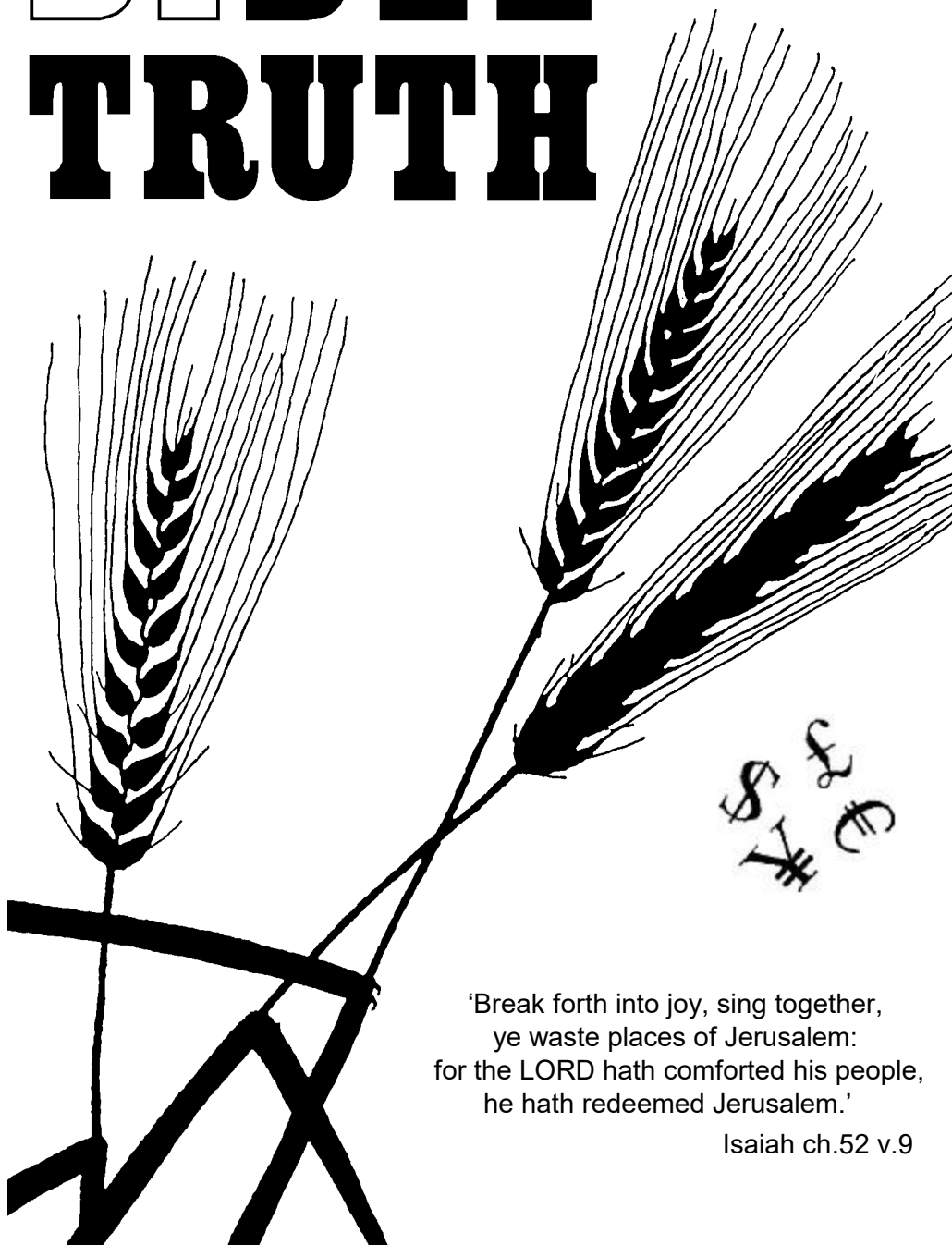


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'Break forth into joy, sing together,
ye waste places of Jerusalem:
for the LORD hath comforted his people,
he hath redeemed Jerusalem.'

Isaiah ch.52 v.9

THE DEMISE OF ISRAEL

by the late Arthur Eedle



‘Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.’

C. S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*

If so, then the corona virus certainly shouted at a ‘deaf world’. I am speaking about the recognition of judgment.

