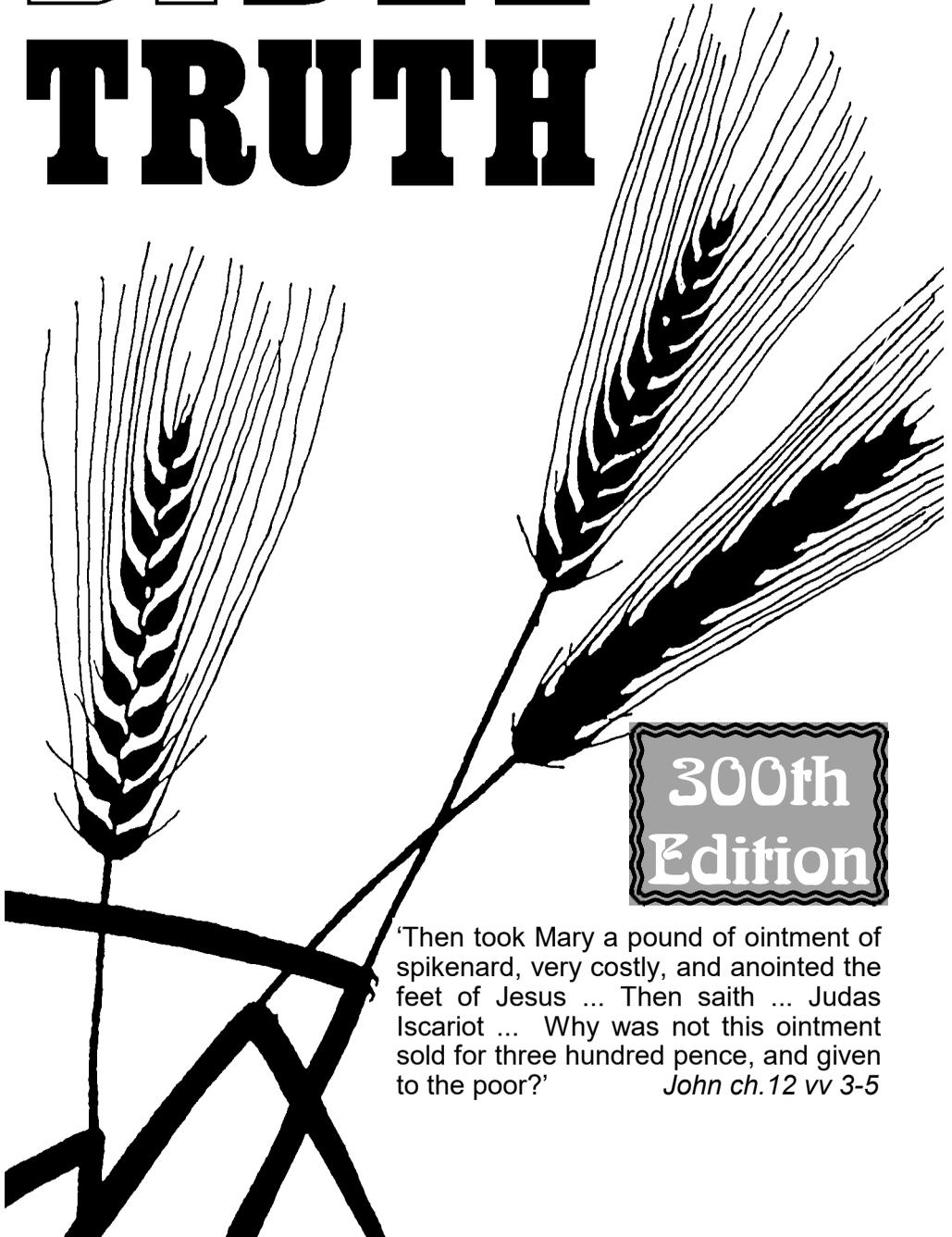


# BIBLE TRUTH

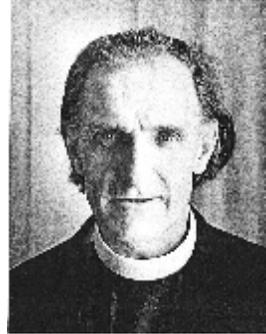
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'Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus ... Then saith ... Judas Iscariot ... Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?'  
*John ch.12 vv 3-5*

*Revd Ted Broad was a much loved Baptist minister in the Romford, Essex area where his pastoral ministry brought peace of mind to so many. His command of showing God's love for us and the people of Israel meant that he was often out speaking to the provincial BIBTF meetings. After Mac passed away Ted led the Fellowship for some years as its Pastoral Secretary. Later he moved to Felixstowe and oversaw our meeting there before retiring to Durham.*



## ***The Saints of God***

**by Revd P. E. (Ted) Broad**

About three years ago many of us were suddenly surprised to know that the Pope (in his wisdom) had decided to relegate the patron saint of England, Saint George, to the second division. No longer was he to be considered with those of the first rank. This seems to me to be sad, in view of the fact Saint George is reputed to have slain the dragon, which is surely a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ who is fighting and will eventually overcome the greater dragon!

But consider, what is a saint? Is it some plaster-cast figure set up in a church, or an item adored in the home? Is it some person, dead at least fifty years, and then in the wisdom of men, after certain ceremonies, canonized? Or what?

### **1. A Saint is One Under the Blood**

‘Gather my saints together unto me; those who have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.’

Psalm 50 v.5

Surely this means anybody that by, or through, sacrifice has entered into covenant relationship with God, whether Abel, Abraham, or Israel, the Church, or anyone else — they are the saints.

The very act of trusting God and thereby entering into the sacrifice makes us His for ever.

‘For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: ...’

