

**Just Thinking**

**Bible, As Literary Work, Excels Other Literature**

By TUCKER R. LITTLETON

Most people think of the Bible simply as a book of theology, without historical or scientific value, and certainly not as great literature. In other words, while most people acclaim the Bible as a great book for religious instruction and faith, few have developed a literary appreciation for this monument of English literature.

If the reader has thought the matter through, he'll see that an appreciation for the Bible as literature will add to its sacredness rather than detract.

In the first place, very few Bible readers take time to notice the different types of literature represented in the Scriptures. Perhaps

one reason why the Bible is such an important and unique literary work is that it is an anthology of practically every literary form.

For example, the Bible contains folktales, folk songs, fables; poetry of various types—dramatic, narrative, lyric—odes, epics, psalms, elegies, canticles, war songs, and simple lyrics; proverbs, riddles, and wisdom literature; law or legislation; history, biography, autobiography; prophecy, apocalypse, sermon; short story, allegory, orations, rhetorical prose, essays, parable, and letters or epistles.

Very few of us would enjoy reading Scripture to find a plot, dramatic development, or to notice the qualities of poetry found in Biblical verse; yet they are there. The similes and metaphors of Old Testament poetry add just as much to the thought expressed there as similes or metaphors would add to Shakespeare, or Tennyson, or Homer.

The familiar use of the sheep and shepherd as a figure of speech in Old Testament poetry is merely one example. Biblical poetry contains rhythm and even onomatopoeia, but the biggest holdback is that too few people realize that the Bible even contains poetry at all.

Because the King James version does not have the poetry written in stanzas, most people have never guessed that many of the beautiful passages they read in that version really belong with the world's greatest poetry.

Some of the Bible's outstanding literary pieces remain to be commented on. Someone has classified the Book of Job as one of the world's greatest dramas, and yet we fail to see Job as a great book of dramatic verse.

"The Lament of David," in II Samuel 1:19-27 is one of the most beautiful elegies in the English language; "The Song of Deborah," which is classified as an ode, is ranked as one of the two greatest war songs in all literature. The

poetry of Ruth 1:16-17 is unsurpassed in any language, while Isaiah contains some of the most sublime of lyric passages.

The Book of the Revelation is unquestionably the world's greatest apocalypse, and I Corinthians 13 is one of the shortest but best essays in the language.

Perhaps a knowledge of the literary value of our common heritage—the English Bible—will cause us to develop a greater total appreciation for the Scriptures. Several versions are important pieces of English literature, but not so much as the King James Version. The American Standard and some of the earlier versions might be close rivals, but for beauty of language, style, and expression the King James Version is unsurpassed.

No version since 1611 can hope to surpass the King James for the simple reason that the English language was prettier then than at any time since, and the tendency is for the language to become less musical and less beautiful.

Literary scholars have long debated over the question of what is the world's single greatest, most perfect piece of literature. After considering the entire field of world literature, they have decided that the decision lies between Vergil's Aeneid and the King James Version of the Bible.

I cast my vote for the latter for

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the simple reason that the scope of the Bible is larger and more varied than that of Vergil's perfect lines.

The next time you read your Bible, see whether you can appreciate it as religion and as literature. Sometimes it helps to know that what God had to say He said in the very noblest way.

**Year-Old Baby Locks His Sitter from House**

Rock Island, Ill. (AP)—Firemen were called to help a babysitter in distress. Her year-old charge had locked her out.

The woman stepped outside the Donald E. Cox home and couldn't get back because Donald Jr., had tripped the lock.

Lt. William L. Hancks of the fire department gained admission to the home by removing a screen from a bedroom window.

The Druses, fighting in Lebanon's civil war, are an 11th Century religious sect.



**News from SOUTH RIVER**

Nov. 13 — Mr. and Mrs. Julian Fulcher and children, Paulette and Susan, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Wallace, Sunday.

