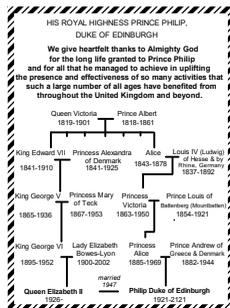
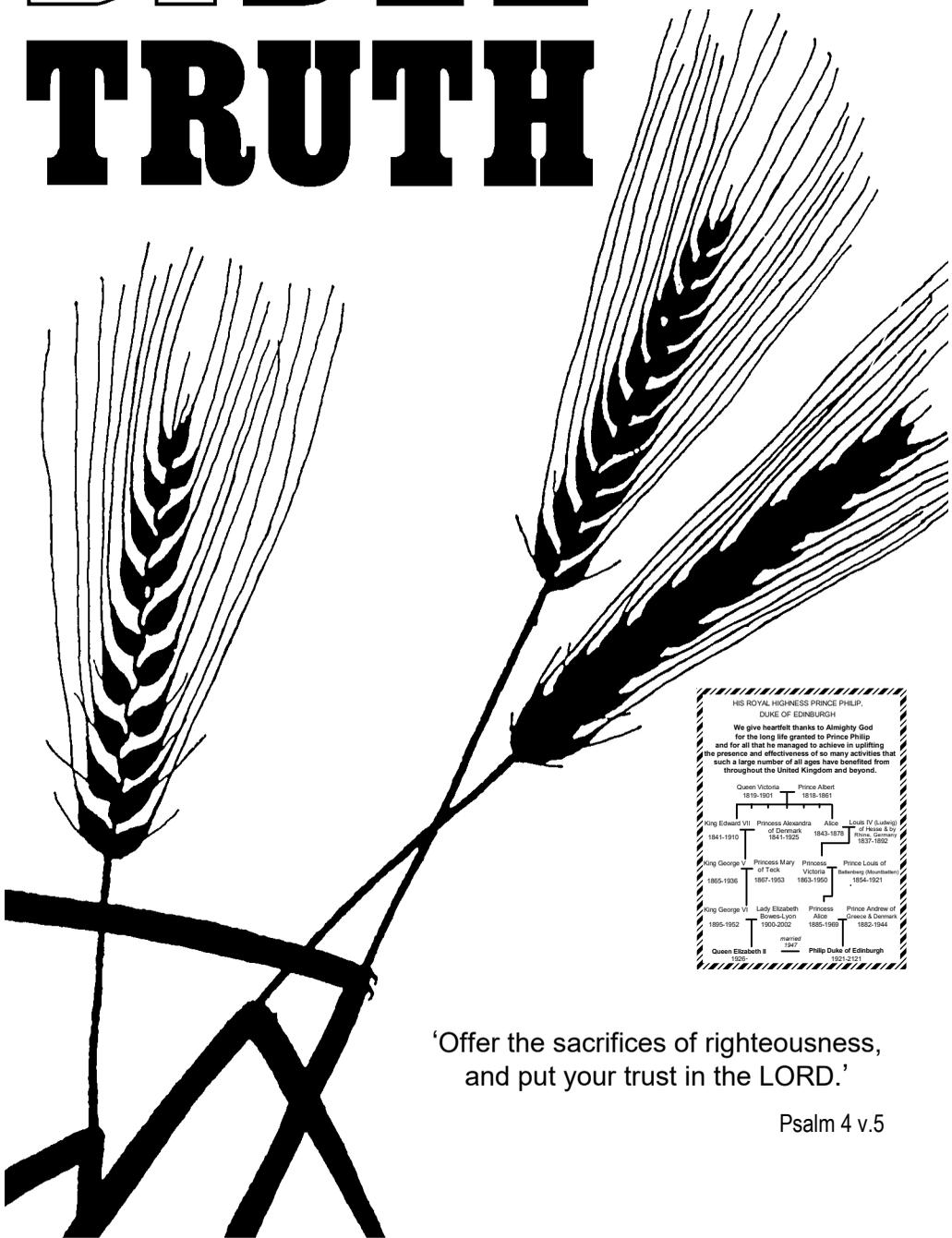


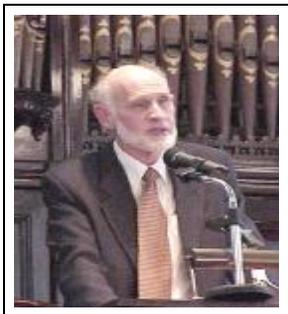
BIBLE TRUTH

No. 301
May/August 2021



‘Offer the sacrifices of righteousness,
and put your trust in the LORD.’

Psalm 4 v.5



COME MY PEOPLE

by Paul Boyd-Lee

**- We are passing into a time of trouble
such as there never was -**

It has been said that the Gospel of the Kingdom needs to be proclaimed right up to the Second Coming. As well as to warn, we are called to watch and thus as Bible students we need to be looking at what is going on behind the scenes. Not too much account should be taken of what the leaders of nations are saying for they have their ambitions, their fears, hopes and their dreads. Today we are living through the stages of the greatest contest of all the ages. Never before in all of the history of humanity, is there to be such a clash as there is ahead of us. We are seeing the great climaxing contest between good and evil. When the clash originally came we might read of it as a simple matter.

‘And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.’

