

Finding the Missing Peace



By Stephen G Baker

I read an article in a national newspaper a number of years ago where the author completely misrepresented the genuineness of the Bible as well as the message it conveys. As you know, my column focuses on what is going on in the world and attempts to reflect on what the Bible has to say about it and so I thought it might be useful to talk about why I trust the Bible.

The practical effect of the Bible and Christianity on Western society has been incredible. As a result of its teaching and practice, more education programmes have started, more hospitals opened and more societies have been changed for the better than any other belief system.

Consider for a moment the genuineness of the biblical documents, which some people call 'stories, myths, legends' etc. Many intelligent people, including academics, accept the validity and historicity of the Bible. Even the renowned Professor Dawkins of Oxford accepts the validity of the Bible and recommends that every child should read it, despite the fact that he does not like what it says. ["Richard Dawkins, the atheist author of *The God Delusion*, believes that children should grow up reading the Bible." *The Times* May 10th 2007]

The biblical record has been consistently proven to be accurate in terms of history and archaeology and even in the realm of science, despite the fact that the modern scientific world view is split between evolutionary belief and the biblical record of Creation [See: *The Genesis Enigma: Why The Bible Is Scientifically Accurate* by Dr Andrew Parker, published by Doubleday] In terms of the New Testament record (especially regarding the life and death of Jesus of Nazareth and the claims to his resurrection), there is clear evidence and logic that it speaks the truth even if many do not wish to follow through with the logical question 'that if this actually happened what does it mean for me?'

Many clever people have attempted to discredit and disprove the historical accuracy of the account of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, but have been persuaded by the evidence that he must have risen from the dead. [See the end of this article for details]. How an individual responds to that information is up to them, but I believe that the evidence is there to be found.

The good book says "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God", Romans 10:17, and that "the scriptures are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus", 2 Timothy 3:15. So it's vital that we know if we can trust the Bible.

In the next issue of *Heswall Magazine* I will look at some of the questions people ask about the Old Testament. Thanks for reading this. God bless.

Notes:

The Testimony of the Evangelists, Examined by the Rules of Evidence Administered in Courts of Justice is an 1846 Christian apologetic work by Simon Greenleaf, a principal founder of the Harvard Law School.

George Lyttelton Lyttelton: *Lord Lyttelton on The Conversion of St. Paul and Gilbert West on The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

Frank Morrison, lawyer: *Who Moved the Stone.*

Lee Strobel, lawyer, journalist: *The Case for the Resurrection.*

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www.findingthemissingpeace.co.uk



Award-winning Wirral novelist, **Margaret Murphy**, who pens thrillers as **A.D. Garrett** and **Ashley Dyer**, recommends two books per month, across a range of styles and a mixture of new and old.

The Oxford Book of English Ghost Stories

by Michael Cox, RA Gilbert (Eds)

Oxford University Press, USA (2008), £10.26

ISBN-10: 9780199556304



During the long winter nights, a good ghost story can be perversely comforting, and *The Oxford Book of English Ghost Stories* has over forty on offer. Well-known staples such as W.W. Jacobs's 'The Monkey's Paw', and H.G. Wells's 'The Red Room', both brilliant psychological tales, stand alongside more obscure, but equally chilling tales. 'The Upper Berth', by F. Marion Crawford and 'The Shadow in the Corner', by M E

Braddon (better known for her novel, *Lady Audley's Secret*) are easily a match to their more famous peers.

Historians will relish the 'unwitting testimony' in stories such as Braddon's which demonstrates the knife-edge walked by working people between a life of comparative comfort, and destitution; while Algernon Blackwood's 'The Empty House', and E Nesbit's 'Life-Size in Marble', highlight the disparity between men's and women's autonomy in Victorian and Edwardian England.

The earliest story dates from 1829, and the most recent was published in 1981. Sadism, wickedness, jealousy, and a lust for revenge are often at the rotten heart of the hauntings, but others explore love, loss, loneliness, and even misplaced kindness as the source of the psychic disturbances in these creepy and suspenseful tales. Happily, there is room for romance and dark humour, too in this remarkably varied collection: John Buchan's 'Fullcircle' is among my favourites for his delightfully playful style and invigorating and humorous prose – adjectives not often associated with ghost stories! The collection was first compiled in 1986, yet it is still available today – proof of its continued power to entertain.

The Dangerous Case of Donald Trump by Bandy Lee (Ed)

St Martin's Press USA, 2017

ISBN: 9781250179456



In the spring of 2017, Dr Bandy Lee called a 'Duty to Warn' conference at Yale University. In the United States, mental health professionals have a Duty to Warn potential victims (and in some states, law enforcement) when a specific threat of physical harm is made, there is a clearly identified or reasonably identified victim, and the patient has the intent and ability to carry out the threat. Yet the Goldwater Rule prohibits mental

health professionals from diagnosing public figures they haven't personally examined. The threat in this instance, the authors' claim, originates in the heart of US government, with no less a figure than President Trump himself.

Only twenty-four public health, psychiatry and psychology experts attended the 2017 conference, but it gained international attention from hundreds more, and in this collection of essays and articles, twenty-seven eminent psychiatrists, psychologists and other mental health professionals argue that their moral Duty to Warn supersedes professional neutrality. With titles including: 'Pathological Narcissism and Politics: A Lethal Mix'; 'In Relationship with an Abusive President'; 'Cognitive Impairment, Dementia, and POTUS'; and 'He's Got the World in His Hands and his Finger on the Trigger', from some of the most highly respected practitioners, researchers and teachers in the field, there's rich pickings for anyone with an interest in psychology, social science, history or politics, here. But if you value a good night's sleep, you might want to save the collection for daytime reading.

SPLINTER IN THE BLOOD, written as Ashley Dyer, is now available.

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