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The
1689
in Rhyme
Old Truth for Young Hearts

Written by
Kerry Regnier

Illustrated by
Braylen Gage



The 1689 in Rhyme: Old Truth for Young Hearts

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The wife of my youth and the arrows God gave,
this book is for you to know our God who saves.

- Kerry Regnier

For Aspen, my greatest help, and Benaiah, may you
cling to the truths reflected in these pages.

- Braylen Gage

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— Preface —

The genesis of this book is not overly glamorous. The idea that started it came to me last summer while reading a well-known Christian ABCs book to my one-year-old during a Wednesday night service. As I was reading him the book—or, more accurately, as I was slowly turning the pages to try and stretch out his silence—I had a thought that we should create an ABCs book based on the 1689 Confession. Over the next couple of weeks, I set out to try and categorize the thirty-two chapters of the 1689 into twenty-six alphabetized chapters that flowed and made logical sense. Since you are not reading a 1689 ABCs book, you can see that I was not overly successful (though I hope to work on that again in the future). What did happen was that I started to read and re-read the confession and began to put some stanzas together that rhymed. Once the first chapter was done, I had to keep going.

What you have before you is the product of many months of writing, rewriting, and consulting thesauruses to find better rhyming words. Each chapter of the confession is summarized into two stanzas, except for chapter 8, “Christ the Mediator,” and chapter 26, “The Church,” which have four. I tried to distill the main ideas into catchy rhymes that will be easy for kids, and parents, to memorize. When at all possible, I have pulled direct phrases or words from the confession. Because of this, there are some words that you would not normally find in a children’s book—besmirch, chastened, regeneration, to name a few. There is also a reminder that we are not to marry our kin; look it up, it’s in the confession. In the back, we have added a small glossary defining the most unusual words in ways that kids can understand, and we have included a few proof texts from the confession to support each chapter.

This project would not have been possible without the help and input of many, many people. A special thanks to Tom Ascol, Peter Sammons, Graham Gunden, and Joey Tomlinson for reading multiple versions to help me remain orthodox. Thank you to the Founders team for giving me the opportunity to work on this project, especially Randy Starkey and Scott Rouse for reading many versions and repeatedly saying and singing it with me to make sure it flowed appropriately. Thank you to Sarah Ascol and Travis McSherley for the many amendments that you graciously suggested. Thank you to Braylen Gage for taking on this project and for elevating the entire project with your masterful artwork. A final and most important thank you to my beautiful wife, Grace, for your encouragement, support, and patience during the many evenings I spent on my laptop tapping rhythms obsessively.

It is my prayer that this book will be used in many children's lives to instill in them deep, important, theological truths. Truths that they may not fully understand at the time but that will come to mind later in life. Like catechism questions and answers, I hope that these simple rhymes will bury themselves down deep and provide a solid foundation of theology to show children Christ and guard them from pitfalls and snares. To help with memorizing the rhymes in this book, you can sing the stanzas to the tunes of a few common tunes—"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"; "To God be the Glory, Great Things He Hath Done"; "How Firm a Foundation"; "Away in a Manager"; or, for a more modern option, "Old Neptune, He's Roaring" by Brian Sauv . Thank you for taking the time to read this preface and *The 1689 in Rhyme*. I hope that it will be a useful tool in your lives for memorizing true doctrine from God's Word.

Kerry Regnier

— Introduction —

The Second London Confession of Faith (1689) is the greatest and most influential confession of faith ever produced by Baptists. From its inception through the nineteenth century, it was the major Baptist confession in both Great Britain and America. Through its republication by the Philadelphia (1742) and Charleston (1767) Associations, the confession spread even farther into the Southern states and was the theological consensus on which the Southern Baptist Convention was founded in 1845.

Charles Spurgeon published a special edition for the Metropolitan Tabernacle in 1855. In the preface that he prepared for his congregation he wrote,

This little volume is . . . an assistance to you in controversy, a confirmation in faith, and a means of edification in righteousness. Here the younger members of our church will have a body of divinity in small compass, and by means of Scriptural proofs, will be ready to give an account for the hope that is in them.

I have been deeply encouraged to witness a renewed appreciation of this venerable confession over the last fifty years. It is worthy of appreciation not because it is an infallible rule of faith or has the same authority as the sacred writings of Scripture—a fact the confession asserts in the very first sentence of its opening paragraph. Rather, the 1689 Confession deserves to be esteemed and studied for the very reasons that Spurgeon mentions. It is a faithful and accurate summary of key teachings from the Word of God. By learning this confession, one will become more grounded in the theology of the Bible that it confesses.

And it is never too early to start learning deep, biblical truths. Parents and pastors—indeed all Christians—should be constantly working to see the faith once for all delivered to the saints passed down to future generations. This multi-generational vision for teaching God’s Word is seen throughout the Bible. Children were never disregarded as insignificant in God’s plan for the spread of His kingdom in the world. Our King Himself rebuked His disciples when they mistakenly thought little ones bothered Him. He said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 19:14).

In this creative, beautiful little volume, Kerry Regnier has provided a wonderful and unique tool for introducing the youngest child to the biblical teaching of the 1689 Confession. By combining the attractive illustrations from Braylen Gage with lyrical theology, children will be introduced to a resource that can help them come to know the Lord Jesus savingly and grow in His grace of knowledge the rest of their lives.

