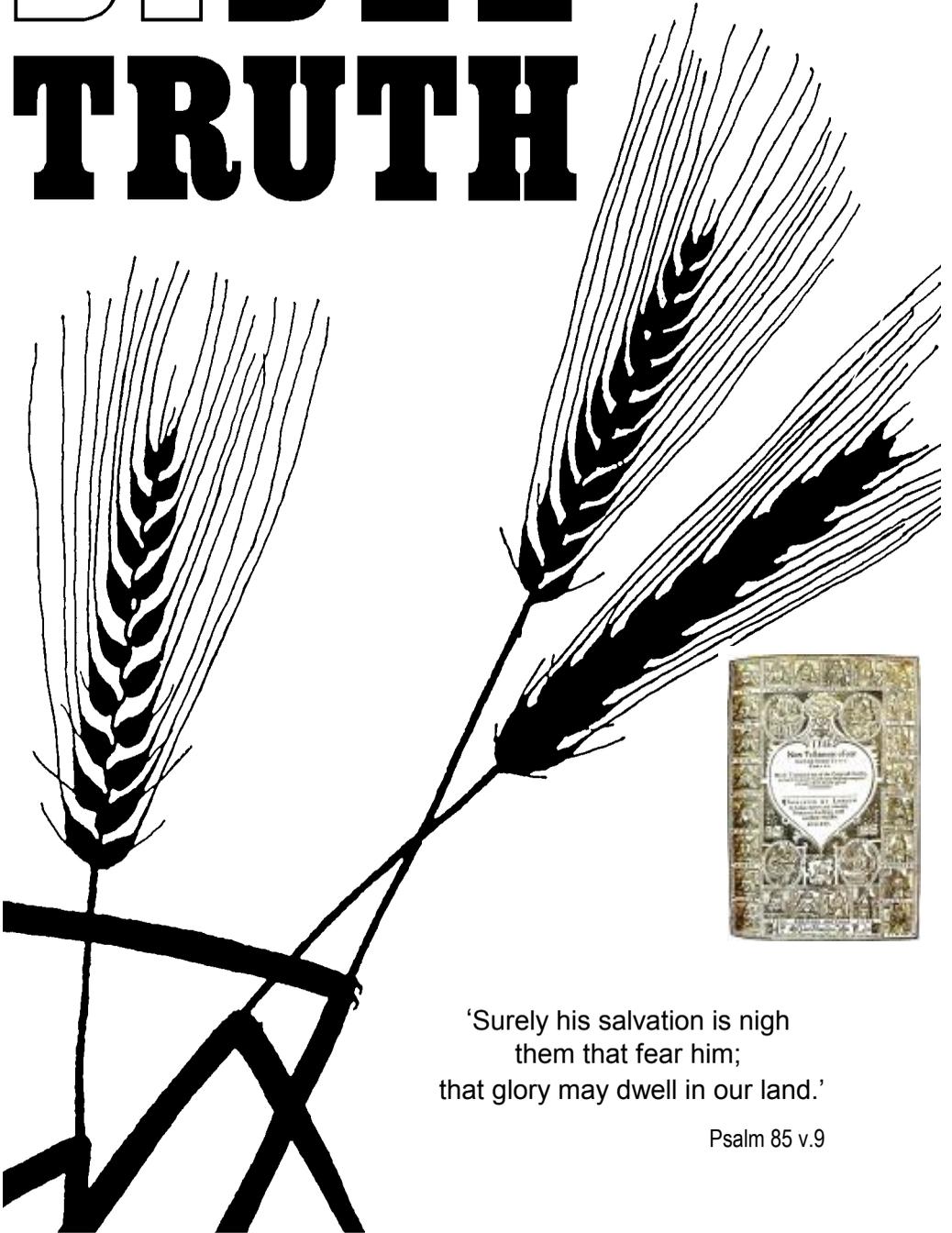


BIBLE TRUTH

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 Gospel of the Kingdom is Important

by Pastor J. A. Lovell

Let it be said that our message is different from the one given in the average church. It is unfortunate that it is different. It need not be different if every minister would preach the Bible in its entirety, including the Gospel of the Kingdom, the national message, the message of Israel, and of restoration, which covers five-sixths of the Bible.

By the word 'kingdom' I am not referring to heaven, nor am I referring to something inside of a person. I am referring exactly to what Jesus and Paul referred to when they spoke of, the Kingdom — a throne — a race of people — laws — domain — and a ruler. These component parts compose a kingdom.

The Gospel is that which is spoken concerning the Kingdom, the King, citizens of the Kingdom, and the laws of that kingdom, including the restoration of that kingdom and the time when the King will return and take over and put into operation His kingdom here on earth. So then, the Gospel of the Kingdom is that gospel, or good news, which refers to and tells about the Kingdom of God on earth!

I think then, that such a message is vitally important, most appropriate, and should be declared by all ministers in our pulpits today. Many, evidently don't even believe these things at all. Others believe them but don't consider them important. I believe these things are tremendously important for the following reasons:

1. First — The Gospel of the Kingdom is important because we are told to seek the Kingdom of God and to put it first in our interest, attention, affection, and emphasis. Surely, as Christians, we want to obey the Lord. Surely we want to do as He commanded us to do. That being the case, we are going to have to reverse some of our habits and procedures today, as we find people putting everything else in the world first instead of the Kingdom of God. Let us see, then, what Jesus told us to emphasize and put first above everything else, including the Church.

