

2009

The Stones Cry Out



Chris Downs

10/31/2009



*Oh, Canada
Our home and native land,
True patriot love
In all thy sons command.
With glowing hearts
We see thee rise,
The true, north, strong, and free.
From far and wide*

*Oh Canada
We stand on guard for thee.
**God keep our land
Glorious and free.**
Oh, Canada we stand on guard for thee,
Oh, Canada
we stand on guard for thee.*

*Ruler supreme, who hearest humble prayer,
Hold our dominion within thy loving care;
Help us to find, O God, in thee
A lasting, rich reward,
As waiting for the Better Day,
We ever stand on guard.*

*Oh Canada
We stand on guard for thee.
**God keep our land
Glorious and free.**
Oh, Canada we stand on guard for thee,
Oh, Canada
we stand on guard for thee.*

Our national anthem is a song to God. It asks Him to keep our land glorious and free. The fourth verse of anthem asks God to "hold our dominion within thy loving care". It would seem that people should know that the Fathers of Confederation wanted Canada to be a country that served and loved God but it seems that most people do not know. My Historica project is about the proof that is carved into the stones on the Parliament buildings themselves that shows our founding fathers wanted Canada to be a land that worshipped God. My project will show where scripture is literally carved into our Parliament buildings.

Jesus said, "I tell you if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." Luke 19:40



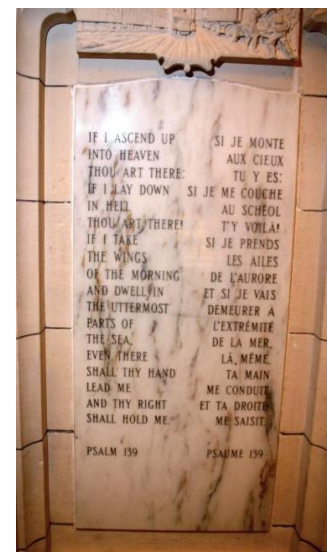
The first place that you will find scripture when you visit Parliament Hill is on the Peace Tower. There is a scripture verse carved above the east, south and west windows on the Peace Tower and directly above the entrance to the Parliament buildings' Centre Block. The one above the east window says, "He shall have dominion also from sea to sea." (Ps. 72:8) The one above the south window says, "Give the king thy judgements, O God, and thy righteousness unto the king's son. (Ps. 72:1) The one above the west window says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." (Proverb 27:18) In fact, Psalm 72:8 is the verse that Samuel Tilley read in his personal devotions and then shared with the other Fathers of Confederation as they tried to choose a prefix for Canada's name. Sir John A. MacDonald wanted to have "The KINGDOM of Canada" but Tilley suggested that they take inspiration from this verse and call the new country "The DOMINION of Canada". The Fathers of Confederation voted and Canada was called a Dominion in keeping with this verse. "Sea to sea" is the motto that is found in Latin on the blue ribbon of Canada's coat of arms.



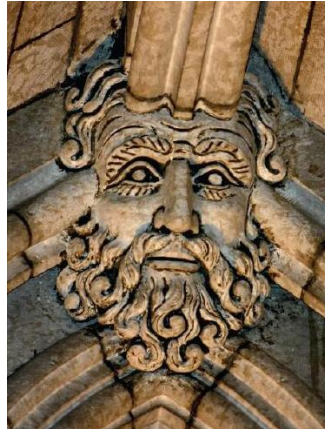
Scripture is also found on the largest bell inside the Peace Tower. There are 53 bells in all in the Peace Tower. Bell no. 53 has `Glory to God in the highest, and on the earth peace, good will to men.` (Luke 2:14). This bell weighs as much as 3 adult African elephants. It tolls every hour on the hour. The scripture was initiated by Prime Minister W.L. Mackenzie in 1926.



The Peace Tower holds the Memorial Chamber where more scripture can be found. On the Bronze Casket, you will find Ephesians 6:13 which talks about the Armour of God. ``Take unto to you the full armour of God that you may be able to withstand the evil day and having done all to stand.`` is engraved in the bronze edging on the main altar. There are tiny enamels that have pictures of the armour with the names of the armour written in Latin (e.g. veritas - belt of truth). John A. Pearson thought of this design in 1925. Also in the Memorial Chamber is a marble panel on the south wall that quotes Psalm 139:8-10 which says, ``If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there; if I lay down in the bowels of the earth, thou art there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall thou lead me and thy right hand shall hold me.`` It is also written in French.



In Confederation Hall you can find Moses' head carved in stone. This is to symbolize law. This symbol was initiated by William F. K. Oosterhoff, a parliamentary stone carver in 1952.



In the House of Commons, there are the four living creature from Ezekiel 1:10 and Revelation 4:6-7 carved into stone - the man, the bull, the lion and the eagle. The speaker's chair is carved with the words ``Praise to God``.



The Cabinet Room contains the scripture from Song of Solomon 1:1 which says ``Love justice, you that are the rulers of the earth.``

In the Opposition Board Room, you will find 1 Peter 2:17. Just over the door, it says, 'Fear God'. This scripture was put in place by John A. Pearson in 1919.



Scripture is found all over Parliament Hill. It shows that following God and His Word was important to those who first made our Canadian government. What I found surprising was that when I visited the Parliament Buildings and took the tour, none of the tour guides knew about the scriptures and where they could be found on the buildings. We even asked at the Capital InfoCentre which is located right across from the Parliament Buildings. None of the employees there could tell me about the scriptures. One even looked it up on the internet and found one article. When we told him that we already had that article, he said that he would keep it so that he could read and learn about it too. Having done our own research, we went on to find the scriptures that I have described. You will find them in the many photos that we took on tour.

It seems that people have forgotten what the Fathers of Confederation founded Canada on. It seems that Canadians have forgotten our Christian heritage. Maybe they should visit their own Parliament buildings and look up above the west window on the Peace Tower where they can read... 'Where there is no vision, the people perish.' (Proverb 29:18) I hope that we will remember what Canada was really built upon and that we sing our national anthem like a prayer.

**Ruler supreme, who hears humble prayer,
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