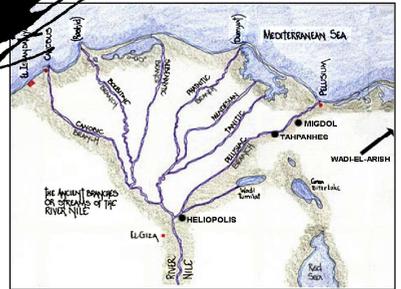
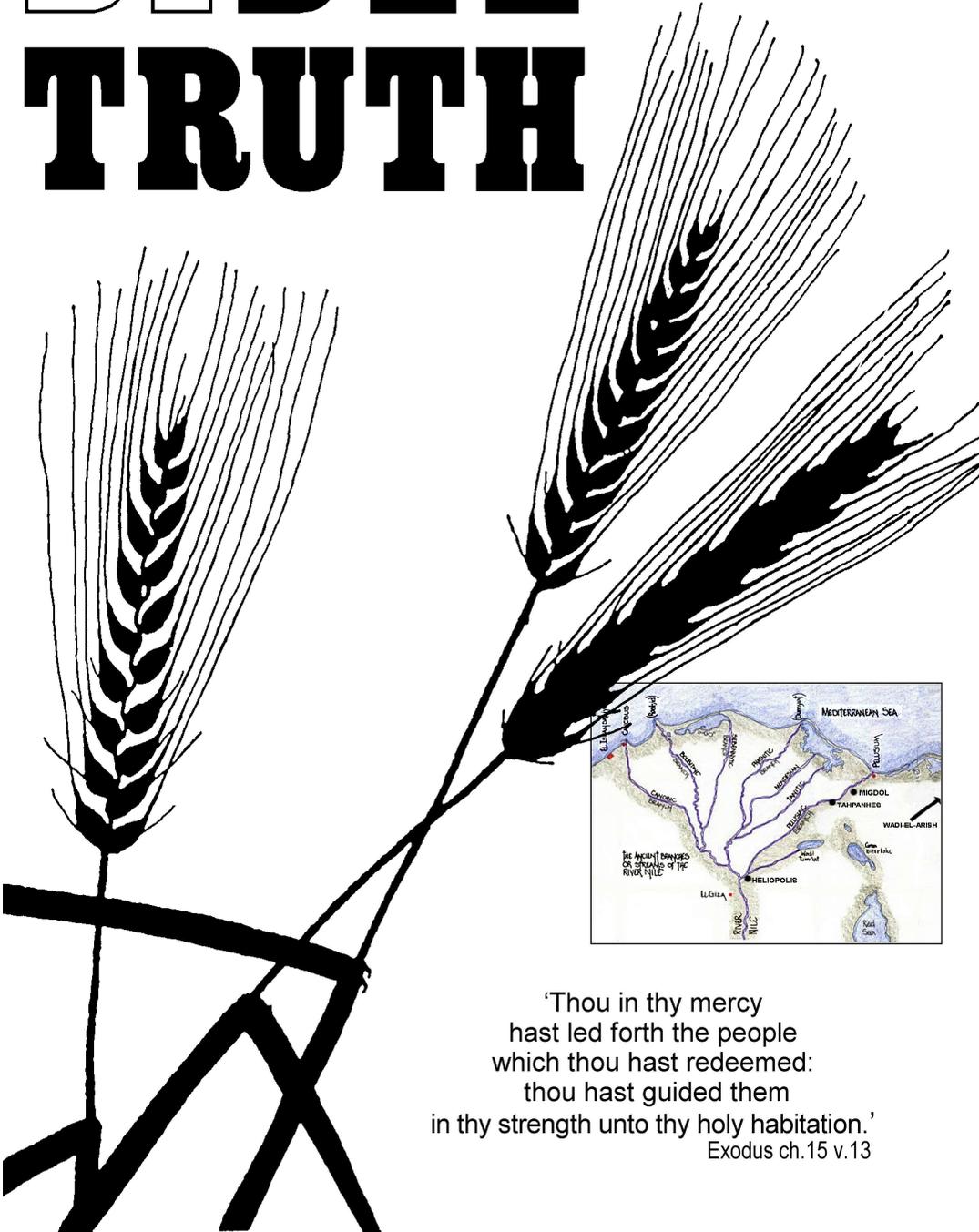


BIBLE TRUTH

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'Thou in thy mercy
hast led forth the people
which thou hast redeemed:
thou hast guided them
in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.'
Exodus ch.15 v.13

NO MORE TWO OPINIONS

By John Trotter,
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In the first book of Kings there is the story of Elijah asking the people to appear at Mount Carmel. The issue was over the worship of Baal or the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

‘And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.’

1 Kings ch.18 v.21

It is interesting that the word Baal (*Strong's* 1167) means ‘husband (master)’ so in effect, Israel had a problem concerning which husband was she to be married to.

‘For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.’

Isaiah ch.54 v.5

However, we also read that Israel had replaced the rightful husband with strangers.

‘But as a wife that committeth adultery, which taketh strangers instead of her husband!’

Ezekiel ch.16 v.32

When we cross reference 1 Kings with 2 Kings we find that Israel tried to both satisfy Jehovah and Baal.

‘They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence.’

2 Kings ch.17 v.33

And in Isaiah we read they only worshipped Jehovah with their mouths and lips but their hearts were really worshipping Baal.

‘Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:’

Isaiah ch.29 v.13

The Gospel according to Luke shows that we cannot worship two masters. In fact this is what is behind multiculturalism, that is the recognition of all ‘gods’ where they are considered as the many paths to all happiness and finally truth.

