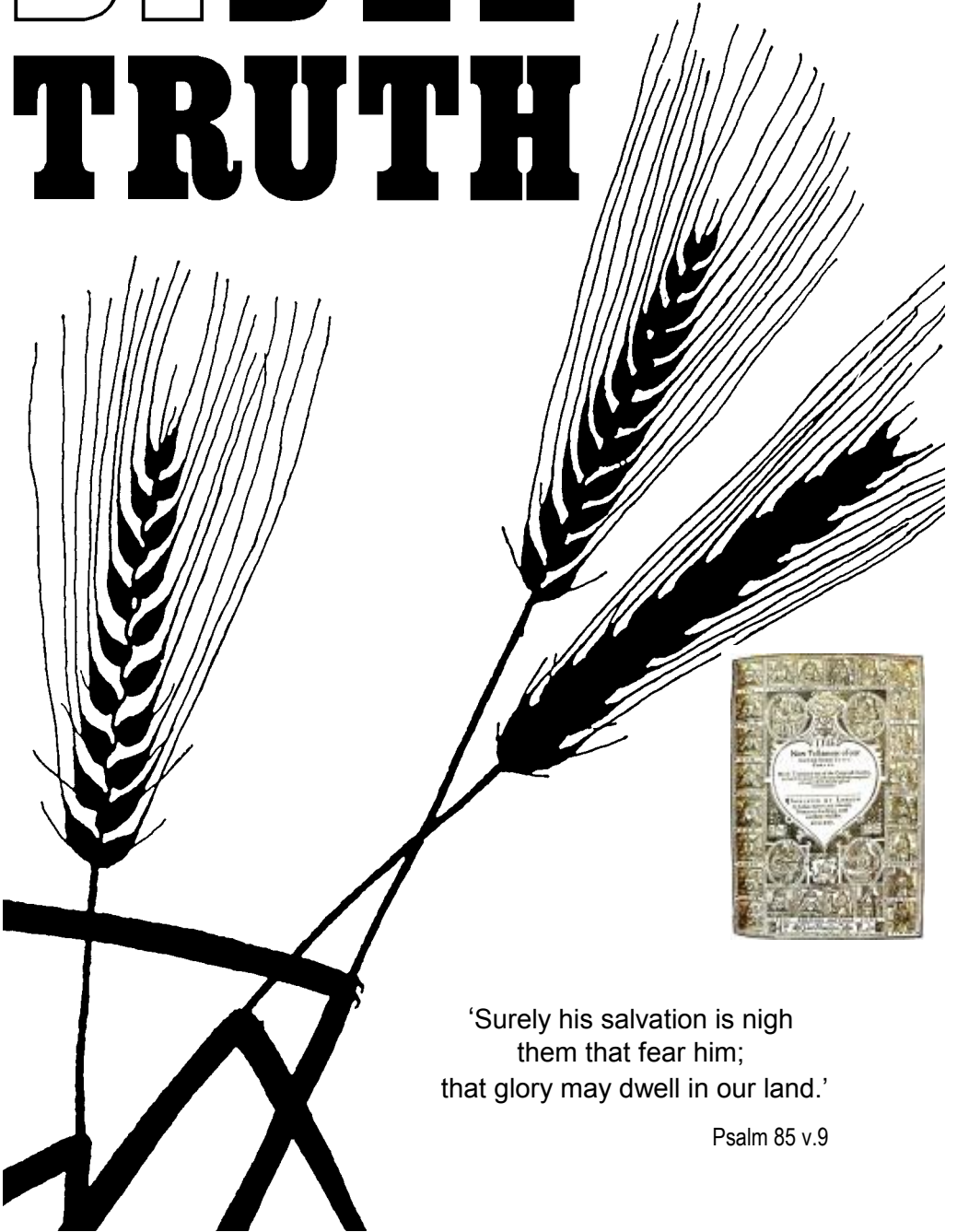


# BIBLE TRUTH

No. 264  
October/December 2011



‘Surely his salvation is nigh  
them that fear him;  
that glory may dwell in our land.’

