

The Photo-Drama of Creation

Supplementary Text and Program

Preface

The following words are those of Pastor Russell, as spoken on the records which were used in connection with the Introduction, Intermission and Conclusion to the four parts of The PhotoDrama of Creation. They were transcribed from the original 80 RPM records that were produced by the Columbia Record Company specially for the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society.

Pastor Russell spoke only these portions of the PhotoDrama. The 96 lectures that made up the bulk of the Drama were spoken by a professional lecturer who was coached by the Pastor in the proper emphasis of specific words and phrases, So as to convey the proper tone of voice.

Compared to the professional lecturer, the Pastor's voice was too smooth to be recorded by the early acoustic recording process. To record well, one's voice had to have an "edge" to it in order to cause the needle to cut the master acetate records strongly. The strength of the final recording depended entirely on how loudly you could shout into the horn of the recording phonograph when the master was being cut. No electronic amplifiers were used to increase the volume of the voice of the speaker until 1926.

The portions that were recorded by Pastor Russell were accompanied by motion pictures of him speaking these words. The films and records were not made at the same time. The films were taken of him as he listened to the records of his voice. He pantomimed the words and moved around on the stage, just as he would have if he were speaking them live. (Close inspection of the original films indicate this. His lips are rarely in sync with the sound in some of the films. At times, his lips aren't even moving while he is gesturing and sound is coming from the phonograph.) In the days of silent film, there was no practical way to have the person be in front of the camera and in be close enough to the phonograph's recording horn at the same time.

While these films of the Pastor were in black and white, many of the films were in beautiful color. The motion picture frames had to be hand-colored, one frame at a time by very patient artists. The original frame size was 3/4 inch by 1 inch and 16 of these were shown every second, So the artist's work was moving past the eye very swiftly. Many of the hand-painted films, notably the films pertaining to the life of Christ, were produced in France by Pathe. This particular film was a very popular film in its own right. As was common in those days, it was possible to purchase several copies of a film, re-edit it and create your own film, using whatever parts of the original you chose, and add new segments to it. This was quite legal at the time (but highly illegal today). The tinted

films of the Wise Men meeting was evidently added to the original color footage as the markings of the Pathe company do not appear on the outer edges of the original film. This was evidently included to explain the vast crowd that appeared in the next scene, color footage produced by Pathe. The observer is left to imagine that they continued to attract a crowd as they traveled. We know that this was not the scenario of the real event, but the film was so spectacular that it couldn't be passed up and was used anyway. Some of the tinted films, notably, the films of Abraham, Noah, and others (which I do not have, and, hence, cannot include) were produced especially for the PhotoDrama by the brethren who were talented in the art of film-making and acting.

The original nitrate films are in such a state that they cannot be projected normally and video-taped. Consequently, they had to be copied, one frame at a time, manually, onto 16mm movie film (Kodachrome). The resultant copy was used in the production of the video-tape of the PhotoDrama.

The following listing details the contents of the video tapes of the PhotoDrama of Creation which were assembled between November, 1992 and March 6, 1993. Several of the films have not passed through my hands yet (if they exist at all), therefore, this production is not the complete eight hour production. There are more music records, which go along with films; however, since the films which these records support are missing, the records are not included. If more films ever surface, they will be included in future editions, along with the appropriate music records. This transcription goes forth with the prayer that these words of the Pastor, which to our knowledge, have never been published before, and this video tape of the PhotoDrama will bring a blessing to your heart.

Bible Students' Archives November 18, 1994

The PhotoDrama of Creation - Part One

Introduction:

The PhotoDrama of Creation is presented by the I.B.S.A, the International Bible Students Association. Its aim is public instruction along religio-scientific lines and in defense of the Bible as the inspired Word of God. Many claim that each of its parts is more helpful than a year in college, or the four parts equal to four years or more. We trust that this may prove to be so for everyone now present.

Asked the motive of the enterprise, we reply that it is purely philanthropic. It is supported wholly by voluntary contributions, and these come from Bible students, who themselves greatly benefited, are desirous of passing the blessing on to other hearts and heads. Surely the value of an intelligent knowledge of God and the Bible is inestimable.

The PhotoDrama of Creation presents the seven days of Creation as seven epochs, each seven thousand years long; and the seventh day as

not yet complete. In this view, one thousand years of the seventh day remain, during which, Earth and her population will reach the grand perfection designed by the Creator. It is held that this final thousand years has already begun. To this fact is accredited the great progress of our day - intellectually and materially. In other words, the great Seventh Day of the Genesis account is itself a great week, each day of which is one thousand years long. The six already passed have been man's work week of struggle against sin and death under the curse pronounced in Eden. Now the great Sabbath is beginning. In it, as God has promised, that the curse shall roll away from before the blessings of Messiah's Kingdom, for which So long we have prayed, "Thy Kingdom Come"; and of which we have So often sung as "The Sweet Bye and Bye."

