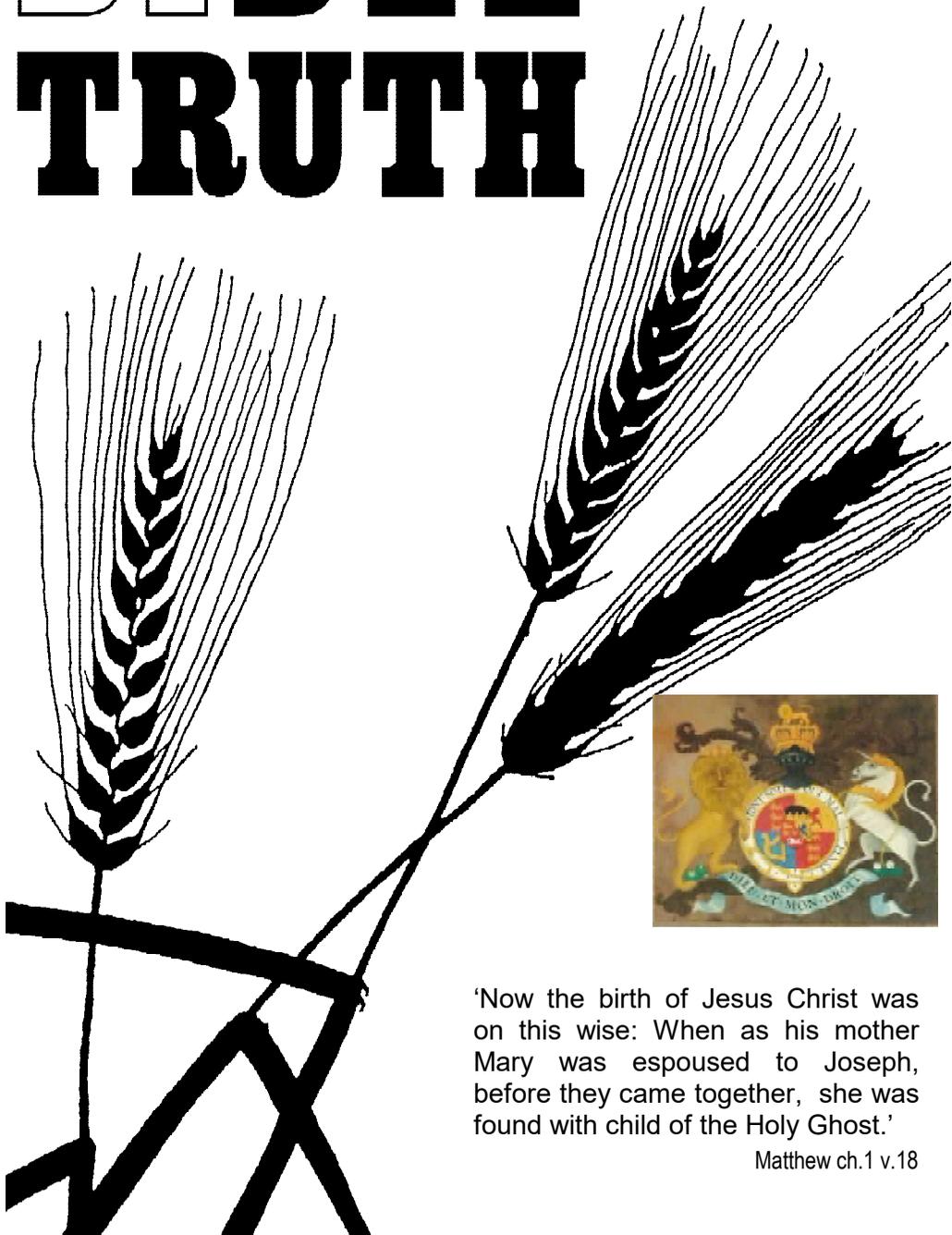


# BIBLE TRUTH

No. 280  
October/December  
2015



'Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.'

