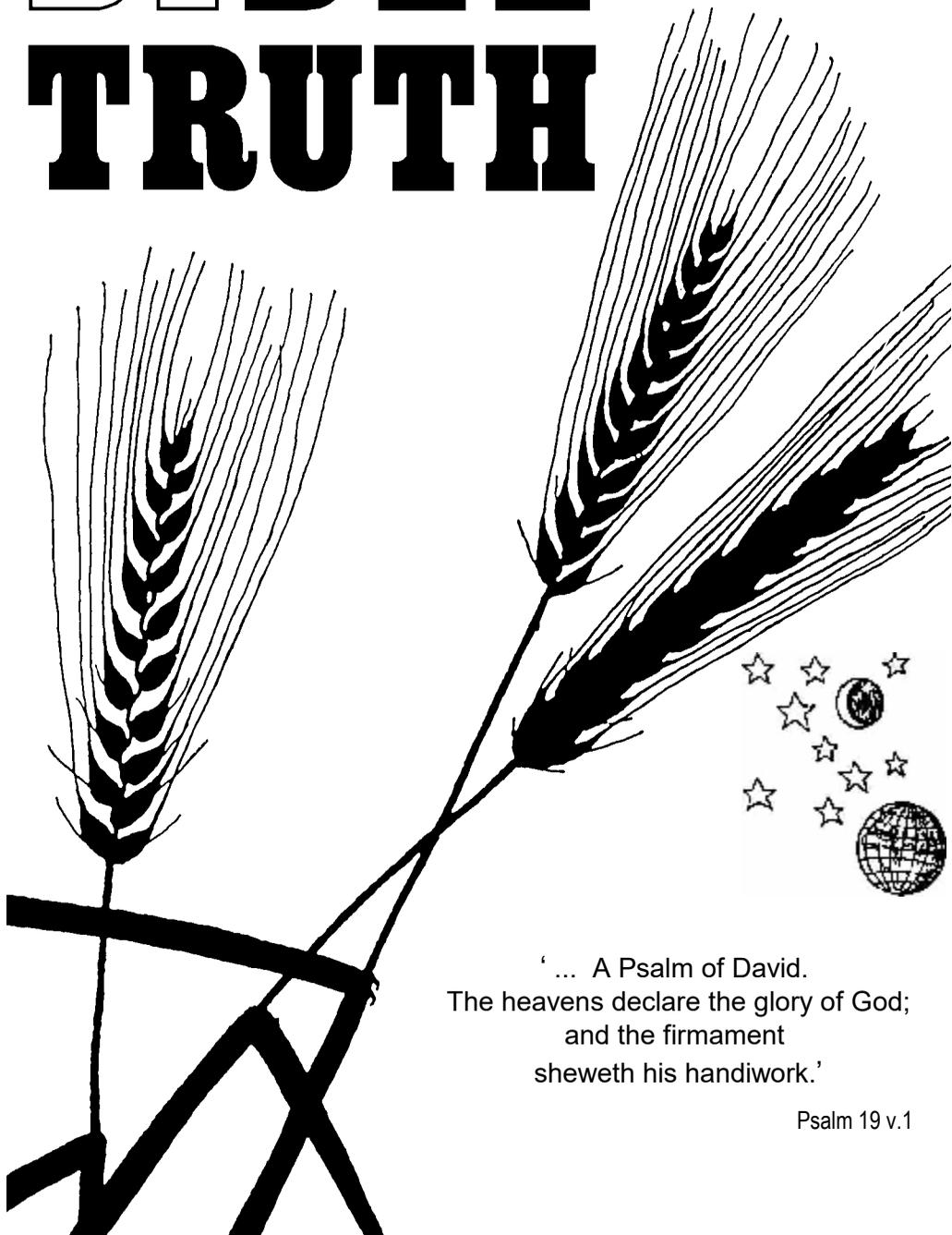


# BIBLE TRUTH

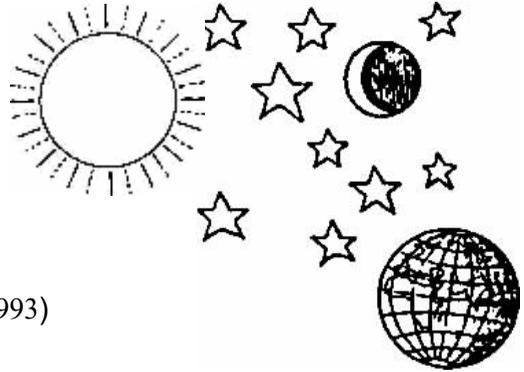
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'... A Psalm of David.  
The heavens declare the glory of God;  
and the firmament  
sheweth his handiwork.'

