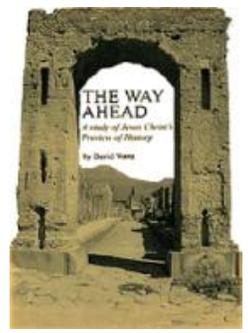
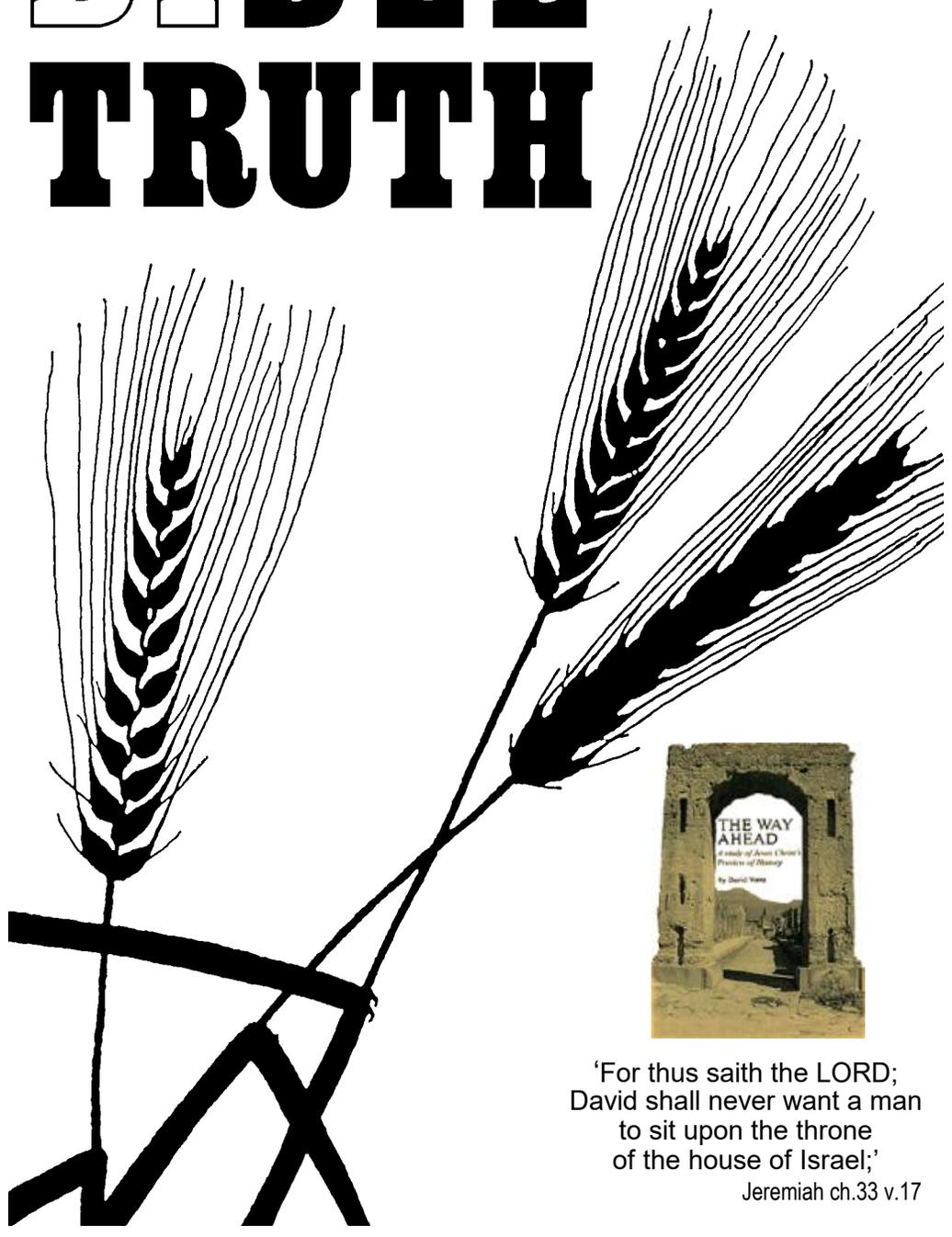


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'For thus saith the LORD;
David shall never want a man
to sit upon the throne
of the house of Israel;'

Jeremiah ch.33 v.17



JACOB'S TROUBLE

by Dr Michael D. Bennett

'Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.'

Jeremiah ch.30 v.7

Only Jacob can experience Jacob's trouble, for it is peculiarly his. Possession of Jacob's trouble is a prophetic marker of Jacob. Find who has Jacob's trouble and you have found Jacob. If the British peoples are literal descendants of Jacob (whose name was changed to Israel) as we believe, then it is impossible for them to escape Jacob's trouble. This being so, the question must be asked as to when Jacob's trouble comes? The answer is given in the context of Jeremiah chapter 30.

'... in the latter days ye shall consider it.'

Jeremiah ch.30 v.24

Jacob's trouble is a latter day phenomenon, and that means 'now' !

