

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XIII

August 29, 2004

No. 35

## A BOOK OF THREE FAITHS?

Jerry Fite

A four foot high monument honoring philanthropist William S. Mosher has been the focus of a recent law suit against Harris County. The problem is that the monument honoring one who gave much money to the Star of Hope Missions is located in front of the County Civil Courts Building, and displays a Bible.

Federal judge, Sim Lake ruled that the Bible display would cause one to “conclude that the Bible display conveys the message that Christianity is favored or preferred by Harris County.” Former state District judge John Devine, leading a group to restore the monument, is reported as saying ‘*“The Bible is a book of three faiths” citing Christianity, Judaism and Islam.*’ ( *Houston Chronicle, August 11, 2004*). The debate over the separation of church and state continues.

Is it true that the Bible is a book of three faiths? The “Bible” is a collection of 66 God-inspired books. It is comprised of 39 books recognized as the Old Testament, and 27 books known as the New Testament. Though written by 40 different authors, over a

period of 1500 years, they present a unified theme of salvation in Jesus the Christ and the foundation for establishing one faith, not three.

Authors of the Old Testament like *Moses* spoke of one who would not only be born of woman, bringing forth a death blow to Satan, but would be the prophet to whom all must give heed or else suffer destruction (*Genesis 3:15, Deut. 18:15*). Jesus the Christ fulfilled these prophecies of *Moses* (*Galatians 4:4, Hebrews 2:14, Acts 3: 20-26*). *Isaiah* spoke of the coming suffering servant who would bear the sins of mankind (*Isaiah 53*). Jesus fulfilled *Isaiah*’s prophecy, bearing man’s sins as the lamb of God (*2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 2:24, Jn. 1: 29*).

The promise to Abraham that in him “*all of the nations of the earth would be blessed*” was “*the gospel*” being “*preached*” before the coming of Jesus Christ and fulfilled by all nations having the opportunity to be justified from their sins “*by faith*” in Jesus (*Genesis 12:3, Galatians 3:8*).

While the Old Testament gives the history of the Jews and

reveals their religious practices, The Bible points to the one saving faith in Christ. It nowhere sanctions two saving faiths. If giving mere history of origin and details of practice establishes “a faith” then we need to add “the faith “of the Samaritans to the Bible, for the Samaritans and their religious practice and distinctness from Judaism is mentioned ( *II Kings 17, John 4:9,20*). Is the Bible a book of four faiths?

The Bible speaks of Abraham’s son Ishmael and his descendants (*Genesis 16:15, 17:20, 25:12-18*), but does not reveal the faith of Islam, nor point to the coming of Mohammad as it does the coming of the Messiah. The faith of Islam is established by the *Koran*, not the Bible. Friday is the Sabbath for Islam because that day Mohammad fled from Mecca. They defer circumcision of their children till they can pronounce the two leading articles of their faith. They pray five times a day, and observe “Ramadan”. You could look at the Bible from now on and not see the Islam faith. The Bible establishes one Faith: Christian!