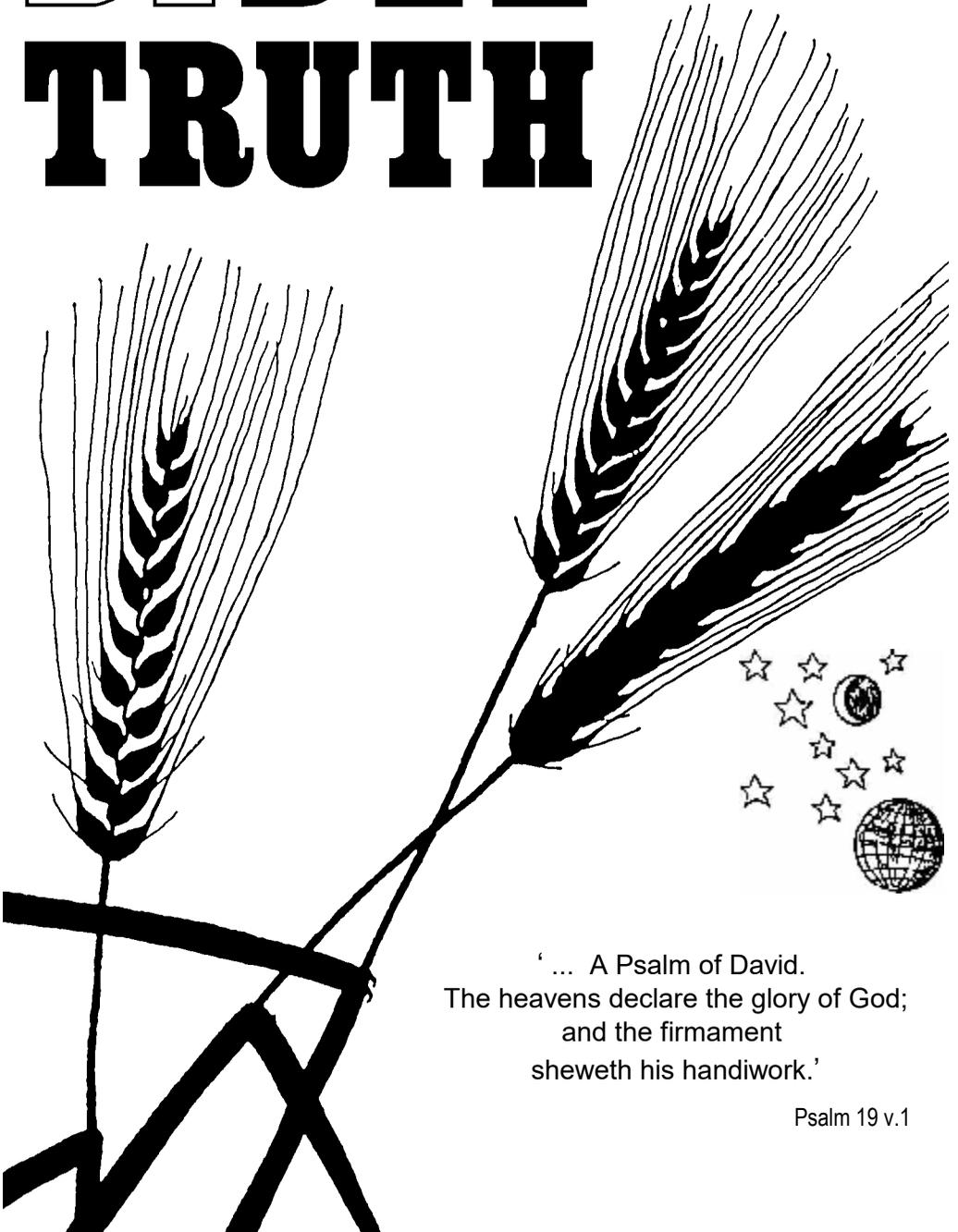


# BIBLE TRUTH

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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

# ISAIAH'S LOST CHILDREN

by Pastor Jory Brooks, CBIA



Isaiah ch.49 v.1 admonishes us with,  
‘Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye  
people, from far; ...’

‘Listen’ is an earnest call-word, because something of importance is to be communicated. This is the only place that the Hebrew Scriptures furnish us with the emphatic Hebrew word, ‘shama’, denoting to pay close attention and understand. The message is directed to the ‘isles’, literally, coast lands, islands and maritime regions, generally westward from the scene of the speaker. The respected *Keil & Delitzsch Commentary* says, ‘there is no ground at all in the present instance for regarding it as employed in any other than its usual sense, namely the west’.

‘The prophet says these regions are “from far”, translated from the Hebrew, “rachoq” meaning distant lands, far abroad, Gentile nations as far away as their geographic location could then have been known’, according to Daniel Whedon’s *Commentary on the Scriptures*.

Where are these distant westward regions? The *Commentary On the Old and New Testaments* (editor Joseph Sutcliffe) reveals, ‘Some however have supposed that the British isles are more especially intended, as “the people from far”, who are here invited to hearken to the Redeemer’s voice; and that our highly-favoured country was destined to become, in an eminent degree, the seat of his holy empire. In this view the prediction is invested with peculiar interest and claims our special regard and admiration’.

Similarly, respected evangelical commentator John Trapp identifies it as ‘the countries of the nations now converted’ known as Christendom and historically found primarily in Britain and Europe. Eighteenth century scholar John Gill added that this prophecy is ‘calling upon the inhabitants of the isles to hearken to him; by whom are meant the inhabitants of islands properly so called, as ours of Great Britain, and may be chiefly designed, being a place where the Gospel of Christ came early, and has been long’.

