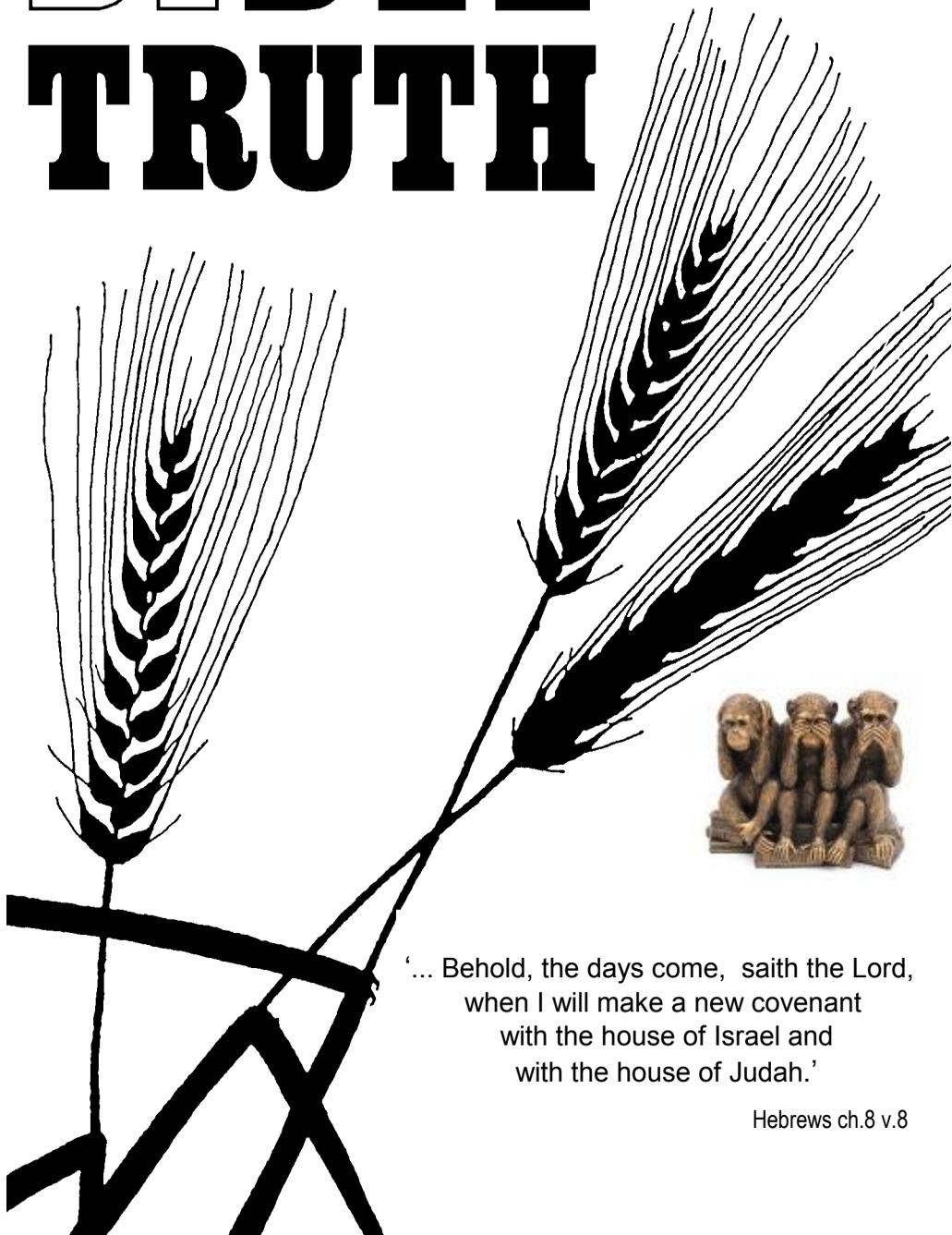


BIBLE TRUTH

No. 293
January/March
2019



'... 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.'

