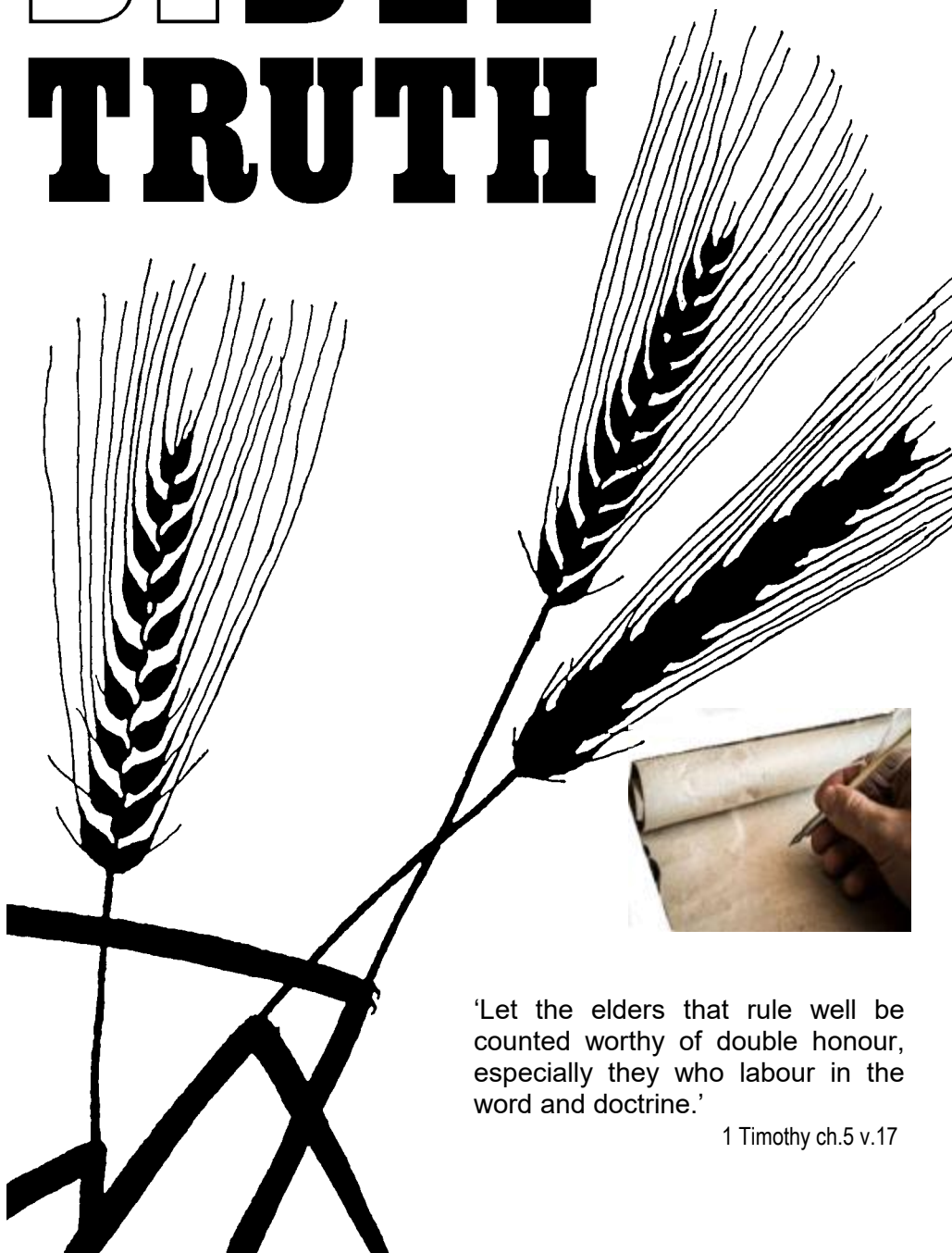


BIBLE TRUTH

No. 308
September/December
2023



'Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.'

1 Timothy ch.5 v.17

THE VASTNESS OF SPACE

by John Trotter

Alpha Centauri is part of a multiple star system in the constellation of Centaurus. It can only be seen from the southern hemisphere. It is 4.3 light years from Earth. Besides the Sun, which is our closest star to the Earth, a distance of 93 million miles, Alpha Centauri is the closest star to the Earth that is outside our solar system. As light travels 186,000 miles per second it takes 8 minutes for its light to reach Earth.

What is a light year? A light year is the distance that light travels for one year. To arrive at that figure you multiply 186,000 by 60 by 60 by 24 by 365.25. The distance light travels in one year is approximately 5.8 trillion miles. Now if Alpha Centauri is 4.3 light years from Earth you then multiply 5.8 trillion by 4.3 and the resulting distance is approximately 25 trillion miles from Earth. To put it another way, the distance of 25 trillion is the equivalent of multiplying 93 million miles, the distance of the Sun from the Earth, by 270,000 times.

To help comprehend the distance of Alpha Centauri from the Earth let us consider the following. Let us say 93 million miles, the distance the Sun is from the Earth, is represented by 1 inch, then how long would 25 trillion miles be represented by? The answer is 4.2 miles. Consider the following, this article took me about 3 hours to complete, so therefore light during this period travelled about 2 billion miles. I hope that helps!

Alpha Centauri is not only one of the brightest stars in the night sky but is the largest star in the Centaurus constellation. It is to be found in the lower section of the front left leg. The ancient name of this star is Taliman which means 'the heretofore and hereafter' marking Him as the one '... which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty' (see Revelation ch.1 v.8). For further details read, *The Witness of the Stars* by E. Bullinger.

It says in the Bible, God named the stars, 'He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names' (see Psalm 147 v.4).

It is my view that, He was only referring to the Mazzaroth or Zodiac (see Job ch.38 v.32). If you read the story of the Zodiac from Virgo to Leo you will be given not only the story of God's Salvation and Redemption but the promise of Him returning as the King of Judah to take the Throne that rightfully belongs to Him. I think that the ancients

understood this message. It is the view of some authors that the Sphinx was originally that of a woman's head and therefore this might be the answer to the Riddle of the Sphinx. You start at Virgo (a woman who was a Virgin) and you finish with the Lion (Jesus Christ, the King of Judah). Do not mix these views with Astrology which is clearly rejected as shown by the following.

‘And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven.’ 2 Kings ch.23 v.5

So let us conclude with the following.

‘When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?’
Psalm 8 vv 3-4

How vast is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob!