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The Bible View of the Race

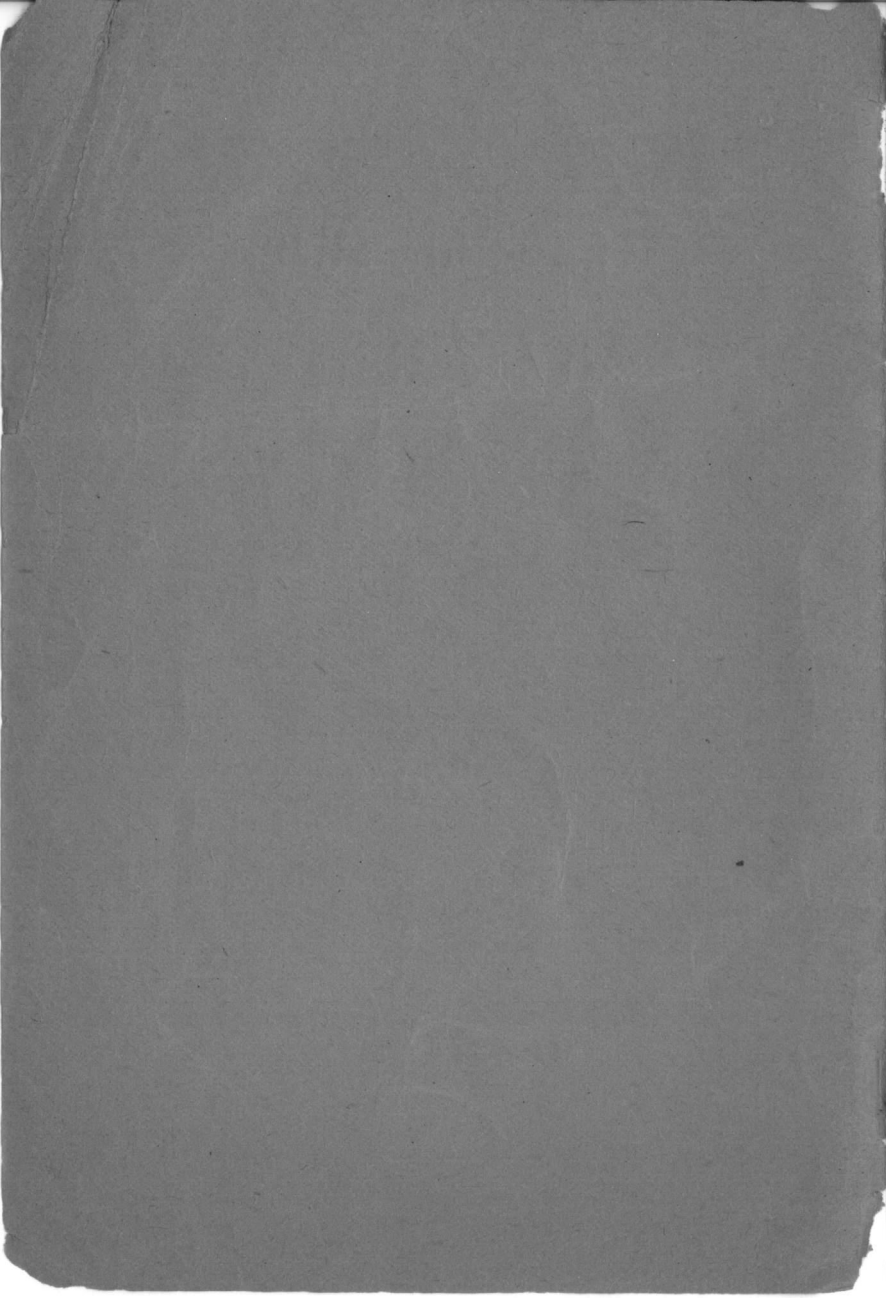
Question Or Battling For The
Rights Of The Negro Race
In America



By
REV. J. W. BAILEY, Th. B., D. D.
735 W. G. Ave., Marshall, Texas



PRICE 25 CENTS

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Publishers—Binders
HOUSTON, TEXAS



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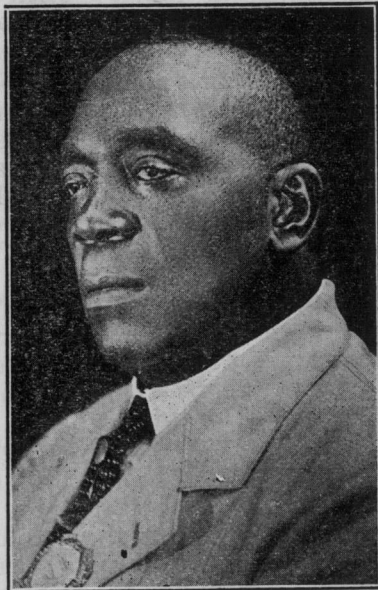
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PREFACE



REV. J. W. BAILEY, Th. B., D. D.



REV. J. W. BAILEY, JR., B. D. D.

PREFACE

This little booklet has been prepared by me and given to the public for what good it may do. The Race question in America is a big question, however little we may think of it. For many years it will be a big question, especially in the Southland.

This correspondence has been kept from the public since 1925. April of that year the letter was received. The answer was prepared in March, several days later. The author gave several days to prayer and fasting that the right reply would be given. We wrote in the fear of God. The whole Race question was raised, and the position of 9-10 of the Race is herein given. This battle must be fought in every part of America and the world, until the rights and privileges of the Negro race are recognized everywhere. We are American citizens and eligible to all the rights of any other American citizen regardless of race or color.

As was said long ago: "We are going to fight it out on this line, if it takes us all the summer." But we must do it on high Bible principles. The golden rule must be applied and recognized: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." America needs this lesson as no other country needs it. The unbrotherly spirit of America is felt keenly the world over.

As this little volume is sent forth breathing the prayer of the author, he is hoping and praying for it a wide, intelligent reading.

J. W. BAILEY.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

REV. H. R. HOLCOMB, Pastor

STUDY PHONE 225 RES. PHONE 204

MANSFIELD, LA.

Mansfield, La., March 23, 1925.

Rev. J. W. Bailey,
Marshall, Texas.

Dear Brother Bailey:

Your letter of the 20th inst. relative to evangelistic campaign in our city received. In reply I will state to you frankly that for the last few years I have been disappointed in you. I noted while at the World's Baptist Alliance at Stockholm you had a disposition to crowd yourself in among white people, which thing, I confess, stirred all the indignation of my soul. I promised myself then that I would never assist you in any way. I am sorry that this is true of you, Bailey, for you were once a very humble Negro and accomplished great good, and until you can find again your place, you will not have the cooperation of Louisiana Baptists.

This is said in a spirit of hope to help you.

Sincerely,

HRN-M

H. R. HOLCOMB.

Marshall, Texas, April 16, 1925.

Dear Dr. Holcomb:

I am somewhat late in replying to yours of March 23, but I have been giving it prayerful and serious consideration. I feel sure you will not be "disappointed in me" when you read this letter, if you have the spirit of Jesus in your heart.

Mr. Ben Johnson, who presided at your December Board, had the same feeling toward me, I think, you expressed. He is a layman. Certainly a minister can see my position as clearly and as quickly as a layman.

I said to him that I believe thoroughly in the separation of the races of mankind. God made the distinction between the races. I do not believe in the mixing up of any of the races. God had a great idea in mind when He made us different. I do not believe in the amalgamation of the races. He then grasped my hand. He became my friend.

But, Doctor, I do not believe in race hatred, born of race rejudice. I do not think one race ought to hate another because they differ in color and otherwise. I have as much right to hate you because you are white as you have to hate me because I am black. God made both races and gave them their color. God is a great God of variety. He has made all the colors among animals, and birds, and flowers, as well as races. Should they hate each other? It is unthinkable. It ought to be unthinkable among sensible men, especially Christian ministers.

When all the "indignation of your soul was stirred" I fear, Doctor, that all the race hatred and race prejudice of your soul was aroused, despite the religion of Jesus in your heart. I believe you are a Christian. But the "indignation of your soul" was very much like that of the mob-spirit of America. All the race hatred, hanging and burning at the stake of human beings are born of just such a spirit of "indignation" as rose up in your soul on that occasion, despite your religion.

SOME of the white people make this mistake, which, I fear, is yours. They think because they are white they are just a little better than races of other colors. This is not true. God made all races free and equal. If you don't believe this Doctor, you do not know your Bible. "God made of one blood all nations." Giving them the bound of their habitation. "God is no respecter of persons." He had to straighten Peter out at this point. I think SOME of you white people of the South need to go upon the house-top with Peter and let God talk with you. The Federal Constitution of America recognizes the equality of the races. If I did not believe this, I would not be a good American citizen, much less a Christian.