'No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.'

Luke ch.16 v.13

So often the New Testament is looked upon as the soft underbelly of the Old Testament, but in fact the New Testament is not short in expressing very strongly where we should stand on many issues.

In the following there is such an example:

'Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?'

2 Corinthians ch.6 v.14

I ask the question: 'Are we prepared to take that type of stand?' There is no doubt the prophets of the Old Testament period did, because history has shown that even their own people dealt very harshly with such witnesses to the Truth. One has to look to Gideon as regards his stand even against his father who was a Baal worshipper.

'And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it: And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down. Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the LORD had said unto him: and so it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do it by day, that he did it by night. And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was cast down, and the grove was cut down that was by it, and the second bullock was offered upon the altar that was built. And they said one to another, Who hath done this thing? And when they inquired and asked, they said, Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing. Then the men of the city said unto Joash, Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he hath cast down the altar of Baal, and because he hath cut down the grove that was by it. And Joash said unto all that stood against him, Will ye plead for Baal? will ye save him? he that will plead for him, let him be put to death whilst it is yet morning: if he be a god, let him plead for himself, because one hath cast down his altar.'

Judges ch.6 vv 25-31

From earliest times right up to the present, Israel in the West has had religious diversity. It is no wonder that the Commandments say,

‘Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them:’

Exodus ch.20 vv 3-5

We are clearly told in the Scriptures that these other ‘gods’ or Baals would result in His people losing their faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

In some respects I can understand why so many look to other religions or Baals. This is especially so when you look back through the recorded history of the mainstream churches. Religious action carried out in the name of Christ has been a form of blasphemy in so many cases. The names of those mentioned in the *Foxe’s Book of Martyrs* are but a sample of those who make up the remnant. The banner of Truth and Light invariably has not been held very high. Those following the history of the People of Israel have got to accept the fact that it has been a very small remnant within the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic nations, that has been a Light to the Nations.

‘I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;’

Isaiah ch.42 v.6

It is true that there have occurred great periods of reform, but if the very small remnant had not been present, the masses would be living in total slavery to masters, similar to the cruelty of the Assyrians. History moves forward or backward, not because of the masses, but because of a few who influence history for good or evil.

One of the ongoing themes of the Bible is the plan that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob has for Israel as a nation. Contrary to the broad teachings of the church, that the ‘church’ is spiritualised as Israel, the descendants of Abraham’s seed still have a major part to play especially in the context of the New Covenant.

‘At the same time, saith the LORD, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.’

Jeremiah ch. 31 v.1

‘Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;’

Hebrews ch.8 v.1

This Covenant is an Unconditional Covenant, so no matter what Israel does, the related promises will take place.

There is coming a time when Israel will be no more dumb as inferred in the above quotation (1Kings ch.18 v.21), when it says, '... And the people answered him not a word'. Why did they not answer him a word? I suggest that, there was a feeling of guilt in their conscience, but it had become seared with a hot iron.

'Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;'

1 Timothy ch.4 v.2

To support the hope expressed in the above paragraph we need to look at the following.

'In that day shall thy mouth be opened to him which is escaped, and thou shalt speak, and be no more dumb: and thou shalt be a sign unto them; and they shall know that I am the LORD.'

Ezekiel ch.24 v. 27

It is my opinion that in these last days, God still has His remnant. No more shall we be without a few who are the chosen. We shall not be as Sodom and Gomorrah, who had no one to stand in the breach. When the mouth of these few are opened, God will have prepared the Nations of Israel to know that I am the Lord and not the Baals that have been worshipped as husbands of the flock. As a result of coming out of Babylon the people will realise that the origin of so much teaching has come from that ancient city.

In a world where there is little hope, from a human point of view, we should hear these words.

'Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.'

Isaiah ch.35 vv 4-10

Then and only then will there be ONLY ONE OPINION.

HOUSE OF JUDAH

ESAU/EDOM

200,150 captives were taken by Sennacherib about 701 B.C. and placed in Assyria with the Ten Tribes — see 2 **Kings** 18 and clay prism of Sennacherib now in the British Museum, London —

Idumeans
Amalekites
Turks

Remainder carried to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar about 604 B.C.

A few escaped the Babylon Captivity by fleeing into Egypt

70 years later

Less than 50,000 returned to Palestine under Ezra and Nehemiah and became known as the Nation of the Jews. A remnant from both Benjamin and Levi also returned with them.

The majority remained in Babylon and their descendants were scattered throughout many lands.

Intermarriages took place between Jews, Hittites and others in the time of Ezra and Nehemiah

The nation of the Idumeans was absorbed by the Jews about 125 B.C.

The name "Jew" first appears in the Bible in 2 **Kings** 16:6 but did not exist as such in any language until the 16th or 17th century!

The nation of the Jews was destroyed in A.D. 70 (**Matthew** 21:43)

The kingdom of the Khazars, a people of Edomite stock, was converted to Judaism about A.D. 740 to take on a Jewish identity known as the —

SEPHARDIM
5% of all Jews,
contain true
Israelites

ASHKENAZIM
95% of all Jews,
contain no true
Israelites

MODERN JEWRY
total about 13 million in the world — half in the Americas and about a quarter each in Europe and Asia (mainly in the Israeli state)

Barren fig tree to wither away (**Matthew** 21:18-20)

END TIMES

Fig tree to bring forth new shoots (**Luke** 21:30) [Sign Kingdom of God is near]