AND OF HAVING SUBSTITUTED FOR THEM FABRICATED READINGS" [cf. #804, p. 7]; was "THE MOST DEPRAVED" text "WHICH HAS EVER APPEARED IN PRINT" [cf. #804, p. 8]; was a "TEXT VASTLY MORE REMOVED FROM THE INSPIRED AUTOGRAPHS OF THE EVANGELISTS THAN ANY WHICH HAS APPEARED SINCE THE INVENTION OF PRINTING" [cf. #804, p. 8]; was the product of "THE ORACULAR DECREES AND IMPETUOUS ADVOCACY OF DRS. WESTCOTT AND HORT" [cf. #804, p. 9]; was "A TEXT DEMONSTRABLY MORE REMOTE FROM THE EVANGELIC VERITY, THAN ANY WHICH HAS EVER YET SEEN THE LIGHT" [cf. #804, p. 9]; was "THE MOST VICIOUS RECENSION OF THE ORIGINAL GREEK IN EXISTENCE" [cf. #804, p. 9]; was "SO HOPELESSLY DEPRAVED THROUGHOUT" [cf. #804, p. 9]; was guilty of "FALSIFYING THE INSPIRED GREEK TEXT IN COUNTLESS PLACES, AND BRANDING WITH SUSPICION SOME OF THE MOST PRECIOUS UTTERANCES OF THE SPIRIT!" (cf. #804, p. 9); was derived from an "UTTERLY DEPRAVED ARCHETYPE" [cf. #804, p. 9]; was such that "IT CANNOT BE TOO SOON OR TOO UNCONDITIONALLY ABANDONED" (cf. #804, p. 9); was filled with "THOSE VILE FABRICATIONS FROM WHICH THE GOOD PROVIDENCE OF GOD PRESERVED ERASMUS AND STUNICA—STEPHENS AND BEZA AND THE ELZEVIRS,—THREE CENTURIES AGO" [cf. #804, p. 10]; was based upon Codices B and Aleph, the "IMPURITY" of which "IS NOT A MATTER OF OPINION, BUT A MATTER OF FACT. THESE ARE TWO OF THE LEAST TRUSTWORTHY DOCUMENTS IN EXISTENCE" [cf. #804, pp. 10-11]; was based upon the two documents, B and ALEPH which are "HOPELESSLY AT VARIANCE AMONG THEMSELVES" and also had OPPOSING THEM "(1) ALL OTHER MANUSCRIPTS OF WHATEVER DATE,—(2) THE MOST ANCIENT VERSIONS,—and (3) THE WHOLE BODY OF THE PRIMITIVE FATHERS" [cf. #804, p. 11]; was a text characterized by "ESSENTIAL ROTTENNESS" [cf. #804, p. 12].

Again, all these quotations have been taken from Dean John William Burgon in his book, *Revision Revised* [Available from DBS for a GIFT of \$12.00 for #611] as quoted in our new study #804, "WHEN WOULD BURGON REVISE THE T.R. & K.J.V.?" which is available for a GIFT to DBS of \$4.00.

In summary, let it be said that one of the chief reasons for the preservation of the documents B and ALEPH (Vatican and Sinai) from the Fourth Century, A.D., was the fact that sound,

true, orthodox, fundamentalist Christians of the early church recognized these two documents for what Dean Burgon did in the above quotations, that is, they were products of early HERETICS, and were not to be depended upon as SCRIPTURE. Because, therefore, of DISUSE, these documents survived the ravages of time—together with the fact of the very favorable climatic conditions in the Egyptian areas where they were first discovered.

