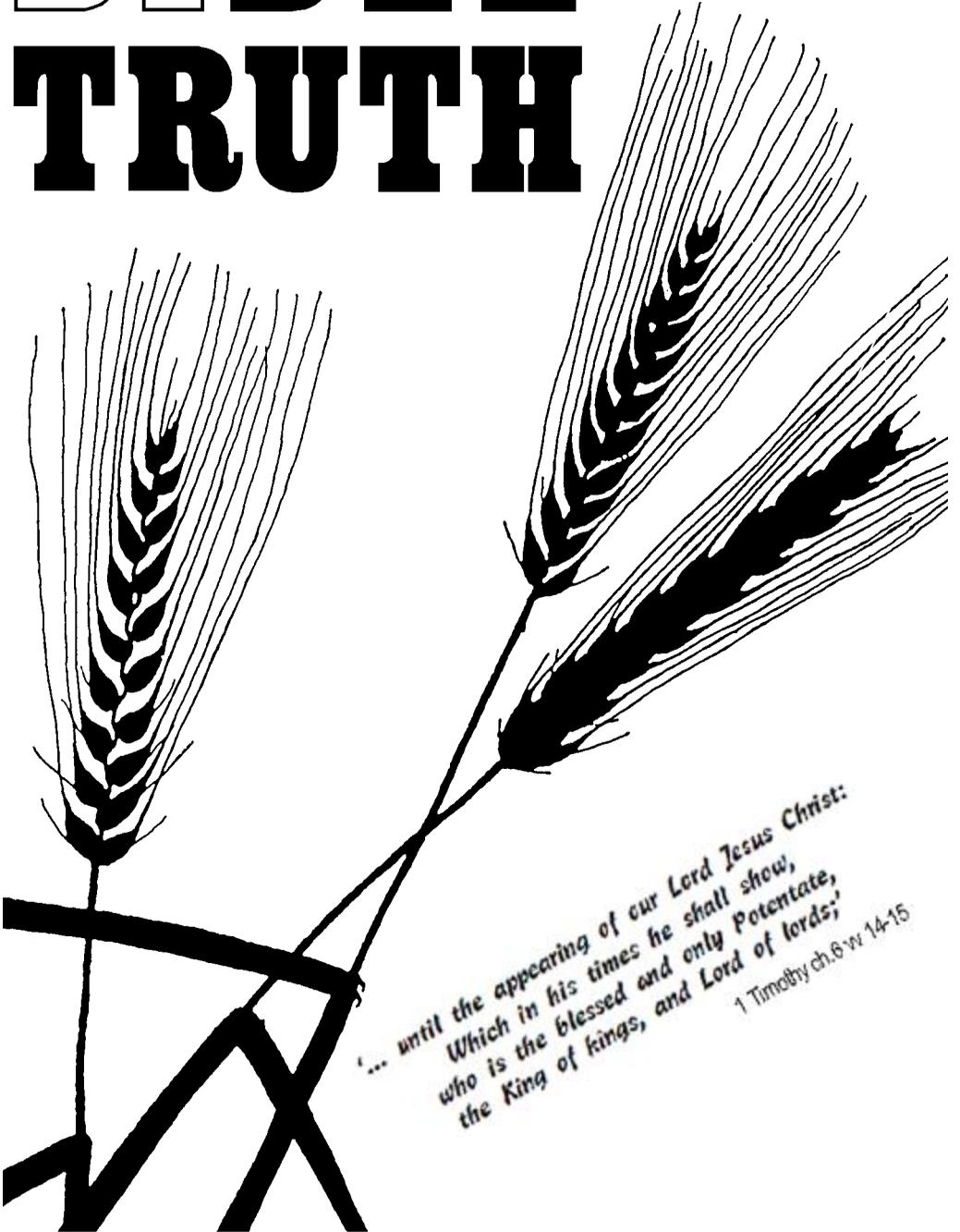


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*... until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:
Which in his times he shall show,
who is the blessed and only Potentate,
the King of kings, and Lord of lords;
1 Timothy ch.6-w 14-15*

PERILOUS TIMES

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by Karl Schott

'This know also, that in the last days perilous [difficult, dangerous] times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent [without self-restraint, especially in regards to sexual activity], fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away ["Keep clear of men like these" - *New English Bible*].'

2 Timothy ch.3 vv 1-5

It is interesting to note that the Apostle Paul calls our attention first of all to when these 'perilous times' shall be. He tells us that it will be 'in the last days'. Almost two thousand years have come and gone since the Apostle penned these words of warning, and we realise that we should not be caught off guard, surprised, or unnecessarily fearful as we witness the perilous times of our day.

This prophecy describes the very day in which we are now living so it may be of interest to read these same verses from two other translations. The *Moffatt Bible* renders it in the following words.

'Mark this, there are hard times coming in the last days. For men shall be selfish, fond of money, boastful, haughty, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, irreverent, callous, relentless, scurrilous, dissolute, and savage; they will hate goodness, they will be treacherous, reckless and conceited, preferring pleasure to God — for though they keep up a form of religion, they will have nothing to do with it as a force. Avoid all such.'

In the *Amplified Bible* it is translated this way.

'But understand this, that in the last days will come perilous times of great stress and trouble. For people will be lovers of self and utterly self-centred, lovers of money and aroused by an inordinate desire for wealth, proud, and arrogant and contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive, blasphemous, scoffing, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, and profane, without natural affection, relentless: slanderers,

intemperate and loose in morals and conduct, uncontrolled and fierce, haters of good, treacherous, rash, inflated with self-conceit, lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements more than lovers of God. For they will hold a form of piety [true religion], they deny and reject and are strangers to the power of it. Avoid such people.'

