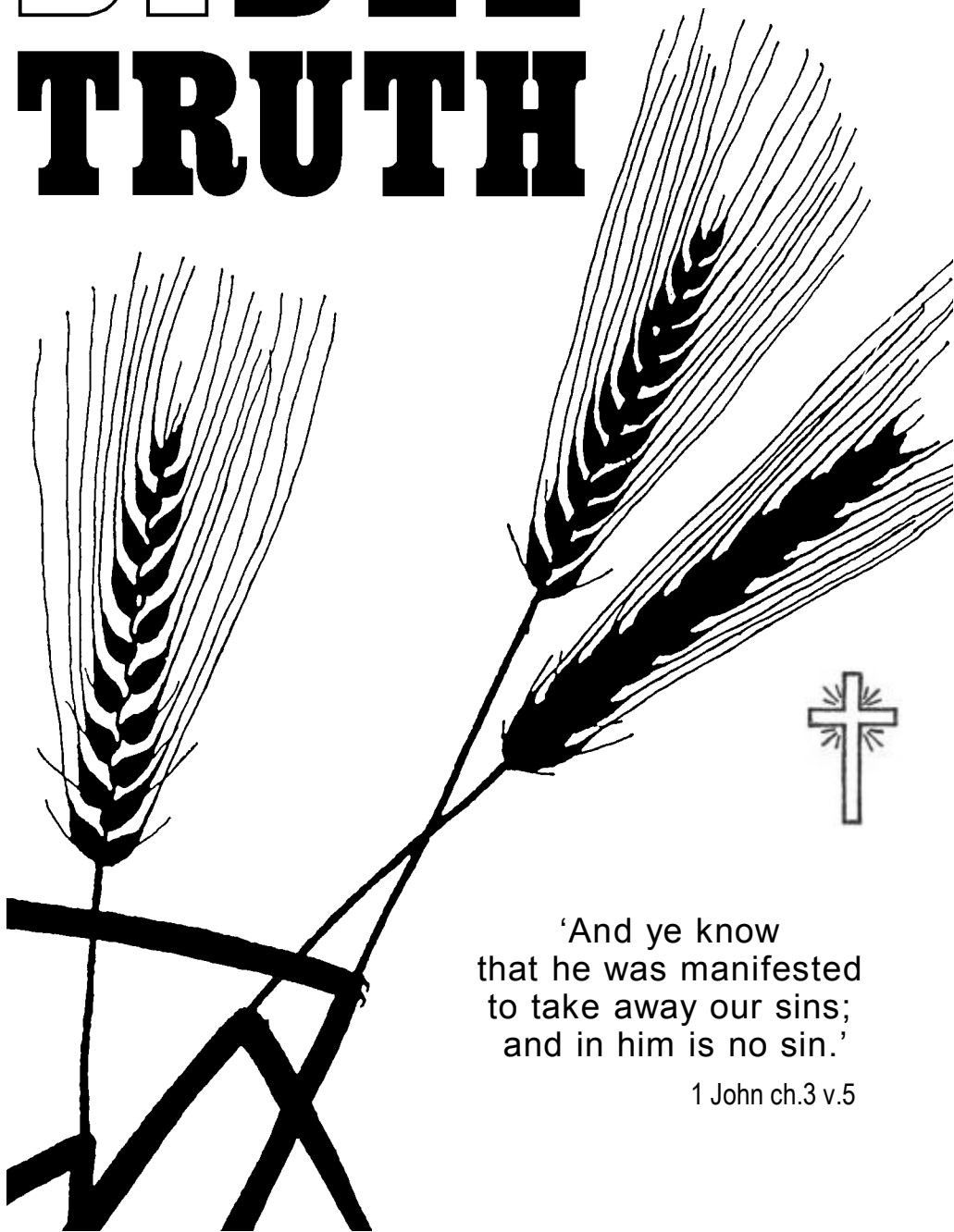


BIBLE TRUTH

No. 254
April/June 2009



‘And ye know
that he was manifested
to take away our sins;
and in him is no sin.’

1 John ch.3 v.5

GOD AND THE NATIONS

by the late Rev. Dr N. Court

I want to deal with the nations, and to look at a passage of Scripture in connection with this subject. It is taken from the prophet Jeremiah and is really the preface to Jeremiah's writings.

'Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.'

Jeremiah ch.1 vv.4-10

I would very humbly regard myself as a student of the nations; they have fascinated me and interested me from my childhood; and like many of you I was born a British Israelite and my forebears for several generations were believers, and so this interest in the nations has been with me since that time.

