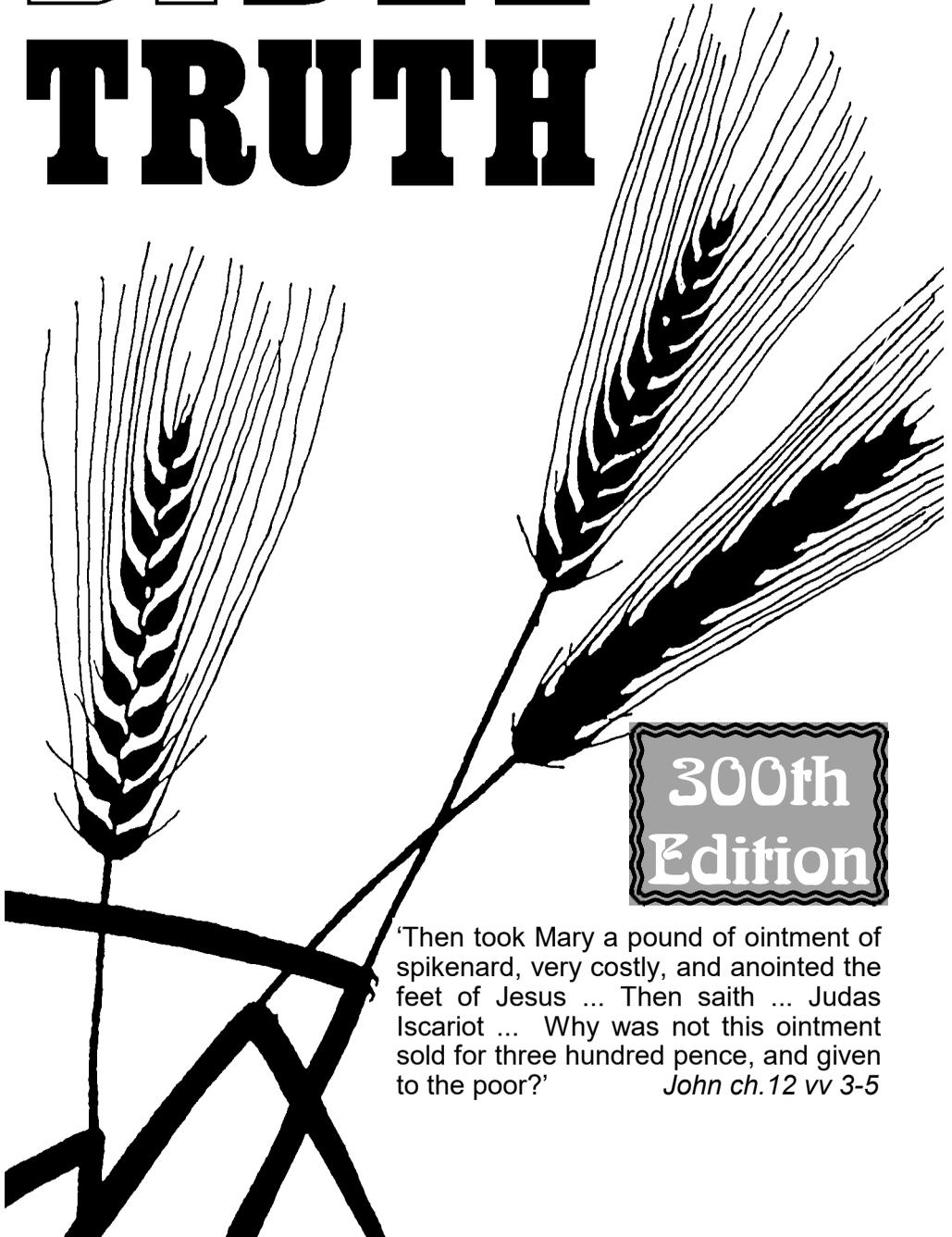


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'Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus ... Then saith ... Judas Iscariot ... Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?'
John ch.12 vv 3-5

Charles Morris worked for the Inland Revenue with much of his spare time helping Mac, sometimes keeping the garden in order, at others chauffeuring him to meetings. Charles not only oversaw the Romford Centre but was a well respected speaker elsewhere. For a decade he edited and despatched Bible Truth magazine. Many people will still remember him though for the trifles he made for Trustee meetings and the team of catering ladies he oversaw at our London conventions.



ONLY GOD MAKES IT RAIN!

by Rev. Charles Morris

‘And also I have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered.’

Amos ch.4 v.7

Jesus clearly showed His power over the forces of nature. His stilling of the tempest made a lasting impression upon those who witnessed the incident, which is recorded in the Gospels of Saint Matthew, Luke and Mark. We will miss the significance of this story unless we realise that the storm must have been a real danger. Those fishermen disciples were accustomed to the sea of Galilee and its sudden squalls, but being terrified they woke Jesus crying ‘Master, carest thou not that we perish?’ Immediately Jesus awoke, rebuked the wind and said to the sea ‘Peace be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm’ (Mark ch.4 v.39).

Such an incident shows that the forces of nature are God’s obedient servants. He may use them to bless or chastise. We believe that the drought which we are now experiencing [in 1974] (an unprecedented withholding of rain) could be a means by which GOD is chastising the British nation.

‘Sing unto the LORD with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God: Who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains.’

Psalms 147 vv 7-8

Similarly God can control the elements as shown by Jeremiah ch.14.

‘And their nobles have sent their little ones to the waters: they came to the pits, and found no water; they returned with their vessels empty; they were ashamed and confounded, and covered their heads. ... Yea, the hind also calved in the field, and forsook it, because there was no grass.’

Jeremiah ch.14 vv 3 & 5

Read the chapter and you will see that the drought came because the nation of Judah abounded with lawlessness and showed no sign of repentance or a will to seek GOD. Remember Elijah’s encounter with the prophets of Baal recorded in the book of Kings, where he predicted a long drought because of the sin of the people of Israel:

‘... As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.’

1 Kings ch.17 v.1

God commanded him in v.3 to hide by the brook Cherith and drink thereof.

‘And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.’ (v.7)

Chapter eighteen records the challenge when God triumphed and the prophets of Baal failed.

‘And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.’

1 Kings ch.18 v.40

In verse eighteen is the reason for the drought in Elijah’s day.

‘... in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.’

Today as a nation we have forsaken the commandments of God in almost every part of our national life, especially by the many laws which have been passed. God has said that He will return to His place until we acknowledge our offences, and seek His face. In other words, He has left us alone ‘to stew in our own juice’!

‘For I will be unto Ephraim as a lion, ... I will take away, and none shall rescue him. I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.’

Hosea ch.5 vv 14-15

May we yet see the nation seeking God in a national day of prayer and repentance. We know what prayer can do!
