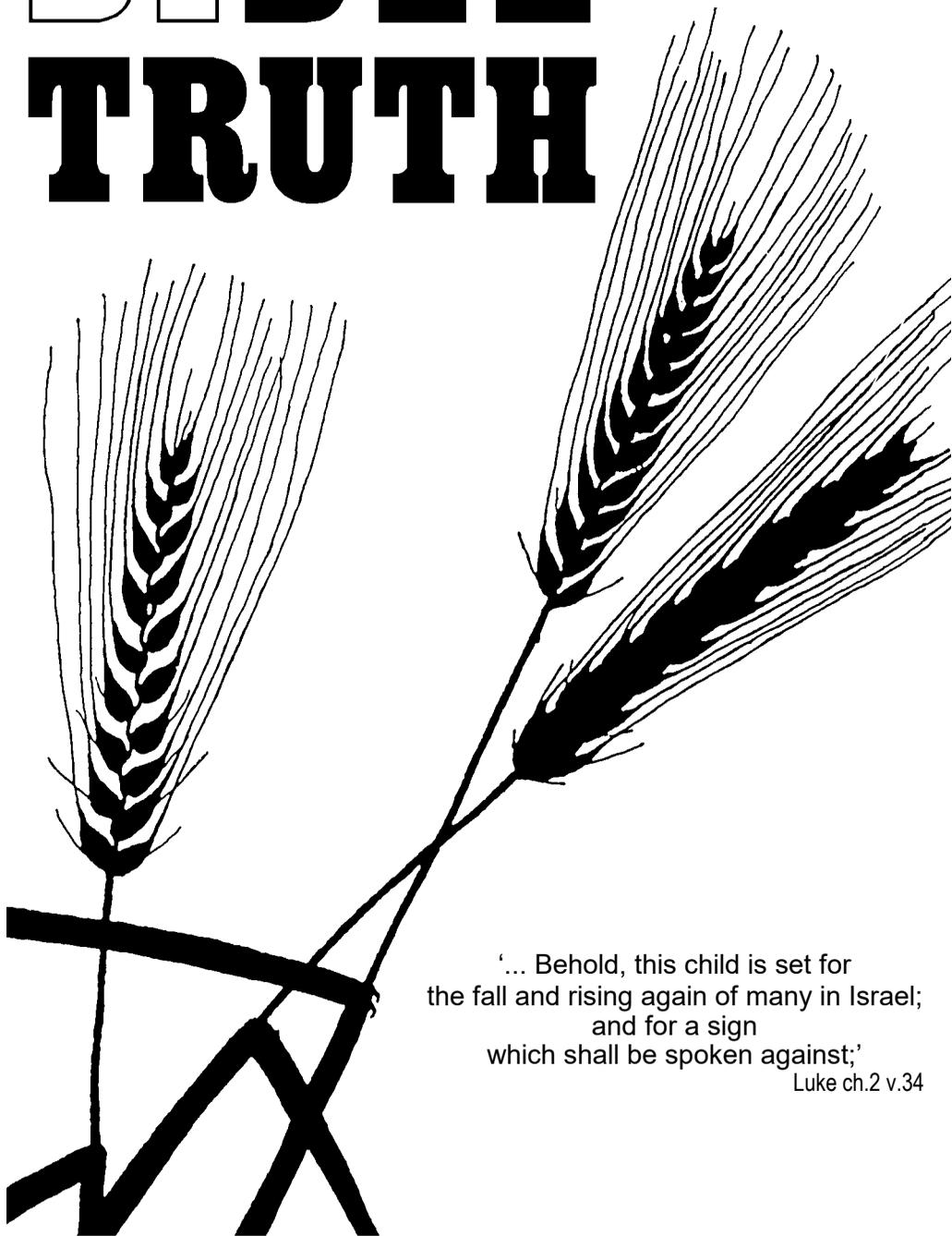


BIBLE TRUTH

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

TWO CONFUSING WORDS

Part 2 - Gentile

by John Trotter of Winmalee

This article will deal with the word 'Gentile'. Like the word 'church', there has arisen considerable confusion due to the misbelief that these words are of Greek origin. Shepherds of the flock over the centuries have set down the meaning of these words and the people have believed it as the accepted meaning.

It must be clearly stated that you do not have to be a Hebrew or Greek scholar to suspect the accepted understanding is incorrect. The vast majority of people who attend church do not have in their possession basic research material, like that of *Strong's Concordance*, a Greek - Hebrew lexicon and a *Septuagint*, just for starters. Most people do not study the Scriptures, they only read them in accordance to the interpretation of their church. I see little difference between this situation and the dark ages of Europe.

Now for the word 'Gentile', which is not of Greek origin but comes from the Latin word 'gentilis', which means 'of' or 'belonging to a family, or nation of the same clan'. So often you will read that the meaning of this word, 'has come to mean' or 'but acquired a restricted sense by usage'. It is because of this acquired view that the world is divided into two groups: Jews and Gentiles. Many assume that the Jews constitute Israel. The word 'gentile', because it is of Latin origin and therefore did not appear in the original Scriptures, is not a true translation of the word 'goyim' (Hebrew) or 'ethnos' (Greek). Like in so many other points the Latin *Vulgate* by Jerome has corrupted many of the words.

