

"FLOWERS IN OUR FATHER'S WORLD.

Baptist Church

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I have had opportunities of exploring regions which had not previously been trod by the foot of man. In all my field work I feel that I am exploring my Father's workshop, studying His works of creation.

According to the old Testamt when God created all the lower forms of life "God saw that it was good" and when He created man "He repented the day that he made man" (after Eve).

Surely then we must benefit by the study of His works. Jesus did this, and he commanded us to do likewise. Did you ever notice how many of his parables were based on his observation of plants around Him? The sower, tares and thistles, the crop in good soil and bad soil, the harvest, the vine, the figtree, and his injunction to "Consider the lilies of the field".

You will of course understand that Jesus did not say "Lilies" of the field, this is an English word not in existence at that time, and Jesus spoke the Aramic language which is closely allied to Arabic - In the ancient Hebrew it was translated originally as Abib-Labon which means "White Flower" and this was later translated Krinon Agrion.

At the time the bible was translated into the King James version in 1611 no botanists, no geographical botany. The ministers who did the translation had no knowledge of the Flora of Palestine so they did their best according to their light. Since then God has been shedding more light, and some men are receiving the light and imparting it to others; other men prefer to stay in darkness.

- (1) Explain how "Solomon in all his glory" misled translators.
- (2) White lilies not found in Palestine, but orange red ones are found in mountains of Lebanon in Northern Palestine.
- (3) Many different flowers suggested by different authorities, but none fit the context "cast into the oven".

A Jewish botanist Dr. Ephraim Reubeni travelled widely in Palestine to try to discover which plant Jesus meant when He said "Consider the "white flowers" of the field, Dr. Reubeni learned from the bedouin in the region south of Gaza that they have a plant called Hanun Abiad which is Arabic for "white flower". These Arabs have lived far from foreign influences, and have preserved the ancient name of this plant, which happens to be a common roadside weed throughout Palestine, and still is common today in Judea where Jesus walked.

The use of this plant gives a new and deeper interpretation to the lesson Jesus taught his listeners, and agrees with the other lessons he taught from common everyday topics.

When we go out into the field and see our common white flowers by the roadside, let us remember that, in God's sight - "Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these". The humbler creation pleased God, Solomon was a man, and man displeased God.

In this spirit let us examine His humbler creation, consider their lives, and try to improve ours.