Doctor, I do not attend your S. B. C., as I will in May, at Memphis, and your State Conventions of the various states, and Board Meetings, because I think I am white, but because your race has been given by God some advantages my race does not enjoy at this time. When I come to your meetings I am not seeking social equality, the thing that made you feel so "in-

indignant." I am seeking the information your race has to give. I love the association of my own race above that of your race or any other race. When the Jews came to the point that they felt that they were above and therefore better than other races, they were nearest their downfall. It will come to any race or nation when they continue to have the wrong view of the blessings that God has given them.

We would not vote that Dr. E. Y. Mullins of Louisville, Ky., become the president of the Baptist World Alliance until he promised us that he would be perfectly fair to our race and would show no partiality. It takes a big man to be its president.

The thirty Negro delegates of America, representing more Baptists than any other race group coming from any other section of the world, voted against the next session coming to Washington, D. C., in 1928, because of the ugly Southern spirit of SOME white people, so-called Christians, against Negro Christians. We voted to go to Canada where the spirit of fellowship will be better, we trust. Men who do not like the spirit and high purposes of the Baptist World Alliance, will do well not to attend. Those whose hearts become so "indignant" if a colored delegate enjoys the same privilege as a white Southern delegate.

The Baptist World Alliance at Stockholm, Sweden, was my second to attend, the first being in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1911. In the Stockholm meeting 42 races were represented. It is not strange, Doctor, that the "Indignation of

your soul was stirred" only against the Negro race? Why was this? It was because of the centuries of training your race has had in the Southland. This training of race prejudice has caused more white people to go to hell than anything I know. I am praying, Doctor, for SOME of you white people at this point.

The World's Baptist Alliance is more like heaven than any gathering we have as Baptists. All the races, nationalities, kindred and tongues, meet on a common level. Not as white or black, or of this country or that, but as brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. No race, no colors or countries are considered as such. The culture and refinement of this race or that, or this country or that, is not considered as such.

Go where you please, sit where you please. No lines drawn, Doctor, of any kind, as to race, color or previous condition of servitude. I would not attend the Alliance were not every one of us received exactly on the same basis. Are you not willing, Doctor, that it be that way in the Alliance? It will be that way in Heaven. I sometimes wonder what SOME of you Southern white Christians will do when all the nations of earth will be together there. SOME of you would carry your "soul's indignation," with you to heaven, but thank God you will have to leave it all here on this side.

Doctor, I live in the South. I have \$10,000 worth of property here in the South. I love the South and the Southern people, white and black. I shall always live in the South. I do not enjoy segregation and race discrimination, but I put up with it as a law-abiding citizen. It

is more injurious to your race, Doctor, than mine. We are all suffering under many of them because they are unfair and extremely unjust. Many a white man—SOME of them preachers, do not believe in a square deal for the black man—especially where a white man's rights are involved.

While in Europe, and especially Stockholm, the same courtesy was shown us as was shown any other race. Why not? There was no designated seats for anybody. No Negro markers anywhere on land or sea. What were we to do but to sit anywhere we desired to sit, like other people? I saw but few colored people after leaving America. Did you? Except those attending the meeting. Dr. Beastrom who presided the first half day and delivered that wonderful welcome address, invited a Southern white editor and me to dine with him. He almost took us to his palatial home. How could we say no? How could I say: "No, I am a Negro." Did he not know my race? Could he not see my face? I saw that Editor in America. He made me acquainted with his wife, and unlike you, was glad to see me.

But, Doctor, would I expect this in the South? No. Yet there are SOME very fine white people in the South. At my mother's home in Arkansas the other day, I saw a white mother and three of her girls in her humble home in the country. They brought provisions for my sick step-father, her neighbor, sat down in the home and talked with my mother, father, and me. These Southern white people had the old-time religion.

Dear Doctor, God is blessing my labors this new year far beyond that of any other year of my ministerial life, I believe. Thirty-five souls in Dallas, two hundred in old wicked Paris, where they burn human beings alive; one hundred in Port Arthur and Beaumont, Texas, for January, February and March. I feel that I am closer to God and more humble now, Doctor, than ever before in the history of my ministerial life. I shall not ask you to pray for me as you promise not to, but God is with me as never before.

While your Board of my native State would not give my work any consideration, the State Board of Texas, that same week, gave my work \$500.00, \$400.00 of which has been paid up to date. So you see while SOME have race hatred and will not help, others who have the spirit of Jesus will help. Dr. L. R. Scarbrough, in his book, "Christ's Militant Kingdom," on page 86, describes the principle of love thus: "A deathless love, a love that knows no racial barriers no color line, no climates, no condition of freedom or servitude," etc. All the white preachers of the Southland have not come yet to this high mark of Christian growth.

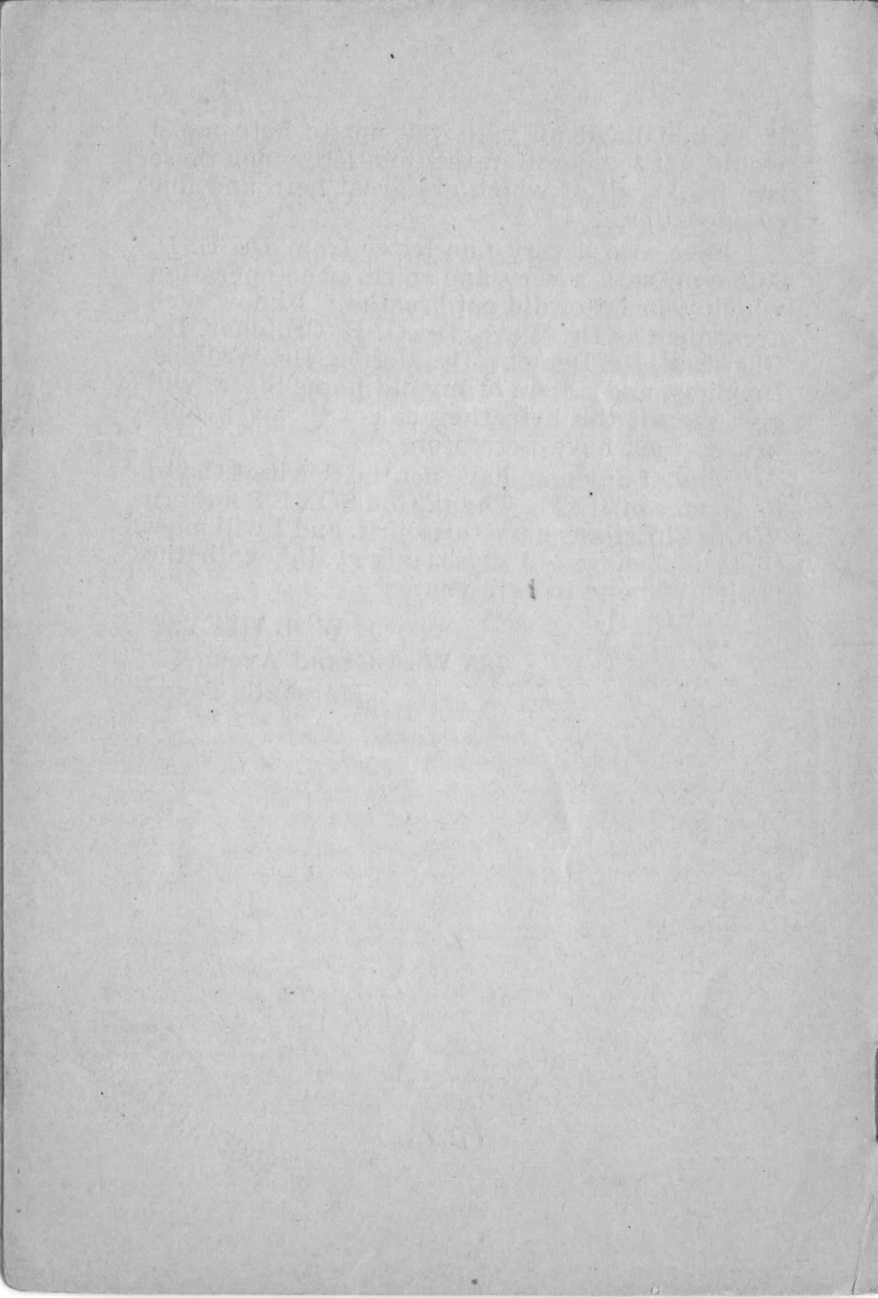
While you may withdraw, Doctor, your prayers and co-operation and influence from me when I am in your State, you are entirely mistaken when you think all "Louisiana Baptists" will follow your ugly example. Take Dr. M. E. Dodd, from whom I have just received two fine books, one received today while writing you. I have a letter from him also making due apology for the oversight at your December Board.

