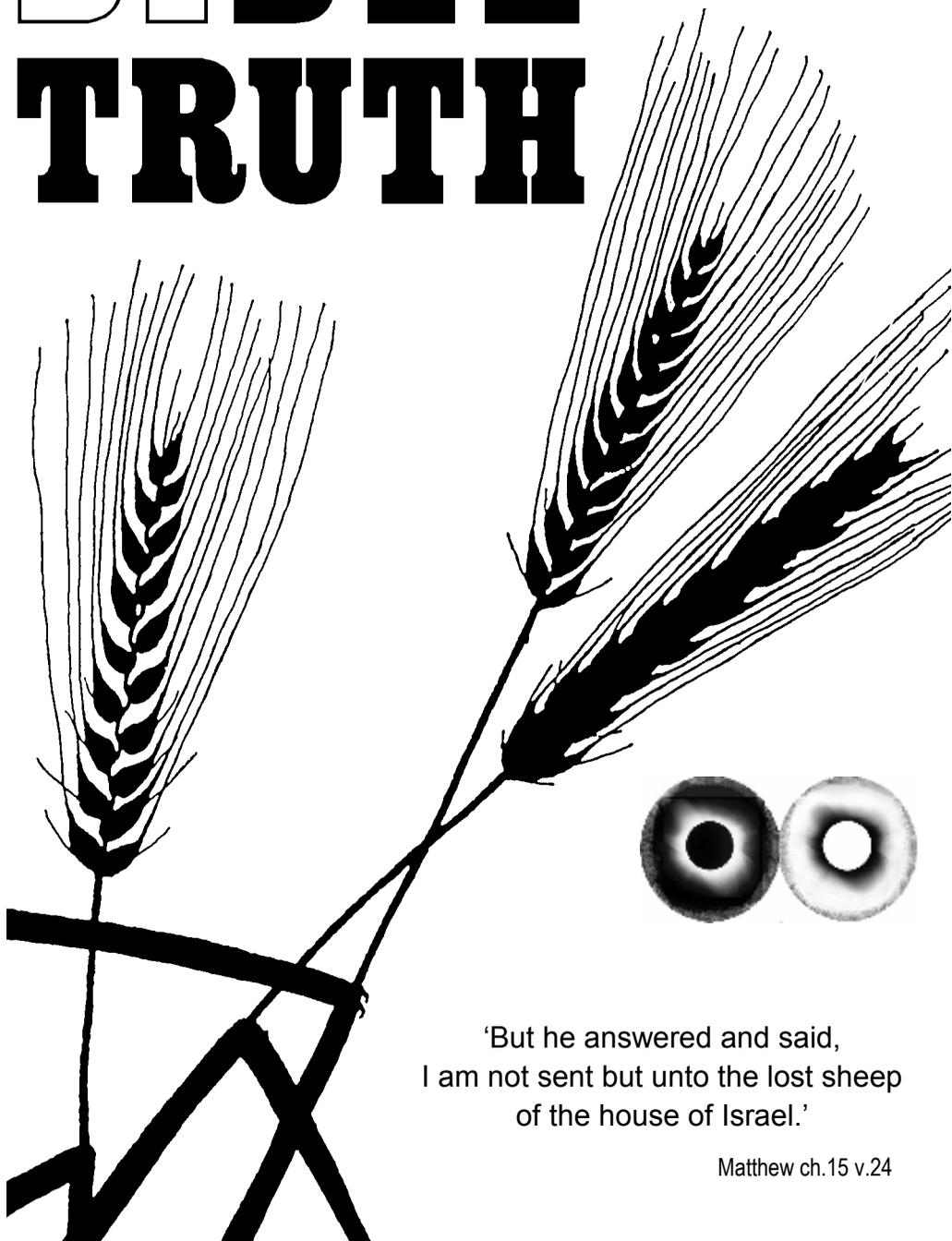


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'But he answered and said,
I am not sent but unto the lost sheep
of the house of Israel.'

Matthew ch.15 v.24

A year when events gained momentum and the nations were with 'perplexity'

A Message from the BIWF President Michael A. Clark
to Members, Associates and Supporters - 2nd December 2011

This was the year of the Arab Spring in North Africa and the Middle East which was not foreseen by the political elite. Nor indeed was the debt crisis in the eurozone, both events which, at the time of writing, are developing into major international crises. At home the national economy and the protest action against the City of London outside St Paul's Cathedral joined that of the 'Occupy Wall Street' protest in New York and in many other U.S. cities. The moneychangers' tables are being overturned and we must consider that the Lord's final judgement on international finance is very near. The unprecedented warning to Britain's banks by the Governor of the Bank of England on 1 December, confirmed that an economic Armageddon in the eurozone and the fall of 'Babylon' (Revelation 18) is approaching. Germany is calling for fiscal union in the EU to save the situation, but the markets will undoubtedly decide the fate of the euro.

It has been fascinating to see the pattern of events in the Middle East following those of 1917, which was linked by 2,520 years to Nebuchadnezzar becoming the 'head of gold' of the Image in Babylon. Events in 1917 reached a climax on 9-11 December. The Turks surrendered Jerusalem to British Forces under the command of General Allenby. They were the pivotal force in the Middle East at the time. Likewise in 2011, the final weeks of the year brought Turkey into view as the situation in Syria escalated into civil war threatening the whole region. Britain and Iran have broken off diplomatic relations and a wider conflict would affect the supply of oil, undermining the International Monetary System, which system is 'the problem'. *In 2011 we are at the end of a warning cycle of 120 displacements from 1917.*

At the centre of this hurricane is the Israeli State, which is in a huge dilemma as trouble erupts on all sides and on every border at the same time. It has become isolated with no friends on its borders. The United States alone remains a powerful ally to the Jewish State, yet even the support of the great superpower is beginning to fade. The nations are with 'perplexity' (Gk. *aporia* 'without a passage out,' Luke 21:25); the situation is developing

rapidly as I write and 2012 may witness events which could propel our witness into far greater prominence.

This year has marked 400 years from 1611 when the King James Bible was published and had such a powerful effect on the cultural and spiritual life of our nation. On 16 November a special service, attended by the Queen, to mark the publication was held in Westminster Abbey. The final editing of the 'Authorised Version' of the Bible was completed in the Jerusalem Chamber of the Abbey in 1611. Significantly, 400 is the number of years from the promise to Abraham, at the birth of Isaac, to the Exodus. A greater 'Exodus' is approaching for our nation and next year, when the Queen celebrates her Diamond Jubilee, will bring us nearer than ever before to the Return of the King of kings to take up the Throne of David.