

## Teaching the nations about God (2)

Jesus taught that those who belong to him are *"the meek"*, not being proud or self-willed, but gentle, humble and submissive to his leadership. These, from among all mankind, are the ones which God has selected to be *"the light of the world"* - **Matthew 6:5-14**. The world, which is how Jesus refers to human society in general, is in fact *"the domain of darkness"* - **Colossians 1:13**. As it was in the time of Paul, so it continues to be until Jesus returns to a world in which the nations are living out their lives in futility, *"having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them"* - **Ephesians 4:17**. Many of these now prefer to believe that all the marvels of nature have occurred in a multi-billion year-long chain of random occurrences - rather than in the great Designer who has revealed Himself in the Scriptures. Others, while having been brought up into a belief in Jesus, have a concept of God which was introduced long after the time of Paul.

In fact, the history of Moses' church has been repeated in this respect by that of Jesus, who pointed out the error of those who held *"the tradition of the elders ... teaching as doctrines the commandments of men"* - **Matthew 15:2-9**.

The apostle Paul proclaimed that the books of the Old Testament, which were written down by the prophets were *"given by inspiration of God"* - literally, that they were *"God-breathed"* - **2 Timothy 3:16**. So what God has caused to be written by the prophets was first spoken by God. Peter also includes the writings of the New Testament, which were put on record by the apostles and their co-workers, under the direction of the Spirit of God - **2 Peter 3:16**. Also, he emphasizes that *"men spoke from God as they were moved" (carried along) "by the Holy Spirit"* - **2 Peter 1:20-21**.

And then we have a warning directly from Jesus Christ, after he had given the message of the final book of the Bible to the apostle John. *"I, Jesus... warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone ADDS to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone TAKES AWAY from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book"* - **Revelation 22:16-19**. If anyone claims to add any words to this book, and by extension, to the Bible, then Jesus is telling us not to accept them. From this it is clear that the people who came after the time of the apostles cannot have been *"carried along by the Holy Spirit"* in what they taught. Conversely, if anyone claiming to speak by the spirit of God, *"takes away"* - in other words, contradicts Bible teaching, Jesus is also warning us not to accept that either. The Bible plainly teaches that the one person of the Father is God - *"yet for us there is only one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live"* - **1 Corinthians 8:6**. The Scriptures also teach that Jesus first came into existence as the Son of God, a mortal man, at his birth of the virgin Mary - **Luke 1:35**, by the Holy Spirit which is the power of God - **1 Corinthians 2:4**. The *"meek"* who will have *"inherited the earth"* and been made *"like the angels, to die no more"*, will have their work cut out for them in teaching these and other matters to the mortal nations in Christ's kingdom.