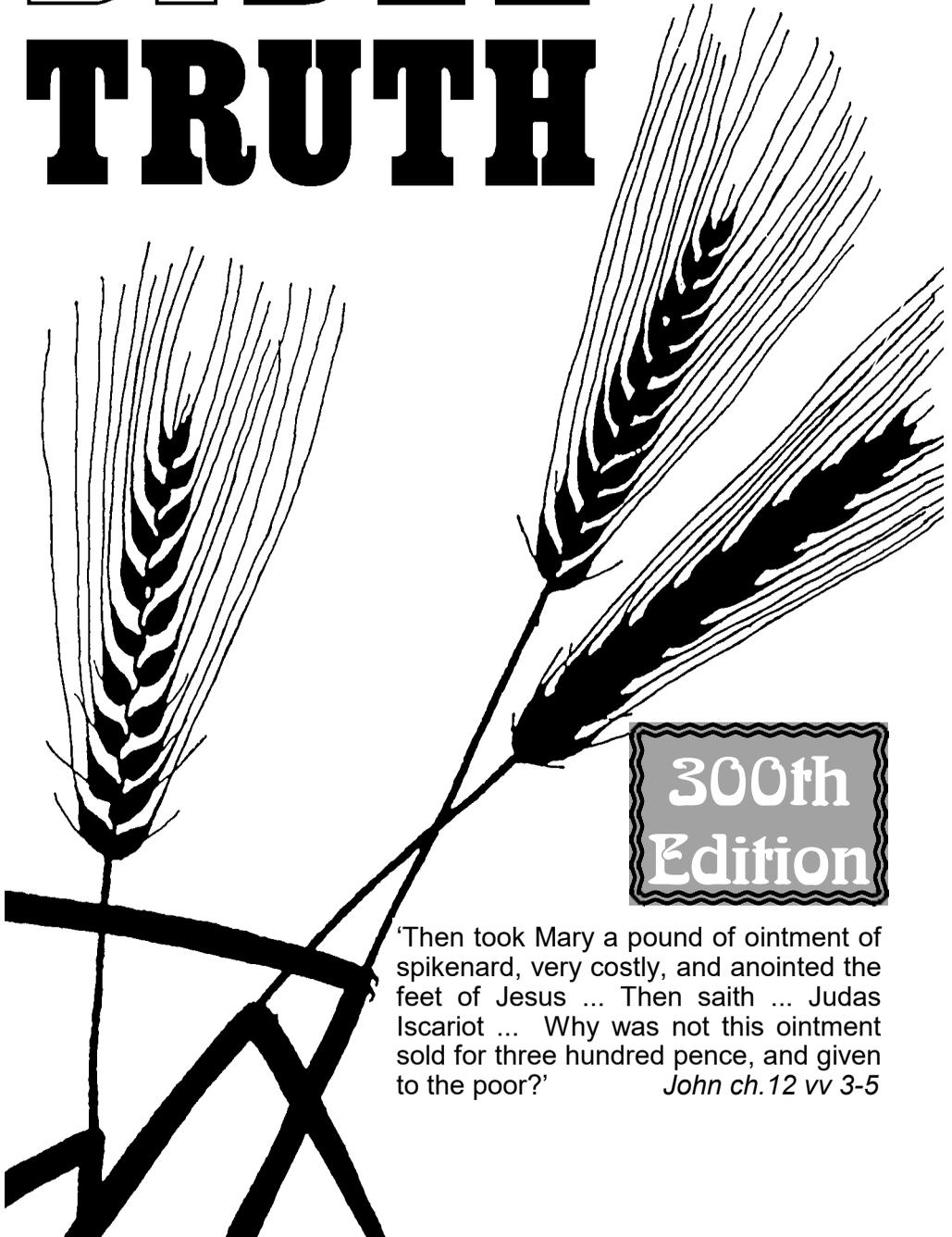


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'Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus ... Then saith ... Judas Iscariot ... Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?'
John ch.12 vv 3-5

Rev. George Thompson started his early life in training for the ministry in Ireland where he toured the land in a mission caravan pulled by horses. After coming to England he joined Mac's (SPBI) team of speakers where he specialised in talks on the Throne of David and the migrations of Israel in Irish History. Later he became a guest speaker for the BIBTF whilst moving to Glastonbury, Somerset where he set up the Christian Prophetic Witness with its Count Down magazine.



'God's Everlasting Covenant'

by Rev. George H. Thompson

'... This cup is the new testament (Covenant) in my blood, which is shed for you.'

Luke ch.22 v.20

When these words were spoken, our Lord had just celebrated the Passover Feast and was about to institute the Communion service of bread and wine, which was to be until His second coming, symbolic of His death and sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. This simple service was also to perpetuate the memory of Israel's great deliverance from Egypt and the establishment of God's literal kingdom on earth. The apostle Paul saw the connection between the two feasts, the Passover and the breaking of bread when he said, '... For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:' (see 1 Corinthians ch.5 v.7).