Lexicons are more definitive with the meaning of a word, than that of a concordance. Thayer says of the words 'goy(i)' and 'ethnos', 'a multitude (whether of men or beasts) associated or living together of the same nature or genus'. Vine says, 'denotes firstly a multitude or company, then a multitude of people of the same nature or genus'. It is used in the singular of the Jews in respect of the words 'our/the nation' (see Luke ch.7 v.5 and ch.23 v.2). Vine goes on to show that 'Gentiles' is used in Scripture of both Jews and non-Jews. The use of the word 'goy(i)' (read as gentile) is seen in the following number of uses. In the Hebrew 374 times as the word 'nations', 143 as

'heathen', 30 as 'gentiles', and 11 as 'people'. In the Greek the word 'ethnos' is used 64 times as 'nation', 5 times as 'heathen', 93 times as 'gentiles', and twice as 'people'. One can understand why confusion arises when you do not carefully study the Scriptures. There are many other cases like this throughout the Bible, such as the word 'stranger'. Another example showing how the word 'gentile' is incorrectly used is with the word 'Hellene' (*Strong's Greek* 1672). These 'Hellenes' were of the Southern House who had left their place of captivity in Babylon and were living in the Anatolia area. They were speaking Greek at the time.

If we assume that the word 'gentile' is a nation who is neither of Israel nor Jewish, then we arrive at some silly conclusions. There are many verses that can be used to show this conclusion, such as these.

'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** [goi], and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.'

Genesis ch.12 vv 1-2

'And the LORD said unto her, **Two nations** [goi] are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.'

Genesis ch. 25 v. 23

'If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from **being a nation** [goi] before me for ever.'

Jeremiah ch.31 v.36

'And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among **all the nation** [ethnos] **of the Jews**, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.'

Acts ch.10 v. 22

(See also John ch.11 vv 48-50; Luke ch.7 v.5; Genesis ch.48 v.19 & Genesis ch.17 v.5).

Many things in life we all can change, but there is one thing that none of us can, and that is our ethnicity. Even though Israel as a people sinned and were eventually cast off and became 'Loammi' or 'not my people' they did not change God's plan for His people.

'Then said God, Call his name Loammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God.'

Hosea ch.1 v. 9

It is true that many of Israel did intermingle with certain strangers that they were told not to do, However, the eternal promises and covenants that God had made with them show that not only God kept His part of the deal but also Israel as a people will always exist down to the end of time. I would like to make it quite clear that my reference to Israel is not referred to the currently named State of Israel but rather to the many millions that mostly live in the Western Nations. It is true a small number of Jews are of Israel ancestry but not the majority. Not only will Israel continue to exist but God has promised that a remnant will be faithful to the Covenants.

Just as Christ's enemies thought they had finally rid themselves of the Saviour and Redeemer, by His death on the Cross, so God has allowed the word 'gentile' to fulfil His plan and purpose for Israel. This is an incredible paradox of prophecy, just as is the Cross. From death comes life. The assumed understanding of the word 'gentile' has largely kept Israel blind. The final scene of the final act is yet to show not only the majesty of God but also be used to bring back Israel to her inheritance and destiny for the ushering in of her role within the Kingdom of Christ on earth.

Note what the Apostle Paul writes.

'For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles [nations] be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.'

Romans ch.11 vv 25-27

See also Isaiah chapter 45 especially verse 17 about Israel's everlasting salvation. Without going into all the details the blindness refers to the Southern House and the fulness refers to the Northern House of Israel. Once the predetermined number of the Northern House is gathered in, then the eyes of the Southern House will be opened.

'Who is blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger that I sent? who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the LORD'S servant?'

Isaiah ch.42 v.19

Isaiah chapters 42 and 49 show the condition of Israel as a whole. It is true that the oracles were largely given to the Southern House, so they had the greater responsibility to teach the Law and the Words of God. But their blindness caused them to not understand the teachings of Christ.

As Israel was scattered among gentile nations they became like them (See Jeremiah ch.9 v.16 & Ezekiel ch.12 v.15). In fact Deuteronomy ch.28 v.64 says they would be scattered among all people and they shall serve other gods. By becoming like other nations Israel lost any understanding of what God had intended for them, namely to be set apart because by being separated they were to be an example to all peoples.

God's dealings with Israel is a mystery. God is allowing world events to happen so as the 'Loammi' feature of His people can be turned around to a relationship where they will be called 'the sons of God' (see Hosea ch.1 v.10). But every attempt by man to create a just and peaceful kingdom on earth will sadly fail. Ultimately God's plan will win through, for one day all will be gathered together as one people (see Romans ch.11 v.15). There shall be one head appointed and that is Christ. No more shall they be gentilised as the other nations. The revelation of who they are will be revealed to God's glory.

'All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. For the kingdom is the LORD'S: and he is the governor among the nations.'

Psalm 22 vv 27-28

No more will Israel be scattered but re-sown in the appointed land. No more will the heathen rage, no more confusion of the nations, the identity and inheritance of Israel will be revealed and all peoples of all nations on earth will be blessed.

'FOR GREAT SHALL BE THE DAY OF JEZREEL'

or God's sowing of his people.

(See Hosea ch.1 v.11)

MAY THAT DAY BE SOON!
