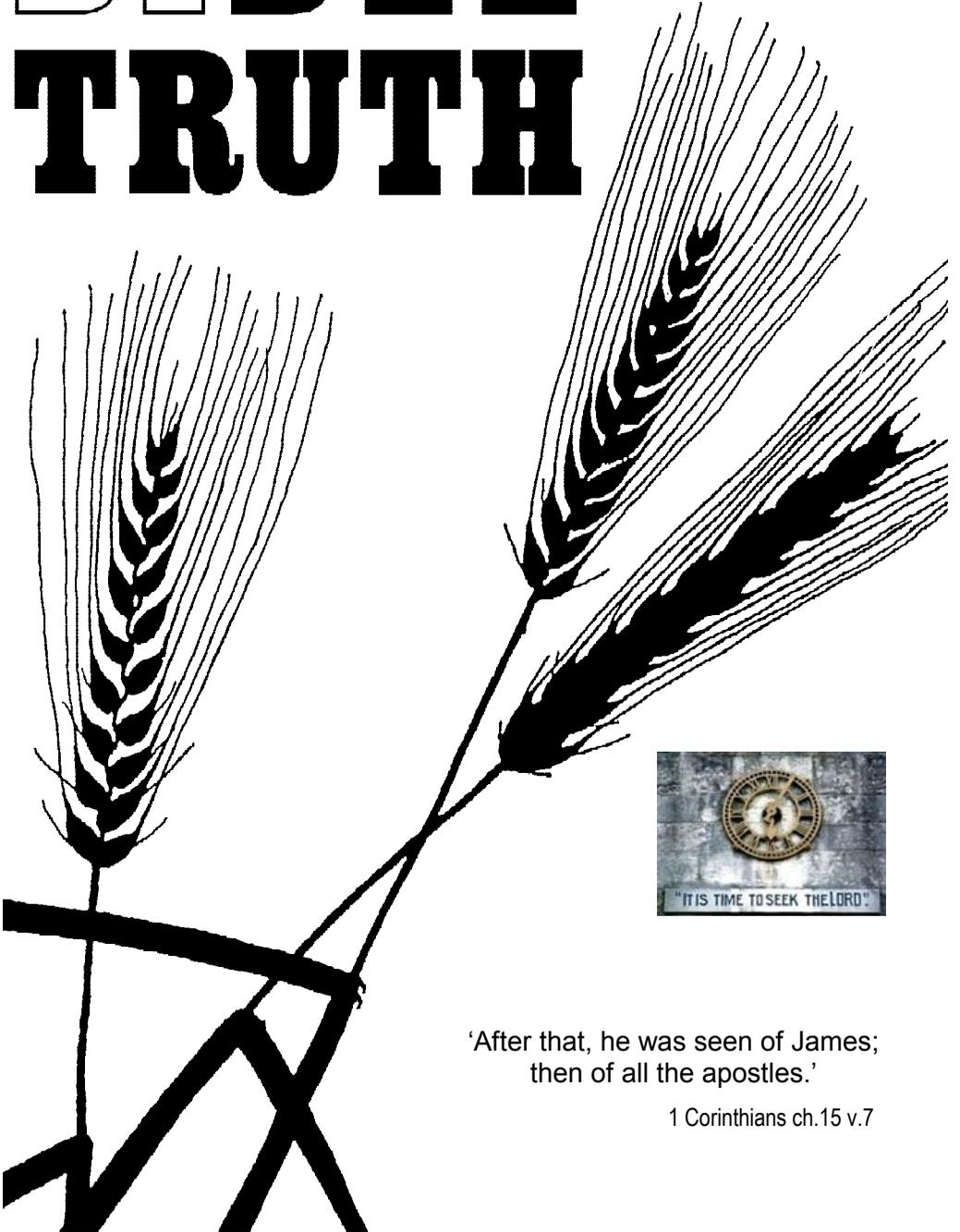


BIBLE TRUTH

No. 275
July/September 2014



'After that, he was seen of James;
then of all the apostles.'

1 Corinthians ch.15 v.7

Israel Cleansed

by John Trotter

Jeremiah chs 31 v.25, 33 v.8; 1 John ch.1 v.7

A few years ago I visited England for the first time. Whilst dripping with marvellous history, the country also showed within its architectural walls the haunting reflections of mystical religious figures of a bygone era. Many of these sculptured figures showed no true Christian association. England's ongoing connection with Rome and her ancient esoteric beliefs is also collectively becoming more apparent.

