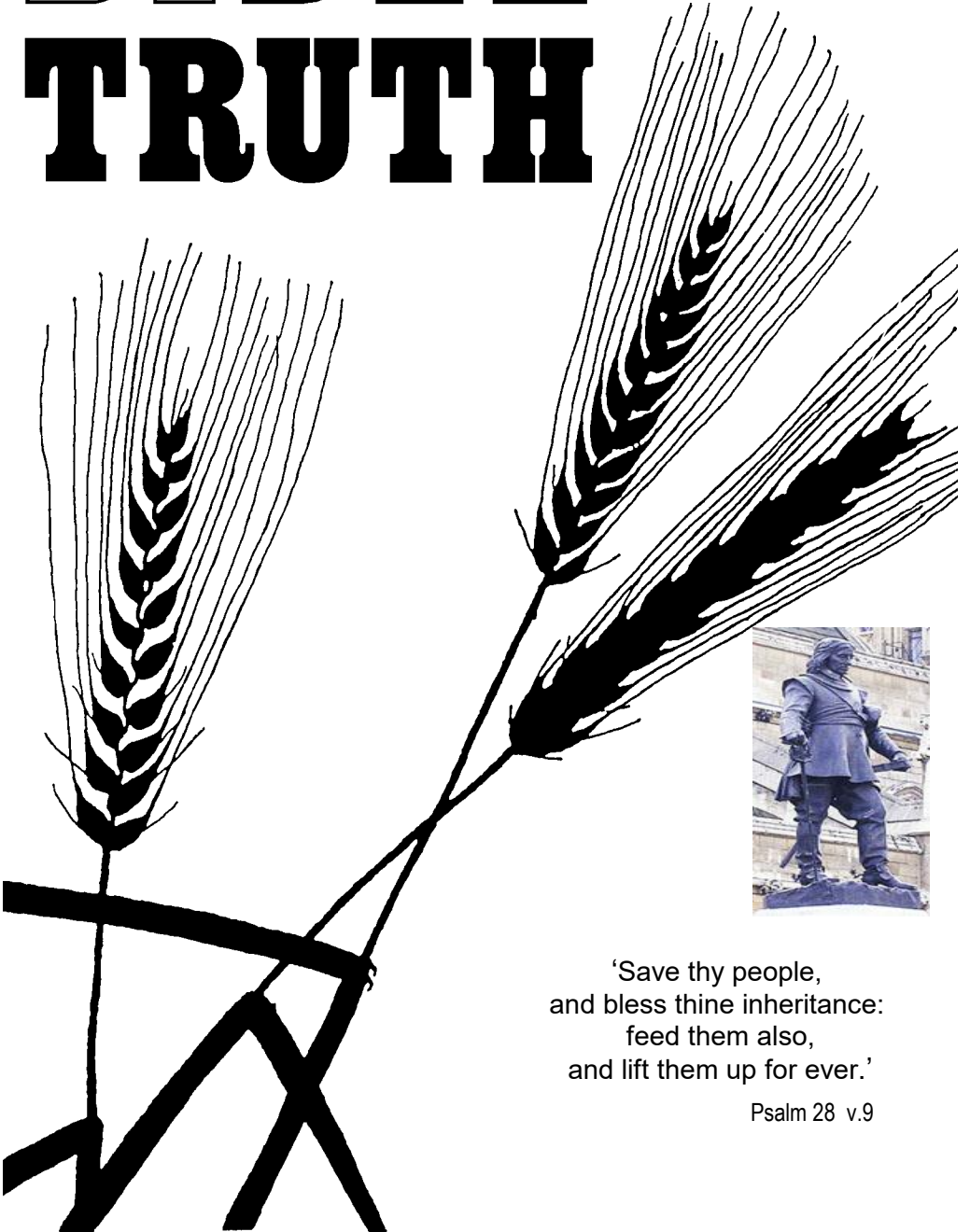


# BIBLE TRUTH

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‘Save thy people,  
and bless thine inheritance:  
feed them also,  
and lift them up for ever.’

Psalm 28 v.9

# WHICH WORLD ?

by John Trotter

The Bible writes of two very different worlds or systems of order. These are best shown in Isaiah ch.13 v.11, Jeremiah ch.10 v.12, John ch.15 vv 8-19 and in John ch.3 v.16 as well as many other places. Please read these verses to realise the difference. Evil and hate relate to one type of world and the other is associated with God's wisdom and His love.