I want to look at the small remnants of Israel and Judah in Europe and also in Asia and the way in which the Lord God has preserved them throughout the centuries, since the time of the Captivity as He promised that He would. I am not going to deal with Ephraim in Great Britain, Manasseh in America, Zebulon in Holland, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Denmark or Iceland, because their Israel and Nordic ancestry has been dealt with elsewhere. It is with the little pockets of Israel and Judah here and there that I want to deal with, showing their ethnic background; and the history of these groups that are so often passed by as being insignificant or unimportant, but which in reality are vital links in the chain of Israel's identity.

My late father was a very regimental man, he was a soldier and everything was run according to the parade ground philosophy and way of life. He was very brief in what he said and was often away from home. He never wrote long letters but just very short little

messages. I still remember a post card which came and on it there was a representation of a matronly lady wheeling a pram (or perambulator) up a hill. The perambulator was a large one and it was full of children. Alongside the vehicle and the matronly lady were more children holding on to her dress, as they went up the hill. There was a caption which said 'It's the little things that count'.

We are told in the Word of God not to despise the day of the small things and one of my objects is to demonstrate from both the Old and New Testaments that our Lord cares for the least and also the greatest in all things, and in every respect I think of the words of Jesus in regard to those who needed help and who need help now.

'All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.'

John ch.6 v.37

Then in Matthew ch.5 vv.3 & 5.

'Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ... Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.'

Also I remember those lovely words of our Lord,

'Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest'.

Matthew ch.11 v.28

'But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.'

Matthew ch.6 v.33

The Lord said,

'And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel'.

Luke ch.22 vv.29-30

We can picture our Lord uttering these words to those who felt that they were just small things. Now, Amos the prophet had an insight into this and in ch.9 vv.8-15 we have a discourse which tells us that the Lord will take care of every part of Israel, just as he loves the sinner and gave himself for the sinner in coming to this earthly scene and dying at Calvary. In the same way He is interested in every Israelite the world over. Those little pockets of Israel scattered here and there are as important to Him as the greater ones.

'For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth.'

Amos ch.9 v.9

I want to repeat this verse 'For, lo, I will command ...'. I want to reinforce that statement with another from the works of Paul. He wrote 'and so all Israel shall be saved' (Romans ch.11 v.26). Not just a part of Israel, but all of Israel. I often deplore the fact that prophets whose writings appear at the end of the Old Testament because their messages were short, are referred to as 'the Minor prophets'. They are not minor prophets in the strict sense of the term, because theirs are major messages, very important messages.

'I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together as the sheep of Bozrah, as the flock in the midst of their fold: they shall make great noise by reason of the multitude of men.'

Micah ch.2 v.12

This is a verse to be pondered over greatly 'I will surely assemble ...'.

Now let us look briefly at Europe and Asia to see what we can find. I had a dear friend who was convinced that Portugal had some very powerful Israel links and she was quite right. In Spain and Portugal there are several groups of people who are to this day of Israel stock. They are perhaps diluted here and there but their links with Israel are undoubted. One of these is the Basques. Now the Basques have never reconciled themselves with being Spaniards, they are a people apart. They are a people with Iberian connection and pre-Iberian links. Their language is something which has puzzled ethnologists and etymologists but there are Hebrew links in their language, as there are in Cornish and Welsh.

You will remember from the Books of Kings and Chronicles, that there are references to King Solomon's navy of Tarshish. This navy went back and forth to the East, and brought back not only materials but also creatures such as animals and birds from as far east as Ceylon. It was called the navy of Tarshish, and Tarshish we know by implication referred to Great Britain. Settlements were made in Spain and in the Mediterranean area. Now people have questioned regarding Gibraltar. Why is Gibraltar so loyal to Britain? I know one Gibraltarian who was conscious of the Judah element in Gibraltar. I believe that these people have a God given right to be in the British Commonwealth.

Then we think of places in Spain. There are still remnants in Zaragoza which name is derived from Zara Judah and is built on the banks of the river Ebro (note similarity with Hebrew, the 'h' being silent) which is still there and is so named to this day. Some have regarded Spain as an enemy because of the papal inspired wars culminating in

the defeat of the Armada in 1588. It was however, in remote times, the 'gateway' through which so many sections of the Israel people passed on the way to N.W. Europe. Many stayed for a time, and some for many generations, and some are there to this day. They were followed by another section of Zara Judah, who were refugees from the destruction of Troy. Then a large group made up of several of Israel's tribes who separated themselves from the main body of Israel during the forty years of wandering in the desert after the exodus from Egypt, and these were the Iberian. It is from that name Iber, that the name Hebrew is derived. There can be no question about it, for it signifies a descendant of Eber, and both Eber and Hebrew mean 'Colonist'. The whole of the peninsula of Spain and Portugal is named Iberia. They still use the name today. It is still called the Iberian Peninsula. Numbers of Israel stock were depleted because they moved on, but when they came to Ireland they named the country (H)ibernia because originally they brought the name from Spain.

