

**PHILOSOPHY OF THE
PLAN OF SALVATION:
A BOOK FOR THE TIMES**

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Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation: A Book for the Times by James Barr Walker & Calvin E. Stowe

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JAMES BARR WALKER & CALVIN E. STOWE

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EXTRACTS FROM NOTICES
OF THE
FIRST EDITION.

From the Boston Recorder.

It is always a pleasure to commend early and earnestly a work of solid merit like this—a work that blends so much of sound philosophical discussion, with deep experimental and spiritual knowledge of the vitalities of Christianity. Few volumes, indeed, have issued from the American press that bear the stamp of originality and profound thought so deeply imprinted on every page. It does not require the reading of the whole, nor even a large part of it, to warrant this opinion. It is the product of a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, though his modesty has withheld his name from the public.

From the Presbyterian, Philadelphia.

We regard the whole performance as the effort of an enlightened and logical mind: it has freshness; its style is classical; it is not in the common-place routine of most modern books. If it does not present new ideas, it exhibits them under a new aspect. It is, in a word, a book that may be read with much profit by those who find themselves troubled with doubts about the truth of Divine Revelation. We have ourselves read it with more than ordinary interest, and we propose to give it a second perusal, which we are sure it will bear.

From the Watchman of the Valley, Cincinnati, O.

We have read this book with much interest. The train of thought is admirable, and clearly and vigorously expressed.

The book will be read with profit by any one; and we believe that no candid skeptic—and a few such there are—can read it without assenting to the correctness of the main positions defended, and, consequently, to the conclusion, that the Bible is the book of God.

From the American Biblical Repository.

In some respects this is an extraordinary production. It is by an American Citizen, and published for the author. The edition is small, and pecuniary profit does not enter into his plan.

In the progress of this discussion the reader will find many interesting thoughts, especially in those chapters which consider the Levitical economy. The writer is evidently a scholar, and a reflecting, earnest inquirer after truth.

From the New England Puritan, Boston.

It is logical both in its arrangement and in its reasonings. It is the work of a clear and vigorous thinker. It proposes to solve these two questions—*Is Christianity true?* and *What is true Christianity?* and that by the same mode of reasoning by which we prove the being of a God. It is dedicated to Dr. Chauncy; and to the like of him we would especially commend it.

It is well worth the reading by all who wish to extend their views of the plan of salvation.

From Zion's Herald and Wesleyan Journal, Boston.

A REMARKABLE BOOK.—The notice which we gave of a late work entitled "The Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation," was from the pen of an accomplished and logical friend, into whose hand we placed it. We have since read it ourselves with a satisfaction which it would be difficult to express. It is an extraordinary work, presenting a most beautiful, perspicuous, and decisive course of reasoning. Its views are eminently original and plausible. We would recd our readers and brethren of the press to a further examination of it. We know nothing of its origin, but are sure it has proceeded from a master mind.

From the New York Evangelist.

We have long been of the opinion that the Bible is its own and best witness. This is conclusively shown in the book before us. It is styled "Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation," and merits the attention of those who are, or would be, philosophers indeed. It is designed for such as are disposed to *think*—to investigate seriously the claims of the Bible—to perceive understandingly the *why* and *wherefore* of that religious system which the sacred volume proposes to the belief of a world of sinners. Such will find it very difficult, if they follow our author, to arrest the progress of their own mind to the same convictions.

We have been much interested in his exposition of the "Philosophy of the *Levitical dispensation*." In no other way than by such a dispensation, he endeavors to prove, could the human mind have been brought to receive the original idea of holiness, a practical conviction of the necessity of a holy life, and at length a dispensation so spiritual as that which is revealed in the gospel. No one can read this portion of the book without acquiring a deeper conviction of the far-reaching design of that system of rites and sacrifices.

From the Christian Witnessman, Baptist, Boston.