Intermission:

What we have just seen surely has broadened our conception of our Great Creator's Wisdom, Justice, Power, and Love. Let us arise and reverently join in one verse of that beautiful hymn;

"Nearer my God, to Thee,

Nearer to Thee!"

Conclusion and "Peace Pin" offer:

Please accept from the I.B.S.A a peace pin, free. The ushers will now offer them. Take one from the card and pass the card on to your neighbor. The picture on the pin represents the boy Jesus, and your wearing the pin will signify that you wish to be a son of peace, a peace-maker, a promoter of righteousness, to the extent of your ability.

This Drama will be duplicated in all cities and lands as God shall provide the money. Nothing is ever solicited. The I.B.S.A. pays no official salaries. Every penny goes into the work. The I.B.S.A. furnishes the Drama complete, without cost, to all cities providing suitable auditoriums, ushers, et cetera.

The art feature of the Drama represents much money and great care in the reproducing and coloring. The value of the Drama to you will be doubled by the study of this literature which gives the Bible references not mentioned by the oral lectures. All are welcome to a copy in folder form free. It is available in substantial binding, profusely illustrated. Ask the usher. Many of you have the I.B.S.A. books, "Studies in the Scriptures." They will be doubly valuable to you after seeing this Drama.

The PhotoDrama of Creation - Part Two

Introduction:

We have seen and heard Part First of the PhotoDrama of Creation. We hope that as a result our reverence for our great Creator is increased. The bible story of the fall of Father Adam under the curse or sentence of death, may we never forget. The reign of sin and death and its bad influence, even upon angels, leading up to the deluge, we have fixed in our memory.

God's oath-bound covenant with Abraham, we have seen to be the basis of all resurrection hope. Our interest in God and in the Bible and in our fellows increases as we gain broader views of Creation. It is for this reason that our patrons declare each part of the Drama the best.

Let us keep in memory the great Bible fact that Creation is not yet complete. The completed Creation will find our Earth a paradise and filled with a perfect and happy human family in harmony with the Creator. Thereafter, there shall be no more sin, sorrow, crying, or dying. The curse of death will have been rolled away by the Redeemer, and the blessing of God will be upon all - everlasting life; for all willful sinners will have been destroyed in the second death.

Part Second begins with Melchizedek, Priest and King; the supposed builder of the Great Pyramid. It will show us Moses; God's typical dealings with typical Israel; the Exodus; crossing the Red Sea; giving of the Mount Sinai Law; the Manna; the Tabernacle and its sacrifices and other wilderness experiences. The death and burial of Moses; Israel's crossing Jordan; Joshua's battles; Israel's kings; Saul, David, Solomon; Solomon's Temple; Elisha; Elijah; Israel's last king, Zedekiah; concluding with the beautiful and touching film, the Shunammite's son. It illustrates the Divine Power, back of Messiah's coming Kingdom, when all in their graves shall be called forth, and when sin and death will end.

Intermission:

Whether Jews or Christians, Catholics or Protestants, we are surely impressed with the thought that God's dealings with His chosen people Israel were typical of wonderful things; some of them to be fulfilled under Messiah's Kingdom; for which we all pray, "Thy Kingdom Come!" While our hearts are thus impressed, let us arise to our feet and sing with the poet;

"How firm a foundation

Ye Saints of the Lord,

Is laid for your faith

In His excellent Word!

What more can He say
That to you he hath said,
You who unto Jesus
For refuge have fled?"

Conclusion:

We exhort you to study the free Scenario, the printed copy of this lecture. Turn up its Bible references at home with your family. The story will double your interest in the things of God, your desire to serve Him and to do good to all men. It is obtainable in substantial binding at a small price to cover cost. In the folder form it is free. Send copies to your country friends who cannot see the Drama.

The remainder of Part Second is even better than what you have seen. It will close with a most touching film, showing the Prophet Elisha awakening the dead son of the Shunammite. Thus the Power of God will be exercised by Messiah's Kingdom, when as Jesus declared, all that are in their graves shall come forth. Tell your friends about this Drama. All are welcome.

