

Introduction

Welcome to an unusual book.

Yes, unusual, for it consists of four documents that were originally published in very different times and places and under vastly different circumstances. Two were published by Abraham Kuyper in 1911 for a Dutch target audience of a century ago. One of these two, *You Can Do Greater Things...*, was translated and adapted by yours truly for a Nigerian readership almost 20 years ago. It continues to be popular among Kuyperians the world over even today, but is out of print.

The title for the above, *You Can Do Greater Things than Christ*, was consciously chosen to be somewhat shocking and controversial in order to arouse curiosity. I considered changing it for this present purpose, for it is so controversial that I witnessed a couple of Nigerian Catholic bishops look at it on a book table and shake their heads. Not realizing that I was the person responsible, one of them growled in my presence, “These Protestants!” However, I decided to retain the title to avoid the confusion created by a title change.

I herewith offer my translation of another Kuyper piece, *The Mystery of Islam*, to the world as a brand new virgin publication, not seen by anyone before. I hope you will enjoy it. I found it an interesting perspective not only, but was also surprised by the depth and details that characterize this writing. I translated this document not because I agree with all of it. By no means. However, Kuyper being a “father figure” to a far-flung community of modern Kuyperians, I decided that many within that community would find his thinking about Islam of great interest. Of course, this essay is only a small part of a much larger 2-volume work. Perhaps this English publication will revive interest in the entire work.

As to the propositions about miracles, they are a direct result of my having translated “*You Can Do Greater Things....*”

Finally, the piece on faith and science was originally a lecture I delivered at a number of Nigerian universities. I found that most Nigerian university students had no tools to resist the Western

dualistic framework within which they did their studies, one that pits faith against science and thus produces all kinds of problems for them in their academic studies not only, but also in their spirituality. I republish this piece in this context, for it shares with the other documents the basic Kuyperian perspective. More specifically, it dovetails nicely with Kuyper's own comments about faith and science in his *You Can Do Greater Things....*

These documents are reproduced here along with their original bibliographical details, title pages, and all. Just like their English originals.

So, have a great read.

Dr. Jan/John H. Boer
Vancouver, Canada, 2010