The psalmist in Psalm 78 speaks of his burden to teach the “dark sayings from of old,” things handed down from his fathers to the rising generations. He writes, “[The Lord] established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments” (78:5–7).


Thomas K. Ascol

Pastor | Grace Baptist Church
President | Founders Ministries

“Here the younger members of our church will have a body of divinity in small compass, and by means of the scriptural proofs, will be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in them.”

- Charles Spurgeon


1. The Holy Scriptures

he Scriptures are Holy.
On them we rely
to learn of salvation
and laws to comply.

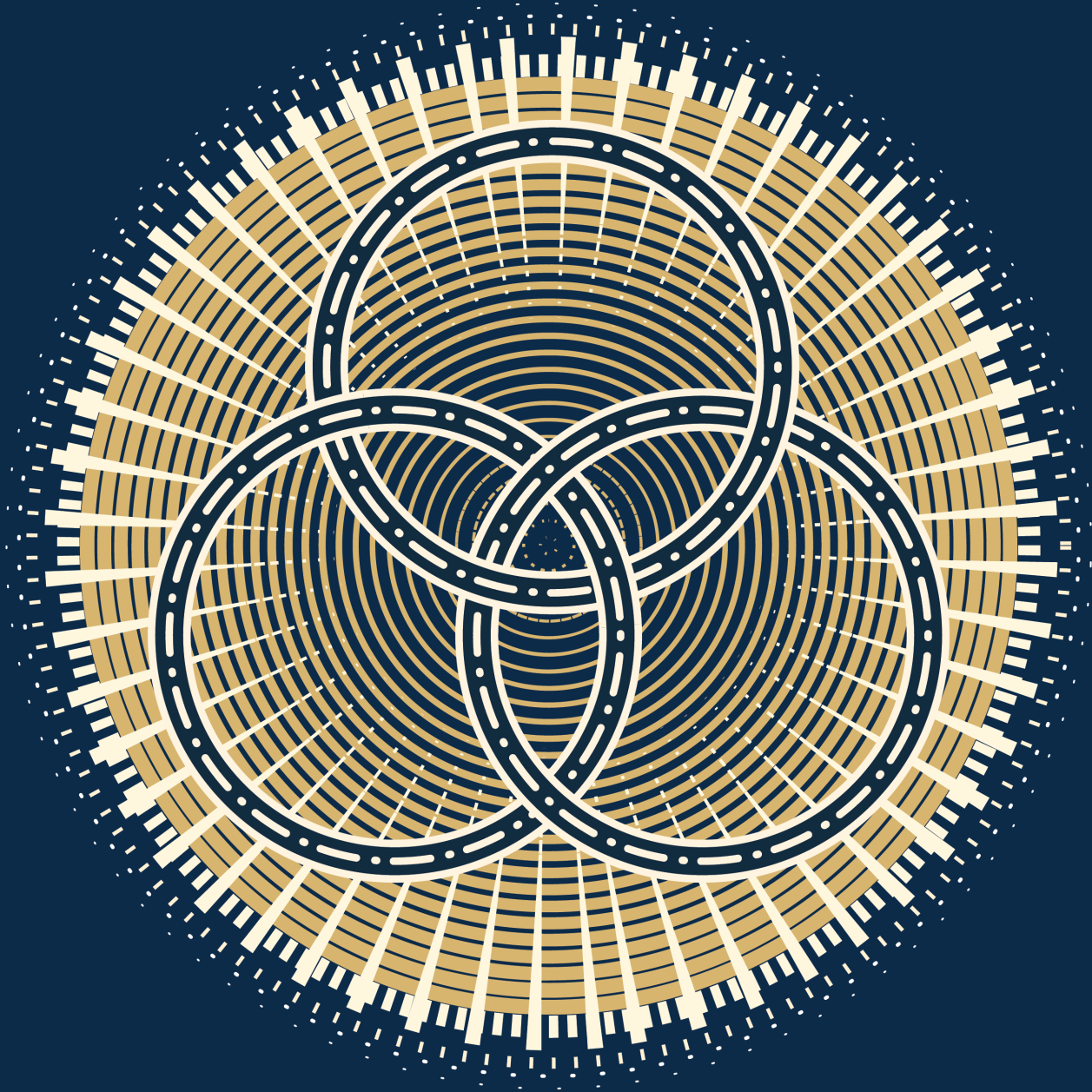
There are sixty-six books
God used men to write.
In His Word and nature,
we learn wrong from right.



2. God and the Holy Trinity

 he Lord God is one God.
He's living and true.
Without parts, unchanging,
no body like you.

One God in three persons,
we call Trinity.
All have the same substance
and eternity.



God's plans are without fault,
decreed from His will.

He weaves all of hist'ry
with unfailing skill.

To showcase His glory,
His justice employs
some vessels for mercy
and some to destroy.



God, in the beginning,
was pleased to create.
The world and all in it
in six days He made.

He made male and female,
they're creation's height.
He wrote law on their hearts
to show what was right.



Upholding, directing,
from greatest to least.
God governs according
to His good Decree.

His will covers all things,
in ways big and small.
But His church He cares for
most special of all.

