

REV C I SCOFIELD

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Rev Scofield is famous for his Scofield Reference Bible in which he reveals futurism and dispensationalism, aspects which are condemned and ridiculed by many. Futurism is that which deals with future events in the Bible and so is valid. Dispensationalism deals with the various ages, or periods of time in the Bible and these are also valid. To quote but one example there was the age, or dispensation of innocence, that is to say before sin entered the world.

The Scofield Bible became very popular and readers took note and accepted Scofield's footnotes and often accepted these notes as if they were part of the text of the Authorised Version of the Bible. Yet many of his footnotes contradict the Bible, including the words of the Lord Jesus Himself.

Scofield also reintroduced the dangerous doctrine of typology which claims that some Old Testament characters are types of Christ including Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David and Solomon. A type is one of the very same character, behaviour and therefore a type of Christ is like unto Christ.

The prophet Isaiah refutes this and says, "Who is like unto Thee, O Lord? Who can compare with Thee?".

This is a rhetoric question. No one can compare with the Lord and so no one can be a type of Christ. See Psalm 89.6, Psalm 113, 4ff., Isaiah 40.18 etc.

The Lord Jesus was sinless. It is written that in Him was no sin but that He was made sin for us. He was holy, sinless and undefiled. See 2 Corinthians 5.21, 1 Peter, 2,22. 1 John 3.5 etc.

The typology that says that Solomon is a type of Christ and, also that in the Song Of Solomon, Solomon is Christ or a type of Christ is blasphemous. We read in 1 Kings 11 that Solomon was evil and that the Lord had to raise up adversaries to punish him. He was a serial womaniser and a serial idolater.

He started well but turned away from the Lord and worshipped pagan gods and goddesses. He built a temple to Chemosh, the abomination of Moab. He sacrificed to many false gods to please the many strange women in his adulterous life. It has been said that his sexual sins were the prime cause of his being evil.

But to return to Scofield.

While we all have things in our lives which are sinful and unworthy of the Lord. There were a host of sins in Scofield's life which are positively shameful and some were criminal.

Cyrus Ingerson Scofield was born in Michigan, USA on 19 August 1843 to Elias and Abigail being their seventh and final child. His mother died when he was three months old and in his childhood his father remarried twice. The family were descendants of English Puritans but Episcopalian by choice.

At the age of seventeen, Cyrus was living with relatives in Lebanon, Tennessee. He was a private in the Seventh Tennessee Infantry in the American Civil War but, in 1862, he was in hospital and then discharged from the Army.

He married a Roman Catholic girl, Leontine Le Beau Cerre, in 1866 while he was living in St Louis. He was working as an apprentice for his brother-in-law in his law firm.

He moved to Kansas in 1869 and, in 1871, his political ambitions were enhanced by his election to the

House of Representatives. It is known that he accepted bribes and stole political donations and forged signatures. He went to jail.

In 1879 he was assisting the evangelist Dwight L Moody in his St Louis campaign.

Scofield was, among other things, a heavy drinker and he abandoned his wife and two daughters. His wife divorced him in 1883 for desertion. That same year he married Hettie Hall von Wartz and they had a son.

That same year, he was ordained a Congregational minister. He became friends with Hudson Taylor and he founded the Central American Mission. He also became the superintendent of the American Home Missionary Society of Texas and Louisiana.

In 1895, he became pastor of Moody's Church, the Trinitarian Congregational Church at East Northfield, Massachusetts.

He used the qualification of DD and yet there are no records of any academic or honorary award being bestowed upon him from any source. The DD is false.

If anyone should ask me, I could produce the certificate and proof of my DD.

Scofield continued to acquire great wealth. He worked on his reference Bible with his commentary, footnotes and additions and this version became very popular and brought him even more riches. He had valuable properties in Dallas, Ashuelot and Long Island.

He joined New York's famous Lotos Club, a secular gentleman's club having moved to that city.

Scofield claimed that he visited London in 1903 and studied and lectured in Rome, Paris, Geneva and Berlin between 1906 and 1907. There is no evidence of any of this.

He changed directions yet again and became a Southern Presbyterian supporting Calvinism and the doctrine that God chose who were to be saved before the foundation of the earth and, therefore, chose who He was to condemn to hell.

Scofield's second wife was a good support to him but his children disliked him intensely. Understandably, his daughters hated him.

He died on Long Island at his home on 24 July 1921.

There are disturbing matters about this man. He said that he fought alongside General Lee.

Scofield was charged by the law for perjury, extortion and blackmail and went to jail. He deliberately failed to provide for his first wife and children. He said that he was admitted to the Bar of St Louis and was a lawyer and actually practised law. He did not. He went to jail in 1879 for fraud and embezzlement. He refused to make restitution to those he had defrauded. He often made racial remarks as in his address to Confederate veterans in Dallas in 1904.

He said that the Gospels were for the Jews and irrelevant to the Church.

He flatly contradicted the New Testament. In the Lord's parable of the wheat and tares the Lord says that the wicked will be removed first but Scofield says the opposite referring to the Rapture.

His writings also state that all Christians are of Abraham's seed. Abraham was not a Jew. He was a

Hebrew. Does he mean that Abraham is the father of all the faithful including Christians?

It is very easy to be critical and we remember that we are all sinners. Perhaps we should look to ourselves first.

We do not know all the circumstances of Scofield's life. His home life as a child must have been somewhat strange. Was that why he left home and became a drunk? He seems to have been searching for some fulfilment throughout his life with possible careers in law, politics and the Gospel. He was not the recipient of a Doctor of Divinity degree.

It is not precisely clear when he was converted. He was a crooked politician and a shyster. He was a criminal and went to jail. When ordained, he was being divorced and he was not providing for his wife and daughters. The timing for such an ordination was grossly inappropriate. His teachings were sometimes wildly astray from the Bible. Solomon is certainly not a type of Christ. Can you imagine the great preachers of the past joining an exclusive and secular gentleman's club?

It is also claimed that J N Darby was influenced by Scofield and this is used as another dig at the brethren. Darby also believed in future events such as the Second Coming, the Rapture and the Millennium because it is taught in the Bible, not because Scofield advocated it. Darby believed in dispensationalism because this is also Biblical. These dispensations are:

The Age of Innocence.

The Age of Conscience.

The Age of Man's Authority over the Earth i.e. Human Government.

The Age of Promise.

The Age of Law.

The Age of Grace.

The Age of the Reign of Christ upon the earth.

While we should not sit in judgment, we must exercise spiritual discernment and be true to Scripture.

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