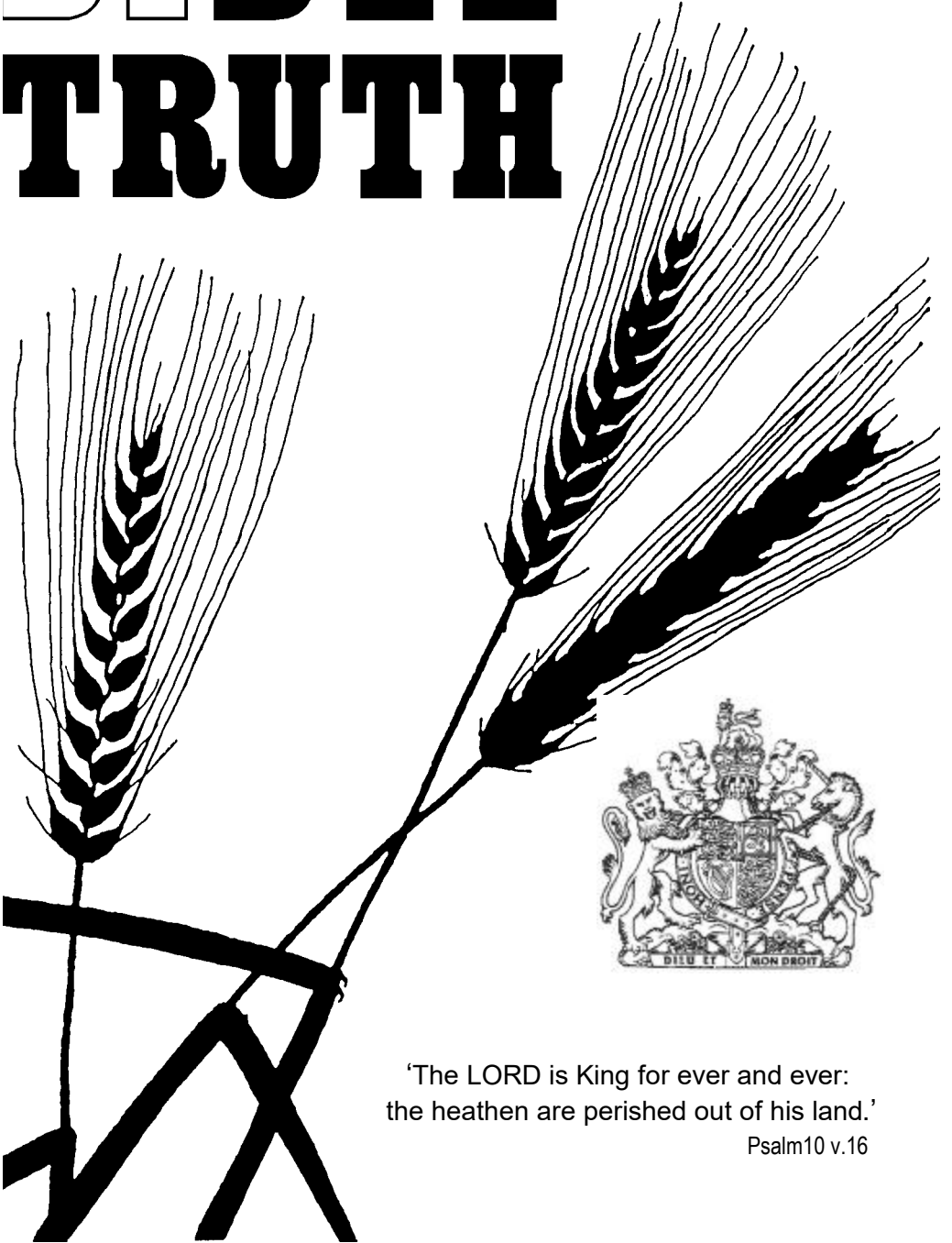


BIBLE TRUTH

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'The LORD is King for ever and ever:
the heathen are perished out of his land.'

