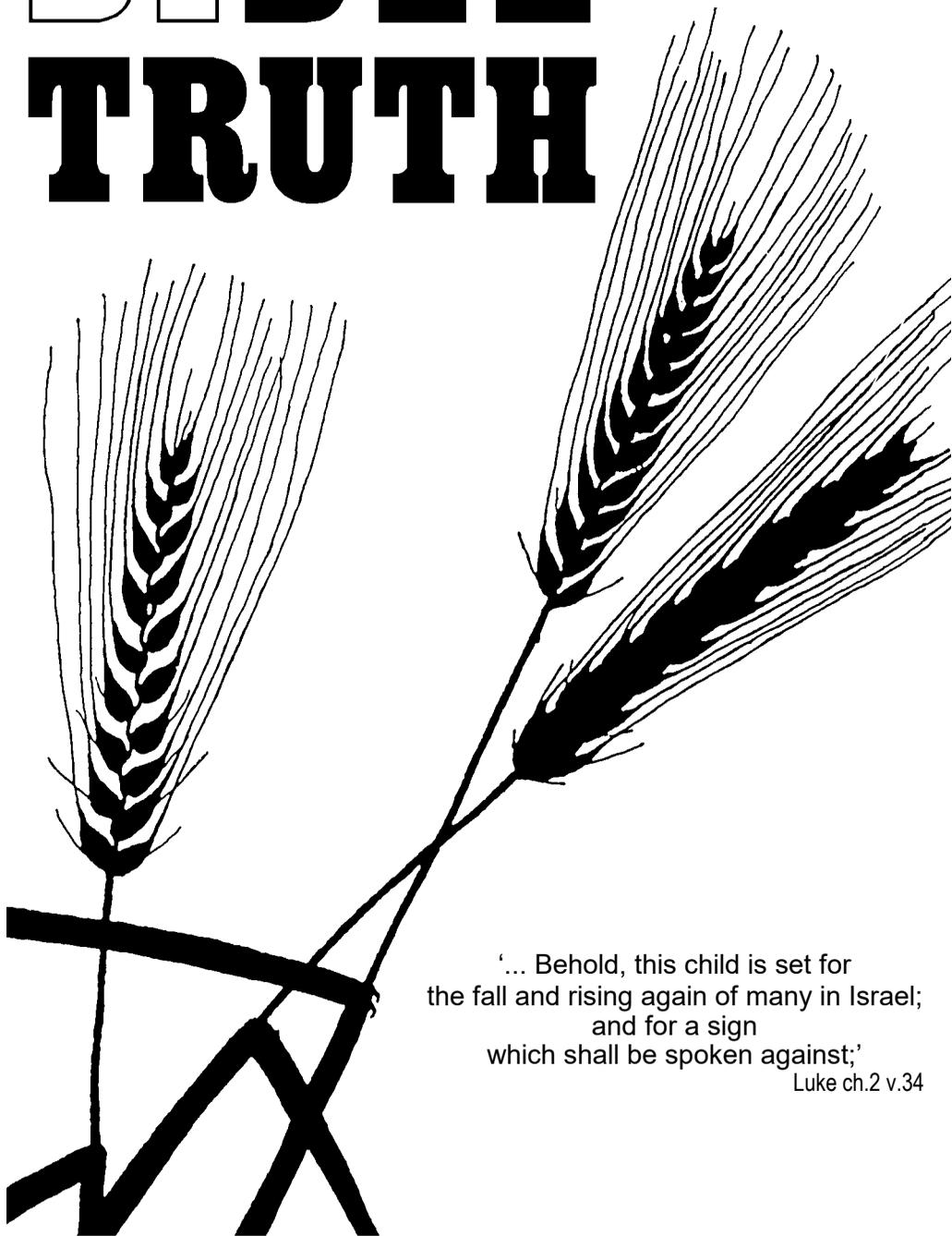


BIBLE TRUTH

No. 292
October/December
2018



'... Behold, this child is set for
the fall and rising again of many in Israel;
and for a sign
which shall be spoken against;'

Luke ch.2 v.34

OUR BIBLICAL PARENTS

by H. Thomas (Australia)

How do we look at the Bible, is it as a parental guidance instruction book?

