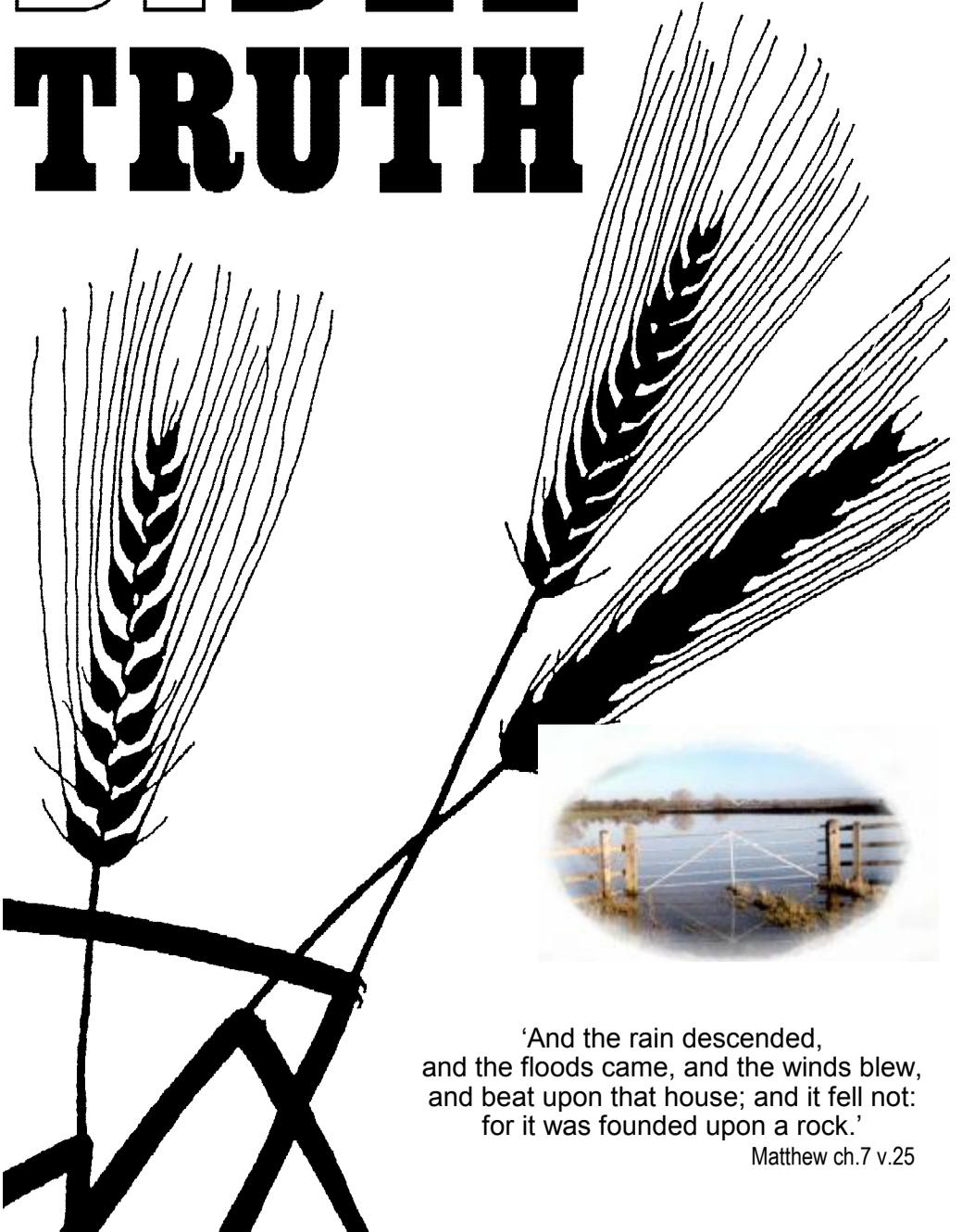


BIBLE TRUTH

No. 274
April / June 2014



'And the rain descended,
and the floods came, and the winds blew,
and beat upon that house; and it fell not:
for it was founded upon a rock.'

