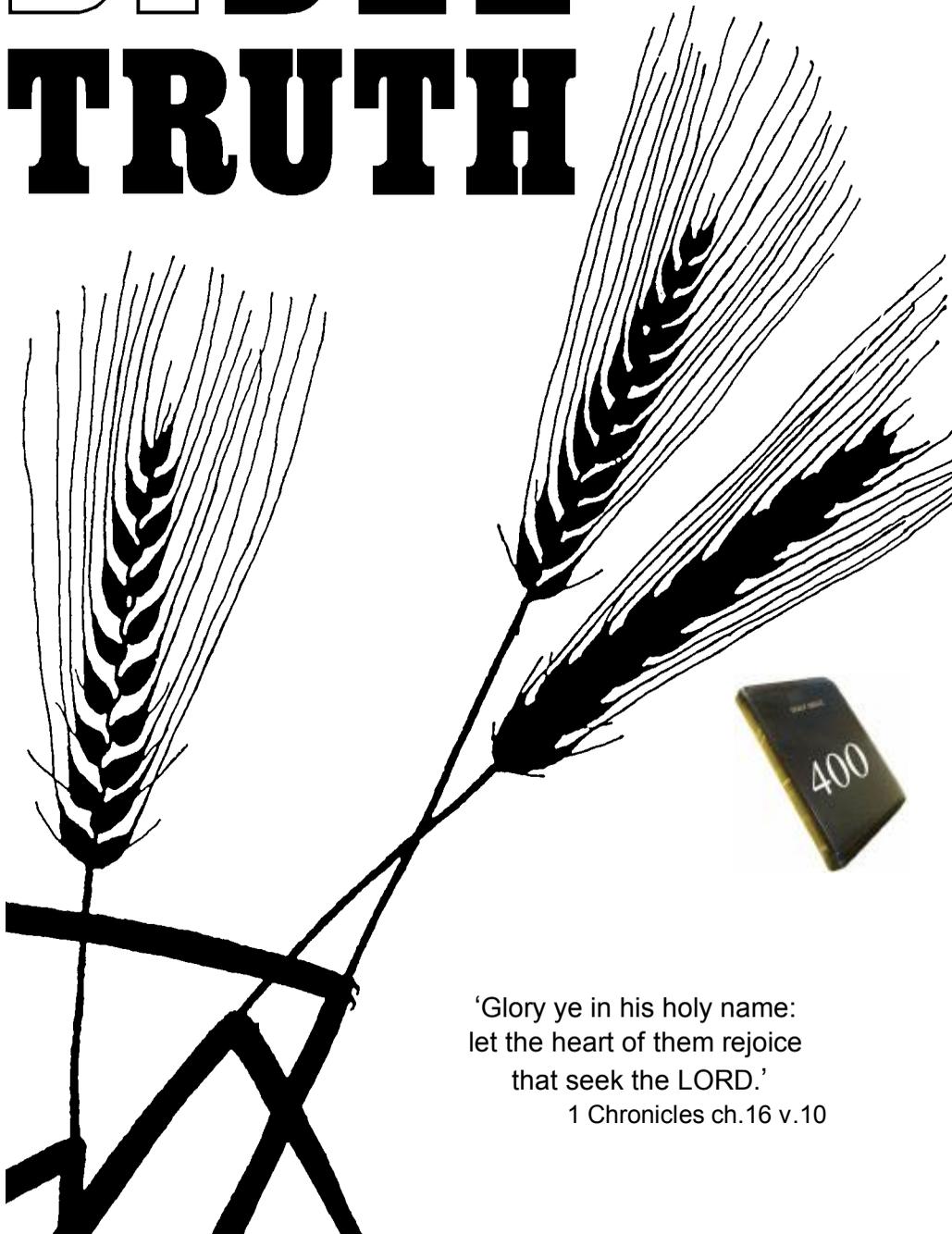


BIBLE TRUTH

No. 261
January/March
2011



'Glory ye in his holy name:
let the heart of them rejoice
that seek the LORD.'

1 Chronicles ch.16 v.10

EDITORIAL

2011 marks the 400th anniversary of the publishing of the Authorised Version of the Holy Bible. In the United States of America it is more commonly called The King James Version and American spelling has crept into some publications with words such as 'favour' in English being printed as 'favor'.

400 is said to be a divinely perfect period, being the product of eight jubilees. It was also the number of years from the Promise to Abraham, at the birth of Isaac, to the Exodus (Genesis ch.15 v.13) and Stephen also mentions this (Acts ch.7 v.6).

With these thoughts in mind, one wonders whether the timing of this event heralds a new heart in the spiritual life of the nation responsible for giving us this enduring translation, namely the United Kingdom. Certainly in recent months there have been rumblings here of discontent against the stream of verbal abuse and ridicule against God and His Word. The year 2010 started with derogatory adverts on buses in London (and other parts of the world). Though this



caused some consternation there was no great outrage within the nation. Painfully significant is the fact that this campaign, run by the British Humanist Asc., appealed for funds of £5,500 to meet the cost. In a very short time £153,523.51 had been raised, 2,700% above the target and in

the words of the organisers it, 'has shown how many atheists, humanists and freethinkers want their voices to be heard'. An update reveals that their current cash raising enterprise is not nearly so successful. Even so, the whole venture reveals the state of play in what was once considered to be a dominantly Christian country.

As already mentioned discontent at this onslaught is now manifesting itself in action. Not long after Stephen Dawkins endorsed the atheist adverts it was encouraging to see the



Trinitarian Bible Society responding with biblical text bus advertising.

A battle of words ensued between atheists and Christians during the rest of the year until 1st December when a milestone was reached in the launching of the 'I'm not Ashamed' initiative, with its distinctive logo shown here. This highlights the great benefit that the Christian Faith has brought to our nation over many years as well as the current challenges to that heritage. It was launched by the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rt Revd George Carey as well as the Rt Revd Michael Nazir Ali who is known for his stand in favour of traditional Christian values. The campaign is an initiative of Christian Concern for the Nation and its great strength is that it is an umbrella organisation for all Christians as well as others who have concerns that Christians should be fairly treated.



In the second week of December a site of considerable importance to those believing in the coming of the tribes of Israel to these Isles, was desecrated. This was the Holy Thorn Tree on Wearyall Hill at Glastonbury which was denuded of its branches. It may not be the original thorn and in recent years had been draped in an unsightly manner with ribbons and other effects left by those of variant religious persuasions. Nevertheless, it is a highly emotive gesture against the ancient foundation of Christianity within this land, said to have been established by Joseph of Arimathea, whose staff the present thorn is thought to have come from.

Later in December 2010 the report of the Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians was published. Its recommendations make clear that Christians indeed appear to be singled out compared with other religions and in future, Christians should be ensured the freedom that they once enjoyed in this land.

Against this sort of backdrop the *Authorised Version of the Bible* enters its 400th year. Praise God! Not only that, but it is so encouraging to find many organisations proclaiming the wonder, beauty and value of this great work for the study of Holy Writ. So, the Word of God, and in a good form, is far from buried. To add our contribution to these celebrations we intend to major on this splendid translation, its inspiration, history, usefulness, purpose and so on, within the magazine articles throughout this year. Also in order that you might participate in some of the many celebratory events taking place throughout this realm we will advertise some of them in forthcoming months (see p.11 in this edition).