

## **BIBLE PRESENTATION (Texas)**

My Brother, I hold in my hands the Book of Books, the HOLY BIBLE. Howsoever men differ in creed or theology, all good men are agreed that within the covers of the Holy Bible are found those principles of morality that lay the foundation upon which to build a righteous life. Freemasonry, therefore, places this BOOK upon its altars, with the command to each of its votaries, that he diligently study therein to find the way to everlasting life. Adopting no particular creed, forbidding sectarian discussion within its Lodge Rooms, and encouraging each to be steadfast in the faith of his acceptance, Freemasonry takes all good men by the hand, and leading them to its altars, points to the Holy Bible thereon and urges upon each that he faithfully direct his steps through life by the light he there shall find and as he there shall find it.

If we, as Masons, are to obey this injunction which each of us has received, we must have a proper conception of just what the GREAT LIGHT is and how it has come down to us. And our understanding may well begin with recognition of the significant fact that the Church and Religion did not grow out of the Bible, the Bible grew out of Religion and the Church. A number of men living close to the heart and thought of God, and therefore inspired by Him, picked up, used in this great task and laid down in their turn, the working tools of life during a span of hundreds of years. The Bible is a collection of their writings, the result of a long, slow process of growth.

Different writers wrote with different purposes. One was a historian, another a poet, another a theologian or a preacher, a teller of stories or a user of parables. So the Great Light which has Illumined men's steps through the centuries, is not merely a book, but a whole library of sixty-six books of widely different content, but all filled with the revelation of God's love for man, HIS purpose for man and man's effort to reach up to HIM.

The HOLY BIBLE is the world's supreme record of man's experience and Faith. It is the Mason's trestleboard in character building. In this Book are laid down the principles of successful living. It's great men loom large upon the background of the worlds history. They lived, they fought, they loved, they sinned, they repented. And they have left behind them - here - the testimony that the keeping of God's laws and the doing of Gods will, are the things worth living for. We need to know the Bible, to learn its precepts, to reverence it as our great book friend.

And my Brother, that your feet may not falter, that your path may be well lighted, your Lodge has commissioned me to place in your hands this (morning; evening) your very own personal copy of the GREAT LIGHT, with the prayer that it may indeed be a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path.