Matthew ch.7 v.25

THE COMING OF THE GLORY OF THE LORD

By Pastor Robert Phillips



The shaking of heaven and earth is already happening!

‘For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations ...’

Haggai ch.2 vv 6-7

Hebrews ch.12 vv 26-27 tells us that **everything** in the heavens and the earth, that **can be shaken - will be shaken**, so that only those things that **cannot be shaken** will remain! This is quoted from the old testament prophet Haggai ch.2 vv 6-7 & 21. This ‘**shaking**’ is prophesied in many other places also. God stated in Isaiah ch.13 v.13 ‘Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger’. In Isaiah ch.24 v.18, God warned that even the foundations of the earth would be shaken! In prophetic language, that also refers to the shaking of the earth’s political, religious and economic systems. In other words, God will **shake** everything that can be shaken!

Now is the time to put our trust in the promises of the God of Israel!

‘God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah. ... God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early. The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.’

Psalms 46 vv 1-3 & 5-7

With the prophecy of the 'shaking' comes the assurance of the return of Christ and of His glory.

Hosea ch.6 v.3 tells us that His going forth will be prepared ... as the latter and former rain — a reference to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit preparing the way for Christ's coming. We are given assurance in Joel ch.2 vv 28-32 that God will pour out His Spirit in the 'last days', and in Matthew ch.24 v.14 that this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached ... as a witness i.e. with power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit.

'Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.'

Zechariah ch.10 v.1

Now is the time to pray

Ask for rain (the Holy Spirit) in the time of Latter Rain! The blessings of the past were only a foretaste of what God has for His people in the coming days!

Jesus Christ died on Calvary, shedding His blood for salvation from sin, and by His resurrection made possible a new day and a new creation where peace and righteousness will prevail. Let's put our trust in His saving grace, and His coming as King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!

'I will fill this house with glory'

'And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts. The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.'

Haggai ch.2 vv 7-9

Gold was used extensively in the original Temple, and its vessels were of gold and silver. The Temple rebuilt after the Judean exile in Babylon lacked the splendour and riches of Solomon's Temple. But the Lord was saying that he had gold and silver of greater value than their earthly counterparts, and He would fill the House with a glory that would supersede that of the silver and gold of the former Temple.

‘The Lord ... shall suddenly come to his temple’ (Malachi ch.3 v.1)

The statement ‘...the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory,...’ is telling us clearly that Jesus would come to fill His Temple with His glory.

It seems that both the first and second coming of Jesus Christ were in view. There was indeed a major fulfilment when Jesus was on earth.

Herod the Great was an Idumean, with no rightful claim to the throne. He was a ‘puppet king’ appointed to rule Judea as a Roman province. He engaged in a colossal building programme in Jerusalem, and even though he favoured many gods, in order to appease the Jews he did extensive reconstruction work on the Temple, restoring much of the golden grandeur of Solomon’s original Temple. For all that, the greater glory of the Temple was not in its silver and gold vessels and décor.

Malachi ch.3 v.1 states, ‘...the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple...’. The true glory of the Temple was the presence of Christ Himself, presented as an infant, then confounding scriptural scholars at the age of twelve. Jesus cleansed the Temple, healing the blind and the lame (see Luke ch.2 vv 22 & 42-49 & Matthew ch.21 vv 12-16). But in an even greater fulfilment, the Lord came suddenly to His Temple in the power of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts ch.2 vv 1-4). Many believe this event may have begun in an upper room of the Temple itself, filling the House of God with the Holy Spirit’s presence and power, and that it was in the Temple that the multitude gathered. Certainly, they continued daily with one accord in the Temple, and undoubtedly, the House was filled with the Glory of God (Acts ch.2 v.46).

