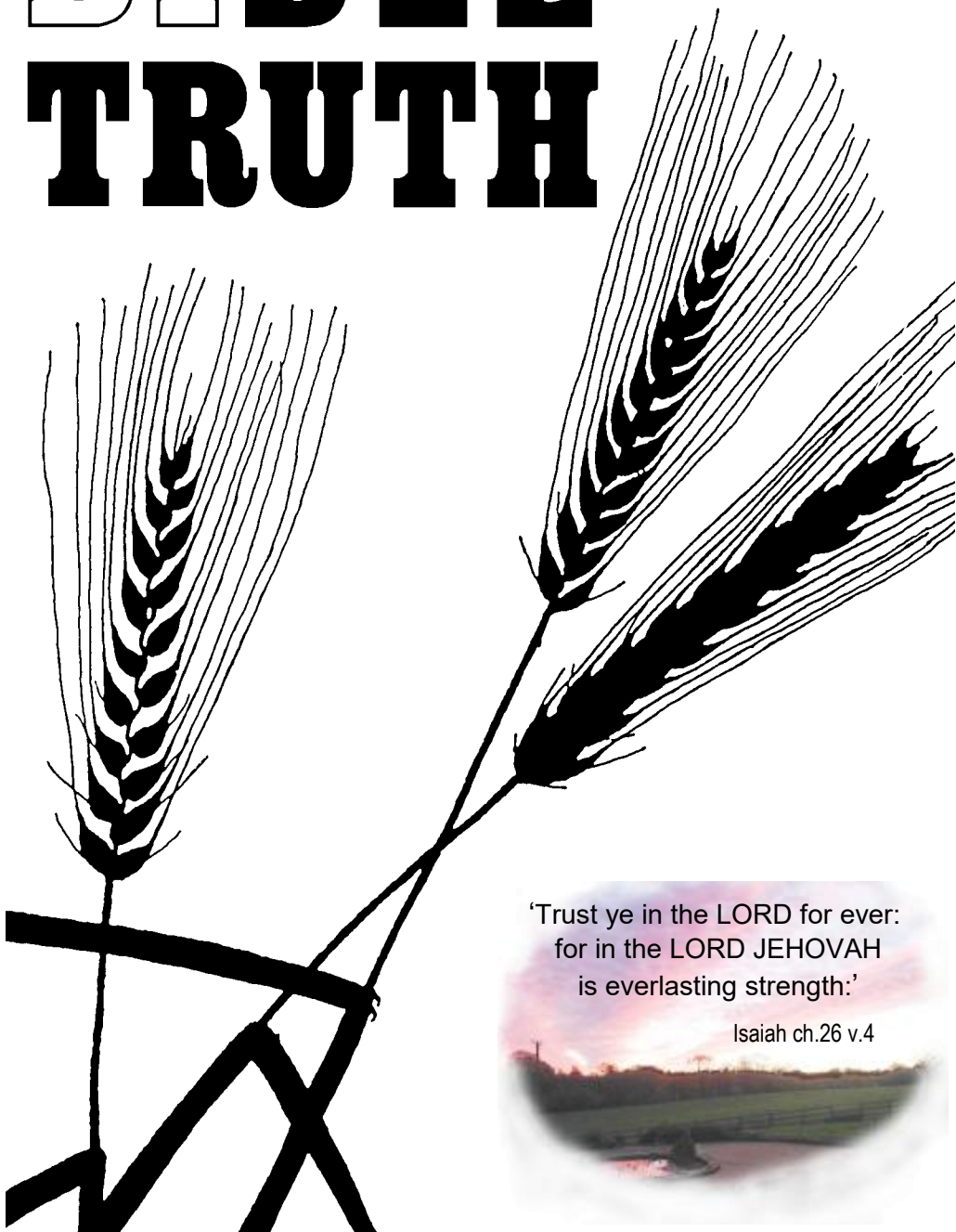


BIBLE TRUTH

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'Trust ye in the LORD for ever:
for in the LORD JEHOVAH
is everlasting strength.'

Isaiah ch.26 v.4

The Rejected King

by Tamar Tephi McKay

In 1 Samuel ch.8 vv 1-7 we read of when Samuel was old and he had made his sons, Joel and Abiah, judges over Israel, but they '... walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment'. All the elders of Israel then went to Samuel and desired him to give them a king to judge them like all the nations. This displeased Samuel and he prayed to the Almighty. God responded to Samuel saying in v.7,

'And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them'.

This was not to be the only time that the Almighty would be rejected as king. In John chapter nineteen we read of Jesus' time before Pilate. After repeatedly seeking to release Jesus, and declaring to the Jews, 'Behold your King!' Pilate is still confronted with the cries of, 'Away with him, away with him, crucify him'. Pilate asks, 'Shall I crucify your King?' The chief priests reply with definite finality, 'We have no king but Caesar' (see John ch.19 vv 14-15). This brings the words of Spanish philosopher George Santayana to mind, 'Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it' (*The life of Reason*, 1905).

Once again the Almighty was rejected by men, who would rather have had a man (who has a sin nature) to reign over them, instead of the Righteous King of kings. Over 2,000 years later men still have the same approach and attitude. Mankind would rather make their own laws and have their choice of leaders, being 'lovers of their own selves' (see 2 Timothy ch.3 v.2), than have the leadership and laws of the Almighty. Once again, the Almighty is being rejected as king by men. However, there is a day coming when He, Who has been rejected as King by men continually, '...shall rule all nations', 'with a rod of iron', and 'He shall reign for ever and ever (see Revelation ch.19 v.15). He will no longer be the rejected King because, He shall be, 'KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS' (v.16). 'At the name of Jesus **every** knee shall bow and **every** tongue confess that He is Lord' (see Romans ch.14 v.11), or might we paraphrase it, 'that He is KING'.

Hallelujah!