2. Was the "RECEIVED TEXT" derived only "FROM MANUSCRIPTS OF THE LATE MIDDLE AGES"? It is extremely misleading to state that "the RECEIVED TEXT WAS DERIVED FROM MANUSCRIPTS OF THE LATE MIDDLE AGES." In that sentence, what does the word, "DERIVED" mean? Does it mean that its authority and accuracy is to be questioned? Does it mean that either "most" of the Greek words in such manuscripts were NOT IN THE ORIGINAL GREEK WRITINGS because they were so many years afterwards? This is a very serious indictment of the "RECEIVED TEXT" indeed! The truth of the matter is that the "RECEIVED TEXT" or the "TRADITIONAL TEXT" or the "TEXTUS RECEPTUS" or the "MAJORITY TEXT" as it is variously termed, is actually "DERIVED" [in the sense of taken from as to its very words!] from the very ORIGINAL GREEK WRITINGS OR AUTOGRAPH THEMSELVES for the most part!! The SOURCE of the RECEIVED TEXT or TRADITIONAL TEXT goes right back to the very BEGINNING ITSELF for the most part! This is the reason why the RECEIVED TEXT, for the most part, agrees precisely with the vast majority (80% to 95%) of (1) our extant MANUSCRIPTS; (2) our most ancient VERSIONS; (3) our extant LECTONARIES; and (4) quotations of the early and many late CHURCH FATHERS! Merely because the parchment or velum or papyrus containing the "WORDS" of the New Testament which formed the basis for the "RECEIVED TEXT" might have been dated in the time of the "MIDDLE AGES" [not arguing this point at this time, but not admitting it either for certain!], this in no way implies that such "WORDS" were not for the most part the very words of God the Holy Spirit which were in the original writings themselves!! In fact, the "RECEIVED TEXT," or "TRADITIONAL TEXT" is closer BY FAR—in fact, Burgon says "1,000 TIMES" closer [cf. #804, "WHEN WOULD BURGON REVISE

BURGON'S CRITICAL METHOD OF ARRIVING AT THE N.T. TEXT

DEAN BURGON SAID IT: "The last to enter the field are DRS. WESTCOTT AND HORT, whose beautifully-printed edition of 'the New Testament in the original Greek' was published within five days of the 'Revised Authorized Version' itself; . . . With regret we record our conviction that these accomplished scholars HAVE SUCCEEDED IN PRODUCING A TEXT VASTLY MORE REMOTE FROM THE INSPIRED AUTOGRAPHS OF THE EVANGELISTS THAN ANY WHICH HAS APPEARED SINCE THE INVENTION OF PRINTING" [*Revision Revised*, pp. 24-26]

THE T.R. & K.J.V.?" by DAW, for a GIFT to DBS of \$4.00, p. 9] to the "ORIGINALS" than that of WESTCOTT & HORT and those derived from it!! The reason for the "disappearance" of the EXEMPLARS, or those manuscripts from which the COPIES were originally made, is the apparently universal practice for those copying the New Testament Scriptures to have DESTROYED these EXEMPLARS once an accurate and errorless COPY of them had been made onto new papyrus, parchment, vellum, or other material. The very EXISTENCE of the corrupt manuscripts B (Vatican) and ALEPH (Sinai) proves that they were never copied extensively by careful guardians of the Scriptures because of their apparent errors, mistakes, additions, subtractions, and obvious defects—otherwise, they, as EXEMPLARS from 4th Century, would also have been destroyed! This explains also why only 5% to 20% of the extant manuscript copies we have today are of this depraved variety. What a shame that the NASV, the NIV, the TEV, the LB, the NEB, the ASV, and virtually ALL the modern "translations" of the New Testament have resorted to this small handful of depraved, debased, error-ridden, corrupted little band of deceiving manuscripts, rather than the sound, true, and for the most part verbatim transcriptions of the very words of the originals themselves as found in the "RECEIVED TEXT" or "TRADITIONAL TEXT."

