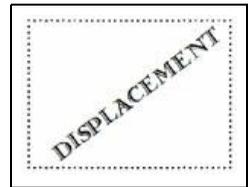
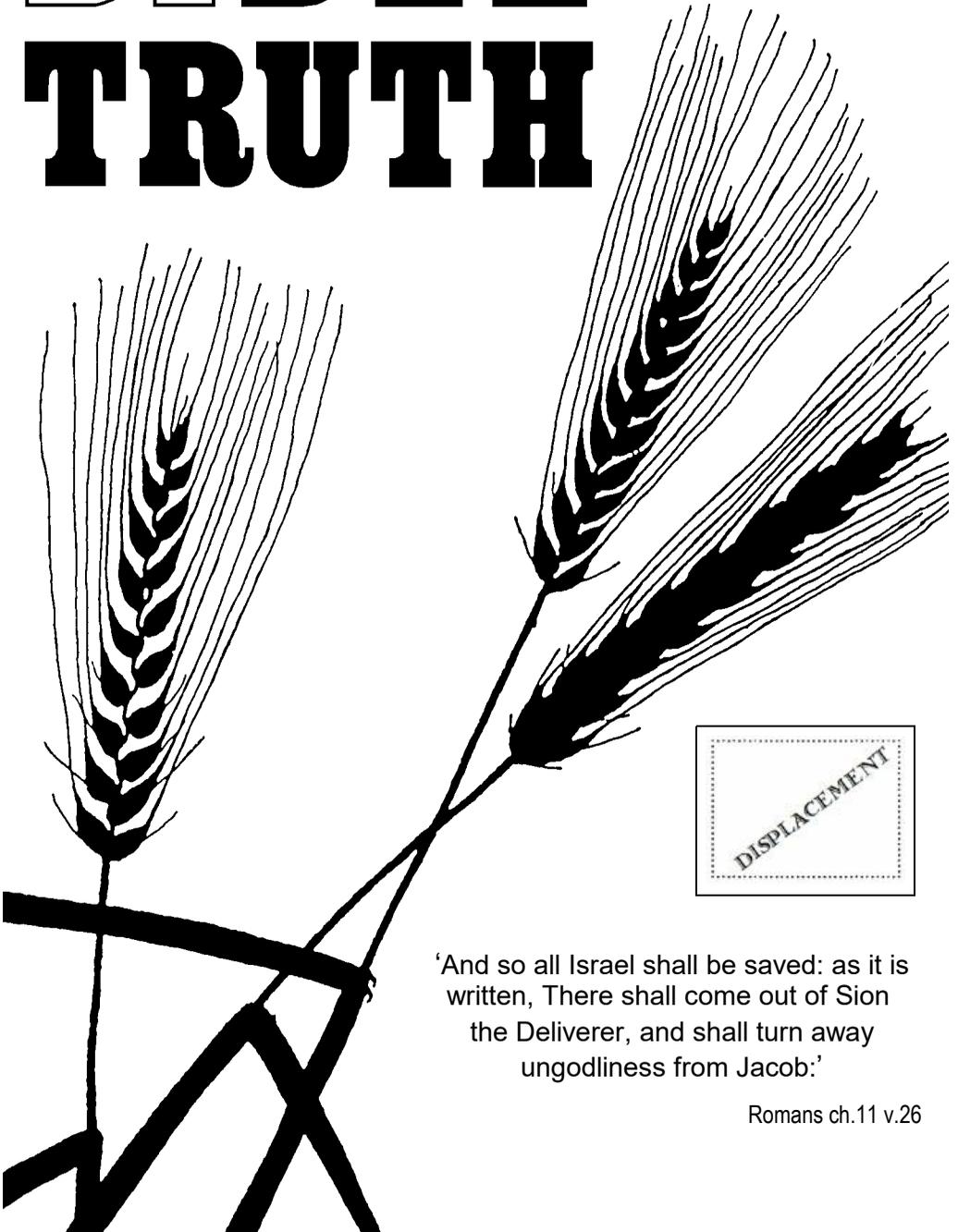


BIBLE TRUTH

No. 296
October/December
2019



'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:'

Romans ch.11 v.26



AMEN

by Arthur Eedle

The Book of Psalms is essentially five books in one, each corresponding to one of the five books of the Pentateuch, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy. The first three of these Books of Psalms end with the statement 'Amen and Amen' (Psalms 41 v.13, 72 v.19 & 89 v.52). Throughout the Old Testament the word Amen is used to add one's enthusiastic response to what has previously been said. It is a retrospective word, just as today we might comment on what we have just heard by saying 'Amen to that!' When used in the double form 'Amen and Amen' it registers a most solemn emphasis to invoke fulfilment.

In the New Testament we find our Lord using the double Amen on numerous occasions, translated 'Verily, verily, I say unto you'. In Greek it is 'Amen, Amen, lego humin'. He alone in the Bible uses the expression prospectively, 'Listen to what I am about to say!' In John Jesus says,

'... Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am'.

John ch.8 v.58

The Jews recognised the meaning and seriousness of those words, treated them as blasphemy, and took up stones to murder Him.

So what does Amen mean? It derives from the Hebrew verb AMAN, 'to strengthen' or 'confirm'. The correct translation of the following,

'That he who blesseth himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth; and he that sweareth in the earth shall swear by the God of truth;'

'Isaiah ch.65 v.16

would be as follows.

‘He who blesses himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of Amen; and he who swears in the earth shall swear by the God of Amen.’

In fact the word ‘of’ doesn't appear in the Hebrew text, and we could equally well say, ‘the God Amen’. In Revelation, Jesus refers to Himself as, ‘the Amen, the faithful and true witness’. His comment amplifies the meaning of the word Amen.

‘And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;’

Revelation ch.3 v.14

To conclude, the Old Testament asks that we shall say Amen to all that has been declared and shown by divine revelation, but in the New Testament Jesus asks that we shall equally affirm all He says concerning Himself and the future. He is the Amen, just as He also says,

‘I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last’.

Revelation ch.22 v.13

The prophetic future therefore requires our acceptance, our approval, and our hearty Amen. His word is faithful and true, and we can rely on it absolutely. What He says will certainly come to pass.

I was interested to read that a certain Moslem said, ‘I wish all the people in this world could unite and live in peace, Amiin ya Allah’. He added ‘Amen’ to his wish.

Here is an interesting aside to conclude with. When the Greek Septuagint scholars reached those terminal verses in Psalms, instead of translating them as ‘Amen and Amen’ they chose to say ‘Genoito, Genoito’. This word comes from the verb Ginomai, and is grammatically an optative, that is, a verb of ‘wishing’. Translating it into English, we could well say, ‘May it come to that! May it come to that!’ It is the exact opposite of Paul's frequent expression, ‘God forbid!’ which in Greek is ‘Me Genoito’, literally, ‘May it NEVER come to that!’