There are many other links, the Hebrides for instance were occupied by this group as well. The word Hebrides means the 'Hebrew Isles'. Other sections of the Irish people travelled through, and sojourned in the Iberian Peninsula and they were part of Dan, some of Simeon.

This is brought out in the coat of arms of the modern kingdom of Spain. Gad had a part to play; the large city of Cadiz got its name from Gades, which means 'the settlement of the tribes of Gad'. Thus there is ample evidence to connect the Hebrews with Spain. Many of these elements remain there as I have said, to become the ancestors of the Spanish people of today, but only in a minority. The ancient name for Spain was Sepharad, and from this we get the name of Sephardic. We remember from our history the terrible Spanish inquisition and what happened to the people of Judah being there. They were forced on pain of death on the rack, thumbscrews and every other form of devilry to become Roman Catholics and many complied, but as soon as they had the opportunity they reverted back and they were called the 'Marranos'. And so many of the Spanish people today who never regarded themselves in any way linked with Judah or the Jews are in fact descended from those Marranos. Similarly in Portugal, Vandals invaded Spain and formed a province called Vandalusia which was later changed to Andalusia, Jews who live in Spain were given the names of animals, trees or fruit, for example Perez-pear and we can identify Marranos from the usage of these words.

In Portugal the Judah element was very strong indeed, but one of the kings of Portugal was prevailed upon to persecute the Jews. He said to his Prime Minister, 'I want everyone who is of Jewish origin to wear a yellow hat during the next week,' when they arrived at court they found the prime minister was wearing a yellow hat. The King said to him 'Why are you wearing a yellow hat?' and he replied saying 'Why your Majesty, where is yours?'. The Portuguese royal house is undoubtedly of Marrano origin.

I want to refer to another little country. I had a friend called Marcel Semadini. This is a remarkable name and he was a remarkable man, and a surgeon at a well known London Hospital. He often used to say to me 'Remember I too am an Israelite,'. I said 'I don't doubt it'. I always believed the Swiss people had a powerful Israel connection. Yes he said, it is in the Italian form meaning son of Shem. He was very adamant about his descent. Switzerland and Liechtenstein, that little country with its capital Vaduz was once the centre of the greatest work we can think of in regard to the glorious Reformation. In that area around northern Italy, Piedmont, there was a group that called themselves the Waldenses for centuries, one can say from about AD 538 to AD 1500, they defied the papal authority in their mountain fortresses in the Alps and carried on with the true faith. The Bible was translated there, schools established, churches formed and missionary work done by these remarkable people. The Alpine mountain fortresses kept the papal forces at bay until ultimately they lost the fight. The Bull of Pope Innocent VIII (Innocent mark you), relegated them to death and they gradually disappeared from the scene. There were also others, the Albigenses and Janvénists.

The year 1688 is a big year regarding the Huguenots. The church in Orange Street, London was founded in this year and for three centuries a witness has been given from this site due to the fact that the Huguenots established a church here. Their emblem is a true Israelite emblem — the burning bush. They were a great people and in London we have many reminders of them at places such as Spitalfields and Bethnal Green. I went to Bethnal Green museum to do some research work some years ago in my capacity as President of the Bracknell Historical Society. I found ample evidence of what the Huguenots did in London. They were a small people yes, but also a great people, and mighty people. They came mainly from Normandy and Brittany, from Picardy, Dauphine and parts of France where the Israelite Nordic element was prominent and hence their contribution as a little people. 'It is the little things that count.'

Then we think of what happened in regard to the Alps and the Waldenses. The reformation produced remarkable men in Ulrich Zwingli who was born about the same time as Martin Luther but was quite independent of him, and he conducted his researches into the true faith, and became a power in his native Switzerland. He ultimately fought the battle of the Lord against Popery, (The Pope used to employ civil power to do his dirty work) and Zwingli rose up against him. Geneva and Zurich became great places, Geneva especially became the headquarters of the Reformation movement in Central Europe.

We have already looked at France but consider Brittany, where the remnants of the Bretons, the Celts live. The element is as strong as ever there. They are very proud of their Celtic background and they often tell visitors 'You are Great Britain and we are Petite-small Britain'. Picardy is another stronghold. I remember it well because there was a case raging when I was a youngster of a man who had poisoned somebody and he used Picardy brandy as his means of doing it. Picardy is more important than its brandy. It is a land, an area of France which played a very big part in the fight for liberty.