Yet this was a transition from the Temple made with hands, to the Temple of the Church of the Living God (see 1 Corinthians ch.3 v.16, 2 Corinthians ch.6 v.16, 1 Timothy ch.3 v.15). The Lord not only suddenly came to His physical Temple, but He came to dwell in a Temple not made with hands ‘... an habitation of God through the Spirit’ (Ephesians ch.2 v.22).

The miraculous healing of the man at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple is very significant. Sometimes referred to as the Corinthian Gate, it was the largest of all of the nine gates. Although all the gates were plated in gold and silver, this had double doors, and was made of Corinthian brass, lavishly decorated with far weightier gold and silver than any of the other doors. It seems this was used as the main

entrance, and was designed to exemplify not only the beauty of the Temple, but the glory of God in the midst of His people.

‘Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.’

Psalm 48 v.2

‘How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!’

Isaiah ch.52 v.7

Through the work of Jesus on Calvary and His Resurrection, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, God would establish His Zion, and fill His House with Glory! The lame would be given feet to run with the Good News of a Beautiful Gate of entrance into God’s Kingdom. Note Peter’s statement to the lame man recorded in Acts ch.3 v.6,

‘... silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk’.

This is an indication that the glory of the silver and gold of the Temple made with hands is to be eclipsed by the greater glory available in and through the **Name of Jesus Christ!** Immediately after this miracle, the man went into the Temple walking and leaping and praising God!

The glory that was filling the physical Temple, was pointing towards the greater glory with which God will fill His latter house, the true Church of the Living God.

The glory of the latter house greater than the former

With God there is always an increase. Although God did fill His House with glory when Jesus came, and the Holy Spirit was poured out, there is no doubt that the primary fulfilment of the prophecy of Haggai ch.2 vv 7-9 relates to the time mentioned in Hebrews ch.12 vv 26-27.

Some believe we should not expect a further outpouring of His Spirit, that things are going to get worse, and all we should be doing is waiting for the Coming of the Lord. It is my conviction that unless God pours out His Spirit one more time upon us, this generation of the Church will be far from ready for the Coming of Christ.

I believe it can be proved from Scripture, that not only is a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit indispensable in preparation for the Coming of Jesus Christ, but it is also inseparable from it.

Now I am not suggesting that there is going to be a revival that will bring about the conversion of the world before Jesus returns. There are many scriptures that tell us that even many professing Christians will not be ready. Jesus asked the question ‘...when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?’ (Luke ch.18 v.8). The original text is ‘the faith’ meaning that Jesus is looking for more than a profession of faith. He is looking for a people who are an expression of the faith once for all delivered unto the saints (see Jude v.3), a Spirit-born, Spirit-filled, Spirit-led Church, walking and living by faith, a people who know their God and are strong and do exploits! Jesus is coming for virgins, who not only have oil in their lamps, but whose vessels are filled with Oil of the Holy Spirit (Matthew ch.25 vv 1-13).

That is why we must have a true revival, a visitation of the Holy Spirit, not just for the sake of the world, but for the sake of the Church! Jesus said that in the last days, the love of many would grow cold (Matthew ch.24 v.12). Paul prophesied that in the last days people would be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof (2 Timothy ch.3 vv 4-5). In other words, they would put religious formality in place of a real expression of faith and worship in Spirit and in Truth, (i.e. in the power of the Spirit and the fullness of Truth!) God said,

‘I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations...’

Haggai ch.2 vv 6-7

This is also quoted in Hebrews ch.12 vv 26-27, stating that everything in the heavens and the earth that can be shaken, will be shaken, so that only those things that cannot be shaken will remain!

But God said when this takes place — the desire (deepest longing) of all nations shall come. They may not realise it, but all creation is groaning for Christ’s appearing. Yet we are told His glory is going to be ‘revealed in us’ (Romans ch.8 vv 18-22).