These inhabitants of the isles and their divine mission are further identified by Isaiah in verses 8 and 9,

‘Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages; That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves...’.

Isaiah ch.49 vv 8-9

Some commentators identify these verses as fulfilled in the prophet Isaiah himself, or spiritually by the Messiah Jesus Christ, but neither of these suggestions fit the prophecy. Instead, God Himself identifies these people in the isles who would establish the earth as lost and scattered Israel.

‘And said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.’

Isaiah ch.49 v.3

The *Bible in Basic English* translation of Isaiah ch.49 vv 8-9 is even more cogent.

‘... putting the land in order, and giving them the heritages which now are waste; Saying to those who are in chains, Go free; to those who are in the dark, Come out into the light.’

These are the tasks that God said Israel would accomplish to His glory and we are told that their latter-day location would be in the isles of the west. True to prophecy, it was the people of western Christendom who abolished slavery, spread the light of the Gospel and fulfilled other prophecies of latter-day Israel.

Interestingly, this verse 8 is the only place in Scripture where ‘heritages’, (Hebrew ‘machalah’) appears. It refers to an estate, patrimony, or inheritance, and here refers to undeveloped territories.

Why would Israel prophetically need to develop new heritages in new lands? Isaiah quotes God as saying that it was to provide room for Israel’s ‘lost children’.

‘The children which thou shalt have, after thou hast lost the other, shall say again in thine ears, The place is too strait for me: give place to me that I may dwell.’

Isaiah ch.49 v.20

The *Amplified Bible* makes it clear that these ‘lost children’ were the Assyrian and Babylonian exiles,

‘The children of your bereavement [born during your captivity] ...’.



The Caucasus Mountain chain stood in the way of a westward migration, but the Lord would make a highway through the mountains for them. Historians refer to this highway as 'the Pass of Israel' and tell us that it was frequented by early European tribes (see details and map in *Story of Celto-Saxon Israel*, by W.H. Bennett, pp 191-197).

### ***The Daryal (Pass of Israel)***



'Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim.'

Isaiah ch.49 v.12

This verse has long contained a mystery. Because of a longstanding assumption that Israel's lost tribes remained in the east, commentaries often guess that 'Sinim' refers to Persia or China. However, Dr Adam Clarke gives this explanation. 'The land of Sinim [סִינִי] "sin" signifies a bush, and [סִינִיָּבַן] "sinim", bushes, woods, etc. Probably, this means that the land where several of the lost Jews dwell is a woodland ... The whole of this land ... may be emphatically called [שְׂטֵיט צִדִּין] "erets sinim", the land of bushes, as it is all covered with woods as far as the eye can reach ... Is it not possible that the descendants of the ten lost tribes are among those in America? ... It is of those lost tribes that the twenty-first verse of Isaiah ch.49 speaks: " these, where had they been?" Historians tell us that Europe and Britain were also covered by dense forests in early times, and these undeveloped lands were a natural and logical place for exiles fleeing Assyria, Babylon and Persia.'

People talk about the lost tribes having all gone EAST, but none of the prophetic latter-day returnees arrive from the East, they are from the North and West! (see Isaiah ch.49 v.12). *Lang's Commentary* says, 'it is noteworthy that none were to come from the east. Babylon and the east are not mentioned'. This is therefore an end of the age prophecy and establishes that Israel's lost children of the exile migrated westward from the Mideast. However, Israel's missing children were not to be known as such during their exile. In the Hebrew of Isaiah ch.49 v.7, Israel has the name 'goi' or 'Gentiles' indicating that God gave her a 'bill of divorce' (Jeremiah ch.3 v.8), and sent her into exile, thus losing her identity as Israel. Immersed in sin and pagan practices, God's people became heathenised and thoroughly 'gentilised' in succeeding generations in new homelands in the west.

A significant Scriptural evidence of lost Israel's gentilisation is the complete absence of the designation 'Israel' after informing us in Isaiah ch.49 vv 5-6 that after the exile they were 'not [re-] gathered'. Dr Peter Pat says, 'What must now also be seen as significant is that although up to this point the use of the designation 'Israel' has been prolific in almost every chapter from chapter 40 onwards, the contrast here in Isaiah ch.49 v.3 [and] ch.49 vv 5-6 are the last mention of Israel as such in this section up to chapter 66. It is henceforth only used genitively, as for example when describing God as 'the Holy One of Israel'. The people will from now on be referred to as 'Zion' and Jerusalem, or as 'Jacob'. This must be seen as significant and surely has the purpose of preventing the too close identification of '... the failing people of God'. God's chosen were divorced, exiled, and lost their right to be identified as Israel in the world, so God refers to them using other terms.

Isaiah ch.49 v.6 says,

' ..., and to restore the preserved of Israel: ...' .

Dr Adam Clarke suggests the reading 'And to restore the branches of Israel - [נְצִירֵי] "netsirey" or [נְצוּרֵי] "netsurey", as the Masoretes correct it ...This word has been a matter of great doubt with interpreters: the Syriac renders it the branch'. The two houses of Israel, the two branches or sticks of Ezekiel ch.37, were to cast off their pagan gentilism to be restored and reunited through faith in Jesus Christ, Israel's Messiah (see Jeremiah ch.3 v.15 & Ezekiel ch.37 vv 22-28).

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