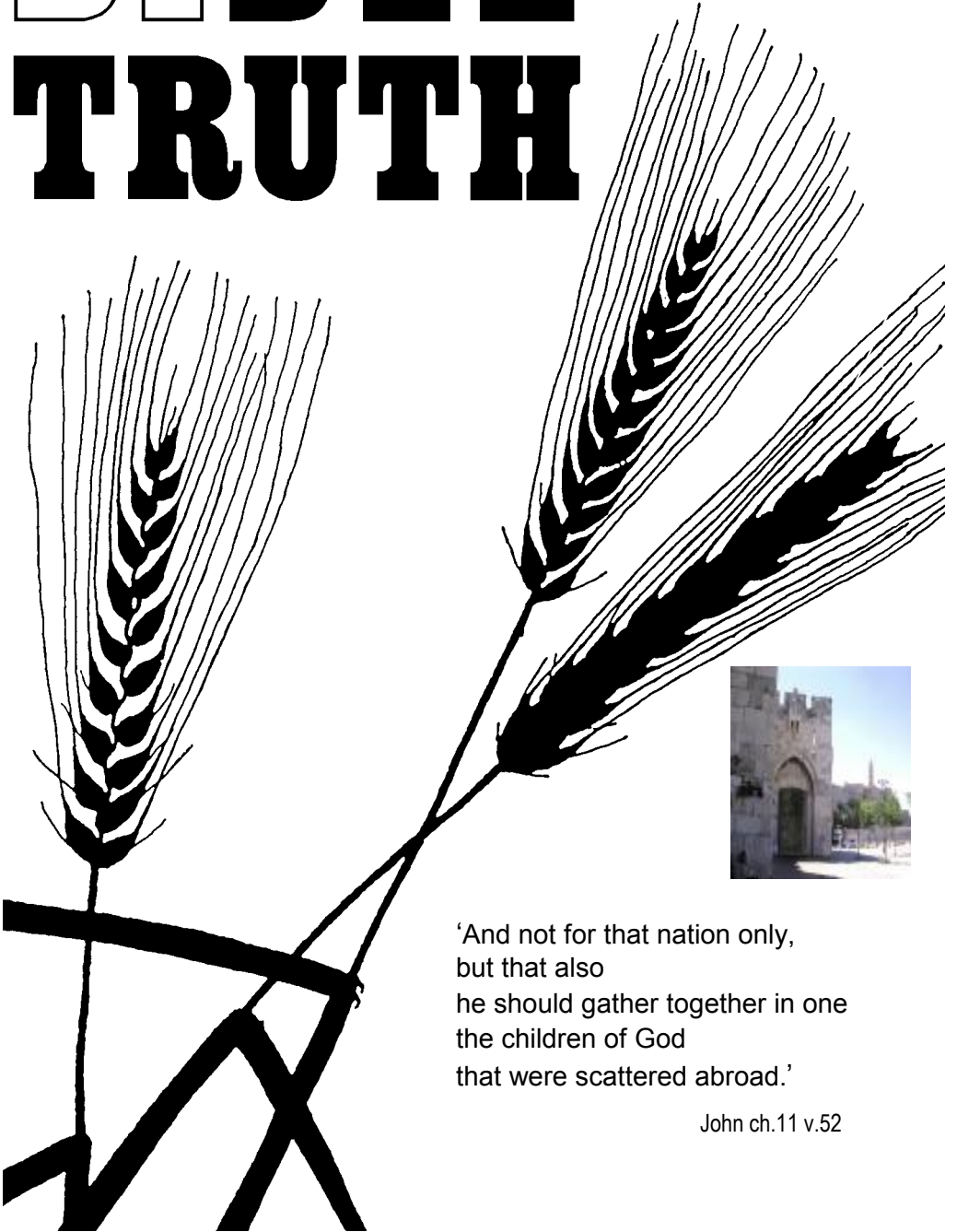


BIBLE TRUTH

No. 263
July/September 2011



'And not for that nation only,
but that also
he should gather together in one
the children of God
that were scattered abroad.'

John ch.11 v.52

Scriptural Grafting

by John Trotter

***There are many reasons why Romans ch.11
and many other passages of Scripture
have been misunderstood.***

- Firstly, the incorrect meaning that is given to the word Gentile, with an unfortunate capital 'G'.
- Secondly, the use of Replacement Theology which has been widely accepted.

Replacement theology or spiritualizing of phrases such as 'Body of Christ' and 'Bride of Christ' and believing that these terms are interchangeable has caused considerable error.