We know Jesus is coming visibly, to raise the dead, to gather together His elect, and to reign on David’s Throne. But He is also coming to fill this house with glory ... [and] the glory of the latter house shall be greater than of the former.

‘...and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, ...’

Malachi ch.3 v.1

‘... for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they

shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.'

2 Corinthians ch.6 vv 16-18

The Living Christ came suddenly to His Temple in the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

But that was only a preview. That was the 'former rain'. We are living in the time of the 'latter rain'. The full latter-day fulfilment of Joel's prophecy as described in Joel ch.2 vv 23-32 has yet to take place.

He shall come unto us as the rain

'Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; ...'

Zechariah ch.10 v.1

'After two days [at the end of 2000 years] will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.'

Hosea ch.6 v.2

This would be the preparation for the Coming of Christ.

'... his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.'

Hosea ch.6 v.3

These 'three days' were to begin from the going forth or First Coming of Christ, and particularly of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (mentioned in Joel ch.2 vv 23 & 28 & Acts ch. 2 vv 16-17).

From the dawn of the 20th Century, there have been previews of this latter-day outpouring, but the fullness has yet to take place, as from the time of the former outpouring at Pentecost, we enter the 'third day' of the New Covenant era.

We are clearly told that in preparation for His coming, Jesus would come as the latter rain to revive His people. The 'latter rain' would also incorporate the 'former rain', as it would be a restoration of Pentecost (see Hosea ch.6 v.3 with Joel ch.2 v .23).

Surely this means that, in preparation for, and as the initial phase of His Coming, **Christ's presence is coming in glory, in his church, and in his people.**

If the coming of Jesus is prepared as the latter and former rain unto the earth, this evidently means that His coming to take His Throne is to be precipitated by His coming in power and glory, to fill His temple-church with His glory!

Jesus is going to present to Himself — a glorious church! He is coming to be — glorified in his saints. In other words, His Church is not going to be phased out in defeat, but filled with praise, filled with power and filled with glory! (Ephesians ch.5 v.27, 2 Thessalonians ch.1 v.10 & Romans ch.8 v.18).

On the basis of these, and many other scriptures, I am persuaded that a mighty revival is to impact the Christian nations that represent prophetic Zion! I have stated my conviction that, without the outpouring of the Holy Spirit we are not ready for the Coming of Jesus Christ. He is coming for a People of Faith and Power!

How should we prepare for revival?

1. Return to the Word

- The Purity of the Word (the Authorised Version is still the most reliable).
- the Fundamentals of Truth,
- the **sovereignty of God**,
- the **deity of Jesus Christ-God Manifest in Flesh**,
- the **power of the Holy Spirit**,
- Reinstating the preaching of **repentance of sin, judgement**, the power of the **blood** of Jesus Christ, **baptism in water** as a **Confession** of Faith and in the **Holy Spirit** (Acts ch.2 v.38).
- Re-emphasise the **centrality of Jesus Christ** — the **Cross** — the **Resurrection** — **Pentecost** — the **coming of Christ as King!**

2. Seek for the Holy Spirit

John the Baptist stated that Jesus came for two reasons.

- i. As the Lamb of God to take away sin (John ch.1 v.29).
- ii. To Baptise with the Holy Spirit (Matthew ch.3 v.11, Mark ch.1 v.8, Luke ch.3 v.16 & John ch.1 v.33).

Jesus said that those who believe on Him according to the Scriptures, in other words the Bible-way, will receive the Holy Spirit as 'rivers of living water'. The Welsh Revival of 1904-5 began with people especially young people seeking the Holy Spirit.

God commands us to 'receive the Holy Spirit', to be 'filled with the Spirit', to 'seek earnestly the best gifts'. Jesus said the following.

'And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?'

Luke ch.11 vv 9-13

3. Pray without Ceasing (1 Thessalonians ch.5 v.17)

The faith that Jesus is looking for when He comes again is much more than a profession of faith. He is looking for a people who represent the faith expressed in the early Church — a living faith in a living Christ.