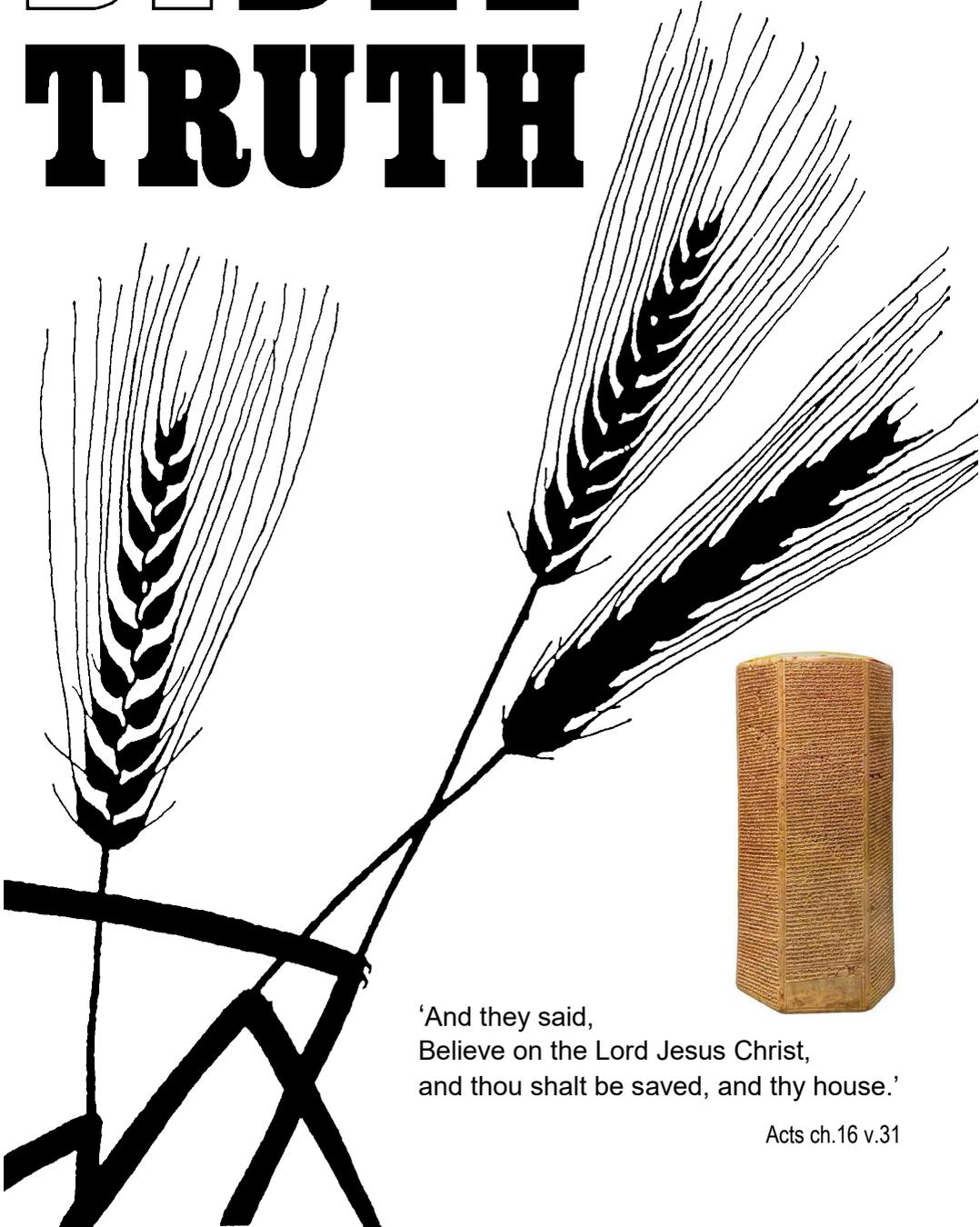


# BIBLE TRUTH

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'And they said,  
Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.'

