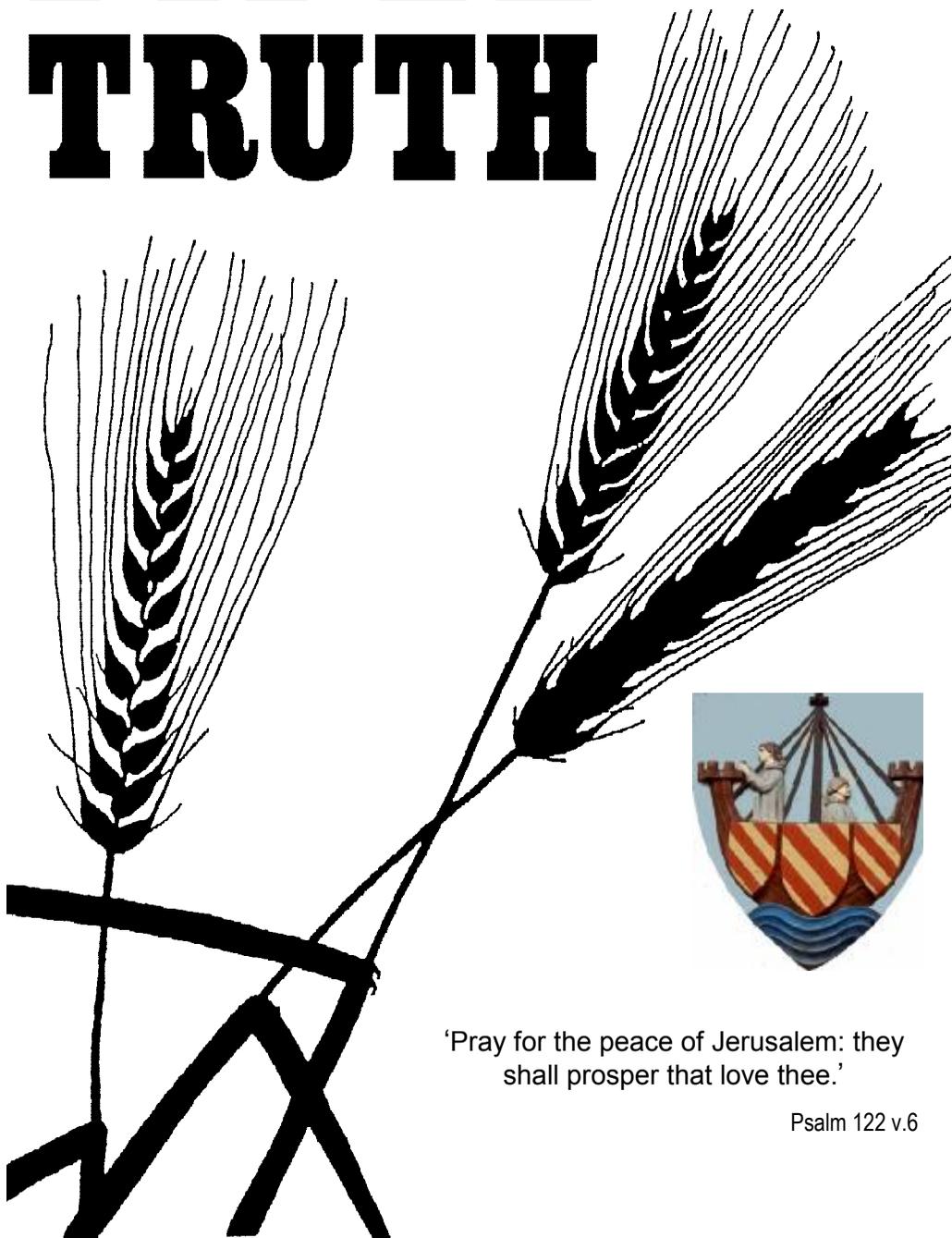


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'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.'

Psalms 122 v.6

THE 'TREE STUMP' REVIVAL

by Pastor Bob Williams



My great friend and mentor, Pastor Robert Phillips, once said, 'Christendom is too satisfied with a 'Salvage Gospel' (rescuing a few of the perishing!), rather than the true 'Salvation Gospel' of the Bible. It is so correctly described and a reason why we have a largely apostate church, unable to offer any real contribution or solution to the chaos of today's world.

What do our natural eyes show us as we view the current and future state of humanity?

1. Christian denominations attempting unity through the compromise of 'ecumenism'.
2. The ship of Godless society, floundering without any rudder.
3. 'Pretend' world leaders in fear of Islamic State, terrorism generally, climate change, and such like, over which they have no longer any control.

There are many other aspects of viewing the position, but just these three demonstrate the hopeless position we have brought ourselves to through sin and iniquity, by ignorance of Scripture. We do not find any invited input from the Creator of all things to the scientist's formulas, technician's prototypes, or financial businesses, He is never consulted. Having given this negative viewpoint, Praise the Lord, Jesus is the answer to all our problems and failures.

