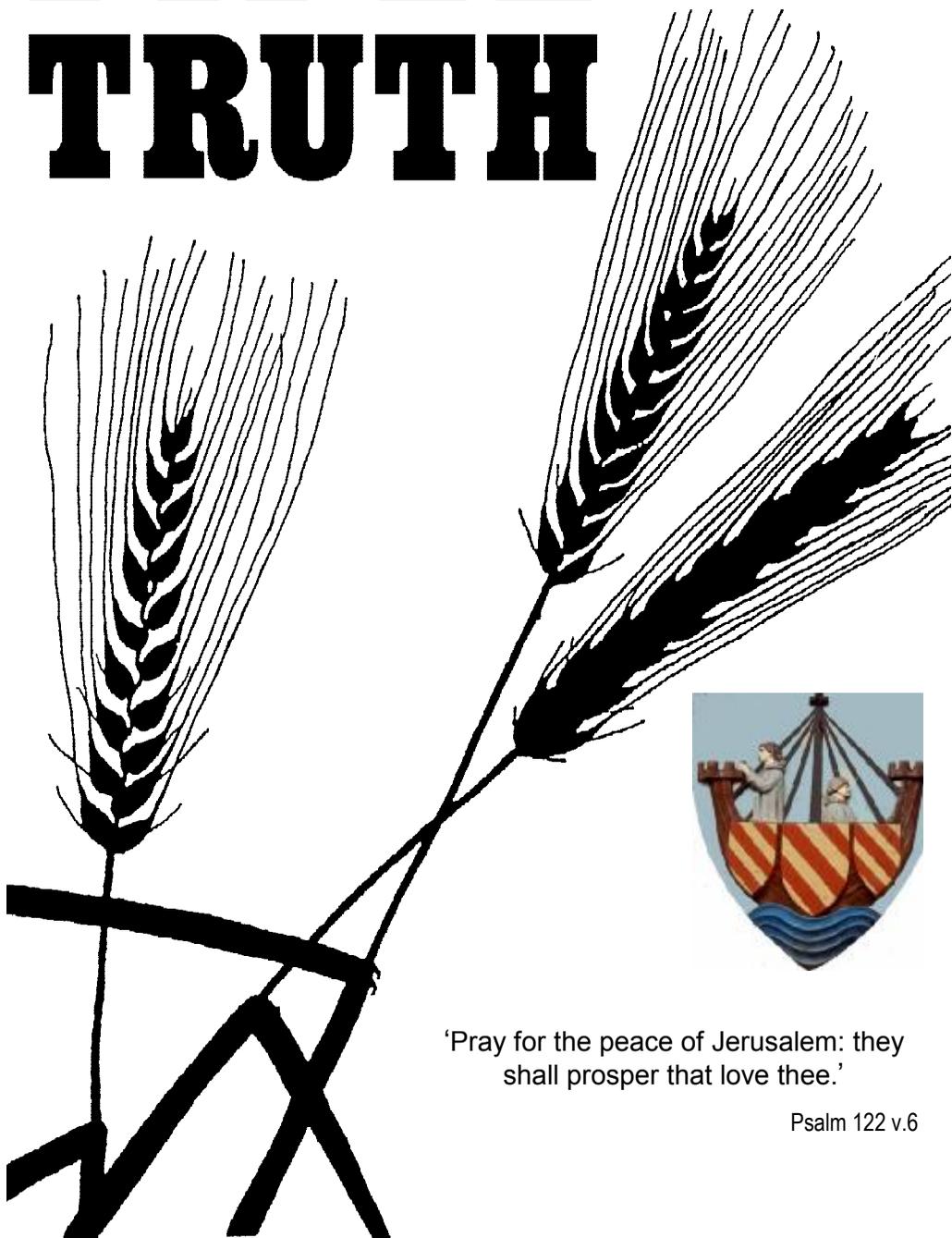


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'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.'

Psalms 122 v.6

GOD'S CHOOSING

By John Trotter

Read John ch.6 v. 44 & ch.15 v.16

Of the many themes in the Bible stretching from Genesis to Revelation, 'To be chosen', is one of them. In Genesis ch.12 v.1 Abram was told by God to remove himself from his country and go to a land that was shown to him (further details are found in Hebrews ch.11 v.8). In Revelation it says that those who are with the Lord of lords and King of kings are those who 'are called, and chosen, and faithful'.

'These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.'

Revelation ch.17 v.14

Imagine that the nation is attacked and the relevant authorities send out a general call for the people to assist both in their professional and non-professional way. Out of that calling, the specialised authorities choose those who are best suited for the task ahead. Many are sent home or elsewhere to do other duties. This illustration provides a fair analysis of those called, and those who are finally chosen for God's work in the Kingdom that is yet to be established on earth. It is my view that those who are chosen out of the 'called', are to rule with Christ in the Kingdom. They are the 'over comers' and the ones that have been appointed to the 'high calling' as indicated by the following examples.