‘All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:’

2 Timothy ch.3 v.16

So that should be clear enough to understand. Both books of the Bible, together, are for our guidance. Just as our human, fleshly parents are meant for our upbringing, so it is with the Bible. The Old Covenant has a fatherly role to fulfil. It lays down the law in this biblical household. It requires obedience, with dire consequences for disobedience. Rebelliousness is not tolerated.

The New Testament has the role of a mother. It is of love, compassion, mercy, forgiveness, and comfort. These are just a few of the characteristics of both books of the Bible, just as it is with our human, physical parents. This is to give you some idea of what the Bible is about. Both books of the Bible complement each other. They harmonise perfectly with each other. There is no contradiction of each other. They are together as a perfect family unit, sanctified by God. They are bound together under the one roof, or cover. They together, are as ideal parents for the upbringing of their children, who we are, whom God has called.

Our own parents, being of the flesh, have made mistakes in our upbringing. We may have found it unjust and difficult with some of their treatment of us; even on those occasions when we may have well deserved what punishment we received. We may have been rebellious in our teenage years, selfish, lazy, and uncooperative. We may have despised the authoritarian rule of our fathers, who usually were the ones to deal out punishment for our misdemeanours. Because of that, we preferred the comfort, the love of our mothers, and distanced ourselves from our fathers. That is what we see today in our relationship with the Bible. We are inclined to distance ourselves from the fatherly roll of the Old Covenant. In doing that, we are unknowingly endeavouring to drive a wedge between our Biblical parents, to bring about a separation, a break-up in that close knit family unit. It cannot be done. The Old Covenant and the New

Testament are strongly bound together in an unbreakable marriage unit. What wedge might go in, is that between them together, and us, as children of that family unit. To separate ourselves from one, we separate ourselves from both. God ordained that, in a marriage relationship, they two be one, not as two living together in a de-facto relationship. We should respect that relationship. To any who say that Jesus put an end to that marriage, and that we now should relate only to the New Testament, let me tell you that the Old Covenant is not dead, but is still living with the New Testament under the same roof, or cover.

Furthermore, we are told,

‘Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.’

Deuteronomy ch.4 v.2

You may be able to disregard that admonition if you are quite sure God is dead, and His Covenant is obsolete, but first take a look at what our biblical mother, the New Testament tells us in the Book of Revelation.

‘For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.’

Revelation ch.22 vv 18-19

And again we read.

‘... Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I **will make** [future tense] 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: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord:

for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. In that he saith, A **new covenant**, he hath made the first old [not dead but old]. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.’ [note he does not say the old covenant is fully old nor has completely vanished away. It is still there, still alive, and therefore still applicable.]

Hebrews ch.8 vv 8-13

Further on we read this.

‘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 vv 16-17

This is as yet an unfulfilled prophecy. It will be fulfilled in the time this verse says it will be, and that is ‘after those days’ not before, but after. So we are not yet under a new covenant; that is yet to come. We are there still under the Old Covenant that ‘waxeth old and is ready to vanish away’. Surely we can now understand from that, that the so-called Old Testament is just as vitally important to us today as is also the New Testament. If we are going to ignore or reject the guidelines it gives, then we can expect to suffer the dire consequences that the Book promises us.

If we are going to believe those who promote ‘liberty from legalism’ we would be ‘submitting to deception’. We would be submitting to subversion. ‘Liberty from legalism’ is an attempt to degrade the authority of the fatherly roll of the Old Covenant. Those who promote ‘liberty from legalism’ display their ignorance and lack of understanding of the roll of the so-called Old Testament.

Furthermore, it reveals their disregard for the fifth commandment, which, says this.

‘Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.’

Ephesians ch.6 vv 1-3

This is New Testament teaching on how we should relate to our parents, and that includes our biblical parents, the Old and the New Testaments of the Bible, that is if we claim to be part of that family unit.

These previous three verses make it clear that the New Testament, as a mother and wife, supports and endorses the law as laid down by the fatherly authority of the Old Covenant. Any rejection of the Old Covenant law is a direct contradiction of the above verses. Our relationship with God parallels our relationship with both the Old and New Testaments. God inspired both books to be written, and He joined them together to be one book. God says in the following,

‘My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children’.