Jacob's trouble only comes once. It is an unique period in Israelitish history and constitutes the high-water mark of Satan's attempts to overthrow and destroy God's inheritance in His servant nation Jacob.

A parallel exists between Jeremiah chapter 30 verse 7 and Daniel chapter 12 verse 1, which reads,

'And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people (Israel): 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'.

Both verses foretell a time of unparalleled trouble, and both state emphatically that God's people will be saved out of it. Since there can only be one 'greatest ever' time of trouble (or tribulation) it logically follows that both verses describe the same event. It also follows (for the same reason), that Jacob's trouble is coincidental with the time of trouble described by the Lord Jesus Christ.

‘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

From the context of this chapter, it is seen that this unique time of trouble will end with the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, hence it will include the battle of Armageddon.

‘Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.’

Matthew ch.24 vv 29-30

Jacob’s trouble then, occurs in the latter days and runs parallel with the climax of the world’s troubles, although absolutely distinct from them. It remains to define what Jacob’s trouble is, and to see in what respect it differs from the troubles of the rest of the world.

Jacob’s trouble is of several types. Least important is the military threat posed by nations under Satan’s control, for God has said,

‘Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought. For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee. Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel’.

Isaiah ch.41 vv 12-14

Israel is as strong as her God. Her greatest military victories have always occurred when she was least prepared for war. Those who bemoan Israel’s present defencelessness would do well to remember the Red Sea and Gideon. On both occasions Israel did nothing of a military nature, yet never were victories more complete. In contrast, during the 20th century when Israel had overwhelming sea power and air power there have been wars which took years to bring to a ‘satisfactory conclusion’, a conclusion reached at the expense of the demolition of Britain’s financial wellbeing, and left Russia (our greatest enemy) in occupation of vast tracts of Europe. The armies of Israel tried to bring another war to a ‘satisfactory conclusion’ in Asia with even less success. These facts prove the utter fortuitousness of Israel handling arms.

In Her Own Strength

Israel can make a Suez or a Vietnam, it takes Israel's God to make a Dunkirk or a Mons! Israel is safest when she has a minimum of military hardware and a maximum of the faith which is quite capable of moving military mountains.

'... Not by might [or 'army' as the margin suggests], nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: ...'.

Zechariah ch.4 vv 6-7

Jacob's greatest trouble is a crisis of confidence in God, in herself, and in her national purpose. We are a nation rejected by the world, and we say as Job.

'Unto me men gave ear, and waited, and kept silence at my counsel. After my words they spake not again; ... But now they that are younger than I have me in derision, ...'.

Job ch.29 vv 21-22 & ch.30 v.1

Expressing our ineffectiveness in the world, Isaiah recorded this.

'Thou hast increased the nation, O LORD, ...: thou hadst removed it far unto all the ends of the earth. ... We have been with child, we have been in pain, we have as it were brought forth wind; we have not wrought any deliverance in the earth; neither have the inhabitants of the world fallen.'

Isaiah ch.26 vv 15 & 18

Similarly,

'... Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts'.

Ezekiel ch.37 v.11

Jacob is not alone in having trouble in these days. Other nations have trouble in abundance and their trouble consists of the plagues and judgments of the Lord God Almighty. Jacob's trouble is a different and a lesser trouble to theirs. It will result in national resurrection and put an end to Israel's blindness to her identity as God's servant nation. It is important to note that each prophecy regarding Jacob's trouble ends on a note of blessing, victory and renewed life and power. The continued existence of Jacob, especially in time of trouble, depends on the eternal, unchanging existence of God.

'For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.'

Malachi ch.3 v.6

A study of Jacob's life, as recorded in the book of Genesis, shows that all his trouble came from his own family and relations. There was the hate of his twin brother Esau when he discovered that Jacob had tricked Isaac into giving him his blessing. There was the underhandness of Jacob's uncle Laban, in making him work seven extra years for the woman he loved. In his old age his own sons sold their brother Joseph, his favourite son, into slavery and lied to their father that he had been killed by a wild animal. **Much of this trouble was Jacob's Own Making and came because of his lack of faith in God.** So he tricked and stole and ran for his life only to be tricked in turn by his uncle and his own sons. There is nothing new under the sun and so today the history of 'Jacob's trouble' repeats itself. Most of our trouble is of our own making, and takes the form of family double-dealing coupled with a profound lack of faith in God's ability to do for us what He said He would. The family quarrels multiply and we find South Africa and Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) outside the Commonwealth and a coldness where once there was a special relationship. We are sure, however, that just as in Jacob's old age he found joy in the happy reunion in the power of the Israel family, so the whole Israel of God will be united in glory not long hence. The great measure of our present trouble merely indicates the overwhelming dimensions of the deliverance which we shall see at the hand of the God of Jacob.

We who know that **Britain Is Israel** should glory in Jacob's trouble and comfort ourselves in the Lord, for Psalm 46, speaking of this day, put these words in our mouths.

'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear,... The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. ... Be still, and know that I am God:'

vv 1-2, 7 & 10