Psalm10 v.16



COINS & MONARCHS

BY THE LATE

ARTHUR EEDLE

As a young man I collected British Coins, but would never have called myself a numismatist. I had a small collection, and would like to turn to these, noting in particular the Latin Inscriptions on them, and what they mean.

First is a Victorian Penny of 1896. It reads,

VICTORIA.DEI.GRA.BRITT.REGINE.FID.DEF.IND.IMP.

The full Latin of these abbreviations is as follows,

VICTORIA DEI GRATIA BRITANNIARUM REGINA FIDEI DEFENSOR INDIA IMPERATOR

and by translation becomes,

**Victoria, by the Grace of God, Queen of the British Territories,
Defender of the Faith, Empress of India.**

Queen Victoria was the first Monarch to receive the Title Empress of India. It began on 1st May 1876 and lasted until 22nd June 1948, when the title was abandoned after the Independence Act of 1947, making King George VI king of the two new dominions of India and Pakistan.

I had a Half Crown of George VI dated 1948, the last to be minted with the old title of Emperor. It reads,

GEORGIUS VI DD:G:BR:OMN:REX:FID:DEF:IND:IMP.

with the full Latin

GEORGIUS VI DEI GRATIA BRITANNIARUM OMNIUM REX FIDEI DEFENSOR INDIAE
IMPERATOR

and translated means,

**George VI, by the Grace of God, King of All British Territories,
Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India.**

Following the acquisition of India, and further expansion in Asia, by 1913 the British Empire was the largest to have existed through history, greater in extent than those of Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. As a result of its size it became known as 'the Empire on which the sun never sets'. It covered 25% of the world's land surface, and oversaw some 412 million inhabitants, about 23% of the world's population at the time.

There is a painting by Thomas Jones Barker that hangs in London's National Portrait Gallery called 'The Secret of England's Greatness (1863)'. The subtitle reads, Queen Victoria Presenting a Bible in the Audience Chamber at Windsor. It depicts Queen Victoria placing a Bible in the hands of a visiting African Ambassador, thereby revealing what the Queen believed to be the secret of England's Greatness.

As a result of the Second World War, and due to the resulting poverty of the nation, many of the colonies became independent. Today very little is left. It has been said that although the Empire was the greatest ever known, it was also the shortest lived. ... This ends a brief history lesson upon which other matters may be based as we proceed.

Elizabeth - Defender of the Faith

On all the coins of the realm we find FID. DEF. (abbreviation for Fidei Defensor, Latin), meaning 'Defender of the Faith'. And who is the Defender of the Faith but the reigning Monarch? To understand what it means for a Monarch to hold this title, we can do no better than turn to the Coronation Service held in Westminster Abbey. I preserved a copy of the 1953 Abbey Service, from which I quote.

'Once the Queen had made her way through the Abbey, and was seated, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Fisher, invited her to stand and face the congregation, and said, "Sirs, I here present unto you Queen Elizabeth, your undoubted Queen: Wherefore all you who are come this day to do your homage and service, Are you willing to do the same?"'

The people then signified their willingness and joy, by loud and repeated acclamations, all with one voice crying out, **GOD SAVE QUEEN ELIZABETH**. Then the trumpets sounded, and the Queen, having returned to her chair, the Archbishop standing before her administered the Coronation Oath, first asking the Queen, "Madam, is your majesty willing to take the Oath?"

"I am willing."

“Will you solemnly promise and swear to govern the peoples of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, Pakistan and Ceylon, and of your Possessions and other Territories to any of them belonging or pertaining, according to their respective laws and customs?”

“I solemnly promise so to do.”

“Will you to your power cause Law and Justice, in Mercy, to be executed in all your judgements?”

“I will.”

“Will you to the utmost of your power maintain the Laws of God and the true profession of the Gospel? Will you to the utmost of your power maintain in the United Kingdom the Protestant Reformed Religion established by law? Will you maintain and preserve inviolably the settlement of the Church of England, and the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government thereof, as by law established in England? And will you preserve unto the Bishops and Clergy of England, and to the Churches there committed to their charge, all such rights and privileges, as by law do or shall appertain to them or any of them?”

