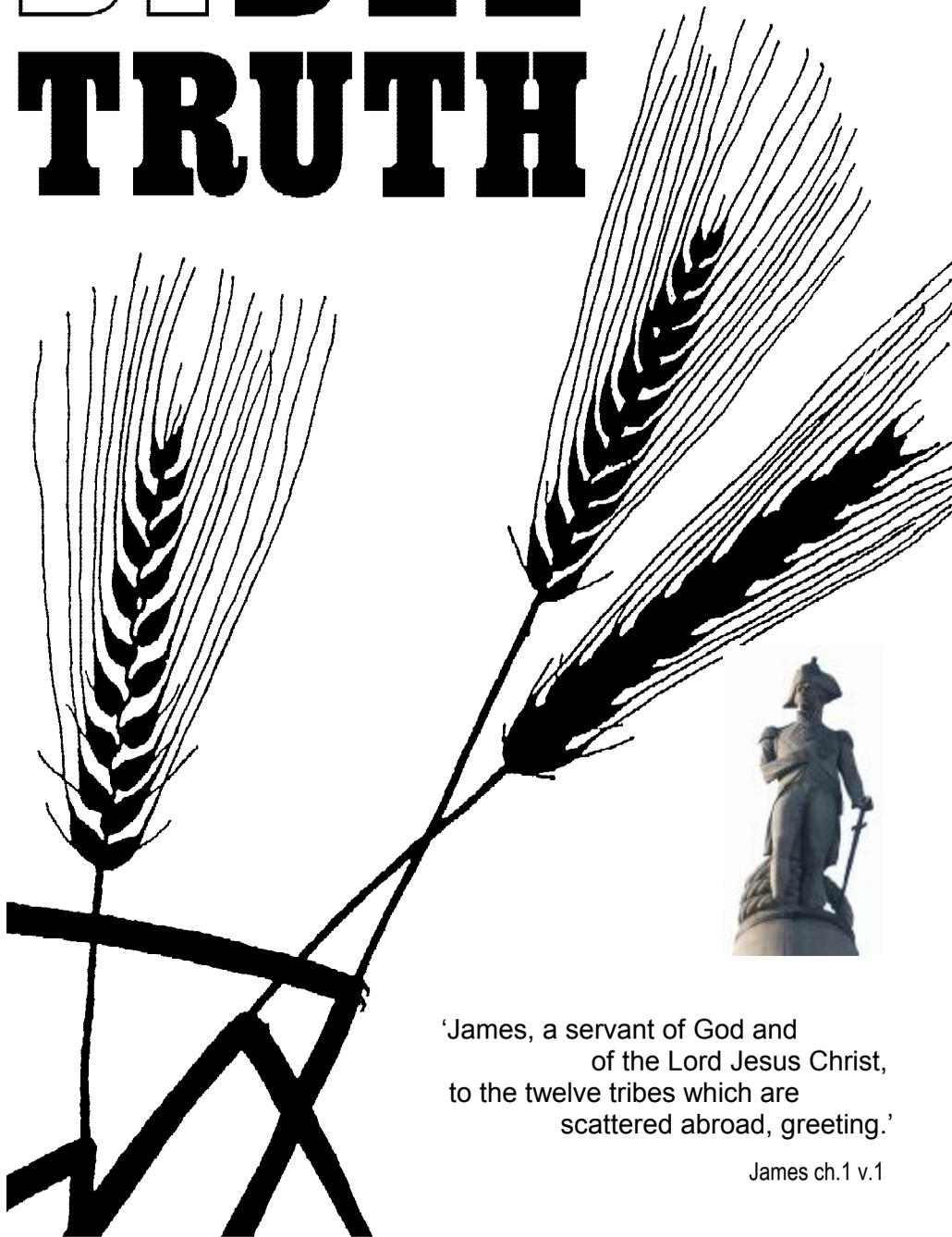


BIBLE TRUTH

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‘James, a servant of God and
of the Lord Jesus Christ,
to the twelve tribes which are
scattered abroad, greeting.’

James ch.1 v.1

‘To Stay or Go?’

by anon

The Bible stories of Abram, Jacob and Moses are reminders of other servants of God that have often left home and homeland to escape persecution, or to set up God-fearing communities in other lands. Though God may command individuals to go and witness in particular places, in general the answer to the question is simple. We MUST stay. Why?

We must stay because our presence is necessary and enough to overcome evil. ‘A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump’, but a little salt and light flavours and brightens the world!

‘And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake.’

Genesis ch.18 v.32

The Lord says ‘... Occupy till I come ’ (Luke ch.19 v.13). So don't leave the battlefield uncontested to the enemy. Stay, and by so doing, deny him victory! Just the sight of Mordecai made Haman overstep himself, causing his destruction (see the book of Esther). Just the sight of Daniel praying made his enemies overstep themselves, causing their destruction (Daniel ch.6).

When wickedness abounds, and the world is turned upside down, then the righteous remnant should converse to each other often about God. Even the act of thinking about Him here on earth, has a positive effect in heaven.

‘And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered. Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.’

Malachi ch.3 vv 15-16

Reversal, from prison or cave to power or the palace can be amazing, and can come very quickly. Consider the story of Joseph who was suddenly raised to Prime Minister, or ask David who went from shepherd boy to national hero, and then from hunted outlaw to prophet-king of Israel! Remember the David principle.

False prophets abound, men who seek to kill God's elect. David experienced this as a man, who was hunted for his life by prophet and king Saul. We can learn about survival and the imminent fate of false prophets from the Psalm that David wrote while on the run in the wilderness of Judah.

' O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, ... Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. ... Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice. ... thy right hand upholdeth me. But those that seek my soul, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth. They shall fall by the sword: ... But the king shall rejoice in God; every one that sweareth by him shall glory: but the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped.'

Psalm 63 vv 1, 3, 7, 8-10 & 11

Within ten years Saul was dead, and David was king of all Israel instead! In this world we are often warned that, 'Past performance is no guarantee for the future'. However, the truth of the Bible is quite often the opposite. It warns false prophets that God's past performance is an absolute guarantee of His future deliverance of Israel. You can rely on Him - another deliverance for Israel Britain is certainly on the way!

'... I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.'

Malachi ch.3 v.6

What God did for king David as an individual, He will also do for His people nationally. Remember the Elijah principle!

False prophets abound, and men rule by them, and seek to kill God's elect. Elijah also knew about that, as a man hunted for his life by king Ahab. We must learn further lessons from Elijah whilst on the run. God always has his hidden people, and they are 7000 times greater than we know or imagine! (see 1 Kings ch.19 v.18).