Acts ch.16 v.31



# NEW MONEY FOR A NEW AGE

by John Trotter

The following article was written in 1968. It is of more relevance today than when it was written. The author Mrs E.W. Abraham, never expected it to be a complete answer to the issues that confront society of any time. It is an excellent starting point for discussion. A recent gathering of [Australian] State Premiers has clearly shown that we are far from solving the issues that confront all of us. The four main issues discussed were as follows: Domestic Violence, Illegal drugs, Terrorism, and Taxes. Surely the thoughts mentioned in this short article can be a starting point.

It is my view that the reason why a reference is made to New Money, is because by applying the Biblical view of what money is and how it is to be used, would be the most effective and efficient change required to bring into being God's Kingdom on earth. A university degree in Economics is not required to bring about such change. It will only be when money has lost its commodity value that evil will lose its power over society. It is hoped that this article will challenge you to study what the Bible has to say on such matters.

It is impossible to comment in such a short article on all aspects of Biblical Economics. I am sure that if the author was rewriting a similar article, in the light of present day economics, certain points would have to be rewritten. It is my view that there are a few points in this article that need a little explanation if space was available. One such issue relates to Taxes or Tithes (point 8). This refers to the heave offering which is to go to the Aaronic Priesthood as mentioned in Numbers ch.18 vv 25-29. The author of this article mentions the 'church' as being the recipient of this tithe being one tenth of the tithe. It is my view that this is the 'ecclesia' which will play a major role in the earthly Kingdom of Christ.

The message would, nevertheless, be the same, namely the urgency to implement Biblical Economics. Time will show that man's

endeavours will not bring about a just and equitable economy. God is waiting for that realisation and it will be then that He will step into history in a manner that will show the thoughts (ways) of man are not the thoughts (ways) of God.

‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.’

Isaiah ch.55 v.8

The article written by Mrs E.W. Abraham is as follows.

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In view of the world-wide search for a new Monetary System which will bring real security, the following thoughts on the Economics of the Bible are submitted, not with the intention of being dogmatic, nor as hard and fast rules, but as suggestions for the groundwork of further study along these lines. If abundance and plenty are worth having, they are worth studying and working for. The subject will be discussed under nine headings, as follows:

### **1. The kind of government we need**

First and foremost, we must have a Government we can rely upon. A Government made up, as Moses instructed, of able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness. Such a Government's duties are to administer the Economic Laws of the Bible. Read Exodus ch.18 v.21, Deuteronomy ch.1 v.15-17 & ch.16 v.18.

### **2. The form of money required**

Money would be provided only by the Government and solely as a means of exchange. The Banks would not be allowed to create money in any form whatever. Money would be the servant of the people, instead of its master; issued as required, by the Government, and backed by the needs and resources of the country, for the use and benefit of our own people. Surely that is not too much to ask in this land of plenty - enough tokens of exchange to enable us to properly employ all our people, and to properly care for our children, old people and the sick - that is only common-sense after all. We certainly have not been using common-sense when we have allowed our children to be undernourished, our sick and aged neglected and thousands of our people unemployed just because we have not enough money; although no one will suggest for one moment that we have not enough resources to fill all our needs. All money issued would have to be in some unhoardable form for example dated or limited in some way as to avoid any possibility of its being hoarded, or held off the market (see 1 Timothy ch.6 v.10).

### **3. The law against usury**

Usury must be entirely abolished. Under Bible Economics, usury of any kind is forbidden within the nation. With a monetary system controlled by a righteous Government, with money for use purely as a means of exchange, there would be no room for usury or interest. The Bible makes no distinction between usury and interest. Deuteronomy ch.23 v.19 reads 'Thou shalt not lend upon usury to thy brother; usury of money, usury of victuals, usury of any thing that is lent upon usury:' and this injunction was confirmed again and again. Read Leviticus ch.25 v.36, Ezekiel ch.18 vv 5-9 and many other passages. We might perhaps, notice in passing that 'no interest' does not mean 'no dividends' upon legitimate investments. The difference between interest on a loan, and dividends on an investment, is that the latter is paid only when there is a profit to pay it with, whereas interest is payable even if the business is run at a loss.

