

## TRIALS OF FAITH

(The item immediately below is a testimony sent to us through the kindness of Brother Anthony Grant of Australia. This is a slice of Brother Grant's life when he was living in Europe.)

If you go to jail in Russia you will live in close relationship with people from every walk of life, from simple peasants to top class intellectuals. As the lights in Soviet jails are never switched off, you will have a lot of time to read the books from well supplied library, play the chess, or join a discussion circle, many of which are on religious topics. They are highly amusing as stories are told about backwardness of Russian Orthodox Church, the miracles that were performed, promiscuous life in monasteries, etc. Invariably, among the amusement, came direct or indirect attack on God, and you would be required to answer many intricate questions. The accusations by indigenous Russians are rather crude and easy to deal with, but often come more cunning Sadducee-like questions from atheistic Jews.

One day I watched a group of Jewish intellectuals challenging the wisdom of God—"If God is all wise" they said, "Why couldn't He create a grapefruit? Grapefruit is more delicious than orange and has twice as much vitamins as lemon. Why did not God create grapefruit? It appears that Jews are wiser than God."

Up to that time I knew very little about genetics and I didn't even see a grapefruit so I didn't go into argument with them. This didn't make a dent in my faith for I knew that those intellectuals didn't see a grapefruit either as there was no imported fruit in Russia at that time... but time and time again a stubborn question troubled my mind: Did the Jews really create something better than God did?

Three years later my pathway lay through the then Palestine, and I remembered the grapefruit. I bought some, peeled one off and had a lusty bite. Then I spit it out of my mouth and threw the rest away—it was bitter! Having sweet teeth I detest sour fruit and I was disgusted. Then I lifted my thoughts to God and in my heart I felt a sweet reassurance of faith—God knew all His creation was good.

Beginning with our mother Eve up to this time Satan is using lack of knowledge to deceive mankind. In the ages past he used ignorance as his agent. In our time he is using science to deceive those that were once delivered from the chains of darkness. One of the agents of Satan in our time is genetics, for he knows that even college educated people have little knowledge on this subject. In the last few decades we had heard many boastful claims by scientists falsely so called. What wonders they can do to improve or change human character, yet they are deadly scared that such experiments may bring forth unforeseen and frightening results. In short it would be a criminal affair.

Genetics is hard to explain in a few words, however, for those who are not familiar on this subject, it is well to remember that we are not “born automats.” The thousands of genes that are written in our chromosomes are partly inherited and partly acquired during our life span. Some of them are acquired during pregnancy, others are shaped by our upbringing, surroundings, or how we react to the trends of life. If all our genes were inherited we could sit in our easy chair and say, “Lord I am as thou hast made me, I can not do neither better nor worse.” This would support the dogma of predestination.

Secondly our genes are dominant or recessive. Only a perfect father can possess all his genes dominant, hence quite a lot of our make up we inherit from our mothers. Even our Lord did not have all His genes inherited from His perfect Father, but from the things He suffered he learned, acquired the genes of perfect submission to do Father’s will—genes of meekness, humility, etc. As the acquired genes are dominant they will be with Christ forever and ever. Likewise church is now tested in the school of Christ to acquire such genes that would make her foolproof against sin and rebellion against God, because God will not create immortal sinners.

In any case, everyone can reject any boast of scientists with the words of the holy apostle: “Beware of science falsely so called.” 1 Tim. 6:20, 21.

\*\*\*\*\*

[supplement fillers]

Question 157 (1911 Convention Report, page 175) Will anyone die the Adamic death after the time of trouble?

Answer.—Yes, I think they will; that is to say, the Gospel age coming to an end, and the new dispensation beginning, it will be the beginning of the opportunity of the world to step out of the Adamic death into restitution life. But the world will not generally believe at first; it will take a little time before this knowledge will come to them. It will not be done like a flash. It will begin with Israel, according to the Scriptures, and as the Israelites come to a realization of the new dispensation, and as the ancient worthies will come back to them—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc., and all the prophets—when they shall appear amongst men as perfect samples of mankind, and as the princes of the Lord in all the earth to represent the glorious Messiah amongst men, the Jews will be the first to recognize the matter and respond, and then the blessings of restitution, life, and strength will gradually come to them. And as all the other nations begin to see this, they will want some of these blessings. So, you remember how the prophet expresses it. He says, “The law shall go forth from Zion”—that is, the Messiah, Jesus and the church in glory—“and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.” That will be after Israel is in favor with God. “Many nations shall come and say, Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord’s

house, and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths.” They will see how the Jews begin to walk in the Lord’s paths, and see the blessings he will give them, and these will say, “Would not the Lord be pleased to give us Gentiles something too, if we would walk in his ways?” And God will be just as willing to give blessings to all the nations. He has merely arranged that the blessings will come first to Israel and shall proceed to all nations. That is just what the Jews have been expecting in all the centuries in the past. There is nothing in the Jewish law or prophecies that has led the Jews to expect to be in the heavenly or spiritual class. All the blessings that they ever expected, or that God ever promised were earthly blessings; and they will get these very blessings.

\*\*\*\*\*

Compassion is an emotion of which we ought never be ashamed. Graceful, particularly in youth, is the tear of sympathy, and the heart that melts at the tale of woe. We should not permit ease and indulgence to contract our affections, and wrap us up in a selfish enjoyment, but we should accustom ourselves to think of the distresses of human life, of the solitary cottage, the dying parent, and the weeping orphan. Nor ought we ever to sport with pain and distress in any of our amusements, or treat even the meanest insect with wanton cruelty. —Blair.