Out of the nine different Hebrew and Greek words used to define the word 'world', I will use only two, namely 'orderly arrangement' and 'age'. Whilst it is not necessary to refer to *Strong's Concordance* for the purpose of this short article, further follow up of the verses I have chosen would be of benefit when you have the time.

James ch.1 v. 27 says that we are to be unspotted from the world. Paul in Romans ch.12 v.2 says that we are not to be conformed or fashion ourselves to this world. The princes, spirits and the god of this world have deceived the people. The foolish wisdom of this world has resulted in people becoming confused over what is the truth.

'And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.'

Isaiah ch.59 v.14

The idea of being separated from the world system is shunned by the social engineers of the New World Order. The world is to be as one in faith and governance. Under some new mental health definitions if someone wishes to be separated and independent he can be defined as antisocial. During recent decades the mental health authorities have categorised dozens of normal moods as mental diseases. It is perhaps surprising that there are a number of verses in the Bible that could be included within the symptoms of mental disorder and certainly apply to the areas of faith and morals. Two such issues are the matters of Solus Scriptus and Solus Christus. By standing on these two matters you have already separated yourself from the world.

It is my view as well as the opinion of a number of pastors, that the church has opened its doors so wide that almost anything is taught from the pulpit. To become a member of the local sports club is more difficult than to be allowed to play a part in the church! The

possible reason as to why the churches have taken this stand is because most ministers believe that the next phase in God's plan is that of either heaven or hell and therefore a simple form of the Gospel is preached from the pulpit.

The Bible is very clear about the membership of the 'ecclesia', namely that we have to be careful with whom we associate with as shown in the following verses.

'And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.'

2 Corinthians ch.6 vv 15-18

Again, in James we find a reference to adultery and friendship with the world.

'Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.'

James ch.4 v.4

Cross references are found in Psalm 106 v.35, Jeremiah chs 3 v.9 and 31 v.32. Many more verses would show that this type of adultery is spiritual and refers to marrying other gods. These verses show a national connection for the need to be separate from the world. These issues are being incorporated into society through tourism and international agreements via the United Nations. The workings of Balaam are taking effect and we do not realise that the first Commandment is being broken. There is only one God and that is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The issue of Christ and His oneness in God is another divisive subject in today's world of multiculturalism and the gods of the nations. You will get a better response from most people if you ask them if they believe in God than if you ask whether they believe in the Christ of the Bible. Maybe the reason is because the first response is of a Deist view whereas the second question requires a deeper and more personal response.

I now turn to the Biblical fact that Israel was to be severed from other people, because she was to belong to the Lord.

‘And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine.’

Leviticus ch.20 v.26

There are many verses that support this intention of God. It is true that Israel due to her disobedience associated herself with other nations and their gods. As a result they became ‘loammi’ (see Hosea ch.1 v.9) or not my people. But Israel’s adultery did not change God’s plan for Israel, for He promised a remnant would be true to the end.

The question remains, is this plan of God for His people expressed in the New Testament? The meaning of the word ‘testament’ must first be clarified. It means contract which is best defined as a ‘new covenant’. So in reality it should be the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. This covenant is made with Israel and Judah.

‘For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:’

Hebrews ch.8 v.8

Surely Romans answers the above question.

‘I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. ...’

Romans ch.11 vv 1-2

To whom was the book of James addressed? ‘to the 12 tribes which are scattered abroad’ (see v.1). The word ‘scattered’ means sown throughout foreign lands. The Old Testament (Covenant) is clear that Israel would be scattered like seed throughout the nations.

From my understanding of the Scriptures, God’s plan for Israel even during the millennial reign is that Israel is still to be a separated people. Israel is to be made ready, not only as ‘holy before God’, but to be a servant people. She is to be a witness to the other nations still on the earth. This process is not going to take place overnight.

In so many ways the Bible states that the world of ‘confusion’ (Babylon) is to pass away. Daniel in ch.2 vv 32-35 describes how a stone that was cut out without hands smashes the image seen by Nebuchadnezzar and interpreted by Daniel the prophet. This image

from the head to the feet is alive today with all the false gods and teachings that those past civilisations were based upon. In time this stone will become the Kingdom of God on earth and Christ will be ruling over the House of Jacob and of His Kingdom there will be no end (see Luke ch.1 v.33). This is still in the future and can not apply to a fulfilment in heaven. It is described as a great mountain which will fill the whole earth. As individuals in the meantime may we fulfil the following words,

‘Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ... but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever ’. 1 John ch.2 vv 15 &17

Amen.

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