From study of the Word we can see Jesus' death on the cross brought us -

Personal salvation - National salvation - Universal salvation

All three of course depend upon our full repentance, acceptance of and surrender to Him in all these elements of salvation.

Our Sovereign God many times speaks of our symbolic likeness to trees and indeed speaks of bringing us forth as 'trees of righteousness' (see Isaiah ch.61 v.3). Unlike mere mortal man with his attempts to prescribe a cure for mankind by a potion here and a drop of medicine there, God goes to the heart of the problems and has already provided the answers – a complete cure and solution.

It is an extremely drastic prescription for cure, but in Jesus it is certain and sure. Cutting down the tree is the drastic solution! Look at Daniel ch.4 where Nebuchadnezzar was waxing lyrical about his great position and powers, just as today's world leaders tend to do. The Almighty God gave Nebuchadnezzar a vision, in a dream, of his presumptuous authority and arrogance, the same as the assumed power we see today.

'Thus were the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and behold a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof was great. The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth: The leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it.'

Daniel ch.4 vv 10-12

The following verses show the drastic action presented by our God.

'I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven; He cried aloud, and said thus, Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches: Nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth.'

Daniel ch.4 vv 13-15

Next, the interpretation exactly fits the need of today's society.

'And whereas the king saw a watcher and an holy one coming down from heaven, and saying, Hew the tree down, and destroy it; yet leave the stump of the roots thereof in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the

beasts of the field, till seven times* pass over him; This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king: That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule. Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.'

Daniel ch.4 vv 23-27

Like this king, the worldly powers are consumed in their own assumed glory, constantly bringing in policies and legislation which continually fails to bring peace and security, and more usually, something worse.

Whilst this cure is the responsibility of our Sovereign God alone, we are blessed to play our part. We have to be strong in proclaiming Biblical truth, the fullness of the Gospel of the Kingdom. In this way we shall assist in driving the present World Order into its own place of self-created bestiality.

Our constant preaching of this truth will be the band of iron and brass which overcomes the defective tree. Once while listening to an elderly National Trust forester he spoke of making a cut around the tree trunk through the bark, with a girdling band which makes the tree fruit more, but also eventually kills the tree. The tree gives every appearance of growing, but the forester knows the life is draining away.

'For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground; Yet through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant.'

Job ch.14 vv 7-9

The king's interpreted dream demonstrates this by Daniel stating,

'Nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth:.'

Daniel ch.4 v.15

The scent of water revives the stump, so preaching the truth by the Holy Spirit is that 'water of life' and reviving factor. The ecumenical apostate church dies with all the other religions in the dying tree without it.

The Prophet Isaiah shows such an operation of God's mighty ways of restoration from disaster and judgement.

'And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed. Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, And the LORD have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land. But yet in it shall be a tenth, and it shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance is in them, when they cast their leaves: so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof,'
Isaiah ch.6 vv 9-13

The *New King James Bible* states 'the Holy Seed shall be its stump', whilst the *Amplified Version* quotes it 'stump and substance of Israel'. The Covenant people will bring about this restoration through Jesus Christ. It will not be the religious denominations He will use, just as He cast them aside in His ministry on earth but the 'remnant' that has always been there, separated out from the creeds and constitutions of man's idea of church.

'They are turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, which refused to hear my words; and they went after other gods to serve them: the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant which I made with their fathers. Therefore thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them.'

Jeremiah ch.11 vv 10-11

Those true believers who have faithfully resisted the hot and cold (lukewarm - see Revelation ch.3 vv 15-16) flow of the Spirit, which has consistently ebbed into denominationalism and mainstream doctrine, will be anointed to preach this restoration message.

Some may see small numbers of such true believers and doubt whether they can have any local effect, let alone international impact. We only need to look at the small flock Jesus anointed when initiating the Early Church, to recognise this negative view is wrong. The

present apostate Church is beginning to see a confused public coming through their doors, but they are unlikely to have sufficient knowledge of the Bible to give a 'glorious kingdom message'. The first essential is that of a national repentance, which is not generally preached in the social gospel of today's Shepherds of the Lord.

'Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.'

Acts ch.3 vv 19-21

So the godless tree of religion, politics and materialism (the servant nation Israel who have followed the dictates of their own evil heart) will wither and die, but coming forth from the stump and substance of Israel will be the shoots of refreshing. The dynamic truth of God's plan and purpose for humanity will be realised.

'So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.'

Isaiah ch.55 vv 11-13

Praise the Lord we have here the absolute promise of God that this Gospel of Truth is His responsibility and it will not fail to be proclaimed.

Too often preachers use these verses, but fail to complete the assurance of the Lord stating 'So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void'. Stopping at that point can mean anything in terms of the proportion of the Word going forth. Our Sovereign God guarantees there will be 100% success, 'but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it' (see Isaiah ch.55 v.11).

WHAT A MIGHTY GOD WE SERVE - PRAISE HIM