Psalm 19 v.1

# In Those Days Shall the Sun, Moon and Stars Be Darkened



by Karl F.Schott  
(From *Look Up* February 1993)

‘For in those days shall be affliction [tribulation], such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be. And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect’s sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.’

Mark ch.13 vv 19-20

‘Immediately after [i.e. amid] the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:’

Matthew ch.24 v.29

‘... and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: ...’

Luke ch.21 vv 25-26

‘And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.’

Matthew ch.24 v.30

These prophecies were made by the Lord Jesus as He sat upon the Mount of Olives with His disciples; Peter, James, John and Andrew. It was given in response to their questions concerning the future destruction of the Temple and of the city of Jerusalem. As well as their question ‘What shall be the sign of thy coming [i.e. second coming] and the end of the age?’

The answer to the first question asked by the disciples is found in Luke ch.21 vv 20-24.

‘And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.’

The destruction of the Temple and of the city of Jerusalem took place in AD 70 when Titus, with his Roman legions, literally destroyed Jerusalem. It is estimated that 1,100,000 Jews perished in the terrible war which took place at that time. The temple and the city were virtually levelled!

The Christians, heeding the warning of the Lord Jesus, had already fled from Jerusalem. According to secular writers they had gone to Pella (Greece) and Jordan, not one of them had died in the invasion. The desolation was local and was limited to the city of Jerusalem and its inhabitants. Is it not wonderful how the Lord takes care of His own? He knows them who love and obey Him.

As we consider the second question that the disciples asked Jesus, we find a great deal of symbolism involved. In order to properly understand this, we must consider what these symbols represent in prophecy. There are different interpretations regarding this particular prophecy, but there is one very important key to which most Bible teachers and Scholars remain blinded. That key is the true Identity of the Israel peoples today. They do not realise, nor will they accept the fact, that Israel today is comprised of the Anglo-Saxon, Celtic, Germanic, Scottish, Irish, Scandinavian and kindred peoples.

In the Lord's answer to the second question posed by the disciples, (What shall be the sign of thy coming, and the end of the ages?), He warned them that it would be a time of tribulation and affliction such as had never been experienced before that time. Nor would there ever be a time like it again. He told them that unless

those days were shortened (i.e. curtailed or lessened) no flesh would be saved (survive). It would be for the elect's sake that those days would be shortened.

How little or much the time will be shortened, we are not told, but it is possible that the determining factor will be how rapidly evil and wickedness increase in these latter times.

Up until this point in the text there is not a great deal of symbolism. However, that changes as the Lord Jesus continues. 'Immediately after the tribulation (more accurately interpreted, Immediately AMID the tribulation) the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven'. The question now arises, What is going to happen to the sun, moon and stars in our solar system? Or is it possible that the sun, moon and stars are symbolic, and represent something quite different from the actual heavenly bodies?

I believe that the sun, moon and stars are symbolic, and are used by the Lord Jesus to represent governments and authorities of the Israel nations.

The first reference in Scripture where the sun, moon and stars, are mentioned in the same sentence, is in Genesis chapter 37. Reference is being made there to the twelve tribes of Israel, the ancestors of the Anglo-Saxon peoples.

In this chapter Joseph, Jacob-Israel's favourite son, has a dream wherein the sun, moon and stars bowed down to him. The sun represented his father; the moon his mother; and the stars his eleven brothers. Joseph's family understood this dream to mean that the time would come when they would bow themselves before Joseph and be under his authority.

### **Isaiah prophesied that the sun, moon and stars would not shine**

The next Scripture that we will be considering is in the 13th chapter of Isaiah and involves verses 6-11. Some scholars believe that these verses are speaking of the Lord's judgment upon Babylon and the Gentile nations during the tribulation. However, I believe that this prophecy is to the nation of Israel since Isaiah pictures this end-time tribulation period as a woman in travail; the woman representing the 12 Tribes of Israel as pictured in chapter 12 of Revelation.

As we consider Isaiah's prophecy (pertaining to the second coming of the Lord), we notice the similarity to the expressions used by the Lord in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Beginning with verse six it says,

‘Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. ... every man's heart shall melt [be fearful]: ... they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: ... Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it [the kingdom]. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity [lawlessness]; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible [violent].’

