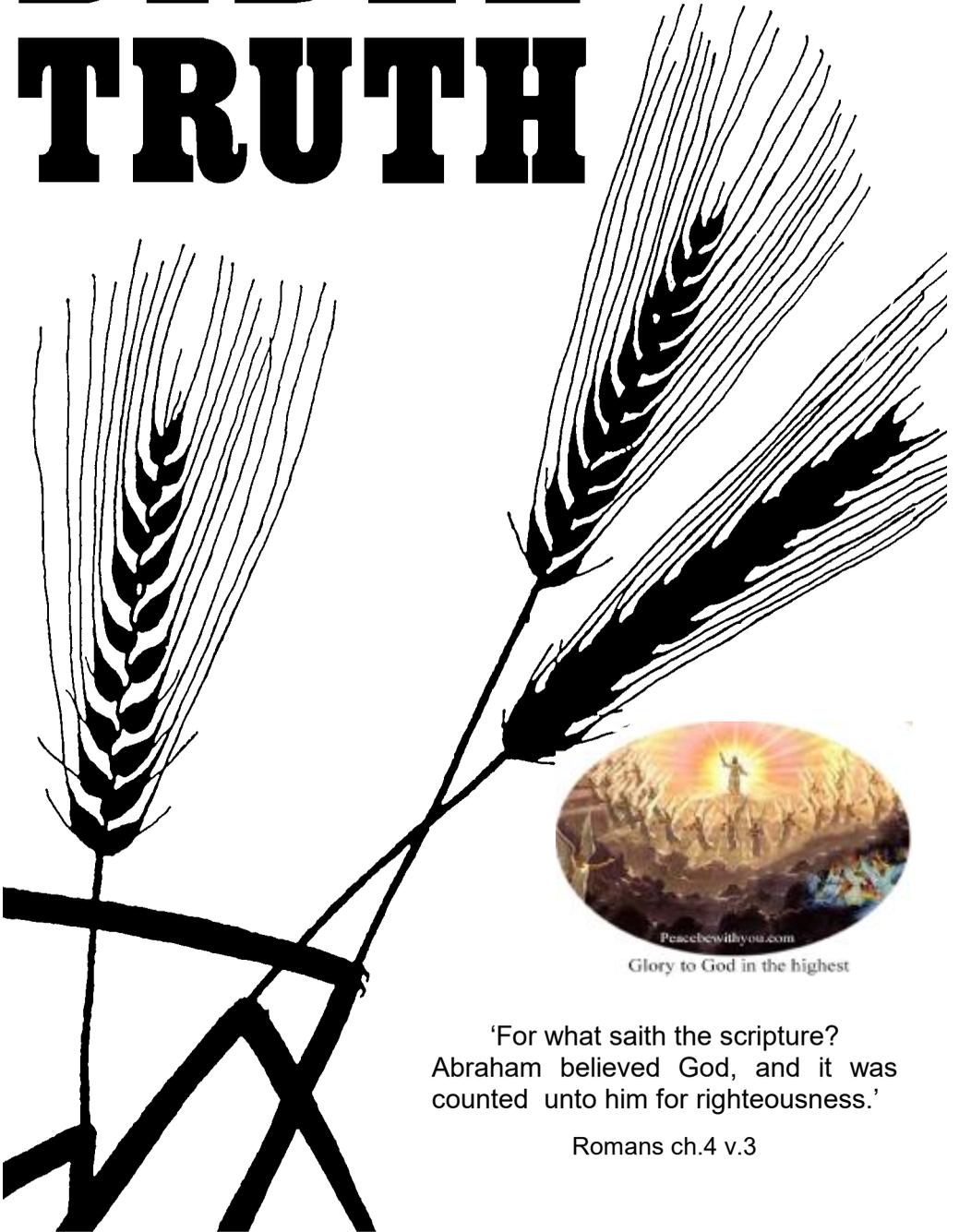


# BIBLE TRUTH

No. 304  
May/August 2022



'For what saith the scripture?  
Abraham believed God, and it was  
counted unto him for righteousness.'

Romans ch.4 v.3

# The Reward of One Man's Obedience

by Otis B. Read

(Reprinted from *The Pathfinder* January 2014)

God called upon Abraham to leave his country, separate himself from his father's house and go unto a land that was yet unrevealed to him. He was promised,

'... I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran'.

Genesis ch.12 vv 2-4

Several generations later, the Lord reassured Abraham's son from whose loins were to come the chosen seed,

'... and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father; And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws'.