To add to the confusion there is the view that the world population is only made up of Jews and Gentiles. The word Jew is invariably assumed to mean Israel. For many, all the Jews of the world are God's Chosen people. This false view only shows that there are very few who study not only history but also the Scriptures. It is as if they have taken the side of those who have said,

'... Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance'.

Psalm 83 v.4

It is hoped that the following thoughts on this important issue will help you come to a greater understanding of what God plans to do with the Houses of Israel and Judah and for those who overcome.

'For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?'

1 John ch.5 vv 4-5

The Bible is very clear that He has not finished with His Bride. The world will be in a better place once Israel has her blindness lifted and she recognises what Christ has done for her. God's priorities are very different to those who control the affairs of the world.

'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.'

Isaiah ch.55 v.8

The word gentile needs to be looked at first. This word comes from a Latin word, 'gentilis' which means, 'nation or race of the same clan'. The inference with the word 'gentilis' is that of pagan or heathen. It is of interest that a pagan originally meant also someone who lived in the countryside, that is out of the cities. The Greek word 'ethnos' also means 'a race or tribe'. The Bible supports the meaning that gentile and ethnos can infer pagan and heathen. Israel did worship other gods and she became like the heathen nations around her. Throughout the time that Israel had become 'Lo-ammi' (Hosea ch.1 v.9) she had become like other nations and worshipped strange gods. Her identity had to a great extent been lost even to herself. Read 2 Kings ch.17, Jeremiah chs 2 v.21, 9 v.14 & ch.11.

Within a short time after the Resurrection a small group of these wandering Israelites had become Christian, but that is another story. The book, *The Drama of the Lost Disciples*, by George F. Jowett provides some wonderful history of the spreading Gospel. Even though Israel had become gentilised, St Paul asks the question, '... Hath God cast away his people? ...' The answer is a definite, '... God forbid' (see Romans ch.11 v.1).

The main point to be emphasized in Romans ch.11 vv 16-24 is the fact that relates to the horticultural aspect of grafting. This horticultural feature is completely overlooked by those who teach replacement theology or for those who believe that the world population is either Jew or non-Jew.

In the *World Book Encyclopedia* the following sentence is taken from the Grafting section.

'For grafting to be successful the scion (that which is grafted to the stock) and the stock should belong to the same species or to species that are closely related.'

In the book *The Complete Australian Gardener*, p. 634 it says,

'The prime factor for the success of grafting is that the two plants must be compatible; generally this means they should be of the same botanical genus ...'.

In other words you could not from a botanical aspect take a pine scion or eucalypt scion and insert it into a wild olive stock. These wild olives that were inserted were the same genus as the rootstock.

In my opinion the matter is quite clear as far as the grafting mentioned in Romans ch.11. Those being grafted in were of the

same genus as the root of the wild olive tree. Even though they were of other nations (other sheep) they were not of another race as is generally supposed. If this is correct this is another example showing that the Bible is Israel's book.

Whilst preparing this article I came across a comment written by Rabbi Ed Nydle on the subject of the olive tree. He made it quite clear that the wild olives are Israelites and could be no one else. His reasoning was based on the correct understanding of the Law as expressed in Deuteronomy ch.22 v.9. He stated that the root stock and scion had to be of the same species and genus.

The question that needs to be now asked is: Are there verses that can be used to show that there were many other sheep who were scattered and could be grafted into the wild olive stock? Because the Bible explains itself, a little study will show there are indeed many verses that can answer the above question.

'James a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.'

James ch.1 v.1

Strong's Concordance says they were Israelites, resident in Gentile (other nations) countries (see Strong's 1289 and 1290). They were sown throughout the nations. A reading of 1 Peter ch.1 vv 1-2 helps add detail to James ch.1 v.1.

Then said the Jews among themselves, Whither will he go, that we shall not find him? will he go unto the dispersed among the Gentiles, and teach the Gentiles [nations]?'

John ch.7 v.35

The word 'dispersed' is the same as 'diaspora' as used in James ch.1 v.1. The word Gentile means, 'Hellen', a Greek speaking person of the area that we now call Greece.

'And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.'

John ch.10 v.16

Who were these other sheep? In Jeremiah ch.50 vv 6 & 17 we have sufficient proof as to who are the sheep. The word 'lost' that is used in Jeremiah ch.50 v.6 has the same meaning as the word lost used in Matthew ch.15 v.24 which says,

'But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel'.

It could not be any clearer, only one people can be the sheep and that is Israel, not any other nation. It is good to read Matthew ch.10 vv 5-6 in conjunction with Matthew ch.15 v.24.