'I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.'

Philippians ch.3 v.14

'But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.'

Daniel ch.7 v. 18

'And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.'

Revelation ch.5 v.10

'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

Before proceeding with the remainder of this article a few thoughts need to be considered concerning a portion of scripture.

‘So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.’

Matthew ch.20 v.16

Some might say that this statement is unfair for those who have accepted Christ as their Saviour and also have a genuine desire to fulfil their work in the Kingdom of Christ on earth. However, the Bible is very clear that we are not the final decision makers of such matters as the following texts show.

‘Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.’

Romans ch.9 v.18

‘Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?’

Romans ch.9 v.21

So God can do what He likes. He is the Potter and we are His clay. Why can we not accept the fact that God from the beginning of time, has already chosen those who were to be selected for service?

‘According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:’

Ephesians ch.1 v.4

‘But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:’

2 Thessalonians ch.2 v.13

Another example is of Jeremiah’s calling which was known to God before he was born.

‘Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.’

Jeremiah ch.1 v.5

God does not have to show unmerited favour to everyone, which in effect is His Grace and this favour can be invoked upon a nation or an individual. God can do what He likes and we should not question His selection process because it is the sovereignty of God that determines to whom He shows favour.

‘Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.’

John ch.12 vv 39 - 40

Predestination is very much a part of the eternal plan of God for His people Israel, as well as all the nations on earth and His Creation.

‘For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.’

Romans ch.8 vv 29-30

‘Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, ... In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:’

Ephesians ch.1 vv 5 & 11

This choosing has little to do with our own works or efforts. The pride of man always gets in the way of God’s plan as seen by the choosing of 300 with Gideon when God used them to fight against the Midianites. Only 300 were needed as His chosen few. In the final analysis it was God who defeated the Midianites. But by choosing these few God had eliminated any chance of Israel vaunting herself.

‘And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.’

Judges ch.7 v.2

‘And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.’

Deuteronomy ch.8 vv 17 -18

So yet again it is God who gives us the power.

The choosing of those from within the ‘called’, applies as much to those who go to church on a Sunday as those who go on a Saturday morning. God has always had His remnant down through history in all walks of life. There are going to be some surprises in the Kingdom.

Not enough attention has been given to the fact that the word 'church' derives from 'ecclesia' which means 'called out'. Called out from what? In short it is the world order or 'cosmos'. The word 'world' has two very different meanings in the Bible.

The same thoughts can be applied to the word 'elect'. The implication with this word is 'chosen favourite'. Even the word 'chosen' means to select out of. From this it can be seen that God's choosing involves a separation from the world.

The method of selection is the opposite of what the world's leaders are pushing for today. Everywhere, the direction is one of unifying and bringing together into a conglomerate of theologies that shares no resemblance to God's process of separation.

It is interesting that conglomerate is a loosely bonded rock that is held together by a weak type of natural cement. When one researches this conglomeration of theologies it becomes obvious that Satan is at the core. Spiritual wickedness is in high places.

'For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.'

Ephesians ch.6 v.12

After reading widely it becomes obvious, that the churches have compromised their position by being tolerant on many issues that the Bible has warned us about. It is no wonder 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

The churches have allowed the world to enter the confines of the building that is called the Church.

The following show the choosing feature of God.

'No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.'

John ch.6 v.44

This choosing in my opinion is linked in with the words of Philippians ch.3 v.14 which says, 'I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus'. Even Paul was not sure if he would be granted the prize of the high calling. Revelation ch.7 and ch. 20 v.6 has much to do with the choosing of those for special

service in His Kingdom. The involvement of Israel in this choosing is more often overlooked by today's teaching.

It is my view that Israel's servant role will be fully implemented without any hindrance during the Millennium age. Because of the error in spiritualising the word 'Israel' into that of the Church, the unfulfilled servant work of Israel has been cast into the abode of God in Heaven. The role of Israel as a servant people is not yet complete for Israel as a blessing has been only partially fulfilled. God has always had His chosen remnant. It is this preserved remnant that has prevented the unconditional Covenants that God made with Israel from being annulled. The redemption theme and the New Covenant are both tied in with the Wife of God. With the marriage consummated, God and His called out remnant will rule when,

'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

The Law will not only be written in our hearts (see Hebrews ch.8 v.10) but by the process of time will become the Law of all nations on earth. The knowledge of the Lord, by the end of the millennium, shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea (see Isaiah ch. 11 v.9). The Bible goes on to say that even after the millennium, Satan and death is yet to be defeated (see Revelation ch.20 vv 1-9).

In the meantime,

'... earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints'.

Jude v.3

and be assured that God said these two things.

'... It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.'

Isaiah ch.49 v.6

'And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.'

1 Thessalonians ch.5 v.23
