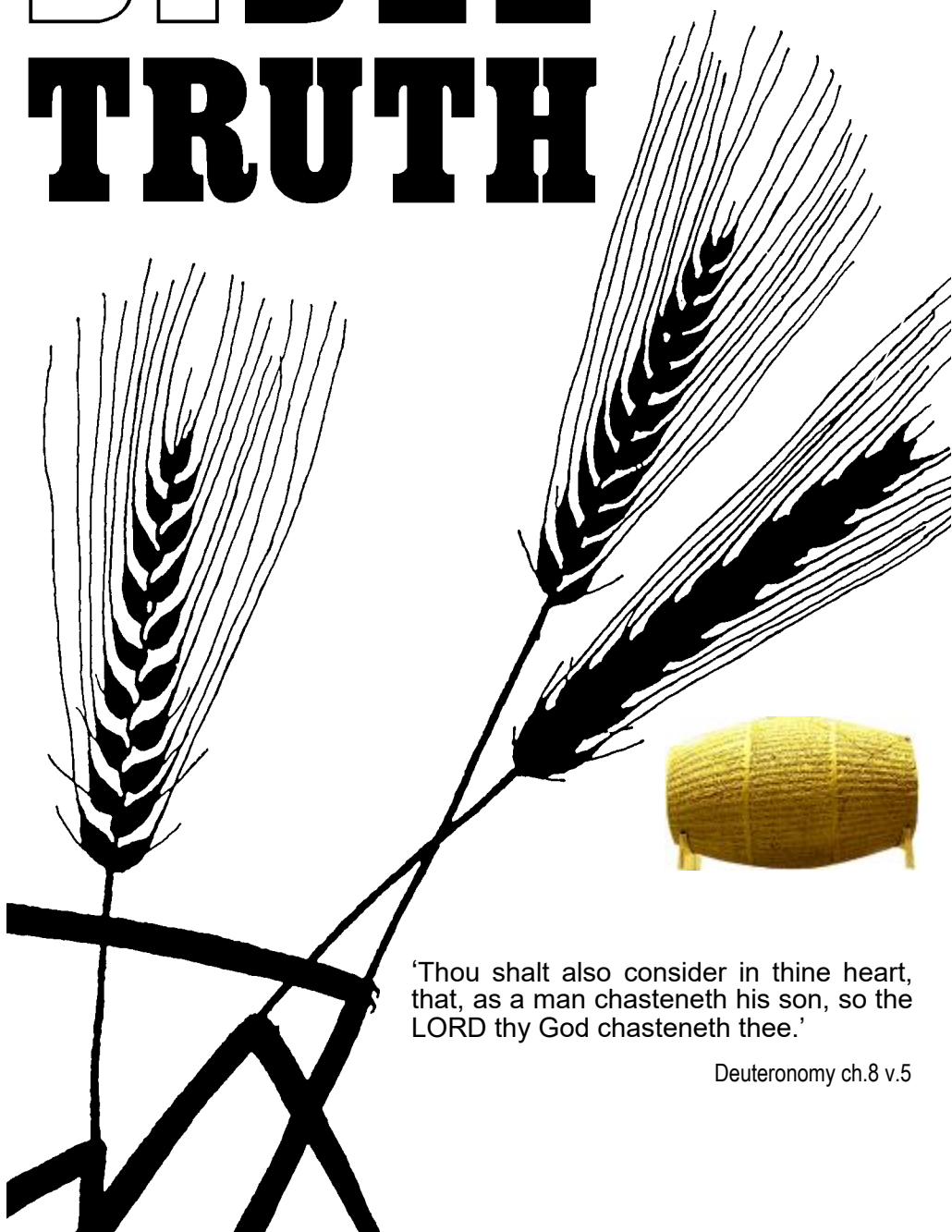


BIBLE TRUTH

No. 298
May/August 2020



‘Thou shalt also consider in thine heart,
that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the
LORD thy God chasteneth thee.’

Deuteronomy ch.8 v.5

I BELIEVE IN MIRACLES

by the late Pastor George Southwick

'A miracle is a supernatural event, whose antecedent forces are beyond our finite vision, whose design is the display of almighty purposes and whose immediate result, as regards man, is his recognition of God as the Supreme Ruler of all things and of His will as the only supreme law.'

