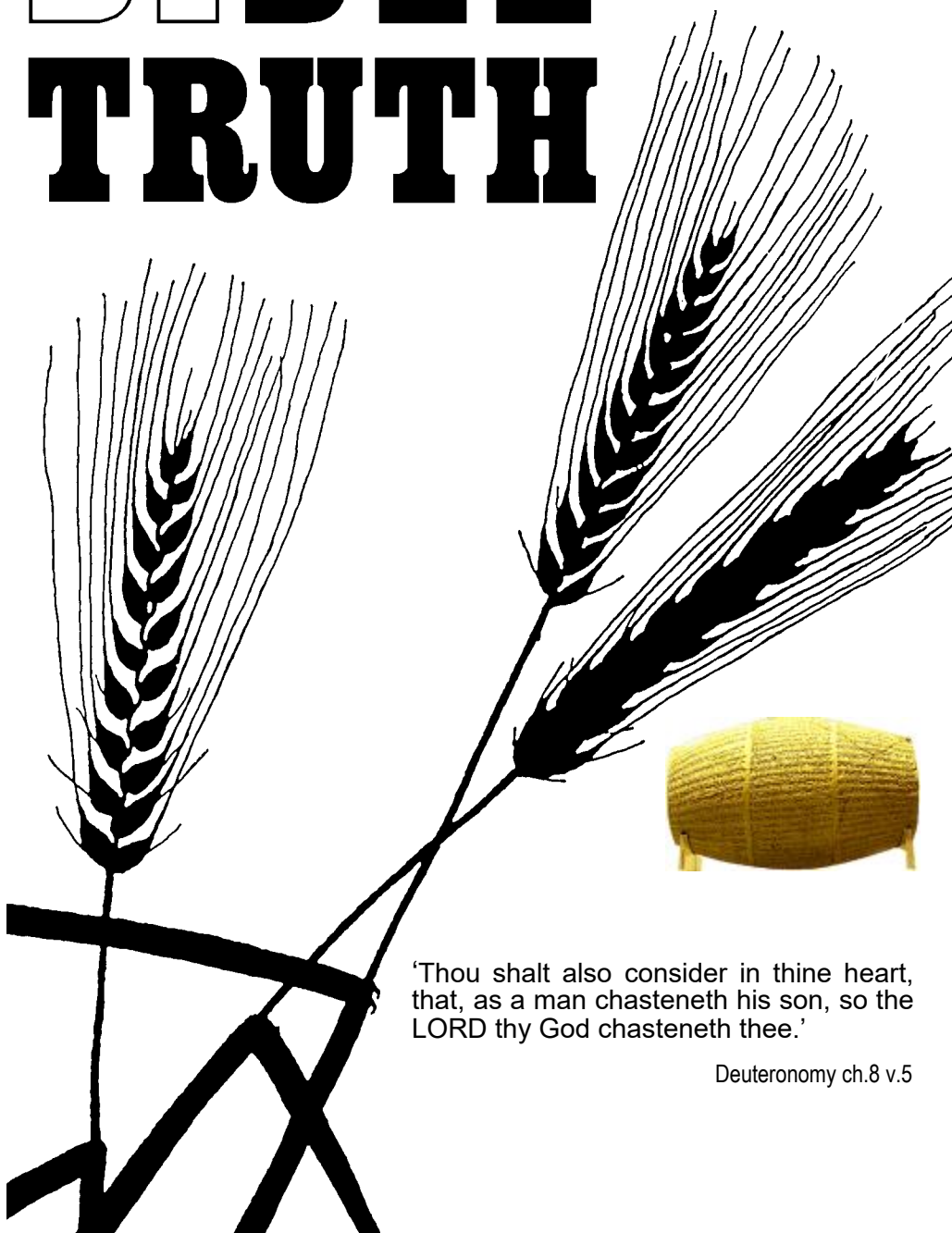


BIBLE TRUTH

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

The Lucky Country

By Rodney Gray

During the late 1500's nations were interested in discovering 'The Great South Land'. One navigator, Captain Pedro Fernandez de Quiros, a Portuguese sailor working for the Spanish Government, made a number of visits to the Pacific Ocean, and thought he had discovered 'Australia'. In 1606, standing in Tahiti, he spoke of the destiny of Australia, being over one hundred years before Captain Cook visited here. Captain Quiros gave this continent the name 'Australia del Espiritu Santo', literally meaning 'Southland of the Holy Spirit'.

In more recent times a well known Christian Song writer, Geoff Bullock, composed a song called The Great Southland (1). In this song he made reference to the earlier name of Australia, and exhorted Australians to look again to the Spirit of God to guide, guard and protect us.

This is the Great Southland of the Holy Spirit

A land of red dust plains and summer rains

To this sunburnt land we will see a flood

And to this Great Southland His Spirit comes.

During 2019, in common with many other countries, there was turmoil in the Australian Federal Parliament. The unexpected outcome of an internal split within the Governing Party was that a strong Christian, Scott Morrison, was elected leader. A federal election was held soon after, and against all the best predictions, Morrison won the election for his party, and he became Australia's Prime Minister. He publicly referred to this win as a 'miracle', saying that he believed in miracles.

In the current world dilemma Australia has now found itself with a practicing Christian in charge. Scott Morrison has continued to uphold his Christian belief, and recently it has been reported that he has been praying for the nation. Mr Morrison also offered prayer for the

‘Heavenly Father’ to ‘give us strength in this country, give us wisdom, give us judgment, give us encouragement and let your peace reign, let your love shower this nation at this time’. (2)

It is interesting to note that this newsworthy item was put up on MSN on the evening of Tuesday 31 March, but by the next morning the link had been removed, and soon after the article was taken down. No, it was not an April Fool’s Day article – it was real, but perhaps in the long run it will be seen that those who took it down were the ‘fools’, not those who put it up! (Psalm 14:1 - The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.) The prayer is also available to view on Facebook (3). Unfortunately not everyone is in agreement, and this You Tube clip has attracted more Dislikes than Likes!

So, from a Christian perspective, we believe that Australia is a Lucky Country at this time, and we continue to seek God’s leadership through the work of the Holy Spirit. We trust that Australia will live up to the name assigned to it – The Great South Land of the Holy Spirit.

‘Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.’

Psalm 33 v.12

(1) Lyrics of the song -

[-https://genius.com/Geoff-bullock-the-great-southland-lyrics](https://genius.com/Geoff-bullock-the-great-southland-lyrics) (4/4/2020)

(2) Sydney Morning Herald -

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/scott-morrison-prays-for-australia-in-video-for-christians-20200401-p54g2o.html> (4/4/2020)

(3) Australia’s Prime Minister prays for the nation -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=khANQLVfttc&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR1vvusNtZpFr6SmpUjtkRu70CaP5lcWdZAVluW06elpH-YU_wNvH1LJ0M (4/4/2020)