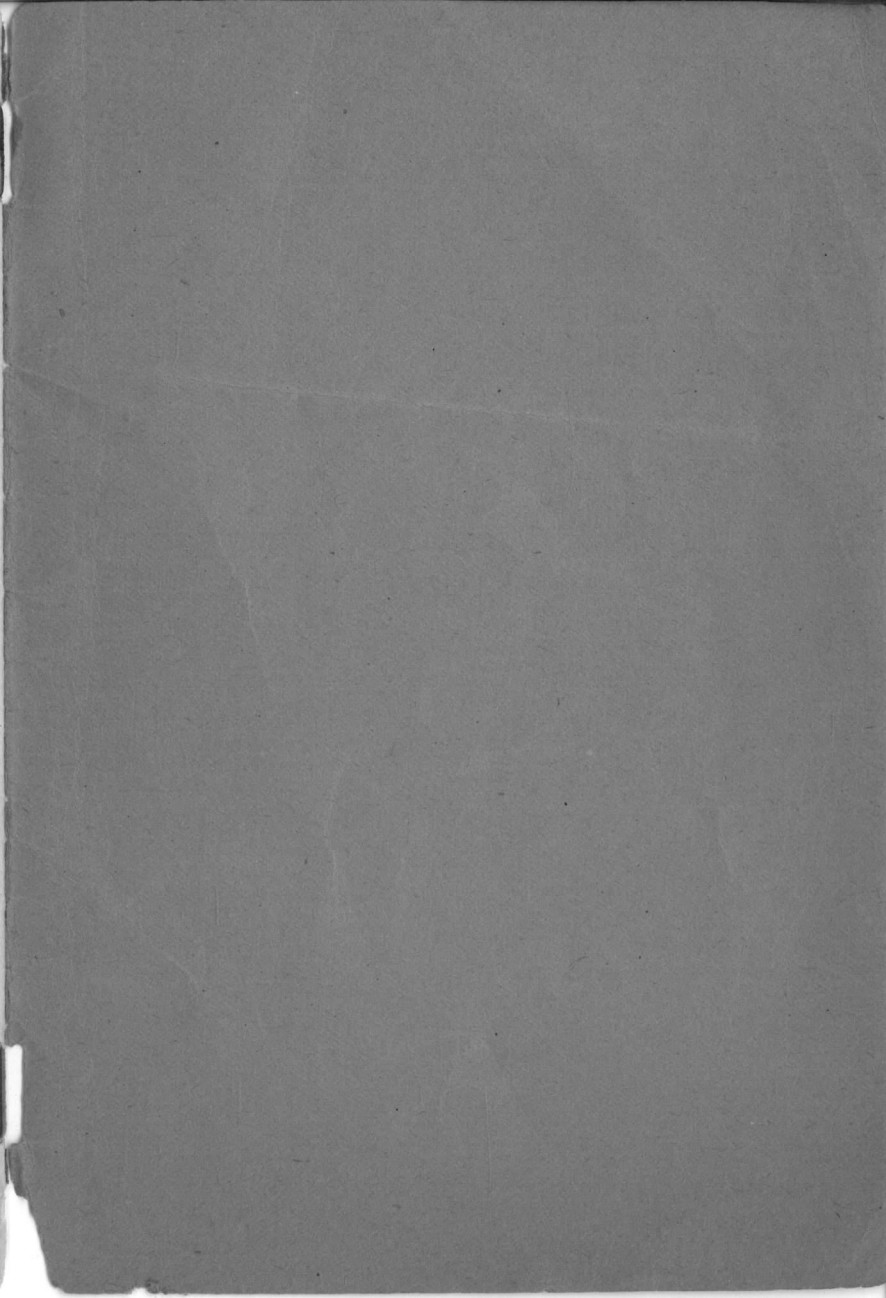
If he had lined up with you not to help me, I would not have gotten this fine letter nor these two books, all of which are great help and fine co-operation.

I have also a very fine letter from Dr. E. D. Solomon, with a very fine spirit of co-operation which your letter did not breathe. I know such great men as Dr. Ware, Dr. G. H. Crutcher, Dr. Christian, Dr. Dement, Dr. Mahon, Dr. Wallace, Dr. Sims, and others of my old home State, will give me all the help they can with my people just as they have heretofore.

“Now, if any man have not the Spirit of Christ he is none of His.” Thank God SOME Southern White Christians have this spirit, and I will meet them in heaven. I close as you did, with the “spirit of hope to help you.”

J. W. BAILEY,
735 West Grand Avenue,
Marshall, Texas.





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