Psalm 85 v.9

## ***The magnificent Authorized Version New Testament title page***

which is shown on page 5 was

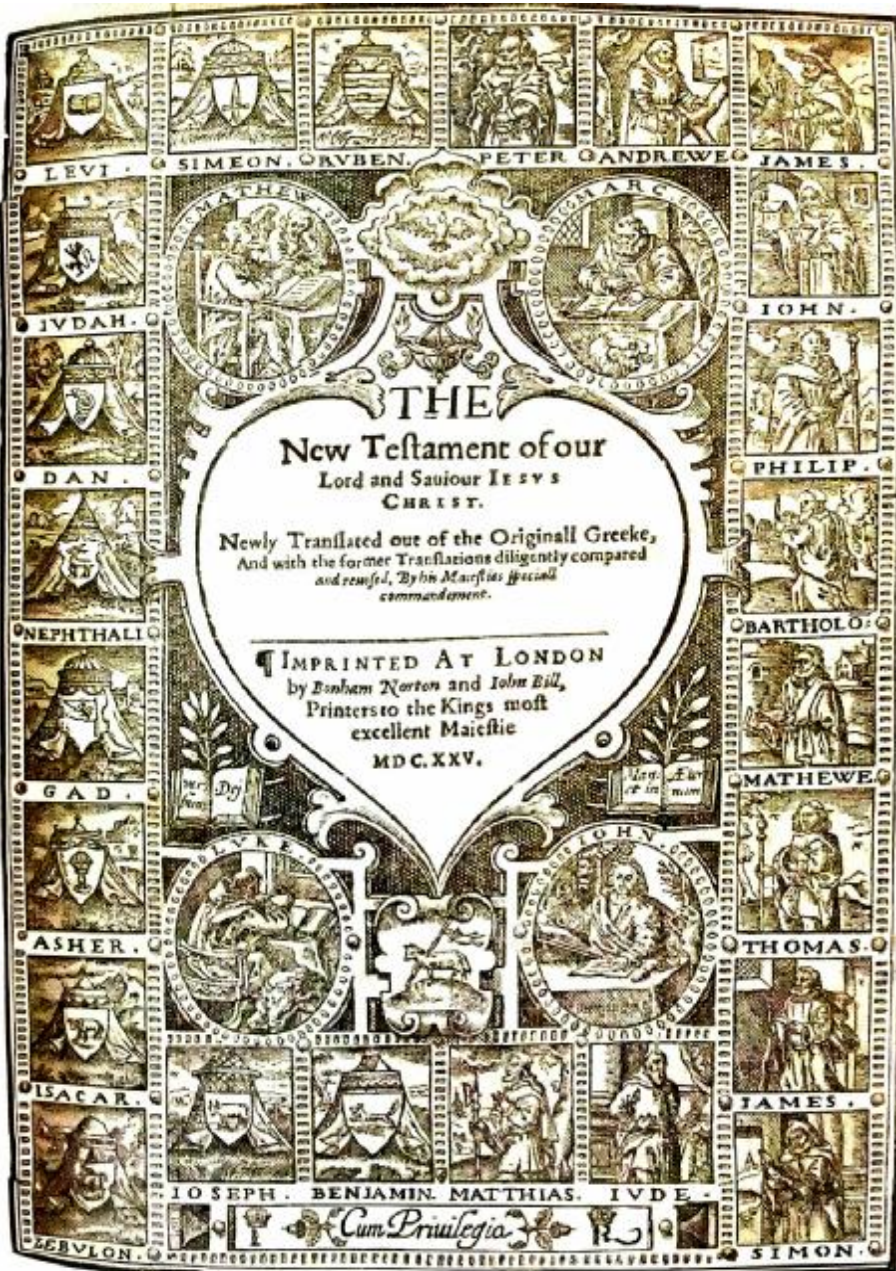


1611 Old Testament title page showing a group of Apostles with Moses & Aaron standing below them & Luke & John seated

found in many early editions of the Authorized King James Version of the Bible and tells a multitude of stories. It might partially answer the question of how long have the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples been seen to originate from the so called 'Lost Tribes of Israel'? Clearly the publishers saw it as important to graphically depict these Israelites in the initial printings, and ones produced in Britain at that! Little more than a century later much was written about the origins of these people but in Tudor and early Stuart times the idea of the tribes reaching 'the appointed place' and 'fulfilling the calling of God with corresponding blessings', was being quite naturally built into the culture of the people. Only half a century prior to this Bible publication Sir Francis Drake had defeated the Invincible Spanish Armada and the Book of Common Prayer was compiled in a style as if its readers were Israelites (such as 'O Lord save thy people. And bless thine inheritance'). A few decades after the AV's printing, paintings such as Zuberan's 'The Patriarchs' depicting the 12 sons of Jacob were popularly commissioned and so on.

Hence it would be appropriate to include these tribal emblems in this frontispiece, together with the Apostles and Gospel writers, thus indicating the foundation upon which the nation was built.

It is interesting to note what a prestigious position it was to be commissioned as the King's Printer. In fact Robert Barker held this office at the time the translation was completed and was obliged to print it at his own expense, which added to his money problems. It partly accounted for him selling the appointment to his cousin Bonham Norton who was in partnership with John Bill, the two shown in this 1625 example. How remarkable it is that they had developed a very profitable import and export business in Bibles thus ensuring the English edition of the Authorised Version was widely distributed.



LEVI · SIMEON · RVBEN · PETER · ANDREW · JAMES ·

IYDAH ·



IOHN ·

DAN ·

PHILIP ·

NEPHTHALI ·

BARTHOLO ·

GAD ·

MATHEWE ·

ASHER ·



THOMAS ·

ISACAR ·

JAMES ·

ZEBVLON ·

IOSEPH · BENJAMIN · MATTHIAS · IYDE ·

SIMON ·

THE  
New Testament of our  
Lord and Saviour IESVS  
CHRIST.

Newly Translated out of the Originall Greeke,  
And with the former Translations diligently compared  
and reuised, By his Maiesties speciall  
commandement.

IMPRINTED AT LONDON  
by Iohn Norton and Iohn Bill,  
Printers to the Kings most  
excellent Maieitie  
MDC.XXV.

Cum Præiilegio