Revelation ch.12 vv 7-9

Is it really that simple compared with what is going to happen in these closing years of the age? We are told that it will be a time of trouble such as there never was, no, nor ever will be.

‘And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.’

Daniel ch.12 v.1

We can also take those words as literally as our Lord used them in Matthew ch.24.

‘For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.’

Matthew ch.24 vv 21-22

This theme repeats in Mark ch.13 and Luke chs 17 & 21. Thus it is a threefold witness indicating a certainty that it will surely come to pass.

We fight against spiritual wickedness in high places

In all eternity past, there has never been a time of trouble such as will be coming. In all aeons there will never be such a time of trouble on this earth and it affects the whole of the human race. What is more, there is neither a single nation, tribe nor person that is living on the earth at that time that will not come into some aspect of this great upheaval that is to come. Because of this, the invisible forces are already preparing for the great struggle that is just ahead. Of this time, the Bible says that we fight not against flesh and blood but spiritual wickedness in high places. Satan and the satanic host are being marshalled for the great struggle. Heaven likewise is preparing its forces for this great event. Unless we can see this picture we can be misled by what is going to happen. Every nation and tribe will be affected in some way or another and the whole world be so divided that each nation will have that particular part of the great struggle that is to be allocated to it by God Almighty.

Places of Sanctuary

Where do Bible believing, Christians stand in all this or more correctly, where should they be? In the parlance of the walled cities of ancient Israel, is it time to secure ourselves into the strong tower?

John the Divine in Revelation tells God's people to '**Come out**' and Isaiah orders them to '**come in**'.

‘... Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. **Come out of her, my people**, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.’

Revelation ch.18 vv 2-4

‘Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain. In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea.’

Isaiah ch.26 v.20 - ch.27 v.1

Note that, In both these texts the call is to ‘my people’ and in Isaiah the word **Chambers** is plural. Who are God’s people? Principally they are those who obey His will.

‘ ... whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered:’

Joel ch.2 v.32

‘... whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

Romans ch.10 v.13

In the first instance God has a servant people, namely Israel. However, God takes account of two other groups of people; the strangers that are regularly found amongst Israelites and those grafted into spiritual Israel.

Comparison with past key events

There is good reason to compare these two calls to God’s people to ‘Come’ with key events concerning His people’s separation in the past. Indeed Jesus did this when asked about events surrounding the Last Days prior to His return. Some key past events were these.

- Entering the Ark, prior to the flood,
- Israelites entering their dwellings prior to the angel of death passing over Egypt,
- Rahab securing her house prior to the fall of Jericho.

Common factors can be shown between them but one in particular was of supreme importance, namely salvation and deliverance. In Noah’s case he was told,

'Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch'. Genesis ch.6 v.14

He was specifically told to make a 'chamber' containing 'chambers' (rooms). Secondly it was to be double pitched (within and without). Pitch is an ancient symbol of sanctification. God shut Noah and his family in thus securing them from the judgment to come.

In Egypt the problem was plagues, particularly death of the firstborn. In this situation the method of sanctification was different. The Israelites secured their doors by dipping a bunch of hyssop in the blood of the lamb and sprinkling it on the lintel and door posts.

Rahab shut her door and bound a scarlet thread in the window of her dwelling. The thread being symbolic of the sanctifying blood and saved her from the destruction of Jericho.

In essence their saving method was a simple 3-step method.

1. Come in,
2. Secure the door,
3. Plead the blood. (Acknowledge God is God and Jesus is Lord).

In South-west England there is a constant reminder to God's calling into Chambers. In the very Mendip hills that Jesus is said to have walked, just a short walk from Priddy, is a place called Cheddar. It is a great tourist attraction because it contains a beautiful gorge cut through the hills and passing to the top. Visitors can pay to see the large series of caverns (chambers) containing stalagmites & other limestone phenomena which are set in the sides of the gorge. Do you know that the Hebrew word that Isaiah uses for Chambers is 'Cheder'? How did this place get its name? Did Jesus name it perhaps? Whatever the reason it is a remarkable witness in the land of Britain (which translates from the Hebrew as 'Covenant people').

National and Personal safety

On a national level we have a duty to watch and to warn our nations to come out of ungodly systems and enter into a place of safety. In the past, the chambers of refuge that individuals came into were a very visible thing representing the spiritual state of those inside. Individuals could scoff at the ark abuilding, the apparent feasting of Israelites when faced with adversity and Rahab and her quirky decorations.

Today though, we live in an age of great exposure; who knows whether when put to the test we shall literally hide away like the wartime resistance fighters. The outward visible sign may not be permitted for fear of death but the inner spiritual truth can still be held, namely belief in the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

‘Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. ... if any man enter in, he shall be saved,...’ .

John ch.10 vv 7 & 9

When Jesus shed his blood on the cross for us he pitched the boat within and without, he sprinkled the blood on the door lintel, he is the scarlet thread. Down through the centuries God has made every provision for all the waywardness of His people. You are one of those people; have you accepted that great love he has extended by sending His son to save you. Have you knocked on that door to be let in? Jesus said,

‘In my Father's house are many mansions [many chambers]: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also’.

John ch.14 vv 2-3

That is the offer which He extends to us. There is a glorious future beyond the trouble that lies immediately ahead, there will be a new day, a new hope, all the old troubles will have passed away.

We will be safe in the chambers of the Lord.

‘God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.’

Psalm 46 v.1