

## Facts and Fancy about the Bible - 15

Voltaire, in his contention that Moses could not have written the book of Genesis, also held up to ridicule the reported beauty of Sarah at the age of seventy-five. In fact, this report fits perfectly into the fabric of Scripture, through which threads of its theme run from one end to the other.

Another simile used to describe the Bible is that of placing 66 magnetic compasses on a tabletop and noting the fact that the needle in every compass is pointing in exactly the same direction. In the case of the Scriptures the resemblance is in the message given by the various writers of those 66 books. These writers ranged from Moses to the apostle John who wrote the last book 1,500 years later - all delivering the same message of hope throughout.

The compass needles are acting under the influence of the unseen, external force in the geomagnetic field. The unseen force acting on the writers of the Scriptures is explained by the apostle in 2 Peter 1:21 "prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were MOVED by the Holy Spirit." Paul emphasizes that "ALL Scripture is given by inspiration of God" - 2 Timothy 3:16.

Well over a thousand years after the incident referred to by Voltaire, the same spirit of God which had moved Moses to record it in the book of Genesis, moved Paul to state in Hebrews 11:10 that Abraham "waited for the city which has foundations†, whose builder and maker is God". This was because Abraham believed - before Sarah had given birth to any children - that God would keep His promise recorded in Genesis 17:8 to give to him and his seed or offspring\* all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession.

Paul continues, 11 "By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child\* when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised." God's turning Sarah's biological clock back resulted in the birth of Isaac, so demonstrating His ability to restore Abraham & Sarah in the resurrection, when He will give them immortal bodies so they can receive the everlasting inheritance of the land.

And so Paul concludes 12 "Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born\* as many as the stars of the sky in multitude - innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore." \*God, through Moses, called on Israel to recognize the power of God - "Now see that I, even I, am He, and there is no God besides Me; I kill and I MAKE ALIVE" - Deuteronomy 32:39.

This is made possible through faith in the Son of God, whose role in salvation is portrayed in another thread running throughout the Scriptures - "Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be MADE ALIVE" - 1 Corinthians 15:20.

"As many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" - Galatians 3:26.

† Finally, 1,500 years later, John sees in symbolic representation that "City" for which Abraham waited - "Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be NO MORE DEATH, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" - Revelation 21:2.