The Photo-Drama of Creation - Part Three

Introduction:

Real Bible study is only beginning. Heretofore, our reading and studies were hindered by our creeds. Now, nobody would think of defending any of the creeds. But, as our faith in human creeds dies, our trust in the Bible as Divine increases - because we understand it better. In the second century the mistake was made of proclaiming apostolic bishops of equal authority with those twelve chosen by our Lord. Bibles were costly, few could read. It was natural that the people should accept the teaching of the apostolic bishops without proving their doctrines by the Bible. As a result, there was no Bible study for fourteen hundred years. No wonder the "faith once delivered to the Saints" was lost. Now we are returning to the Bible. The present pope urges all Catholics to study the Bible, and warns all against modernism - Higher Criticism. After So long neglect of the Bible, it is not strange that the twists and coloring of the creeds still gives us trouble. Errors and superstitions die hard. Part Third will help us to a broader view of the Bible's message. As our heads get straight, may our hearts respond loyally to God and His Truth. Part Third shows us the ending of the typical kingdom of Israel, to be overturned until the antitypical Kingdom of Messiah will be ushered in. It outlines the period of Gentile dominion to its close. It shows us Messiah, in pre-human honor and glory as the Logos, the Word, or Messenger of God, and

onward to His resurrection.

Intermission:

The poet has well said:

"Wonderful things in the Bible I see,

This is the dearest,

My Father loves me!"

When we realize that the great Almighty God is the friend of His creatures, it gives us confidence in Him, and we desire to address Him, "Our Father, in Heaven!" How interesting to know that He has the world's affairs in His charge and that the reign of sin and death will soon be overthrown by Messiah's Kingdom.

I invite you to rest mind and body by rising and singing together the beautiful words:

"Sing them over again to me,

Wonderful Words of Life!

Let me more of their beauty see,

Wonderful Words of Life!"

Conclusion:

The remainder of Part Third is deeply interesting. The teachings, death and resurrection of Jesus. Truly, "never man spake like this man!" He yet speaks to us all. "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest!" Yea and the hour is coming when all shall be privileged to hear His blest message. All the blind eyes shall be opened and all the mentally deaf ears shall be unstopped.

Wear your Peace Pin. Show it to your friends. Tell them what it means. Invite them to see this Drama. All are welcome. Asked why we do not list collections, we reply, "The Gospel is free." Nowhere in the Bible are we authorized to solicit money in God's Name. Freely we have received, freely we give to others.

The PhotoDrama of Creation - Part Four

Introduction:

All of us who witnessed the preceding parts of this Drama are hungry for Part Fourth. Now we are to trace the experiences of the Church from Pentecost to the present time. We are anxious to look beyond the (c)veil^a into the future, to obtain a glimpse of the Church in Heavenly Glory as Christ's Bride. More than this, we would anticipate the blessings of Messiah's reign in the human uplift from sorrow, sin, crying, and dying to perfection and joy in the Creator's image.

But before stepping forward, let us cast the eye of understanding backwards and mark carefully the lessons of the three parts already presented. First, the almighty Power of the Creator and His Wisdom, as manifested in the material universe. Man, the crowning feature, made in his Creator's moral likeness.

Second, remembering the deflection of Lucifer to Satan, the beguilement of Eve, the disobedience of Adam, and the consequent reign of sin and death, should impress the lesson of obedience to God.

Third, God's promise, bye and bye, to restrain sin and death, and through the glorified Savior, as the King of Glory, to deliver all the willing and obedient from their weaknesses, should inspire us with hope and with love for God.

Fourth, let us remember the words of Jesus: "It was necessary that the Son of Man should suffer and enter into His glory." Let us remember that all who walk in His steps must suffer with Him if they would also reign with Him. Let us remember that Christ's Body, or Church, will be completed by the glorious change of the first resurrection, before the establishment of Messiah's Kingdom to bless the world.

Intermission:

In a few minutes we will see the sequel, 'Marcellus before the cruel Nero.' Love is of God. Cruelty is a mark of sin. The Bible's teachings promote sympathy - Love. The cruelties practiced in the name of Christianity were induced by false doctrines. God was pictured as by the creeds as a demon and was copied by the deluded. Thank God for the greater light of our day. Now the Bible shows us the true God and His glorious promises for all His creatures. Let us arise and join our hearts and voices singing:

"Stand up, Stand up for Jesus,

Ye soldiers of the Cross!

Lift high His royal banner,

It must not suffer loss!"

Conclusion:

While rejoicing that the days of religious persecution are passed, let us not be too sure! Roasting at the stake is no longer popular, but roasting in the public press and in public and private conversation is still practiced. The shooters of poisoned words are often professed Christians - Brethren! Let us all resolve for peace and righteousness in word and deed; that we be not of those the Lord styles wicked. Let us remember preferably to suffer wrong, rather than to do wrong to others, or cause them suffering. Let us follow Him, who, when He was reviled, reviled not, but endured faithfully and got the reward.

As a conclusion, our choir will sing, "A Thousand Years, Earth's Coming Glory." Join in the chorus if you will. Then sing, tell and whistle it to your own joy and that of others.