A visit to Glastonbury, with its ancient beginnings in Christianity, shows proof that many are returning to ancient alternative beliefs of the occult. Added to this is the ecumenical movement within today's churches which includes a return to Rome. Even Prince Charles, the future King of England, has endorsed the view that the religions of the world can work as one when he used the phrase 'Defender of the Faiths' (plural) or 'Defender of Faith', rather than 'Defender of The Faith' ('Fidei defensor'). This pluralism of today is not something that C.H.Spurgeon or Bishop J.C.Ryle would accept. God made it very clear to Israel, that if they followed other gods, the associated teachings, would take Israel away from worshipping the One and Only True God who declared,

'...ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves: For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God: Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and one call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice; And thou take of their daughters unto thy sons, and their daughters go a whoring after their gods, and make thy sons go a whoring after their gods. Thou shalt make thee no molten gods'.

Exodus ch.34 vv 13-17

'But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them;'

Deuteronomy ch.30 v.17

It is true that we can marvel at the magnificent edifices and stand in awe at man's ingenuity but what is wrong with a simple dwelling in which we worship God in peace with our soul. The Methodist Movement attempted to move away from such large structures. I fear that these monuments of great grandeur have become hollow. The leaders of the flock need to realise that God's judgment will be greater upon those who have taken command of the nation.

But the cleansing of Israel is to be far reaching; way beyond the relevance of our leaders. It is true that God has promised an everlasting witness to His mercy and justice, but again England and the Western world are floundering in their endeavours to be counted amongst the nations of the world. The bustling world of mammon and the mortgage (death grip) of all nations is stopping true growth, from which all can benefit from the providence of God. By joining with foreigners in international agreements we have enslaved ourselves in the web of iniquity. We have whored ourselves in the search for other gods.

'And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them.'

Deuteronomy ch.31 v.16

It is going to take the intervention of God for His people, to unravel the curse that we have laid upon ourselves,

'If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart.'

Malachi ch.2 v.2

It is the Western leaders who are pushing, more than the non-Western, for world unity in religion and economics that will bind all nations into one conglomerate. The aim of world leaders is for the collapse of true nationhood and the rise of a humanistic elite who will guide the world masses into a Brave New World . This world will be dictated by the belief that man can provide his own salvation through

science and the deifying of human reason. Fortunately, for at least two reasons the above scenario will not quite become reality for conglomerate rock has no strength of itself and God has other plans, for we are told,

‘And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened’.

Matthew ch.24 v.22

An interesting cross reference to this verse is to be found in the following,

‘Thus saith the LORD, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants’ sakes, that I may not destroy them all. And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and mine elect shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there’.

Isaiah ch.65 vv 8-9

The question that needs to be asked here is: Who are the elect? An answer may be found in Isaiah.

‘For Jacob my servant’s sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.’

Isaiah ch.45 v.4

‘They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.’

Isaiah ch.65 v.22

Here Israel is described as mine elect. It is quite possible that the elect mentioned in Matthew ch.24 v.22, is a chosen group within Israel that do keep the faith once delivered unto the saints right up to the end days. These few understand the application of the conditional and unconditional covenants.

As far as the Western nations are concerned, amongst whom are the descendants of Biblical Israel, a great cleansing is still needed. Maybe doubting Thomas’ reaction to seeing and believing is a story that correlates to the events that are still ahead of us . Thomas was a realist for all he needed was the facts. The coming understanding of who Christ is and what His plan is for Israel, will help to bring about a

desire to be cleansed. By then, the Western nations will have used up all the 'cards in the pack'. The cisterns that have been hewed out are all useless as stated in Jeremiah.

'For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.'

Jeremiah ch.2 v.13

Circumstances in the future will be such that,

'Thine own apostasy shall correct thee, and thy wickedness shall reprove thee: know then, That thy forsaking me has been bitter to thee, saith the Lord thy God, and I have taken no pleasure in thee, saith the Lord thy God'.

The Septuagint, Jeremiah ch.2 v.19

I am of the opinion that once the tares have been separated from the wheat the cleansing process will begin in earnest. It is interesting that the tares appear like the wheat right up to the time of the harvest. In other words those who are the tares have been in our midst for a long time and they have been doing the work of Satan under our noses for a longer time. We are told that the tares are to be taken out by the angels, lest the wheat comes out with them. This is the Lord's work (Matthew ch.13).

These are those that have been appointed to reign with Christ as King on the Throne of David and over the House of Jacob.

'Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.'

Revelation ch.20 v.6

'He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.'