The sacrifice of Jesus was a necessity. He was 'the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world' (see Revelation ch.13 v.8). His was the sacrifice necessary to undo the evil work of Satan. At the beginning of Christ's ministry John the Baptist, anointed by the Holy Spirit, cried, '... Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world' (see John ch.1 v.29). He, John, could see the end from the beginning; the promise of God fulfilled; the hope and deliverance of all mankind.

One thing becomes clear from these scriptural passages. There is no hope of salvation outside of Christ, neither individual, national or international, for, 'Without shedding of blood there is no remission'. That blood is 'the blood of the everlasting covenant' (see Hebrews chs 9 v.22 & 13 v.20).

The Passover Blood

'... when I see the blood, I will pass over you, ... '

Exodus ch.12. v.13

The act of obedience in sprinkling door posts and lintels with blood from a sacrificed lamb seems a strange way to avoid judgement and bring about deliverance, but deliverance was as simple as that in the land of Egypt. There are millions of people in the world who abhor the teaching of Atonement or covering by the blood of Jesus, but it is the only biblical way whether we like it or not. In the case of Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage, the magnitude of the salvation is of importance. At that time the nation was at least twenty-four million strong and its deliverance was complete. Each year it was to be commemorated by the Passover feast. In this day and age there are millions of people all over the world who celebrate either the Passover or Easter, although in many cases they are oblivious of the connection between the two, in fact, the feasts become of more importance than the things signified, but abuse is never an argument against legitimate use.

Let us clearly see that God has provided us with a great and mighty weapon capable of delivering either an individual or a nation from judgement. Let us learn to use this weapon at all times in our service for our God. Satan's determination is to destroy and undermine God's plan for the human race, but God is able to deliver.

The Power of the Blood

'... For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.' (see 1 John ch.3 v. 8). Appropriation of the merit of the blood of Jesus enables one to become more than a conqueror.

'And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; ... '

Revelation ch.12 v.11

Thus overcoming enabled them to love not 'their lives unto the death'. Surely such faith for one's self, for others and for the nation is

something to strive for; a force and power in this age enabling a believer to live without fear and enabling one to extend God's kingdom on earth.

In his epistle to the Ephesians Paul uses wrestling as an illustration of how to overcome. He is exhorting believers to put on 'the whole armour of God' because we are not up against ordinary natural forces, but 'against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places' (see Ephesians ch.6 v.12).

This is the greatest co-ordination of satanic forces and their power will be unleashed at the end of the age. This power will be directed against God's plan and His people, so much so, that only 'the whole armour of God' and faith in His atonement will suffice to overcome. May the Lord increase our faith!

Latter Day Application

We all repeat the phrases, 'God never changes' and that 'He is the same yesterday, today and forever'. We believe that the 'word of the Lord endureth forever' and that 'one jot or tittle' shall not fall to the ground, but that all shall be fulfilled. Even so, are we really prepared to put our faith to the test and believe that God is able to deliver His latterday Israel? If we are prepared for this, how are we to go about the part we have to play in turning the nation back to God?

The best example we can quote as to national deliverance is found in 1 Kings ch.18, Elijah's triumph on Mount Carmel. Surely the days of Elijah were as bad as our own. The priesthood was apostate, the nation of Israel was pandering to outside nations and their influence, in short, they were as far away from God as possible. In such circumstances God moved through Elijah.

1. Elijah built an altar of 12 stones in the name of the Lord.
2. He ordered 12 barrels of water to be poured on the sacrifice.
3. He prayed,

'... LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word'.

see 1 Kings ch.18 v.36.

The effect of this procedure was electrifying, for 'the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench'. The effect upon the nation of Israel however, was even more startling, for repeating the words, 'they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God' (see vv 38-39).

What a challenge this is in our day when we face an unprecedented crisis. This will be a time when all will be forced by circumstances, to ponder hard and long for a solution.

In his day Paul looked back to this Elijah experience and taught the people the truth concerning Israel. He emphasised that Elijah made intercession and had he failed to do so God still had seven thousand to carry on the work. It is Elijah and the seven thousand to whom Paul is referring when he says, 'Even so then at this present time also (i.e. in Paul's day) there is a remnant according to the election of grace' (Romans ch.11 v.5).

As the year 1975 was entered the need of this 'election of grace' fully armed with 'the whole armour of God' became more than ever necessary. In these last days the merit of the blood of God's everlasting Covenant must be pleaded and sprinkled in faith before the Mercy-Seat, upon the Book and upon the people of Israel. To do this one must believe that God has kept His promises, and that Israel, as distinct from Judah, is seen to exist in the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples of the earth.

'Keep silence before me, O islands; and let the people renew their strength: let them come near; then let them speak: let us come near together to judgment.'

Isaiah ch.41 v.1