We can assure our readers that they will find it well worth reading. It is systematic, logical, and philosophical. The part of it which relates to the Jewish history is highly valuable, as well as other portions which are less original in the general course of thought. We do not, of course, subscribe to every opinion in thus commending the book; but its general tenor and spirit are such as commend it to a reflecting and discriminating mind.

NOTICES TO THE SECOND EDITION.

From the Boston Recorder.

Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation. A book for the times. By an American citizen. 2d edition.

This is an anonymous book, and has stood upon its own merits. It has been successful, however, in securing great favor, and almost unqualified commendation. The author avows himself to have been a skeptic; but having been led to examine the Bible, he became thoroughly convinced of the divine authority of Christianity. This work appears to have been written to convey to a friend, also a skeptic, the evidence which has satisfied the author's own mind. The book is a forcibly written series of independent demonstrations, the results of which accumulate to the final conclusion, that Christianity, as taught by the interpretation and experience of evangelical Christians, is the true religion and the only religion possible to meet the spiritual wants of mankind.

From the Christian Intelligencer, N. York.

The first edition of this work was published some time since. Though published anonymously, it soon won its way to public notice by the originality of the mode of discussion, and the vigor of thought displayed in it. The author was himself an infidel, but won his way from the snares of unbelief by a process of reasoning similar to the one employed in this volume. The first edition having been exhausted, this second edition is issued, and will no doubt meet with ready patronage. It has been favorably noticed in many periodicals, and is considered as one of the most original and valuable works of recent publication. We shall hereafter recur to it.

From the Presbyterian, Philadelphia.

The first edition of the "Plan of Salvation," we read with much interest, and spoke highly of it as a useful book, written with great spirit and point. The call for a second edition is some evidence that it is appreciated by the reading community.

From the N. Y. Evangelist.

We are gratified at the appearance of a second edition of this work, the first of which we most heartily and repeatedly commended to our readers. We regard it an argument for the divine origin of the Christian religion, of unanswerable force and extraordinary interest. The aim of the argument is to prove that the religion of the Bible is necessarily the only religion possible which can meet the spiritual wants of men. This is proved by a lucid and triumphant reference to the elements and influences of religion, their adaptation to the moral necessities of the soul, and the practical effects which they produce. The author—now known to be Rev. James B. Walker, of Cincinnati—was himself a skeptic for years, unconvinced by the current arguments in defence of religion. Careful study of the Bible and his own mind wrought a change in his views, the process of which is detailed in the work before us. We hope an extensive sale may call forth many editions of a book so well adapted to do good in times like these.

From the New York Observer.

In many respects this is a remarkable book. It was published anonymously about two years ago, and was warmly commended by some and condemned by others. We did not notice it at the time, for

on examining it we thought it not likely to do any harm, but we did not think the argument in defence of the Christian system to be complete and conclusive. Others, however, much better qualified than we to judge, pronounce it a masterly production, and as a second edition is now called for, we may presume that it is appreciated by the public.

From the Christian Observer, Philadelphia.

We are gratified to see another edition of this able work before the public. It will be called for and read with interest by many who can appreciate the reasonings of a logical and vigorous thinker.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE PLAN OF SALVATION.

To the Publishers.

I recommended this work to a friend of mine, a lawyer in the city of New York, who, though not a deist, yet had no fixed religious belief, and had long experienced doubts as to the reality of the change of heart expressed by Christians. He expressed his satisfaction with the argument of the book in the strongest terms, and gave the clearest indications of a desire to share in the "salvation," which is the subject of the work.

Another, a merchant in Boston, long attendant on Unitarian preaching, but more recently a hearer of Rev. E. N. Kirk, accidentally found a single copy of the first edition, and declared to me in substance that, in his judgment, as an explanation and defence of orthodox Christianity, it was beyond comparison superior to anything he had ever read. This was before the second edition was out; and he expressed the warmest surprise and regret that no other copy of the book could be found in the Boston shops but the one he had purchased, and which he was lending to his friends as a rare and interesting work. I believe the above are fair specimens of the effect of this volume on the *first order of business minds*, which circumstances have made skeptical as to the reality of the new birth; and I think you cannot do Christianity a more essential service at this time, than by using every effort for its wide circulation, especially in the West.

