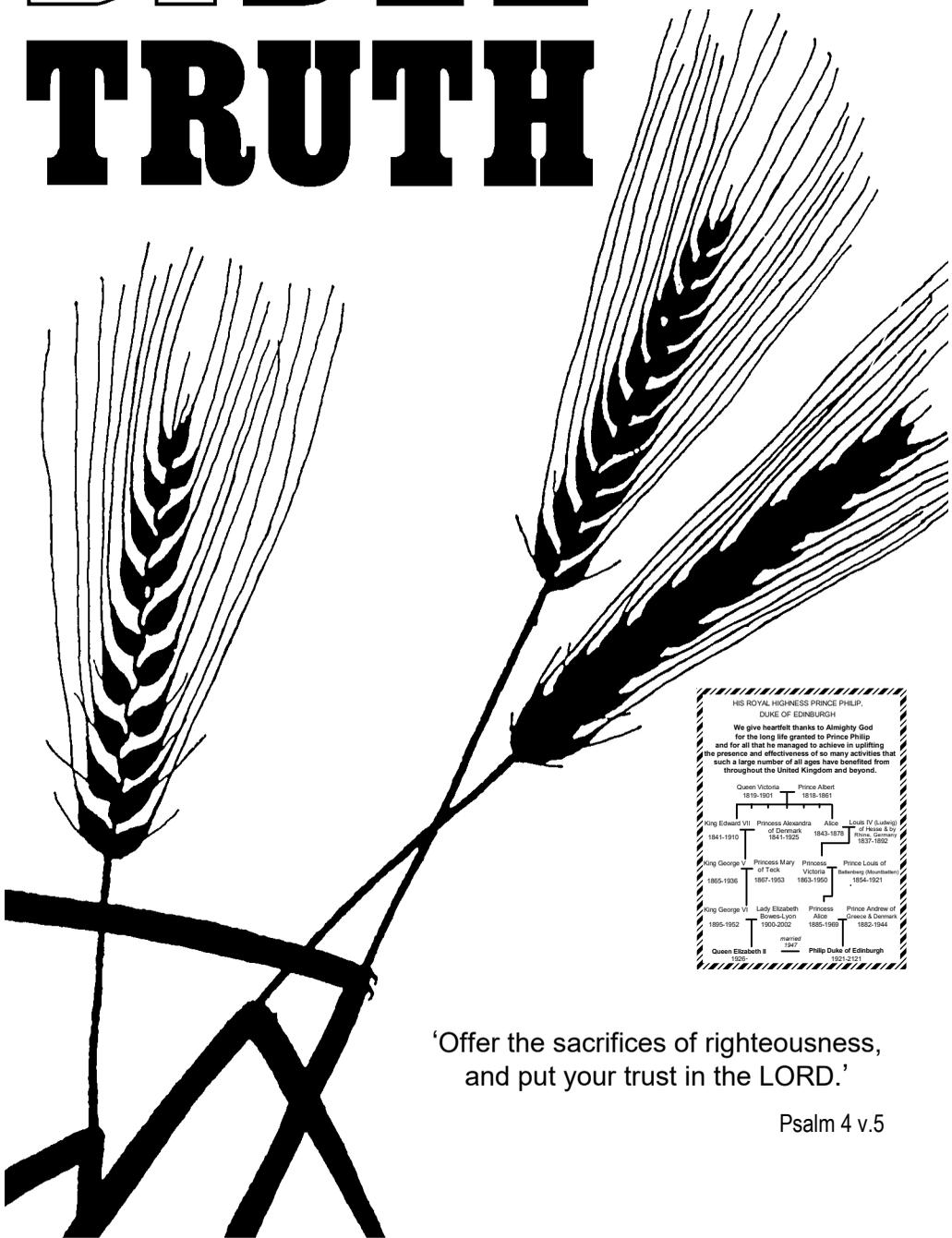


BIBLE TRUTH

No. 301
May/August 2021



**HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE PHILIP,
DUKE OF EDINBURGH**

We give heartfelt thanks to Almighty God
for the long life granted to Prince Philip
and for all that he managed to achieve in uplifting
the presence and effectiveness of so many activities that
such a large number of all ages have benefited from
throughout the United Kingdom and beyond.

Queen Victoria 1819-1901 Prince Albert 1819-1861

King Edward VII 1841-1910 Princess Alexandra of Denmark 1844-1925 Alice 1843-1878 Louis IV (Ludwig) of Hesse & by Rhine 1837-1902

King George V 1865-1936 Princess Mary of Teck 1867-1953 Princess Victoria 1863-1951 Prince Louis of Battenberg (Mountbatten) 1854-1921

King George VI 1895-1952 Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon 1893-2002 Princess Alice 1885-1955 Prince Andrew of Greece & Denmark 1882-1944

Queen Elizabeth II 1926 married 1947 Philip Duke of Edinburgh 1921-2021

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

Psalm 4 v.5

JACOB'S STONE

by David Hay

The Bible has much to say about a stone which played an important part in the history of Israel and which has appeared repeatedly in the record of their posterity, for it was to remain with them wherever they went. The emblem of the Kingdom of God is a 'stone' which occupies a place of highest importance for it is symbolic of the 'Head' or 'cornerstone' of the Kingdom.

