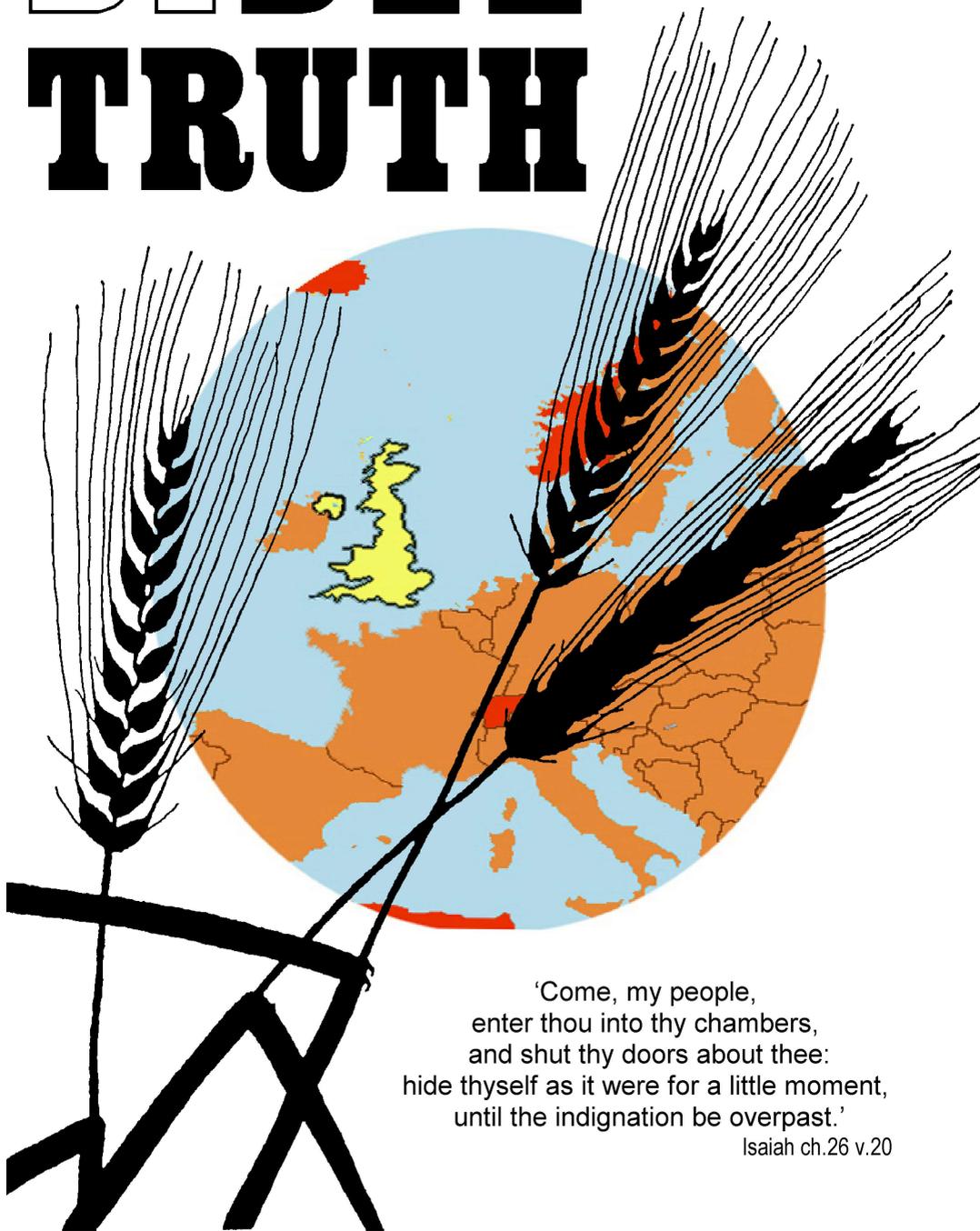


BIBLE TRUTH

No. 282
April/June 2016



'Come, my people,
enter thou into thy chambers,
and shut thy doors about thee:
hide thyself as it were for a little moment,
until the indignation be overpast.'

Isaiah ch.26 v.20

A HOUSE DIVIDED!

by Bruce McCarthy

‘And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.’

Mark ch.3 vv 24-25

With thousands of denominations in its unique and diverse portfolio, no religion is so divided against itself as the Christian faith, or Judaeo-Christian ethic as some call their dichotomous hybrid. But it is written,

‘Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!’

Psalm 133 v.1

Division, however, became our middle name — if the Bible teaches us anything.

‘For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?’

1 Corinthians ch.1 vv 11-13

We have come a long way since then; with a mastery over hair-splitting to surpass the best this world has to offer. Just imagine only four denominations to choose from. Our global, corporate dictatorship offers a wider selection in the cereal, pop, and detergent aisles! So if variety is what you want, forget about the unity in Christ.

On the other hand, at such a critical time in history as this, we might benefit from greater harmony by resolving our many contentions. All that is needed is to ascertain why we see things so differently about a Book whose sole Author is God.

The problem often lies in the fact that much of what influences churches is not scripture but commentaries of men about scripture. Letting the Bible interpret itself is foreign to those who rely upon so called experts to interpret what God really meant when he said this or that. Likewise there is a media which forever dredges up experts from official-sounding think tanks to tell us what to think, or to spread so much confusion that our minds shut down in self-defense.