A PASTOR.

From the New York Daily Tribune.

This is the second edition of a work of decided value and ability. The writer states that it was written in the form of letters to a skepti-

cal friend, explaining the grounds on which the author had renounced his former skepticism and embraced the doctrines of Christianity. The several difficulties which frequently lead the minds of the earnest and thoughtful into doubt and disbelief concerning the divine authority of Christianity, are boldly and ably met, and we think no one can read the book without decided profit. We commend it to general attention. The first edition met a rapid sale, and we have little doubt the second will be equally welcome.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE PLAN OF SALVATION.

This deservedly popular work continues to meet with public favor, if the publisher may judge by the continued sale and favorable notices of it. He has just received the following from a clergyman lately travelling in Europe. "The book you lately published, 'Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation,' is highly esteemed by the leading clergy in London and vicinity. It is soon to be published as one in the series called 'WARD'S SCRIPTURAL DISSERTS,' under the sanction of twenty-four principal Dissenting ministers, among whom are Dr. Harris, Dr. J. P. Smith, and others well known in both countries."

Recent Notices of this Work.

The following was received, unsolicited by the publisher, from the president of Knox College, in Illinois:—

"I have just taken the senior class through the Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation. It is decidedly the best vindication of the Old Testament scriptures against the assaults of infidelity, and one of the most useful class books which I have ever met."

For years this work has been used as a text-book, in some of the oldest and most flourishing female seminaries.

A Welsh minister, in Michigan, has brought a copy from Wales. He says it has been translated into Welsh, and is circulated broadcast over the hills, and through the hamlets, and in the mines of his native land.

The London Evangelical Tract Society have adopted this work, and are scattering it over England.

On Mr. Robert Carter's return from Scotland, he wrote the publisher — "The Plan of Salvation has been republished in Scotland in various shapes. — It has made no small stir there."

The following notices, copied from foreign periodicals, show the high estimation in which this book is held abroad:—

From the Edinburgh United Secession Magazine.

"This is really an original book. Every sentence is pregnant with thought, and every idea conduces to the main demonstration. The various chapters and paragraphs are bound together as closely as the successive steps of a mathematical argument. At the same time, neither does abstruseness veil the method, nor subtlety polish away the power of the reasonings employed. The treatise is one of sturdy common sense. Any one may read it with delight and advantage. Its conclusions come home with certainty to the 'business and bosom' of every man.

"The book is the work of a reclaimed sceptic. Along with another friend, also of infidel sentiments, he had often spoken of the evidences of Christianity, and yet was not convinced by them. But circumstances afterwards led him to reconsider the whole subject, and the result was, his conviction of the divine origin of our most holy faith. To the unbelieving friend referred to, the author on his conversion commenced a series of letters detailing the grounds of his own change, and these letters form the basis of the dissertation now before us. The book, on its appearance in America, was sent to several intelligent sceptics, and in all but one case they expressed a favorable change in their views. The object of the work is to show, 'by a series of independent propositions, the results of which accumulate to the conclusion, that the Christian religion is necessarily the only religion possible to meet the spiritual wants of mankind.' By Christianity, the author means 'Christianity as taught by the interpretation and experience of *evangelical Christians*.' The nineteen chapters into which the author has divided his work, are brief, lucid, and conclusive. Many interesting remarks occur in some of the earlier chapters on the nature and purpose of the old dispensation with its Levitical code. Perhaps this is the fullest portion of the work, as the author's mind, in the days of his unbelief, seems to have stumbled chiefly at the Mosaic history and ritual. We hope this reprint will command an extensive sale. The work has been already stereotyped in America. 'Book-making is not the author's profession,' yet his style is terse, homely, and vigorous."