God is a worker, for He has thickly strewn infinity with grandeur; God is love and He shall wipe away all tears.

Creation is the cornerstone of our physical world and the unbelieving astronomer is mad!

The Bible is a 'Miracle Book', supernatural; it 'reveals'. The first chapters of Genesis lead us without introduction into the very centre of stupendous miracles . . . more than the natural minds conceive. Then, as you walk through the book of Genesis, 'the seed-plot' of the Bible, you are constantly in the presence of miracles.

Abraham, 'the covenant man', is a miracle. The birth of Isaac, his son, is a miracle. He who says he believes the Bible but does not believe in miracles is under suspicion at once. Either something is wrong with his mental processes, or else his understanding has been badly warped by human rationalism.

Jacob-Israel's whole history is one of miracles. Even the 'judgments' are of divine sending, for more gracious purpose yet hidden in divine purpose . . . The Eternal Purpose! When Moses led the 'everlasting people' out of Egyptian bondage, it was the most stupendous series of miracles in human history. From the Ten Plagues falling on Egypt to the crossing of the Red Sea is just one mighty step after another in the realm of miracle. Then the giving of the Law, and the forty years of wandering in the wilderness by God's people with perhaps four million unorganised slaves, a mob with flocks and herds . . . here was another brain-defying miracle! Even the death of the man Moses was a miracle.

Joshua's ministry was a miracle ministry. So we might go down through the sacred history of Jacob-Israel in prophets and kings, and common people, to the coming of our Lord Jesus. Each page of that

record of their miraculous life was covered by the miraculous manifestations of the power of God in the external world! What special revelations of the presence and power of God! Miracles belong to the higher order of things, which is a higher nature also!

Someone says, 'this is all nonsense!' I will admit it freely. Yes, it is utter nonsense to the person who knows not God in Christ! The miracles of earth are the laws of heaven. You cannot know God in Christ and walk with Him, without walking in the miracle of new life. You tell me you are a Christian when you don't believe in miracles? Listen, every answered prayer is a miracle. Every victory over sin is a miracle. Your begetting and birthing into the family of God is a miracle! Every time the Lord intervenes for you in providence, or blesses you and keeps you from doing wrong, or else helps you do right . . . a miracle!

Every one that calls himself Christian must know whether his faith is on the right track or not. Modern Christendom has dropped the 'supernatural God!' and acquired a 'philosophical god' — all under the name of the Apostolic Faith, but without the actual reality. The true reality of the Presence of God in it all has dripped out of our lives! Today men postulate a God without hands, without a mouth, without feet! Yet the Bible says our God is a God of Action.

We do not need a religion! We need a man, a God. And who is that? 'Behold your God!' Jesus was a miracle! The prophecies that foreshadowed Him were speech miracles. His conception and birth belonged to the miracle realm. His public beginning with the descending dove upon His ministry — miracle! Then Jesus came 'preaching the Kingdom of God'. Stepping from mountain peak to mountain peak in that miracle realm. The sick are healed, dead are raised, demons cast out, blind eyes are opened, and deaf ears unstopped. Limbs maimed grew again at His word and touch. He turned water into wine and fed the hungry multitude with bread and fishes. He becalmed the Sea of Galilee in a mighty storm! A school of fish was brought to the surface that they might be taken and another fish was compelled to have a piece of money in his mouth to pay the tax for Jesus and Peter. A fig-tree died when Jesus spoke to it; and Lazarus lived again! We could go on — our faith in the miracles is in this, that we

believe in them because of Christ, rather than in Christ because of them. Such a life as His was competent to perform miracles.

Now you have believed . . . into Him! You know the genius of Christian faith is Christ taking up His abode in our lives in the Holy Spirit. John said, 'greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world' (1 John ch.4 v.4). Jesus gave the believer 'power-of-attorney' to use His name in prayer. If He did not intend miracles to be perpetuated, why did He give us use of His name? When men strip Christianity of miracles, they strip it of God. When the 'church' denies miracles today, they shut Jesus out of that 'church'. Then what does it become? Jesus said, 'Lo, I am with you alway' (Matthew ch.28 v.20). He meant what He said! Let us practice the Presence of God. In resurrection Jesus came 'in the midst' of His assembled disciples.

May it be the same today!