Hebrews ch.8 v.8

Three Brass Monkeys

By Arthur Eedle



There is a Public House in downtown Colchester, Essex, UK called 'The Three Wise Monkeys'. It is well known because of the five different brews of beer all available from the tap room.

However, this is just a passing remark to introduce our present investigation. The three monkeys have a Japanese origin, and are known as 'Hear no evil, See no evil, Speak no evil'. We shall now turn this pictorial maxim on its head. I believe there are three basic evils in existence, all of which have reached monstrous proportions in today's world. They are Atheism, Evolution, and Hedonism.

Hear no evil shall now refer to Atheism.

Mankind has blocked its ears to the existence of God.

'The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.'

Psalm 14 v.1

The Hebrew does not have the words 'there is'. It just reads, 'No God', or 'God is not'. In today's consumer paradise it seems there is no need for God. He has been shown the back door in the Western world, where once the Bible was the basis of every moral code. Preachers by the tens of thousands once urged their flocks to read the Bible, and on the first page were the words, 'In the beginning God' (see Genesis ch.1 v.1). But flocks have dwindled, Bibles clutter the shelves of second-hand shops, and a new brand of preaching is rife. For example, Richard Dawkins, the now famous modern-day atheist declared, 'somebody as intelligent as Jesus would have been an atheist!' His books have sold by the million.

'But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear.'

Zechariah ch.7 v.11

Jesus said,

'For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, ...'

Matthew ch.13 v.15

The brass monkey shuts its ears to evil. Mankind shuts his ears to truth.

See no evil shall now refer to Evolution.

Modern man has shut his eyes to the beauties of nature, and their clarion silent voices declaring the glory of a Creator God. How can man look at the beauties of flowers, trees, birds and butterflies, and not be moved by the obvious testimony that a Master Mind has been at work? In the Apostle Paul's day he spoke about such people.

'For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: ... Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator ...' Romans ch.1 vv 20 & 25

Sir David Attenborough, the globetrotting adventurer and naturalist comes to mind, with his 'Life on Earth' series. Beautifully presented, and captivating to watch, but the emphasis is always away from God. See how again and again he uses such expressions as 'over millions of years this creature has developed this ...'. But God is not mocked. There are many who watch these films and their hearts are warmed towards the Creator God by the sheer beauty, majesty, and behaviour of life on earth. The brass monkey shuts his eyes to evil. Mankind shuts his eyes to the Creator's glory.

Speak no evil shall now refer to Hedonism.

The love of pleasure, self absorption, the worship of self, physically and mentally, craving for pleasures, and the money which enables that pursuit. Paul the Apostle said,

'This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy'.
2 Timothy ch.3 v.1

And Peter said this.

'Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.'
2 Peter ch.3 vv 3-4

The brass monkey shuts his mouth to evil, but mankind propagates falsehood and lies by word of mouth, and records them in the news media. This all sounds so negative. Are we not already aware of these three evils in the world? Yes, of course. So what is the purpose of parading man's sins in this fashion? My purpose is this. We can't keep repeating the Lord's prayer without stopping to ask ourselves whether

we really mean what we say. In this manner, therefore, pray, 'Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heave.' (See Matthew ch.6 vv 9-10). Are we going to be like the scoffers the Apostle Peter referred to? Or do these words fill our hearts with excitement, and longing to see their fulfilment? If so, what will God's Kingdom be like? With the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ, these three evils will be progressively attacked. Consider these following verses.

'With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.'

Isaiah ch.26 v.9

'Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty. The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.'

Isaiah ch.2 vv 10 -11

'For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head.'

Obadiah v.15

'Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger.'

Zephaniah ch.2 v.3

These few quotes will suffice but there are many more.

The days of the Kingdom, the Coming of the Lord, will begin quite suddenly. The Lord said 'No man knows the Day'. But when He comes, the righteous will be glad, and the rest of mankind will consider hiding in the rocks. Are we waiting, praying, watching, expecting?

*'Coming again, coming again,
maybe morning, maybe noon,
maybe evening, and maybe soon ,
Coming again, coming again,
Oh what a wonderful day that will be,
Jesus is coming again!!'*

(Hymn by John Peterson, 1957)