Matthew ch.1 v.18

# IF MY PEOPLE

## Part 1

by John Trotter

'If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.'

2 chronicles ch.7 v.14

Out of the thousands of verses in the Bible the above verse would be one of the best known. It is considered a verse that epitomises a rallying call for God to intervene on behalf of Christians in the affairs of mankind. The historical context of this verse is when Solomon's Temple was dedicated. King David had just died. Solomon had been approved to be King over Israel and also to build the Temple in which God would dwell. Solomon had sought the right heart to rule Israel (see 1 Kings ch.3 v.9), so God gave him great wisdom. The approximate date is 960 B.C.

As is so often the case some of our smallest words infer the greatest consequences. The word 'if' is such a word as shown in the poem *If* by Rudyard Kipling. This word is conditional like that of the Mosaic Covenant. There were to be blessings or curses all depending as to whether Israel obeyed or disobeyed. Deuteronomy ch.30 vv 15-20 lays down the outcome of this conditional Covenant. It is the same with 2 Chronicles ch.7 v.14.

The phrase 'my people', has been referred to the wrong people, for it is thought to be to Christians. If it be to Christians, then how come they are not humble, do not pray, do not seek His face and still do wicked things. Surely such people cannot be called Christian. It is my view that this phrase refers to Israel as a nation. This verse is a call to the nation and also individuals. These Israelites are to be found mostly in the Western Nations. They are the descendants of the Anglo - Saxon and Celtic peoples. It is amongst these people that you find most of the world's Christians. I do believe amongst the fifteen million Jews there are some literal descendants of Israel the man who was once called Jacob. The following quote by Dr Alfred Lilienthal is taken from his, *The Zionist Connection* page 733. 'Here's

a paradox, a paradox, a most ingenious paradox'. In anthropological fact, many Christians may have much more Hebrew - Israelite blood in their veins than most of their Jewish neighbours. This Jewish author shows in the previous paragraphs that most of the Jews today are not of Israel as in the Old Testament.

'But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.'

Isaiah ch.43 v.1

It could not be clearer. This is not the church or Christians as such (see Ezekiel ch.16 v.8, Zechariah ch.13 v.9, and Malachi ch.3 v.17).

God had to keep His side of the bargain when it came to the Covenant or oath, as is shown in Deuteronomy ch.7 vv 6-8. God knew that His people would not keep their side of the bargain for that is why God set in motion the process of redemption, a buying back through His Son's death and resurrection. All of this was done in accordance to the laws of divorce. If we were able to see into the future and come to realise the ongoing disobedience of Israel, down through history, we would have given up centuries ago. It is only for God's mercy that the redemption of His people will be fulfilled.

The Bible is very clear that God has not dealt with any other nation in the same manner as He has with Israel.

'He sheweth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and his judgments unto Israel. He hath not dealt so with any nation: and as for his judgments, they have not known them. Praise ye the LORD.'

Psalms 147 vv 19 - 20

The phrase 'called by thy name' shows the special relationship, This relationship was as a husband and wife.

'Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:'

Jeremiah ch.3 v.14

In the concluding verse from Aaron's blessing we read,

'And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them'.

Numbers ch.6 v.27

See also Deuteronomy ch.28 v.10 and 2 Samuel ch.7 v.23.

The word 'name' means character, honour and authority. The words can mean that the quality of God as expressed in the meaning of the word 'name' has been passed onto the people of Israel as long as they obeyed the law. Ferrar Fenton seems to suggest that His name has to be invoked or called upon. The *Septuagint* says, 'on whom my name is called'. Some have suggested that this name refers to the fact that the Western Nations are generally associated with being Christian. At the moment with the meaning of Christian becoming so poorly defined, I can not see God's name being represented in the Western Nations who in my view have lost their Christian status. If 'my people' are Christians, as many believe, then the word Christian has lost its meaning. The only issues that will save us are that God keeps His side of the agreements, or Unconditional Covenants, with the fathers and secondly the fact that He preserved a symbolical 'seven thousand' who have not bowed the knee to Baal. Read 1 Kings ch.19 v.18 and Romans ch.11 v.4.