Genesis ch.26 vv 3-5

Abraham was acquainted with the Laws of God which approximately five generations later his posterity, under the leadership of Moses, received as their National Constitution. All Israel at Sinai became His kingdom of priests, and an holy nation here on planet earth. Before his untimely death, Moses reminded this seed of Isaac through Jacob-Israel.

'For thou *art* an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath

the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;'

Deuteronomy ch.7 vv 6-9

Centuries later the Psalmist wrote,

'O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob his chosen. He is the LORD our God: his judgments are in all the earth. He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations. Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac; And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant'.

Psalms 105 vv 6-10

Our God is determined by a perpetual oath, by an everlasting covenant, to multiply Abraham's seed into an inestimable multitude of people, through whom He has sworn by an oath to bless all other nations and families; '... in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;' and again, '... in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed' (see Genesis chs 26 v.4 & 28 v.14). Are you able to comprehend what such a foreign policy would embrace? The generations constituting the citizens of God's Kingdom under Jesus Christ are not going to be burdened with unjust taxation. His whole Foreign Aid Program through Abraham's seed will be supported by God's blessings through their keeping our patriarchal father's vow.

'... All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient.'

Exodus ch.24 v.7

I call your attention to the fact that the Lord God's 'oath' was sworn to assure this and He would uphold His covenant with Abraham and his seed via Isaac and Jacob-Israel. The manner in which it was to realise literal fulfilment was revealed in the Lord God's 'Law-Covenant' with the seed of Abraham when He unified them into His 'kingdom of priests, and an holy nation' at Sinai under Moses (see Exodus ch. 19 v.6). The bond of this covenant was His 'perfect Law' of Commandments, Statutes and Judgements, leaving it up to them to choose between the life and death, blessings or curses.

'I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.'

Deuteronomy ch.30 vv 19-20

God's holy name remains at stake in His faithfulness to Abraham, regardless of which choice his seed makes under the terms of the Law-Covenant entered into at Sinai. In the Lord God's dealings with Israel down through the ages, He has progressively revealed Himself to them as,

'... The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation'.

Exodus ch.34 vv 6-7

Somewhere around 433 BC the Lord God, through His prophet Malachi ch.3 v.6, reassured His servant Israel: 'For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed'. Thereby assuring them of His faithfulness — regardless of their past or present track record.

It appears to me that Israel's sporadic behaviour as God's servant people was divinely instigated. The Lord God always foreknew the choice His people would make. They were literally clay in His hands.

'Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.'

Jeremiah ch.18 vv 3-4

The Apostle Peter, when writing to Israel in her dispersion, addressed them as,

'... strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord

Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,'.

1 Peter ch.1 vv 1-3

The Apostle Paul, when writing to this same stock of Abraham at Ephesus declares,

'According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;'

Ephesians ch.1 vv 4-7

How beautiful is thy Word, O Father! How abundant is thy mercy and how age-lasting Thy love!

Returning to God's message to Jeremiah in the potter's house it says this.

'Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.'

Jeremiah ch.18 vv 5-6

While Israel was still in the hands of the Potter, their ultimate greatness as was promised to their father Abraham was 'marred' in the Potter's hands, but as His people they were not cast aside or broken. In the hour of their organisation into 'a kingdom of priests' [Hebrew kohen], administrators of God's perfect Law as their Constitution, and 'an holy nation', they vowed: 'All that the LORD hath spoken we will do'.

The Holy Spirit in reviewing Israel's chequered history declares,

'For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my

covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more’.

Hebrews ch.8 vv 7-12

The Prophet Daniel announced that Israel's Messiah would ‘confirm’ this covenant (see Daniel ch.9 v.27), which he did at the Last Supper.

‘And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament (covenant), which is shed for the remission of sins’.

Matthew ch.26 vv 27-28

He knew that before the next day's sun had set, Israel's redemption would have become an accomplished fact! Confirmed shortly thereafter by His triumphant resurrection and ascension to the Father as Israel's High Priest, the promised Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, descended upon his people and ‘a surety of a better testament’ (see Hebrews ch.7 v.22) went into operation enduing His chosen disciples with ‘power from on high’ (see Luke ch.24 v.49).

The promised deliverance of ‘the creature (that) was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope’, has become reality through the Lord Jesus Christ. Our sins have been atoned for and our deliverance ‘from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God’ (see Romans ch.8 vv 20-21) awaits our discovery and claim by faith in His finished work upon the cross. The day of God's Grace appears to be waning as His judgment settles down upon the nations. Our world is changing fast and as His judgments bring us to our knees, we shall indeed learn His righteousness. I have given you the Scriptures; now check them in your own Bible. Time is precious!

‘Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.’

Proverbs ch.3 vv 5-6

\*\*\*\*\*