Today there are millions of Christians, and even non-Christians, who are aware that something is not going well, and they are greatly concerned with the immoral circumstances which now prevail among our people. There has always been a certain amount of sin and immorality among God's people, but never the blatant and constant barrage of immorality that is now being promoted over television, the motion picture industry and almost everywhere that there is any kind of advertising.

The Apostle Paul is speaking of what would happen relating to the religious or spiritual fabric of God's people as we approach the 'end of the age'. That is not the end of the world, but the end of the Church age. Verse four records that people would be 'lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God' and that they would have a form of godliness (a form of religion), but would deny the power of it. And we are told that we should 'turn away' from and avoid this type of people.

This prophecy, made some two thousand years ago, certainly has come to pass in recent years. We see that many people have a form or superficial type of religion, or church relationship, but do not have the power that comes from a dedicated and personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. A life which would be manifested in the life and talk of the believer. Similar words concerning the last days were recorded by the Prophet Jeremiah in ch.30 v.7 where we are warned,

'Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; [Jacob being the House of Israel] but he shall be saved out of it'.

This single verse speaks volumes, for it includes the saving or deliverance of God's servant people, Israel (Jacobites), the peoples which comprise Anglo-Saxondom.

Along with the godlessness which we see all around us, which grieves our heavenly Father, and also His God fearing people, we must also deal with the great economic problems which face us today. Farmers are having great difficulty trying to compete with third world

countries that are flooding America with their goods. Also hundreds of thousands of good paying jobs are being lost as companies move their factories to other nations because of cheaper labour and outsourcing that is now taking place through computers. There is little chance that many of these jobs will ever return to the original countries again. However, continuing with Jeremiah ch.30 vv 8-9,

‘For it shall come to pass in that day [the day of the Lord, Christ’s Second Coming], saith the LORD of hosts, that I will break his [the oppressors - *Amplified Bible*] yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds [economic bondage], and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him [enslave them, the people of Israel, or as we stated earlier, Anglo-Saxondom, or Christendom]: But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king [the Lord Jesus Christ, the messianic Son of David], whom I will raise up unto [or for] them’.

These two interesting and encouraging verses inform us what the Lord our God is going to accomplish for us, His servant people Israel. It begins with the destruction of our pagan debt money system that has been placed upon the neck of God’s people, and then destroys this national debt which is owed to the strangers that were mentioned in v.8.

Many people have little knowledge of God’s intervention in and sovereignty over the affairs of men and nations. This is especially so as it relates to the Twelve Tribes of Israel, or Anglo-Saxondom. In the book of Judges alone we find thirteen different civil administrations which demonstrate how the Lord God worked in the affairs of the nation of Israel.

The prophet Daniel informs us that the Most High God rules in the affairs of nations.

‘This matter [Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of his rule over Babylon] is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest [humblest, lowliest, or it could mean vilest] of men.’

Daniel ch.4 v.17

Would this also mean that the Lord God would have an influence in who would take up high office in the affairs of the land? Yes! I am of the opinion that the Lord indeed has a hand in these things. Did not the Lord God of Israel have a very strong hand in selecting Saul as the very first king over the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Saul tried to

hide but the Lord informed Samuel and the people where he was hiding. God always gets his man, although we realise that Saul's rule did not go very well, nor did he remain humble.

'Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed [thy posterity] from the land of their captivity [economic bondage]; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid. For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save [deliver] thee: ... but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.'

Jeremiah ch.30 vv 10-11

Today there is considerable fear regarding the future, as we see ourselves mired down in countries overseas. Recently it was announced that some troops may be there for several more years. One of the recent concerns which has been highlighted on television is the high rate of suicides amongst the troops who were in Iraq and a continuation of similar problems after they have returned from duty.

This fits in with the picture of 'Jacob's Trouble', and sad to say, tragedies such as this will continue to escalate unless God's people repent of their sinful ways, and seek Him.

It is important to heed the Lord's warning concerning the necessity of walking righteously.

'And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice. If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people [including the people of Israel, Anglo-Saxondom today]; If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.'

2 Chronicles ch.7 vv 12-14

What a wonderful promise of protection and blessings for the Israel people which the Lord God of Israel gave to Solomon. We praise God Almighty for a similar promise that He gave to the prophet Jeremiah relating to our day (the time of Jacob's Trouble, which we have already entered during these end times). Also in the book of Jeremiah is that gracious promise.

'For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: ... For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD; ... I will bring again the captivity [release from economic bondage to the strangers] of Jacob's tents, ... And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of them that make merry: and I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small, ... And their nobles shall be of themselves [not foreigners], and their governor shall proceed from the midst of them, ... And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.'

Jeremiah ch.30 vv 11, 17-19 & 21-22

The prophet Isaiah also was given wonderful and encouraging promises concerning God's blessings that would ensue after this time of Jacob's Trouble.

'And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.'

Isaiah ch.59 v.20

'Whereas thou hast been forsaken and hated, so that no man went through thee, I will make thee an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations. ... Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise. ... Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified.'

Isaiah ch.60 vv 15, 18 & 21

In closing, let us take heart with Luke's encouraging words.

'Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.'

Luke ch.12 v.32