Now remember, Northern Italy was occupied by a people who were related to the Israel stock; they were Goths and were called the Longobardi. They occupied a territory which they called Lombardy. It is that area which gave us many martyrs in the cause of liberty and freedom of the church. The word Lombardy is taken from the fact that the menfolk wore long beards, and it simply means long beards 'Longobardi'. It is a very Germanic name for a people living in Northern Italy.

Even the little state of Monaco has evidence of an Israel link. One of the experts who occupied his time in connection with research into the Royal House of David was the Rev. A.B. Grimaldi a member of the royal house of Monaco. You find to this day that the Grimaldis still live there and the name comes from Grim which of course is a very definite Gothic German name.

Even the little country called San Marino in Italy a tiny independent state has these links, and so has Andorra in the Pyrenees which has links with the Basques.

Parts of Germany are of very great importance, such as Saxe-Coburg Gotha. The very name indicates the source of origin of these people, that is, Saxe-Coburg Gotha the land of the Goths. It was in old Saxony, with which Alfred the Great kept in close contact during

his life, that Martin Luther was born. Martin Luther was a Saxon and I believe he was an Israelite in every way, and has been used by God in his great and mighty work of the Reformation.

France is split up into these three racial elements: In the north, mainly people like ourselves in Normandy, Brittany and Picardy. In the middle part are Alpine broad-headed people, and in the south a dark Mediterranean people.

So Germany in the north and west is related to us, Hanover especially. Hanover was for 120 years linked with this country when George 1st the Elector of Hanover came over as king in 1714, but the link ended when Queen Victoria ascended the throne in 1837. So from George 1st to William IVth we had links with Hanover and many good men came over including many great musicians and organists. For instance, you have all heard Handel's 'Messiah'. Who would suggest for one moment that this rendering was not the work of an Israelite, it was. And then several of our greatest astronomers were of Hanoverian descent and many others of our great men had connections with Hanover. We think of the Herschel family in particular including Schleswig Holstein.

The western part of Germany is linked with Israel. The Prussian is partly Assyrian. He is related to Israel because the Assyrians too were Shemites and the central part descended from Gomer who gave his name to the Gomerians.

There were many artificial names of countries in Europe until recently, such as Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia. Czechoslovakia's main province was Bohemia; What a wonderful little country Bohemia is, and it is again a pocket of Israel. It was the land of John Huss, who lived from 1370 to 1415 and became a great witness for the Lord in the Reformation. He was badly handled by the Vatican by being placed in a filthy dungeon, a dreadful loathsome dungeon, like Jeremiah was put in. He collaborated with John Wycliffe, and the one who was associated with him was Jerome. All these men were of Israel stock.

When we look to northern and eastern Europe, we think of Russia. Israelite Russia? Yes, there are little pockets in Armenia and Azerbaijan, and past troubles had their roots in the fact that the people do not want to belong to the Soviet Union. We think of Latvia and Lithuania and Estonia where again there is a powerful Israel element for they are neither Slavs nor Russians in the accepted use of the term. Now Northern Poland especially, I would say, is as

Israelitish and Nordic as Sweden, Denmark or Norway. The special region I would select as being a very important part is Ge(dan)sk which used to be called (Dan)zig and it was from here that the tribe of Dan originally emanated from.

Previously they settled in Greece as the Danaus and there are still elements left there. The Thessalonians wrote a letter to the Jewish leader Messalonitas showing that they were of Israelite origin. The epic stories of Athens, Sparta and Macedonia all have an Israel ring in them. Dan settled in Greece and moved out under the name Danee. They crossed the Danube and Dniester rivers and went up into the Ukraine where they settled down. We should also remember the main body of Israel which according to 1 Esdras Chapter 13 moved out of Assyria and formed a new land with a capital which they called Arsareth. The same Arsareth is none other than Asgard, the city or great Area so much sung about in the Sagas of the Norse people.

In many other places like Albania you will find that the people wear Kilts and that they use Bagpipes. So they have many characteristics which remind one of the Highlanders of Scotland. It is the same with Poland which also has Israel links. If it was not for a Pole, Europe would have been overrun by the Moslems, by the Turks, but God raised a man called John Sobieski and he was the hero of the day driving the enemy out. Even in Hungary, which in the main is descended from the Huns, there is an Israel element. It was an Hungarian John Hunyadi who, when the Turks were hammering at the gates of Vienna, beat them back and saved Europe from a fate worse than death.

So friends it's the little things that count. The little countries which have produced great men and women and who are our kinsfolk. And the Lord says that they will be gathered. I do not know how this will be done. But not one grain will be lost so we should pray for all of these remnants, that they may be drawn together. In Asia you have many too, but I have not time to deal with the Kurds, the Sikhs the Dini Israel of Afghanistan and the Jews and Israelites which settled in China and Japan. May God bless you as you take an interest in the little things for Jesus' sake.