When select officials are caught in a lie, we may find comfort when our favourite media personalities cover it up. Similarly, if the Bible convicts us of sin, our conscience is soothed by a non-confrontational sermon about love (for sinners) and tolerance (of sin).

‘That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:’

Isaiah ch.30 vv 9-10

‘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

Is history repeating itself? Ezekiel ch.34 and John ch.10 speak of shepherds/hirelings (clergy) who feed themselves and scatter the sheep (Israel). To further divide the flock is a little page between Malachi and Matthew that reads something like - *The New Testament of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*. Who wrote this imaginary title and what is the effect of its presence? Neither this page nor the editor's or publisher's notes are inspired text. So what, you may ask?

‘All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.’

2 Timothy ch.3 vv 16-17

If you were shopping for an item, two types of which sat on the shelf, one marked ‘new & improved’ the other one not, but identically priced, which one would you purchase? Since the ‘New’ Testament (or Covenant, the same word) scriptures are from a period already 2,000 years old, would you not be less inclined to read more lengthy and obscure texts that are much older? What does the Bible say?

‘For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.’

Romans ch.15 v.4

What things and for whom?

How can a ‘New Testament Only’ church, with only thirty percent of the Scriptures, none of which were part of the Bible when Paul wrote this, have hope without a ‘key’ to unlock those foundational

passages about which he wrote? And with countless keys in the New Covenant (Testament), how does modern theology keep them so well hidden? Here is one for openers.

‘Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.’

Hebrews ch.10 vv15-17

Whilst letting the Bible interpret itself, who is meant by the words ‘us’, ‘them’ (2x), and ‘their’ (3x) in a general epistle written to the Hebrews? Could they possibly be you?

‘For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:’

Hebrews ch.8 vv 8-10

Why does Jeremiah ch.31 vv 31-34 say the same thing?

What did Paul, an Israelite from the tribe of Benjamin, mean by ‘them’ (4x), ‘their fathers’, ‘Israel’ (2x), ‘Judah’, ‘they’ (2x), and a people to whom the New Testament (Covenant) was given in a Hebrew epistle of your Bible? If ‘God abandoned them’ why do these verses disagree with modern theology? Are we being divided by Paul, or by a hidden agenda that lurks behind the training of our ministers? Consider this. Prior to 1930 the Rockefellers gave \$30 [£21] million in gold coin to Foreign Baptist Missions alone (\$2 [£1.4] billion + in today's intangible credit), with additional sums to Union Theological Seminary, etc.

‘I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. ...’

Romans ch.11 vv 1-2

(So said Paul).

We are told that the church is spiritual Israel; the posterity of Israel according to the flesh (Romans ch.1 v.3 & ch.9 vv 1-5), who

hearken back 4,000 years to literal ancestors: Abraham, Isaac & Jacob-Israel. If Christ was sent to you, could these be your forefathers?

‘But he [Jesus] answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’

Matthew ch.15 v.24

Ezekiel ch.34 v.16 says why. That said, let's insert another new key into the old lock.

‘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

Pastors call these 12 tribes of Israel a figure of speech. Does your Bible say that? Would the truth be easier to see without the uninspired page between Malachi and Matthew which divided the Word of God and sheep of Israel against themselves?

Then there is the special emphasis given to Christ's words in *Red Letter Bibles*. But all scripture is given by inspiration of God; not just the more recent ones printed in red letters. Since Jesus is ‘one’ with the Father (see John ch.10 v.30), why are there no red letters between Genesis and Malachi?

Reference Bibles also influence the way we interpret scripture by dint of their proximate notes upon which we come to rely. Believers often put as much faith in their Scofield notes, for instance, as the Word of God itself. This is not unlike the perverse influence supplied by an axe-grinding media. Our perception of world events, God, and Scripture are moulded by people we never met, whose motives most of us never doubt or question. So are your beliefs really your own, or were they cunningly shaped by someone else? And since Paul's Hebrew-Israelite epistle is on the table, let's stir the pot a little more.

Strictly speaking, it is incorrect to call an ancient Israelite a ‘Jew’ or to call a contemporary Jew an ‘Israelite’ or a ‘Hebrew’. The first Hebrews may not have been Jews at all. See *The Jewish Almanac*, compiled and edited by Siegel & Rheins, ch.1 (Identity Crisis) p.3, Bantam Books, 1980.

It is odd how Christians ignore what is openly admitted in Jewry. That is how our role in the Middle East is based on a belief that Jews are God's chosen people, over 90% of whom admit they are not of Semitic origin, and whose ancestors never lived in Israel. Yet biased foreign policies have been to wage war against Islam for 64 years.

‘Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto

a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.'

Genesis ch.12 vv 1-3

Name one such family that was blessed after the Israeli state was created in 1948! Calamity awaits those for failure to discern a people who lost their name (Isaiah ch.65), are redeemed (Galatians ch.4 vv 4-5), under the law (Romans ch.9 vv 1-5), and fooled by those who openly deny Christ (1 John ch.2 vv 22-28).

'Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.'

Revelation ch.3 v.9

'I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.'

Revelation ch.2 v.9

**** *From a watchman on the wall* ****