3. How powerful an argument is the "ANTIQUITY" of the "WESTCOTT-HORT" "MANUSCRIPTS" alone? This is a very weak argument indeed! Especially when you realize, as mentioned in the above paragraph that reputable transcribers whose business it was to copy exactly the manuscripts of the New Testament, made it a practice to DESTROY THEIR EXEMPLARS from which they had copied! Though "ANTIQUITY" is one of the seven important "TESTS OF TRUTH" as Burgon himself held, it is only ONE of the seven, and NOT THE ONLY ONE! When using the argument of "ANTIQUITY," as Burgon himself has often written about, we should NEVER take a SMALL PART of "ANTIQUITY" but "ALL OF ANTIQUITY ITSELF" to determine what a proper text should read. To take these two EGYPTIAN manuscripts B and ALEPH of the 4th century,

Circulate These Books

- A Guide To The TEXTUAL CRITICISM Of The New Testament, by Edward Miller, for a gift of \$7.00
- THE REVISION REVISED, by Dean John William Burgon, for a gift of \$12.00
- HERESIES OF WESTCOTT & HORT, by Dr. D. A. Waite, for a gift of \$2.50
- GREEK NEW TESTAMENT—RECEIVED TEXT, for a gift of \$9.00
- WHICH BIBLE?, edited by Dr. David Otis Fuller, for a gift of \$5.00
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found in only ONE REGION of the then-known world, as representative of ALL OF ANTIQUITY, would put the lie to truth and to proper inductive procedures to be used in Textual Criticism! What about the many references to quotations from the CHURCH FATHERS which ante-dated the time of B and ALEPH wherein testimony is given many, many times which is the exact OPPOSITE of that given by B and ALEPH?! Let's look at ALL of "ANTIQUITY"—in Caesarea, in Asia Minor, in Jerusalem, in Antioch, in Corinth, in Ephesus, in all places closest to the originals themselves where they could be compared with the originals in case of a difference! Recourse must be had to (1) ALL THE MANUSCRIPTS we now

have; (2) ALL THE LECTIONARIES we now have; (3) ALL THE ANCIENT VERSIONS we now have; and (4) ALL THE QUOTATIONS FROM SCRIPTURES FROM THE CHURCH FATHERS we now have! This alone must be the careful method to establish exactly what "ANTIQUITY" has bestowed to us on a given word or phrase in the New Testament. We must not take the "ex cathedra" pronouncements of Westcott and Hort or their modern-day worshippers as "FINAL" merely because their depraved "golden calves" of "B" and "ALEPH" have a certain reading!

[TO BE CONTINUED]

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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.

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Subscriptions \$7.00 Yearly

THE DEAN BURGON NEWS

Published Monthly by:
The Dean Burgon Society
D. A. Waite, Editor
Box 359
Collingswood, NJ 08108

Editorial Committee:

M. J. Hollowood
D. A. Waite

Non-Profit Org.
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Permit No. 822
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OUR READERS RESPOND

NEW JERSEY: Thank you very much. I appreciate the good solid approach to the defense of the KJV and the Majority Greek Text and The Masoretic. Greatly needed today. This, I believe, is where the real battle is presently.

CALIFORNIA: I have read several of your paperbound treatises, the most recent being "Majority Greek Text Defended." This is a subject I'm very interested in. I'm a layman and I agree with you completely in the matter of the Majority Text vs. the corrupted one. I like the name you've chosen for the name of your Society. Dean Burgon was truly a man of God. I would appreciate a listing of books and materials that are available or will be available in the future.

MICHIGAN: May I thank you and encourage you in your defense of the Traditional Bible texts! You are doing a very scholarly and masterful job of handling the W&H boys and their followers. I especially appreciate your comments in the Dean Burgon News.

NEBRASKA: Praise the Lord for your stand on the King James Version!!! Satan is certainly working to get the "Perverted Versions" for the weak and gullible Christians to read (not study) II Timothy 2:15.

TEXAS: Thank you so very much. I appreciate and wholeheartedly support your defense of the Authorized Version and its underlying text. I already possess a number of books defending the KJV and its text and look forward to keeping up with the contemporary issue by subscribing to the newsletter.

ARKANSAS: The TDBN is good! I am enclosing a donation for two years, retroactive September 1980. May God bless you and the staff in your ministry.