“All this I promise to do.”

The Queen then arose from her chair, the Sword of State carried before her, and went to the Altar to make her solemn oath in the sight of all the people to observe the promises; laying her right hand upon the Holy Gospel in the Great Bible, and kneeling upon the steps said these words:

“The things which I have here before promised, I will perform, and keep. So help me God.”

The Queen then kissed the Book, and signed the Oath. When the Queen was again seated, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland presented the Queen with the Holy Bible, and the Archbishop said:

“Our gracious Queen, to keep your Majesty ever mindful of the Law and the Gospel of God as the Rule for the whole life and government of Christian Princes, we present you with this Book, the most valuable thing this world affords.”

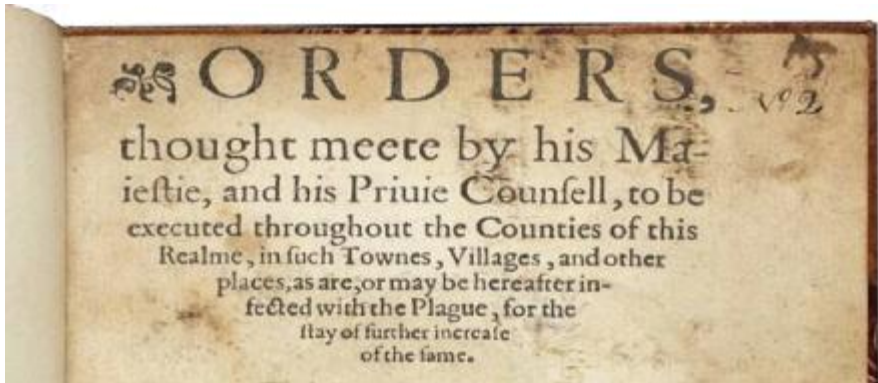
And the Moderator continued by saying:

“Here is Wisdom; This is the royal Law; these are the lively Oracles of God.”

The Coronation of a British Sovereign is inseparably bound up with God, the Bible, and the Established Church of England. Young people today have no memory of this, and I believe they should be apprised of this most solemn occasion, and begin to look at the history of the last sixty-seven years in the light of it.

James VI and the Plague

Here is an account from the pages of British history that bears a remarkable parallel to what happened during the Corona virus.



The year 1603 in Shakespeare's England was noted for the shock waves pervading the country on March 24th by the death of the great Queen Elizabeth. But due to the absence of an heir to the throne the Title was passed to James VI of Scotland, who became James I of England. Coronation day was set for July 25th, and elaborate preparations were under way. But then a devastating outbreak of Plague swept through London and the home counties, which eventually claimed about a quarter of London's population.

The King issued a **Book of Orders** relating to the outbreak, the cover which has been preserved and kept in the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Library.

The first half of the text of this Book was dedicated to physical orders enforced to try and control the plague in London and the surrounding areas. Houses were **'to be closed up'** for six weeks if one of the inhabitants fell ill, and the sick were encouraged to be **'restrained from resorting into company of others'** for fear of spreading infection. If they did leave the house, they were to mark their clothes so as to warn others of their disease - they could be

overseen by watchmen and breaking these orders could be punished by a spell in the stocks. Moreover, **'clothes, bedding and other stuffe as hath been worne and occupied by the infected of this disease'** were collected and burnt. But James also took measures to ensure the sick would not lose everything: he ordered that collections should be made in order to support those who were locked in their houses, and to replace their possessions.

The Coronation went ahead as planned, but the royal procession through the City had to be abandoned. During the Coronation week some 900 Londoners died of the Plague. But according to a pamphlet issued by Gilbert Dugdale, the hearts of Londoners burned with **'wilde fire'** to celebrate James' kingship, but they were delayed for nearly a year as a result of the Plague. It was only when the **'Infection ceased'** in the **'joyfull spring time'** that they could **'solemnize'** the occasion with the King's and Queen Anne's progress through London on 15th March 1604.