In the Book of Daniel a prophecy describes a stone cut out of the mountain without hands, which destroys all other kingdoms, itself becoming a Kingdom finally filling the whole earth. In this vision, the succession of kingdoms of the world from the time of Nebuchadnezzar, are depicted by the composite figure of a man with a head of gold, breast and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron and feet part iron and part clay. A stone smites the image on the feet causing the entire and complete destruction of the kingdoms represented by the metals making up the image. Daniel gives the answer to the symbolism by saying that the kingdom of Babylon was represented by the head of gold. After Babylon there would be a succession of kingdoms,



which happened historically, where silver represented Medo-Persia, brass represented Greece and iron represented Rome which divided into a mixed series of sub-kingdoms. Thus, the Stone Kingdom of God, separate and apart from those kingdoms, would supersede all these, destroying them utterly.

The stone is first encountered at the time when Jacob, fleeing from the wrath of his brother Esau, used it as a pillow when he rested on the way to Haran.

‘And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first. And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.’

Genesis ch.28 vv 10-22

So here is the beginning of the history of a stone which became so important to Jacob that he anointed it with oil and made it the House of God!

After this event Jacob went on to Haran where he served Laban for his wives and goods, returning at length to his own land rich in flocks and herds and blessed with wealth and children. God had fulfilled His part of the contract and now it remained to Jacob to ratify and confirm his vow.

‘And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother. Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments: And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went. And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem. And they journeyed: and the terror of God was upon the cities that were round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob. So Jacob came to Luz, which is in the land of Canaan, that is, Bethel, he and all the people that were with him. And he built there an altar, and called the place Elbethel: because there God appeared unto him, when he fled from the face of his brother.’

Genesis ch.35 vv 1-7

Jacob’s name change to Israel (God rules) was confirmed by God.

‘And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins; And the land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to thee I will give it, and to thy seed after thee will I give the land. And God went up from him in the place where he talked with him. And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he talked with him, even a pillar of stone: and he poured a drink offering thereon, and he poured oil thereon. And Jacob called the name of the place where God spake with him, Bethel.’

Genesis ch.35 vv 11-15

This is a duplication of the first act by Jacob, more than two decades previously, by the principle of ‘witnesses’ of the anointing of the stone and the renaming of the place. The stone thus became the witness to the final statement of the Abrahamic covenant to Jacob-Israel by God and to this day, this stone bears witness of and testimony to God’s promises and covenant to Israel.

The stone must have been taken to Egypt because it was brought out from there at the Exodus and it accompanied Israel in her wanderings in the wilderness. It would be logical to assume that Jacob took the stone with him when his family went down to Egypt, but if not then, Joseph, after the burial of his father would have taken it because Jacob made him (Joseph) the custodian of this, the stone of Israel. In blessing Joseph, Jacob said,

‘... his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:)’.

Genesis ch.49 v.24

There are frequent allusions to the role of the stone from then.

There are two events recorded by Moses when water came forth from the rock. The first,

‘Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink ...’.

Exodus ch.17 v.6

And the second,

‘Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink. And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him. And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also’.

Numbers ch.20 vv 8-11

In both accounts the source from which the water is derived is ‘rock’. But the people were in two different places at the time, the first, at Rephidim near Horeb, the second at Kadesh many miles north. Was this the same stone? It is very telling that on the first occasion, God told Moses to strike the rock (Exodus ch.17 v.6) but on the second, to speak to it (Numbers ch.20 v.8). Moses was very angry with the people on the second occasion because of their rebellious complaining and disobeyed, striking the rock instead. God regarded this as a very serious breach as, for this single act of disobedience, Moses was barred from leading the Israelites into Canaan at the end of their period of wandering.

‘And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.’

Numbers ch.20 v.12

Joshua was to take over that privilege. The penalty seems severe, but perhaps not, when considering the symbolic relationship between God, Israel and the importance of the dedicated, anointed stone and obedience to God's directives.

Paul refers to these events when he likens the stone or rock that went with the Israelites, to Christ, for it was from this guardian rock that they received water in the wilderness.

'Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.'

1 Corinthians ch.10 vv 1-4

The stone was set up as a witness in the Sanctuary by Joshua.