In Matthew ch.21 v.43 there is reference to the fact that the Kingdom of God was taken from the chief priests and Pharisees who it is believed were a mixture of the Southern House plus a mingling of Edom's descendants. This other nation would bear fruit. This other nation or people, I believe, was not just of the Northern House of Israel, for there would have been a number of the Southern House in the area. Many of the Southern House were also taken captive and taken to Assyria (2 Kings ch.18 v.13).

The scattering of the tribes of Israel is not as clear cut as some would suppose. I am sure there were even a few individuals from all the tribes in the Holy Land at the time of Christ. In Luke ch.2 v.36 we are told that Anna of the tribe of Asher lived in the area. The translation on Sennacherib's cylinder says that he took 46 fenced cities and 200,150 people of the Southern House to Assyria (see *Companion Bible*, Bullinger Appendix 67).

I see no real problem with the view that many of the 'wild olives' were possibly of the Southern House. See Josephus' *Antiquities of the Jews*, Book XI Ch 5, Section 2. We must not forget that the olive tree was symbolic of the whole House of Israel and the fig tree was symbolic of the Southern House. In the meantime many more had already left the Asian area and had arrived in the 'isles afar off' (Jeremiah ch.31 v.10). This westward movement had been going on for many hundreds of years, even back to the time of Israel's Exodus from Egypt. The word 'isles', as used, means a desirable, habitable area, coastal place (see *Strong's* 339). To conclude this section the following needs to be quoted.

'For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.'

Luke ch.19 v.10

'For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?'

Romans ch.11 v.24

The above verse is often used to suggest that people from various races were grafted into the good olive tree which is contrary to nature. The usual practice was to insert a good scion into a wild olive

root stock. The reference by Paul to the good olive tree could be a reference to the restoration of Israel to her rightful role as a servant people. No matter how the grafting is done the scion and root, whether it be old or new has to be of the same species or genus.

So often, due to spiritualising of certain terms, the good olive tree is considered to be the Church or Body of Christ. In my opinion when the two terms, Body and Bride of Christ can be considered as overlapping is when an Israelite becomes a Christian. What is overlooked is the fact that the Bible is a history of Israel. Any other nation that is mentioned is only referred to when the historical path of Israel crosses the path of that other nation.

In conclusion I would like to comment on the relevance of the points made for today's world. Paganism was of prime concern during the time of Paul's writing. It was not a case of 'God is dead', but rather which pagan god or Baal (Lord) were the people to believe in. As far as the western world is concerned the problems of paganism and the rise of the gods of Egypt, Greece and Rome, etc., are now an issue of world relevance. True Israel in a very sophisticated way has returned to Baal in all its variations.

The gentilised Israelite is very apparent in today's world. Apostasy and paganism is not only very much part of the world today but also of church teachings. The two books by Dr Peter Jones entitled, *Pagans in the Pews* and *The Gnostic Empire Strikes Back* shows how much of what is taught in the churches has pagan beginnings. It is no wonder the following warning is given.

'For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?'

1 Peter ch.4 vv 17-18

In the meantime we who are aware of our Israelite beginnings should not be high-minded but fear and to continue in His goodness, otherwise we shall also be cut off.

'... because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.'

Romans ch.11 vv 20-22

It is correctly said that history goes in cycles and generally these cycles have been collectively moving downward. It is true that over the past 200 or so years there has been an incredible increase in knowledge, but what is overlooked is how much previous civilisations did have to sustain their respective societies. What has increased is the false belief that man is to be deified. The pursuit for ageless youth and science research for the creation of life are but two of the many examples where man is trying to establish upon this earth a kingdom based upon Atlantian theocracy (not theocracy) and theosophy.

This deification (Genesis ch.3 vv 4-5) is the essence of pagan beliefs and also that of idolatry. From the outset the first commandment is broken. The following is attributed to Voltaire,

‘If there were no God it would be necessary that man would have to create one’.

The wild olives of St Paul’s time are still very much a part of today’s society. In this respect, history has gone a complete circle. Maybe the final words of John Bradford before he was burnt at the stake in July 1555 are most applicable to the western world.

‘O, England , England repent thee of thy sins, repent thee of thy sins. Beware of idolatry, beware of false antichrists, take heed they do not deceive you. ... Straight is the way and narrow is the gate, that leadeth to eternal salvation, and few there be that find it.’

It could be that once the following promise has been fulfilled the grafting process will be complete. As we learn to be in the world but not of it, we can be assured of this wonderful promise.

‘Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. Surely, shall one say, in the LORD have I righteousness and strength: even to him shall men come; and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed. In the LORD shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory.’

Isaiah ch.45 vv 22-25