Luke ch.1 vv 32-33

These will be granted their roles to continue on with the cleansing of the Kingdom. During this time of the Millennium, Satan's influence will be taken away and the evangelising of Israel will continue on until Christ's Kingdom is complete. For those who believe that the church

will escape condemnation, will find that 'judgment is to begin first in the House of the Lord'.

'For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?'

1 Peter ch.4 v.17

This I believe is mainly due to the apostasy that has crept into the Church.

'For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.'

2 Timothy ch.4 vv 3-4

This in turn results in compromise on those matters that brought about the Reformation. The sheep in the pews have been fed an ecumenical message and not one of stepping away from the world.

'If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.'

John ch.15 v.19

You will notice that the above quote from the *Septuagint* mentions 'apostasy' which means 'a complete forsaking of one's religion; 'a turning away'. During recent years there have been written a number of excellent books on the subject of how the churches have welcomed the world to come in, with the end result that tolerance of all beliefs has been accepted. The words that conclude the Epistle of Peter say,

'If the righteous are to be saved with difficulty; where can the impious and sinful appear?'

Ferrar Fenton - 1 Peter ch.4 v.18

No one can deny the fact that the story of Israel in the Old Testament period is a sad story of disobedience. It is true that there was always a remnant who would not bow the knee to Baal.

'... I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.'

Romans ch.11 v.4

Not only did Jesus weep over Jerusalem, but He also felt very sorry for the people who so often were only looking for miracles.

‘And when he [Jesus] was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,’

Luke ch.19 v.41

‘... Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children.’

Luke ch. 23 v.28

There was no shepherd to protect the flock (Matthew ch.9 v.36) from the wolves (Matthew chs 7 v.15 & 10 v.16; Acts ch.20 v.29) who were dressed in sheep’s clothing. The history of the Church down through the centuries is a sad reflection of how the leaders have fed themselves and not the sheep.

‘And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks? Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock.’

Ezekiel ch.34 vv 1-3

You have only to look at the wealth of the churches especially in Europe where salvation by works is still used to allow entry to the privileges of membership. It is no wonder that the younger generations are turning to alternative ancient beliefs that satisfy their hedonistic and spiritual cravings.

‘Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;’

1 Timothy ch.4 v.1

It is my opinion, that during the Millennium the bringing together of religion and the affairs of government will be used to bring into existence the Kingdom of God on earth. Christ will be the cornerstone of this Kingdom.

‘... are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;’

Ephesians ch. 2 v.20

He will be both King of Israel, reigning over the Throne of David, as well as being the High Priest after the Order of Melchizedek.

‘As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.’

Hebrews ch.5 v.6

‘Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.’

Hebrews ch.5 v.10

The ‘love of money is the root of all evil’ (1 Timothy ch.6 v.10), and will be no longer the driving force of Christ’s Kingdom as it is now. There will no more be the choice between God and Mammon.

‘No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.’

Matthew ch. 6 v. 24

The nations will be ruled with the

‘ ... rod of iron ...’,

Revelation chs.2 v.27,12 v.5 & 19 v.15

which I believe is a phrase for the Law. The hearts of the people will see the need to have their hearts turn from stone to that of flesh.

‘ A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.’

Ezekiel ch.36 v.26

Upon this will the Law be written. It is under these conditions that the cleansing of the nations will begin in earnest, but it will not happen overnight. This whole new era will be the beginning of the fulfilment of

‘...Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven’.

Matthew ch.6 v.10

The many ‘I will’ statements of God, bring about the outcome that God has planned from the foundations of the earth.

‘Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.’

Job ch.38 v.4

It is going to happen no matter what man decides. This Kingdom on earth is not a chance happening. The cleansing of His people is going to start at the top and work its way down to the citizens of the Kingdom as is shown very clearly in John.

‘But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.’

1 John ch1 v.7

This cleansing is not just a national issue. Each of us requires the cleansing blood of Christ to prepare us to be separate from the world. Christ as the Lamb of God gave His life for the sheep and as we know from the Scriptures the sheep are those of Israel (Ezekiel ch.34). This is further proof that the Bible is primarily about Israel and the plan that God has for her.

The following words of Jeremiah, are not casual words that have no depth of meaning.

‘And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me.’

Jeremiah ch.33 v.8

The same can be said of Ezekiel,

‘Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you’.

Ezekiel ch.36 v.25

For Israel to fulfil her blessings to all the nations of the world, it is God’s priority that His wife be first made ready for this task. It is for this reason Israel is initially God’s priority. Then will follow the nourishing to the full (satiating) of the weary soul and then fill again, having been emptied, (replenish) the sorrowful soul.

‘For I have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul.’

Jeremiah ch.31 v.25

May that day come quickly.