Here in Isaiah's prophecy there is again the mention of the sun being darkened, the moon, stars and the constellations not giving their light.

The prophet Isaiah describes this time of affliction in somewhat greater detail and it is no wonder that the prophet Jeremiah ch.30 v.7 refers to these days as ‘The Time of Jacob's Trouble’. Isaiah points out, in no uncertain terms, that this is the time when the Lord will pour out His fierce wrath and anger upon His People, because they have refused to honour his righteous laws and commandments. Isaiah also indicates that the Lord would destroy the sinner out of the Kingdom. During this time all nations will feel the wrath and anger of the Lord. It is becoming evident throughout the world.

Now, regarding the second coming of the Lord and the climax of the ages, the Lord Jesus gave this warning.

‘But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. ... Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.’

Matthew ch.24 vv 36 & 42

This end time prophecy by the Lord, as well as those by the prophet Isaiah and the prophet Joel and others, are written for our learning and comfort, so that we might have hope during this time when we begin to witness the darkening of the sun, moon and stars

which figuratively express the diminishing influence of kingdoms. In this case it is the diminishing of the Christian nations or kingdoms which basically comprise the 12 Tribes of Israel.

### **The sun's influence**

In the above prophecies, the sun is symbolic of the supreme power of the State, such as a Federal Government, but in particular as vested in a monarchy. The darkening of the sun imports humiliation, loss of influence, if not the total collapse of its supreme powers.

For some years now we have witnessed such a scenario in US national government, and also among their State governments. The political institutions are helpless, to a great extent, in stopping crime, murder, rape, the imparting of drugs, limiting taxes, establishing a sound economy, etc.

### **The moon's influence**

The moon is symbolic of our ecclesiastical system, or the Church. In ancient Israel the times and ceremonies were measured and ordered by the lunar cycles. As the true Church, like the moon, borrows its light from the sun (i.e. the Son of Righteousness), so have spurious religious systems borrowed their light from civil rulers. When the moon is darkened, or eclipsed, and fails to give forth light to the people, confusion and false doctrines creep into the pulpit, and the people stumble in spiritual darkness. This pretty well describes what we see taking place today as mainline churches try to justify ungodly behaviour and teach many other false doctrines. Certainly wolves in sheep's clothing have infiltrated many of the Churches throughout Christendom.

### **The star's influence**

Next we consider the 'stars' which the Lord Jesus prophesies shall fall from heaven. He also mentions that 'the powers of the heaven shall be shaken'. The prophet Isaiah makes this statement concerning the stars. 'For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light'. As was noted earlier in Genesis ch.37, the stars represent the twelve sons of Jacob, who in time would be referred to as the twelve Tribes of Israel or, simply, the 'House of Israel' when they multiplied into the hundreds of millions.

### **The powers of the heavens shall be shaken**

According to these two prophecies, the time is coming (and possibly is close at hand) when the twelve Tribes of Israel (whose

national constitution and Laws were received from Heaven) would fail to be a light unto the heathen nations in the world. Apostasy will take place among the peoples of Israel during this tribulation period.

The Apostle Paul referred to this falling away in his second letter to the Christians living in Thessalonica, when he wrote,

‘Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, ... . That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand [his second coming]. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away [apostasy] first, ...’.

2 Thessalonians ch.2 vv 1-3

Common sense dictates that it is impossible to have a falling away among nations which have never honoured the Lord Jesus and the Christian Faith. Therefore we do not look for a falling away among the Chinese, Japanese, Jews, Arabs, peoples of India, etc. Nationally they have never honoured the Christian Faith.

However, when this consideration is given to the peoples which comprise the Anglo-Saxon, Celtic, Germanic, Scottish, Irish, Scandinavian and kindred people we have definitely seen a falling away from the teachings of Christ during the past sixty years. Actually it has been longer than that, but it has been more rapid in recent years.

Thus, today, we are witnessing a partial fulfilment of these prophecies concerning the diminishing influence of the sun, moon and stars. We are, for the most part, unwitting players in this last great drama of the ages, before the Lord Jesus comes again.

Regarding this climactic time in which we live, the Apostle Peter writes this.

‘But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night [unexpectedly]; ... . Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved [in this time of tribulation], what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,’.

2 Peter ch.3 vv 10-11

The Lord Jesus warns,

‘But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. ... Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.’

Matthew ch.24 vv 36 & 42

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