Psalm 37 v.28

Is this not the reason why Israel in the Isles is not forsaken, and Judah is to 'be fully restored'? In this respect consideration should be given to Psalms 148 and 149. For instance,

'He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints; even of the children of Israel, a people near unto him ...'.  
Psalm 148 v.14

Do please read these sacred songs and prayerfully think upon them.

Although the Lord's love to His saints is eternal, and can never cease, it is to be remembered that so much blessing is lost by those who disobey His wishes.

'O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.'  
Psalm 31 v. 23

Faithfulness brings 'its own reward', as Hannah testifies having proved this in her own life.

'He will keep the feet of his saints, ...'.  
1 Samuel ch.2 v.9

Was not this abundantly proved in the life of her son, Samuel, who is a wonderful example to us of this way of life (see 1 Samuel ch.12 vv 3-5)? Moreover, the lives of saints such as Joseph, David, Daniel and his three companions, and many others listed in Hebrews chapter 11 are clear indications of this truth.

## **2. A Saint is the Concern of the Whole of the Godhead**

(The references in this section are all from Romans ch.8.)

'There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, ...'.  
v.1

'For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.'  
v.14

So from these two statements alone we have proof of the concern of the triune God for His people, but as we proceed we learn this.

'Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.'

vv 26-27

‘Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.’

v.34

So, here upon the earth, taking an active part in interceding for the saints of God, is the Holy Spirit, and doing the same at the right hand of God is the Lord Jesus. If we then go back to verse 33 we read,

‘Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth’.

Thus, from this chapter alone, we see that the vital concern of the blessed Godhead of Father, Son and Holy Spirit for the welfare of His saints, is twice emphasized.

### **3. The Saints — Thoughts from Ephesians**

In Ephesians ch.1 v.10 we see that the great purpose of God was that,

‘... he might gather together in one all things in Christ, ...’.

I like the illustration of the spider’s web. Each thread has come from the little creature, the outside and the inside and each crossing strand — he the author and creator sits in the ‘middle’. Surely a picture of the Christ!

We note in the epistle to the Ephesians so much about the saints.

‘Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;’.

Ephesians ch.2 vv 19-20

‘Fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God’ refers to Israel of the dispersion, and every Gentile believer.

At the end of chapter 3 it seems that the great apostle enters into a wonderful prayer, which commences at v.14. The beautiful expressions so full of poignant thought, need to be read and meditated over, so that the Holy Spirit can help us to realise the unity of the Church of Jesus Christ.

‘That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.’

vv 17-19

In Ephesians ch.4 v.12 Paul speaks of offices given 'For the perfecting of the saints'. What a complete job the Saviour did in this respect! Earlier in this chapter we read of His descent into Hades, and then His leading captivity captive. So He has made both the believer under the old covenant and those under the new perfect. In ch.5 vv 1-3 we are instructed to be followers of God, as becometh saints, and then in the last part, Ephesians ch.6 vv 11-18, we learn of the armour of the saints, which is essential for their protection when facing the Evil One.

#### **4. Saints and the Enemy**

Although our last reference in Ephesians assures us of the armour which has no Achilles' heel, we must remember that the saints are ever the target of the Devil and his lackeys, whilst the enemy makes his presence felt in a variety of ways. It appears to me from Revelation chapter 13, where we have the two forms of communism described, that the saints living within the domains of these systems will suffer greatly and be overcome (see vv 7 & 10), and this view seems to be confirmed elsewhere (see Revelation ch.16 v.6). This fact is further underlined in the two great chapters dealing with the downfall of the city on seven mountains.

'And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.'

Revelation ch.17 v.6

'And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.'

Revelation ch.18 v.24

Satan in his various guises has sought to destroy the saints of God and will continue to do so until his imprisonment in the abyss during the millennium. Even after the great Millennial reign of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, upon when he is released, together with his underlings, he Satan, will immediately attack the camp of the saints, which event culminates in the final judgement (see Revelation ch.20 vv 7-15).

#### **5. The Lord Jesus Christ & The Resurrected Saints**

Does it not state in Psalm 97 v.10 that 'he (God) preserveth the souls (body and Spirit) of his saints', and in Psalm 116 v.15 'Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints'? So we can believe that He watches the Spirit which returns to Him and the dust which returns to the earth (see Ecclesiastes ch.12 v.7).

When our wonderful Saviour returns, His saints have a glorious part, for they are to be resurrected to reign with Him.

‘Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.’  
Isaiah ch.26 v.19

We have an example of what can and will happen.

‘And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose.’  
Matthew ch.27 v.52

At the resurrection, God’s saints will be like Him, for we shall all be changed and our bodies will be ‘fashioned like unto his glorious body’ (see Philippians ch.3 v.21).

Although they meet Him in the air, (see 1 Thessalonians ch.4 v.17) it is only to assemble there to follow their Lord back to the earth to reign with Him. From Jude v.14 we learn,

‘And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,’.

This was the hope of the believer before the flood.

Moses also had the same hope, as he makes so clear in his swan song of Israel.

‘... and he came with ten thousands of saints: ... Yea, he loved the people; all his saints are in thy hand ... .’  
Deuteronomy ch.33 vv 2-3

The prophet Zechariah tells us in the day of the descent of our Lord to the mount of Olives ‘... the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee’ (Zechariah ch.14 v.5).

Now the victorious army of the conquering Lord sweeps through the land, as described in Joel ch.2, with the Christ at its head who is the King of saints (see Revelation ch.15 v.3). Thereafter, glorious peace shall reign on the earth.

‘... for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.’  
Revelation ch.19 vv 7-8

It is also the time of rewards unto thy servants the prophets and the saints.

**His saints are one with Him forevermore!**

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