### **4. The Sabbath law of release**

The Bible is authority for an economic Sabbath, called the Law of Release, whereby all debts shall be cancelled every seventh year (see Leviticus ch.25 vv 3-4 & Deuteronomy ch.15 v.1). God states that He will assume any debt cancelled under this clause. (The probability is that as God constantly uses human means for the fulfilment of His purposes, there would be a central fund out of tax surplus, whereby any cancelled debts would be paid by the State). It seems obvious that this debt clause applies chiefly to the poor and needy and is not intended as an escape for dishonest people.

### **5. Provision for the sick, poor aged, etc**

All hospitals, old peoples' homes, asylums, etc. would be free and Government operated. Today our whole national economy, our health, our wealth, our moral standards, our very freedom are all dependant upon 'money'. There would be no suffering humanity as we see it today, if we lived up to Deuteronomy ch.7 vv 11-& 12 & 15.

'Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them. Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he sware unto thy fathers: ... And the LORD will take away from thee all sickness, ...'

## **6. A minimum wage**

Our Lord's Parable of the Labourers in the vineyard (Matthew ch.20) would appear to give full authority for a Minimum Wage. 'Whatsoever is right', the Master of the vineyard said to the men hired at the eleventh hour, 'that shall ye receive' and He gave them the same wage as those who had been working all day, showing plainly that He recognised that their 'right' or 'need' was equal with those who had been hired earlier, even though their opportunity for earning a wage had not been so great. In this age of statistics it should be a simple matter to determine the minimum wage needed in any country; it should be sufficient to provide the worker with all the necessities of life. Thereafter, of course, the wages would be determined by the natural law of supply and demand, together with the efficiency of the worker. The Bible age for workers appears to be from 20 years old to 55, and in some cases from 25 years old to 50. St Paul clearly provided the answer to those who say that this system would be abused by the lazy, when he says in 2 Thessalonians ch.3 v.10 '... that if any would not work, neither should he eat.' There is also an age-old axiom, given by God Himself to Adam (Genesis ch.3 v.19 ), 'In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground ...'.

## **7. Pensions for all**

Under a righteous servant-money system, all citizens upon reaching the retiring age (generally 55 years), would automatically retire and receive their first pension cheque, and could then look forward to a happy and provided for, old age, without having to work right up to the edge of the grave, as so many do nowadays. Here again the statistical branch would be able to work out the amount of the ideal pension, based upon a supply of the necessities for the rest of one's life (it would probably be found to be a somewhat similar amount to the minimum wage). Proof of age and citizenship would be the only requirement for eligibility. The bureau of vital statistics would keep in touch with every man, woman and child in the country, and would pay the pension to all, from the highest to the lowest in the land, as soon as it became due. There would be no need for property or means test See Exodus ch.22 v.22, Deuteronomy ch.10 v.18, ch.24 v.17 & Jeremiah ch.7 vv 5-6.

## **8. Taxes or tithe**

Only one tax for everyone. 10 % of all income or increase (in exceptional cases 20 % may be expected of the wealthy). In the case of there being no increase, as with a farmer's poor crop for instance, there would be no tax at all that year or if the income were to cease for any reason, so would the tax. 1/10th of all taxes would go to Church upkeep, the remaining 9/10th to the State for purposes, such as education, hospitals, pensions, etc. See Malachi ch.3 vv 8 - 11.

## **9. The government control needed**

All essential services, such as light, heat, water and transportation should be run by the government for the benefit of the people; though under the Bible Economic System, where no huge combines, monopolies and cartels could flourish, and where private enterprise could be better relied upon to serve the people at a reasonable rate, this may not be necessary. It does not require very much imagination to visualise the future, with atomic power harnessed for all sorts of beneficial uses, central heating and lighting for whole cities; unlimited power for farms and factories, or for transportation, etc. Today there is literally nothing standing in the way of these wonders, except finance and our own sin and greed and refusal to obey God's Laws.

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Please don't toss this article on one side, with a shrug of the shoulders and the idea that we have been discussing utopia. God does not mock His People. A perfectly just and equitable Monetary System is both feasible and possible, and is without a doubt, to be found in the Bible. Let us study it and above all trust God asking Him to raise up righteous men amongst us to put it into force.

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