The Rev. Charlie Rice Jr., New Bern, filled his regular preaching appointment Sunday at the Edwards Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. He was the dinner guest of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Hardy.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Tosto and children visited Mr. and Mrs. William E. Pittman Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Rone Wallace Jr. were the weekend guests of their

parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rone Wallace, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mason and son, Charles, visited Mr. and Mrs. Bill Pittman Monday.

Mrs. Preston Mason, Baltimore, Md., visited her mother-in-law, Mrs. John Mason, over the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. George Hardy and grandchildren, George G. Willis and Kathy Pittman, attended church at the Sound View Free Will Baptist Church Sunday.

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Edwards Chapel Free Will Baptist Church met at the home of Mrs. William Pittman. There were ten members and two visitors present. Our theme for the month was, Go, Sit a Watchman, Let Him Declare What He Seeth in Our Demomination.

Miss Betty Norman was a patient at the Sea Level Hospital last week for a tonsil operation.

Mrs. James Dixon and son, Harpers Island, visited her mother-in-law Monday.

Mrs. Carl Cannon was honored at a household shower Friday night. Mrs. Cannon received many beautiful gifts from her guests. The hostesses served do-nuts, potato chips and cold drinks. Mrs. Cannon's gift from the hostesses was a beautiful blanket.

Mr. and Mrs. Luther Carraway and children visited her parents,

Mr. and Mrs. Rone Wallace, Sunday.

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**NOTICE**

The Western Union Telegraph Company made application to the Federal Communications Commission on October 30, 1958 for authority to discontinue its telegraph office at 516 Front Street, Beaufort, N. C.

Telegraph service will continue to be available in Beaufort, if the application is granted, at the following location during the hours indicated:

Earl Mason Agency  
432 Front Street  
Beaufort, North Carolina

Mon.-Sat. : 8:30 A.M. to 12:00 Noon  
: 1:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.  
Sunday : 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Any member of the public desiring to protest or support the application may communicate in writing with the Federal Communications Commission, Washington, 25, D. C., on or before December 5, 1958.

**COMPLETE LIQUIDATION SALE OF ALL ROCHELLE PROPERTIES In The Morehead City Area featuring fabulous... MITCHELL VILLAGE**

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**Location**

Overlooking beautiful Bogue Sound, Mitchell Village lies approximately 3 miles West of Morehead City, North Carolina on U. S. Highway No. 70 and N. C. Highway No. 24 and adjoins the Mansfield Park & Billmore Hotel Property.

**Scenic Beauty**

Mitchell Village is located on beautiful Bogue Sound and is on the mainland. Safe from hurricanes and safe from the sweep of the ocean waves, it nevertheless enjoys all of the beauty of the famous Carteret County coastland . . . wide stretches of sounds and bays running with fish and the ocean with all its allure just 15 minutes away across a new concrete steel bridge.

**Quick, Easy Accessibility**

Mitchell Village is quickly accessible by auto, bus or plane. New Bern is only 35 minutes away; Raleigh is a quick 153 miles away. Whether you dream of Mitchell Village as a year-round home or only as a part-time home, it is easy and quick to get to from scores of points as far distant as 400 miles.



**Large Residential Sites**

There are 200 lots to choose from in Mitchell Village, all moderately priced, much lower than others of comparable value in this area. The lots range in size from frontages of 50 to 120 feet and depths from 150 to 350 ft.

**Restrictions**

Sensible building restrictions have been formulated for your protection. In some areas of Mitchell Village homes costing no less than \$6,000 may be erected. In other sections homes costing no less than \$12,000 may be built.

**Build Now or Later**

Who has not dreamed of some day owning an ideal home site on North Carolina's best sound and ocean front. Now your dream can come true right here at Mitchell Village where there are 224 acres of the choicest home building sites. You can build now or in the future, but buy now at Mitchell Village . . . your best buy in North Carolina.

Morehead City with its Port is growing rapidly and with Southern Railroad taking over the A & N. C. Railroad, this area is destined to become one of the most heavily populated sections of the State. New industries are in the making.

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