'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 preceding verse very plainly reminds us that we are to put the Kingdom of God and the righteousness of God above everything else in the world. Are we doing this? No! A thousand times no! This can only mean, that the average minister is disobeying the Lord; the average church is disobeying the Lord; and the average national leader is most certainly disobeying the Lord; for they are not putting first that which Jesus commanded us to put first — the Kingdom of God!

2. Jesus — I believe the Gospel of the Kingdom is tremendously important, because it was the Gospel which Jesus Christ, Himself, preached while He was here on this earth conducting His ministry. Perhaps you have not thought of this, or perhaps some do not even believe it. To such people the following verse of Scripture is quoted.

‘And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.’

Matthew ch.9 v.35

What does this verse tell us? Well, if we are to believe what it says, and if we take it literally, and actually it is the only way to take it, we are to believe that Jesus Christ set the example for us by, ‘teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom’.

Now, if we are to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, if we are to do what He did, and if we are to be followers of Him and examples of what He did, then it behoves us particularly as ministers and teachers, to proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom.

This matter of the Kingdom of God was so important to Jesus, the foremost in His life, that it was the last thing He talked about as He left this earth.

‘To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:’

Acts ch.1 v.3

Usually the last things a person speaks of before he leaves this earth are the most important things in his life. Jesus must have considered, therefore, the message of the Kingdom the most important thing, for it was the thing that He spoke of from the time He was resurrected until He left this earth. My dear friends, surely you must consider it important to promulgate, to teach, to believe, and to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom.

3. Paul — We certainly believe the gospel of the Kingdom is vitally important because it was the message of the Apostle Paul. Many people claim they are ‘Pauline Christians’, meaning they are followers of Paul. Many claim that is all we need today for our churches and for our individual lives, simply the teachings of the Apostle Paul. Well, let us see what the Apostle Paul taught and preached about during his ministry on earth.

‘And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.’ Acts ch.28 vv 30-31

Reading carefully the preceding verses, we learn that the Apostle Paul, in his own rented house, or auditorium, having no traditional church building, proclaimed to the Israelites who were in Rome one gospel and one gospel only — the Gospel of the Kingdom, or the things that pertain to the Kingdom of God on earth.

Let us read Galatians ch.1 v.8.

‘But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.’

Here the people were told that if they preached any other gospel than that which they had received from Paul and his helpers, they would be accursed. That gospel, of course, was the Gospel of the Kingdom.

‘As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.’

Galatians ch.1 v.9

So if we are to be followers of Paul, we must proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom!

4. Epistles — We believe the Gospel of the Kingdom is important because it is the theme of the four Gospels, the Epistles, and the Parables. Jesus only mentions the Church twice. Throughout Matthew the Kingdom of God is mentioned many times. Likewise, in Luke, Mark and John, not to mention the Acts of the Apostles and the Parables. With perhaps one or two exceptions, all the Parables deal with the Kingdom of God, and not the Church and individual salvation, as we have been taught. Knowing this it is easy to interpret parables like that of the rich man and Lazarus, referring to the two houses of Israel and not to eternal torment as has been taught; and also the Parable of the

Prodigal Son, teaching restoration and the return of Israel and not of individual backsliders, as we have been taught.

The Book of Romans was addressed to the Israelites who were in Rome. The Epistles of Peter were addressed to the ten tribes scattered abroad, a holy nation, a royal priesthood, a peculiar people. The Book of James is addressed to the twelve tribes scattered abroad. The Book of Hebrews, of course, is addressed to the Hebrews, or Israelites.

5. Prayer — We believe the Gospel of the Kingdom is certainly important, because when Jesus gave a model prayer for the disciples He saturated it with things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

‘... Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven,

Luke ch.11 v.2

Surely these things must have been important to Jesus, or He wouldn't have saturated His teachings with them. If they were important to Him and to the early apostles, they should be of great importance to us in this crucial hour just preceding the return of our Lord!

So, we urge you to pray for, to support, and to emphasize the Gospel of the Kingdom, for it is the Gospel which is to be proclaimed throughout the world, ultimately, and the only gospel thus spoken of anywhere in the Bible.

‘And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.’

Matthew ch.24 v.14

Even the Book of Revelation tells of the everlasting gospel, which, naturally, is the Gospel of the Kingdom, and will be proclaimed during the millennial age and beyond. That same great book even tells of the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, a symbolic picture of Israel restored, and the Kingdom of God functioning on earth under the leadership of Christ, the King. That symbolic city has twelve gates, and each gate has on it the name of one of the tribes of Israel. So as we go marching into the Kingdom, we will be reminded of Israel, of the Kingdom, and of its importance by the very fact that whatever gate we enter, we will find the name of one of the twelve tribes!

This message being so important, we ask you to renew your effort, to consecrate yourself, and to give your best to the promulgation of this vitally important message — the Gospel of the Kingdom!