Hosea ch.4 v.6

‘My people’ refers to those who responded to God's calling, but now reject His instructions. Those not called by God are not God's people, and He is not dealing with them now. Their time will come later. God is not giving understanding to everybody. See what Jesus told His disciples.

‘... Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables.’

Mark ch.4 v.11

Much the same is said in Matthew ch.13 vv 10-17.

We have a need, particularly now, to have a closer relationship with our Biblical parents, to acquire a true understanding of God's message for us. We are living in Satan's world, and he holds it captive. He has deceived the whole world, (see Revelation ch.12 v.9) even infiltrating the ministry and the congregations of God's people.

‘Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD. Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD.’

Jeremiah ch.23 vv 1-2

The following also emphasises our need to be closely attached to our Biblical parents to know and understand the truth.

‘For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.’

2 Corinthians ch.11 vv 13-15

‘And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.’

Matthew ch.24 v.11

‘Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?’

Ezekiel ch.34 v.2

Here is a prophecy about the ministry over God's people. It explains what has happened to us that we have become scattered due to the work of the ministry amongst us.

In Ezekiel we read this.

‘Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.’

Ezekiel ch.22 v.26

Now I ask you, who are you listening to? Are we listening to our Biblical parents, or are we listening to those preaching contrary to them? There has been a change in what we are hearing today compared to what we once heard’. Where did that change come from? Who made that change?

‘For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.’

Malachi ch.3 v.6

The above indicates that God did not make any change.

‘For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.’

Matthew ch.15 vv 4-6

How much honour do we give to our Biblical parents, the Old and the New Testaments? Must we ‘transgress the commandment of God by your [our] tradition’ (see Matthew ch.15 v.3)? Don't these scriptures show us that it was not God who made the changes, but rather those high in the ministry who made the changes which have scattered the sheep of God's pasture? It has been done by the false doctrines we have been given, and have accepted, for which we need to repent,

(see Revelation ch.3 v.19) and get back to what we were given in the beginning, (see 1 John ch.2 v.24) and hold fast to it (Revelation ch.3 v.11).

How can we believe that the commandments have become obsolete when we see what John had to say in a number of places.

‘And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.’

1 John ch.2 vv 3-4

‘Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.’

Revelation ch.22 v.14 (see also 1 John chs 3 v.22, 5 v.3, 2 John v.6, and Revelation chs 12 v.17, 14 v.12.

Note also what God says through His prophet.

‘I hate, I despise your feast days, ... ’.

Amos ch.5 v.21

What does this mean? Could it include how Christians have adopted pagan festival dates and paganised what is celebrated? For example Bede says that ‘Easter’ takes its name from the Old English goddess ‘Eostre’, with its eggs, and chocolate rabbits associated with fertility. In fact it has become a counterfeit of the Christian Spring festival that remembers the Passover. The Western Christian feast of ‘All Hallow’s Day’ is more often than not now celebrated as ‘Halloween’. Whereas ‘Christmas’, though its name is based on ‘Christemaesse’ (Christ’s mass), nevertheless its dating, December 25th, is based upon the Roman Winter solstice. Besides this, many of its associated trappings today originate from pagan practices.

In short, it is good that Christians celebrate biblical festivals. After all God instituted, and Jesus supported, many of them, but let Christians use the opportunity to enlighten others about their true meaning.

Prophecy shows that God will step in and denounce the counterfeit, and make changes in His Church which will astound the counterfeiters.

‘And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.’

Daniel ch.12 vv 9-10

The previous verse tells us that some prophecy was sealed till the time of the end, when it would be opened for God's people to see. That time has now come, the seal has been peeled back, and understanding given to His people. But what is about to happen is so great that it cannot be believed by anyone who does not keep God's commandments. Even as the author of this article, I find it almost impossible to believe, but believe it I must, because it puts together all that has been happening to the Church, and shows where it is leading. For those who think the Old Covenant is obsolete, it is through that same Old Covenant that God is showing that He is still very much in charge, and His Word is certain.
