

Full Text of the Convention Hall Debate

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September 28th--Between the Hon. Richard J. Hill and the Rev. H. T. S. Johnson

Following is the full text of the recent debate at the convention hall between Hon. Richard J. Hill and Rev. H. T. S. Johnson, as reported by a special court stenographer.

DEBATE

Between Mr. Richard J. Hill and Rev. H. T. S. Johnson at Convention Hall in the city of Tulsa, State of Oklahoma, on the 28th day of September, A. D. 1920, on the subject:

"RESOLVED THAT THE TEACHINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BIBLE STUDENTS SHOULD BE SUBSTITUTED FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE DENOMINATIONS"

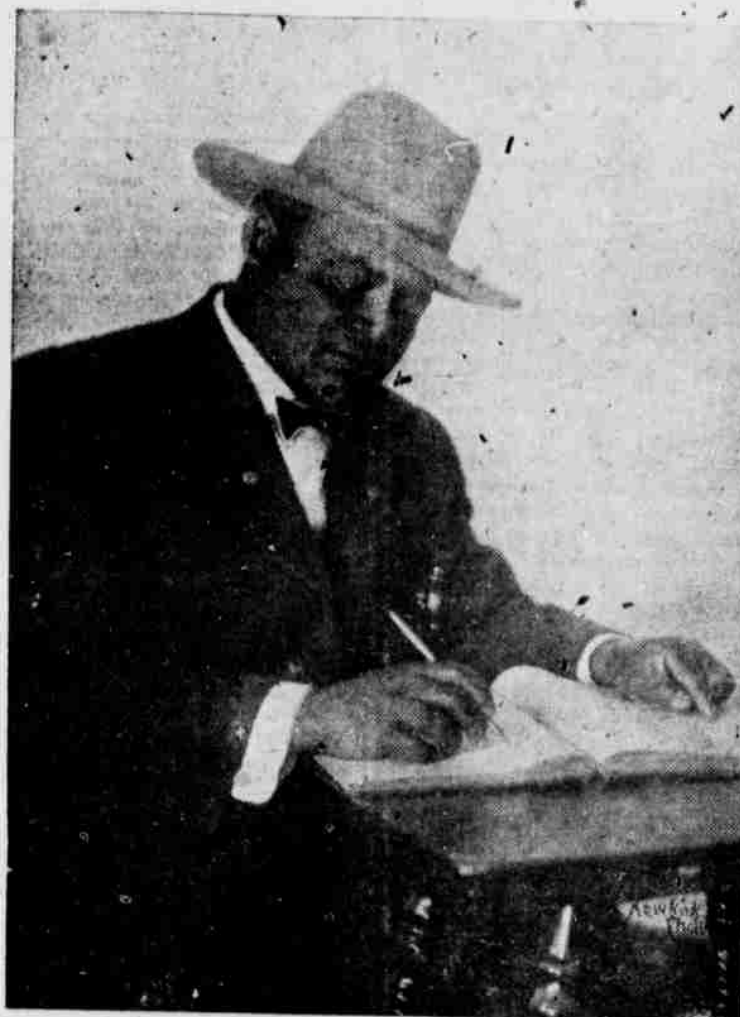
MR. A. J. SMITHERMAN: The audience is requested to sing "Christ the Solid Rock," Number one. (Thereupon, at the conclusion of the song the following proceedings were had.)

MR. SMITHERMAN: We will have prayer now by Reverend Johnson, after which we will request the ministers present to step upon the stage. (Thereupon the audience is led in prayer by the Rev. Johnson at the conclusion of which ministers of the gospel came forward for seats on the stage.)

His plan for human salvation; third, His promises; fourth, the fulfillment of His promises.

Now first, as concerning God's character. He would have His human creatures to understand that they can look to Him as the very highest conceivable standard of justice, power, love and wisdom. God tells us in Isaiah 55:8-9 that, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, for as the Heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." By this statement, Jehovah would have us get the thought fully into our minds that our highest conception of justice, power, love and wisdom is as far below His standard as the earth is below the high Heavens.

To give you a clear idea of the thought intended to be conveyed in the Scripture just cited, I remind you that the boundary of the physical Heavens has never been reached by the most powerful telescope of to-day. When man invents his most powerful instrument and points it into the physical heavens, piercing millions and millions of miles of space, what does he find?



MR. SMITHERMAN: "You are fully aware, of course, that this is the day of the debate between Rev. Johnson and Mr. Hill and the subject of this debate is, "Resolved that the teachings of the International Bible Students should be substituted for the Doctrine of the Church Denominations." Mr. Hill in this debate, takes the affirmative and Rev. Johnson the negative. Mr. Hill has the affirmative and will consume forty minutes for the opening. Rev. Johnson has the Negative and will open his side of the question with forty-five minutes; then Mr. Hill, the affirmative, will take twenty minutes for rebuttal and Rev. Johnson will make the remainder of his hour and fifteen minutes in closing. Then he will be followed by Mr. Hill who will close.

I will now introduce to you Mr. Hill, Richard J. Hill will now take up the affirmative."

MR. HILL: "I beg to remind you, dear friends, that the human race has reached the point upon the stream of time when the battle is raging as never before between justice and injustice, truth and error, and soon injustice and false teachings will go down in defeat, never to rise again.

The subject for discussion tonight is, "Resolved that the teachings of the International Bible Students should be substituted, in the main, for what the Church Denominations teach."

In my attempt to show you why the teachings of the International Bible Students should be substituted for what the Church Denominations teach, I will discuss the subject under four different heads subject under four general headings, to wit:

First, God's character; second,

Instead of finding the boundary of the physical Heavens, he learns that the more powerful the telescope used, the more realms of endless space in the physical Heavens open before his gaze. What should this teach us concerning the character of God? We should apply the measure He gives us and find out. He gives us an earthly illustration as to the distance between the boundaries of His noble character and the very best there is of His human creatures. Just as the physical Heavens is an immeasurable distance above the physical earth, so is the character of God a measureless distance above that of the very best of mankind.

Depraved humanity, with all of its weakness and short comings, would not for a moment consent to the torture of the worst criminal on earth. Nearly everybody would consent to the death of a wilful red-handed criminal in accordance with the law. But no one would sanction his eternal torment. No where in the civilized world will men allow a law to be placed upon the statute books permitting the lasting torture of criminals. Remember, that death does not mean torment. Torment carries the idea of keeping one alive in a sense for the purpose of inflicting misery and great injury.

Who would dare put God's characters for justice and love below that of a fallen humanity? No one but the representatives of the Church Denominations would do such a thing. They claim that God, foreknowing all things planned that the wicked, after death, should be tormented throughout all eternity. Such teachings by the Church Denominations represent God as having

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