One takes it for granted that the Nation of Israel was God’s showpiece to the nations, its history lasting two thousand years from Abraham. But Britain has also had two thousand years as a Christian Nation. I’ve recorded all the evidence, and made the suggestion that God could have been using our nation as another showpiece. If I am correct, we must lay aside all thoughts of Britain being a worthy nation, chosen for any innate goodness, or even to suspect that Jesus’ words might apply to us when He said,

‘Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof’.

Matthew ch.21 v.43

But there is much scope for laying the two nations side by side, and observing the manner in which God’s words, purposes, and judgments compare. This would indeed be a monumental task, requiring a whole book to cover the evidence. So what I intend to do is select a few items to show how, like Israel before, we have been more or less deaf to God’s cautions, reprimands, and judgments. Only now are we being immersed in a judgment that is sweeping across the whole world as God waits to see whether we recognise His hand over the affairs of man.

Let us compare two royal families, those of Israel and Britain. I’ve gone into considerable detail with our late Queen’s coronation, and now it is time to take stock. So first of all, here is a brief sketch of King David’s behaviour in personal matters.

About three thousand years ago there was a stable Royal Family in Israel, with David as King. He had been anointed by Samuel many years before, and during his first ten years of Royal Office, he built up a strong, God-fearing and successful nation.

But then he committed an act of adultery with a married woman, and she became pregnant, and this put David in a spot as he realised if the facts became known, both he and the woman could be put to death according to God's laws. The story is told in great detail in the second book of Samuel, of how the king engineered circumstances to cover his indiscretions, and believed he had succeeded.

What David had not reckoned with was that the Lord had observed the whole episode, and we read that,

‘ ... the thing that David had done displeased the LORD’.

2 Samuel ch.11 v.27

Nathan, the prophet, was sent with a message that he spelled out in a parable to the King, which angered him through the injustice of the rich man in the parable. Then Nathan declared, ‘... Thou art the man. ... Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah ... Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, ... For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, ... ’ (see 2 Samuel ch.12 vv 1-12).

Subsequent history showed how three of David's sons Amnon, Absalom and Adonijah came to violent ends.

Amnon's act of fornication with his half-sister was a terrible disgrace for David to bear. Absalom's servants slew Amnon.

Absalom's brazen act of adultery with the King's concubines was his way of openly despising his father. But his rebellion was the hardest of all to bear. He was eventually slain by Joab whilst entangled in an oak tree during the war.

Adonijah tried to establish his throne in place of Solomon, and by order of Solomon was slain by Benaiah for his treachery.

Now we come to Britain's Royal Family. There is a remarkable parallel between the families of David and the late Queen Elizabeth. I have written about the Oath the Queen took at her Coronation, and how on many subsequent occasions she disregarded it by her contacts with the Pope. In due time three of her four children became subject to broken marriages ending in divorce.

Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spencer in 1981 whilst continuing an adulterous relationship with Camilla Parker-Bowles. They were divorced in 1996 and Diana was killed in a car crash in 1997. Charles then married Camilla in 2005.

Princess Anne married Captain Mark Phillips in 1973. They separated in 1989 and divorced in 1992. Within months she married Sir Timothy Laurence.

Prince Andrew married Sarah Ferguson. Their marriage, separation, and divorce in 1996 attracted much media coverage. In 2019 he suspended public duties due to his connections with the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

These were not the only occasions of sadness and grief for Queen Elizabeth, who referred to 1992 as her 'Annus Horribilis', when a great fire broke out in Windsor Castle, the official residence of the Queen, causing extensive damage. Repairs came to £36.5 million.

Royal privilege, disregarded, brought open judgment on these families, each suffering ills with three of their children. In David's case, the Lord's hand of judgment was written in the archives, but as for the late Queen, I am not aware anyone has seen the parallel. I've never seen it in print. Did the Queen 'recognise the hand of judgment' herself? We shall never know because her private life is not subject to public scrutiny. It gives me no pleasure to make this comparison. I continue to pray for the Royal Family as directed in 1 Timothy ch.2 vv 1-2.

'I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.'

But our national failure to recognise the origin of God's hand across the world in monumental storms, fires, tsunamis, hurricanes, tornados, and even economic collapse, cause me to turn to the following.

'... all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem. And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on

his people, and on his dwelling place: But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy. Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees [Nebuchadnezzar], who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand.'

2 Chronicles ch.36 vv 14-17

Man must learn what Nebuchadnezzar the King learned himself from seven years of imposed bestiality.

'Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.'

Daniel ch.4 v.37