'And Joshua said unto all the people, Behold, this stone shall be a witness unto us; for it hath heard all the words of the LORD which he spake unto us: it shall be therefore a witness unto you, lest ye deny your God.'

Joshua ch.24 v.27

It was Israel's custom to crown their kings upon or by a special 'stone'. When Joash was brought forth and proclaimed the heir of David's throne and was anointed King the account states, that,

'... when Athaliah heard the noise of the guard and of the people, she came to the people into the temple of the LORD. And when she looked, behold, the king stood by a pillar, as the manner was, ...'.

2 Kings ch.11 vv 13-14

In 2 Chronicles ch.23 v.13 it says, '... she looked, and, behold, the king stood at his pillar ...', thus indicating that it was a particular pillar belonging to those who were anointed King. Later, as recorded in 2 Kings ch.23 v.3 we read, 'And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, ...'.

The stone or rock merges with the role of Christ and His Kingdom.

'Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.'

Matthew ch.21 vv 42-44

In a pre-emptive prophecy Psalm 118 vv 22-23 says,

‘The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the LORD’S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it’.

Paul declared that the Rock which went with Israel was Christ.

‘Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet:’

Isaiah ch.28 vv 16-17

In a usually incorrectly interpreted scripture, Jesus asks the disciples,

‘... Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?’.

Matthew ch.16 v.13

And Simon Peter replying, said,

‘... Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it’.

vv 16-18

The grammatical structure of this passage means that it is upon Peter’s confession, i.e. who Christ is and His truth, that the church shall be built, certainly not on Peter himself (*Companion Bible* p.1345, note 18). Again, the identification of Christ with the rock (stone) is clear.

In Zechariah there is the prophetic promise of a coming day of triumph for this stone when it is brought forth in the greatest of all coronations when Jesus Christ shall take over the Throne of His father David and reign over the Stone Kingdom (House of Jacob) for ever.

‘Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.’

Zechariah ch.4 v.7

The Stone in Ireland, Scotland and England

In about the year 583 BC some four years after the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, there arrived at the port at the north-east corner of Ireland, Carrickfergus, in a ship of the Iberian Danaan, an aged man named Ollam Fodhla. He was accompanied by a Princess of exceptional beauty (of the lineage of Pharez-Judah) named Tamar Tephi, and a secretary, Simon Brug. They brought with them a massive, strong chest which they regarded with the utmost reverence, a golden flag with the device of a red lion emblazoned on it and also a large, rough stone - 'Lia Fail' (Stone Wonderful). Just at this time Eochaidh the Heremon, of the royal line of Zarah-Judah, was awaiting his coronation. He met Tamar Tephi and after consent was given by the 'Prophet', Jeremiah, they were married. And both crowned on the Stone of Destiny.

Irish history relates that the stone remained at Tara where only the supreme kings of Ireland were crowned until one of the descendants of Tamar, Fergus I, removed it to Iona where the kingdom of the Scots was established upon him and his posterity. He was anointed King on the Stone of Destiny as were the kings of Scotland for many generations. The stone remained in the coronation chair of the Kings of Scotland until the time of Edward I in 1296, who removed it to Westminster Abbey and placed it in a specially constructed Coronation Chair. Inscribed on the arch surrounding the chair in which the stone was placed are the words 'This is God's House' - the same words that Jacob used when anointing the stone at Beth-el. The kings of England have been crowned on it ever since - with the exception of Mary I (bloody Mary) who was a Roman Catholic.

This ancient stone is about twenty-two inches (53cm) long, eleven inches (28cm) wide and thirteen inches (33cm) broad. The two large iron rings fastened into each end do not corrode but they are almost worn through by abrasion from the pole by which the stone has been transported over a long time. This must have happened before the Stone was brought to Ireland by Ollam Fodhla, over 2500 years ago because it has been sedentary since that time!

The origin of this stone has been examined geologically and rocks of this sort can be found near Beth-el. However, there is debate over whether similar stones of the same structure could occur in Ireland, Scotland or England. Even so the aforementioned things indicate that this was Jacob's pillow stone, the stone that was carried by Israel

during her wanderings until taken by Jeremiah to Ireland. When the Temple was destroyed and Judah was taken captive to Babylon, a prophecy by Ezekiel confirms that the 'stone' would be removed.

'... Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him.'

Ezekiel ch.21 vv 26-27

The Stone was taken to Ireland (overturned), to Scotland (overturned), to England (overturned) and it is expected to remain in the Isles until Christ comes to take His rightful Throne and rule in Israel. This is the stone which binds the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples of Britain and America with Israel of the past. It is a type of Christ and represents the Stone Kingdom. It is the very Throne of David upon which the sons of David were formerly crowned in the Temple of God at Jerusalem, now set over Israel regathered in the Isles. So God has kept faith with David and preserved His Throne through all generations as He promised.
