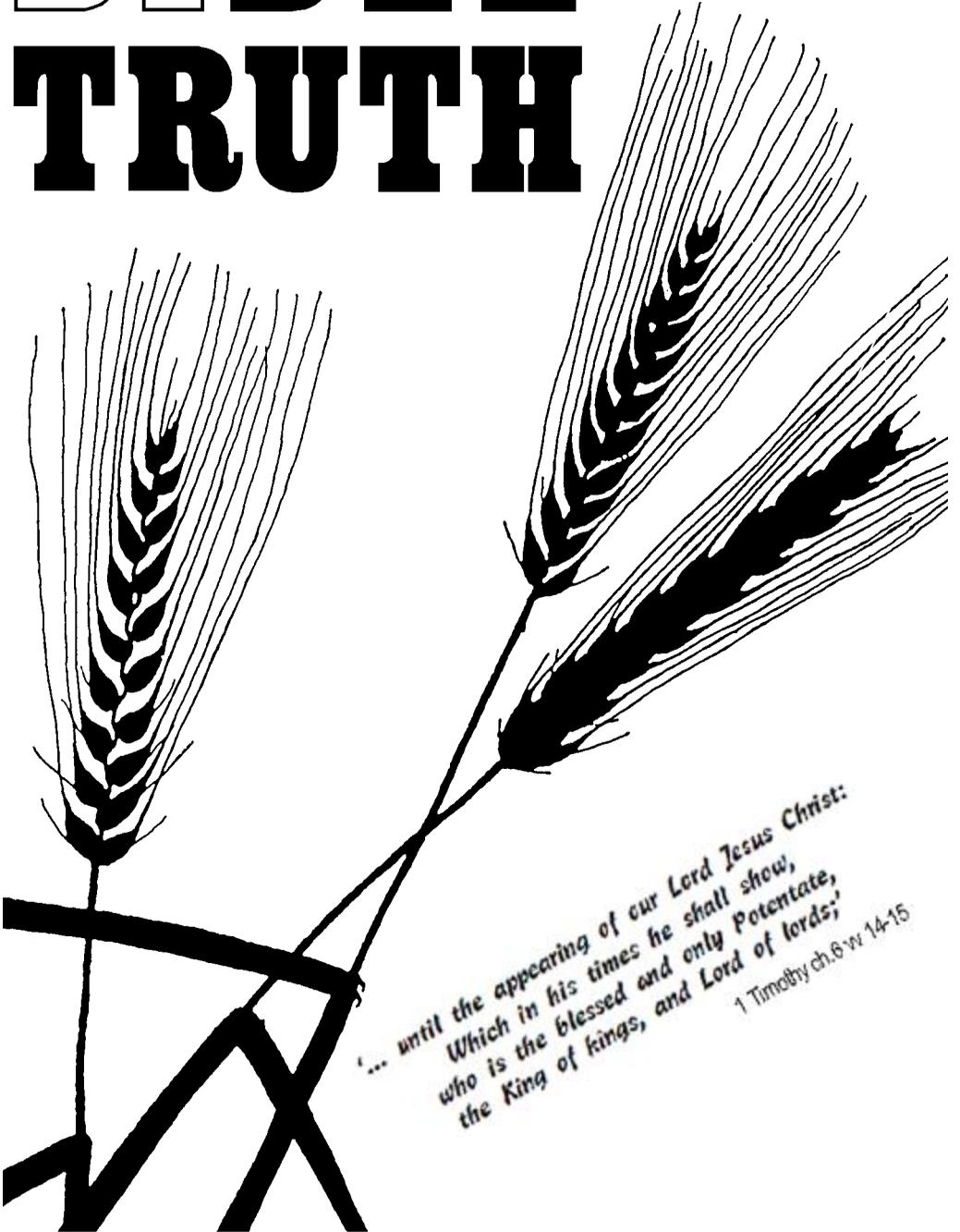


# BIBLE TRUTH

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... until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
Which in his times he shall show,  
who is the blessed and only Potentate,  
the King of kings, and Lord of lords;  
1 Timothy ch.6-w 14-15

# **GOD'S WAY**

**by the late Walter T. Rowe**

Embedded within the Old Testament there are truths explained in the New. For example, Isaiah outlines God's most precious promises and contrasts His way of abundance to man's way of meanness.

'Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.'

Isaiah ch.55 v.1

What a wonderful flow of sheer goodness from the Creator's hands. The next few verses chide men, and show the way of release.

'Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David. Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people. Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee. Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:'

Isaiah ch.55 vv 2-6

Such is the background for contact with God which is bound up in the unconditional Covenant with Abraham (through whose seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed), and a plea,

‘Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon’.

Isaiah ch.55 v.7

Such is the only path to release.

‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.’

Isaiah ch.55 vv 8-9

Thus there seems to be a great flow of movement in the last statement as the Lord’s voice rings out from heaven, rightly confining the thoughts and ways of wayward man to the earth. This clearly shows the position and importance of the God of Heaven and the Earth as His footstool.

Yet behind all this activity there is the future covenant of the ‘sure mercies of David’ through David’s greater son, the LORD Jesus Christ. This is found in the New Testament where it declares He will be a witness, a leader and a commander to the people, inviting ‘every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters ... come ... buy without money and without price ...’ (Isaiah ch.55 v.1). Jesus declared,

‘... whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life’.

John ch.4 v.14

This is the promise of being ‘complete in Him’, and it is granted to everyone as an individual invitation.

Psalm 119 is a hymn in praise of God’s Law and nearly every verse refers to the Law, Testimonies, ways, Statues, Commandments and Judgments, and confirms His faithfulness toward us. These precepts are contained in all ten facets, from the central truth of the Law of the Lord. It is divided into twenty-two stanzas according to the number of the letters of the Hebrew alphabet to emphasise to us that mere speech cannot add or take away from God’s Holy Word.

The verses 97-104 of this Psalm concern our subject in particular, and are graphically presented in the following manner.

'O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me.

I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.

I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.

I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word.

I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me.

How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.'

The overall design of these eight verses, shows the motive behind the Psalm and the outworking of God's Word upon 'mine enemies', 'my teachers', 'the ancients' and the necessary self-discipline required.

### **The Great Contrast**

'O how love I thy law' — 'I hate every false way'.

These words show a true balance between self-discipline in accordance to the law of the Lord, and an outworking superior to those whom the person contacts in daily life.

The Holy Scriptures insist upon the importance of the single character being the initial stage in all parts of the plan of Almighty God, no matter how vast the project.

The Epistle to the Hebrews ch.11 gives the 'by faith' record of Old Testament worthies whose valour has never been surpassed, and in every case it is single names and never groups of people, a single cell as the beginning of a new movement.

'By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.'

Hebrews ch.11 v.5

As a climax to this we are told,

'Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens'.

Hebrews ch.11 vv 33-34

Not only does the Almighty delight in acting through one person, but He usually selects the weakest, such as when the time came to deliver His people Israel out of Egypt. The whole project depended upon the cry of a helpless babe found in an ark floating upon the surface of the River Nile that should have been its grave, according to the command of Pharaoh. Instead, the compassion of the Egyptian princess saved the child and gave him the name of Moses, meaning 'out of the water' which would remind him of his personal deliverance.

Centuries later the 'Babe of Bethlehem' was taken in the opposite direction, to Egypt, out of the reach of Herod the Tyrant.

Peter continues the theme by reminding us that we are not redeemed by corruptible things such as silver and gold,

'But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you'.

1 Peter ch.1 vv 19-20

The Apostle Paul adds his testimony,

'Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began'.

2 Timothy ch.1 v.9

The overall design of the eight verses of Psalm 119 recall the single-minded and single-hearted person in whom the Lord delights to bestow His wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. Next we have demonstrated man's weakness under the control of God, a mother's love for her babe and a princess under the influence of compassion, who deliberately and secretly flaunted the command of Pharaoh, which is beyond national bounds, and neither knew the end. Lastly, the two quotations remind us that our redemption was foreordained 'before the foundation of the world,' and is dependent upon God's own purpose and grace which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. This re-creation anticipates the fact of the character of Almighty God in the person of His one and only begotten Son as an individual, hence the value of the statement '... since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead'.

In summary then, what is so often introduced in the Old Testament is more fully revealed in the New Testament. In effect it is a double witness in demonstrating 'God's way'.

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