Chronicles lists four requirements, before God can help in the suggested way.

1. Humility,
2. Prayer,
3. Seek God's face,
4. Turn away from wickedness.

Here are some brief comments on these four requirements. The *Septuagint* puts the word 'repent' in place of being humble. In Greek it means 'be ashamed', that is feeling shame or guilt. Zephaniah ch.3 v.5 says that 'the unjust knoweth no shame' and Isaiah ch.54 v.4 reads, 'Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed, neither be thou confounded (disgraced); for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more'. All this takes place in the future under the New Covenant with the House of Israel and with the House of Judah. It is equated with humility. The Book of Proverbs states,

'By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.'

Proverbs ch.22 v.4

This as a nation we have yet to learn, for we are still relying upon our own might and military strength.

Prayer is the second point. I know that many prayers ascend to heaven but is any one listening. Hear this frightening statement.

‘He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.’

Proverbs ch.28 v.9

Read the surrounding verses for added details. The Prophet Isaiah has a similar note of concern.

‘And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.’

Isaiah ch.1 v.15

I am not saying that God does not answer our many personal prayers. Many times He answers our prayers in a way that we least expect. It is my view that the prayers referred to here are prayers for the nation. Like the prayers that King George VI asked of Britain during the time of World War Two. Even Churchill referred to the destiny of Britain that suggested a providence or protection by God.

The Western World is to sink further into the pit before there is a sense of real need of prayer for God's providence. Are we going to reach the situation we read of in Chronicles.

‘But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.’

2 Chronicles ch.36 v.16

I believe so, but God will provide a way of escape as a result of His Son dying and being resurrected from the grave. It is not generally understood just how much the Law plays a part in this national revival. As it says in Matthew.

‘For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.’

Matthew ch.5 v.18

There is yet to occur the fulfilment of many more events of prophecy.

To ‘seek my face’, means to search or strive after. Fenton's translation says, seek my presence. The world has many distractions. Materialism has replaced God. Instead of seeking His face we have turned our face to the gods of the heathen. We have been promised in Deuteronomy ch.4 vv 27-31 that if we seek the Lord with all our heart and soul, even when in tribulation, He will have mercy upon us and He will not forget the Covenants which He swore with our Fathers. The unconditional Covenant with Abraham and his seed will be the fulcrum around which the history for Israel turns.

The final point is that of turning from our 'wicked ways'. These wicked ways were not just day to day sinning but evil acts, approved by the leaders of the nation. In 2 Kings ch.17 vv 13-17 we read the extent to which Israel had accepted all the curses of Canaan. This ongoing evil is also expressed in Zechariah ch.1 v.4. Yet in all this evil God was prepared to show mercy if they turned about face as we can read in the following.

'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.'

Isaiah ch.55 v.7

Maybe the reason for God's lasting mercy is that, every hundred years there is a new generation of people who can be given another chance - just a thought !

This turning is not only a personal thing but also a national matter. When governments legislate contrary to God's Law that is a serious indication of how far we have removed from our creator. People generally see little reason to expect long term hope in our leaders. It is just like being in a family where there is no one to aspire to. Reformation starts at the top and it is for this reason that the Ecclesia, the called out ones, will be under the rulership of Christ in the government of God's Kingdom on earth. The unconditional New Covenant with both the Houses of Israel and Judah will prepare the way for God to hear from heaven, forgive their sin and heal the land.

\*\*\*\*\*



## SPECIAL OFFER

The Throne of David  
by Dr Michael Bennett

Israel in the Last Days  
by D.C. Watts



10 copies incl. postage (same or mixed) £5

Single copies 50p + £1 postage

From: BIBTF, 9 Manor Court, Horsington, Somerset, BA8 0ET, UK