

# BIBLE TRUTH

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'In the beginning  
God created  
the heaven and the earth.'

Genesis ch.1 v.1

## **HOPE FOR THE FUTURE**

In the Epistle to the Romans the word 'hope' is mentioned in relation to other Scriptures.

'For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.'

Romans ch.15 v. 4

As the New (Covenant) Testament was written between about AD 50 and AD 100 it was completed a long time after the Crucifixion. So what were these Scriptures that are referred to in Romans? Some would be from the words of the Septuagint which was the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old (Covenant) Testament. It was translated during the 3rd century BC by about 70 scholars in Alexandria, Egypt. It is in these Scriptures that our hope for the future begins. These are the Scriptures that Jesus Christ and others quoted from. This view of things written aforetime runs contrary to the

general understanding, namely that our hope begins in the New (Covenant) Testament with Christ as the chief corner stone.

‘And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;’

Ephesians ch.2 v.20

During the Old (Covenant) Testament times God gave Israel many opportunities to place their hope in the Spiritual rock who was Christ.

‘And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.’

1 Corinthians ch.10 v.4

The first verses of the Gospel of John (vv 1-5) are proof that Christ existed from the beginning of time. Later in the Gospel is recorded,

‘Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am’.

John ch.8 v.58

Also, Nebuchadnezzar saw the form of a person in the furnace who looked like the Son of God (see Daniel ch.3 v.25).

During the Covid -19 virus crisis, there was an expectation of hope that all would return to normal. “I ask, Is the ‘old normal’ worth preserving?” Here lies the problem of human hope for the future. This tiny earth will not return to pre-virus days, but rather we will be burdened with extra financial demands. Like Pavlov’s dogs we will adapt to the encroaching new world regulations. We will learn to live with heavier chains. Will this be the end result of mankind’s hope for a society that will be unable to mend the pieces of human despair?

Is there another paradigm? Yes, there is, and it is called a Kingdom or the Dominion of the King. People pray for this Kingdom in the Lord’s prayer, ‘Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven’ (Matthew ch.6 v.10).

It is sad that many people do not believe what they request. It is by understanding what we are praying for, that we will then be lifted to a greater hope. It is not just the chief cornerstone that has to be put back into His rightful position, but we must seriously consider the composition of this Kingdom. His Servant people Israel and humanity will be a part of this Kingdom. The makeup of this Kingdom was clearly laid out in the Old (Covenant) Testament time. As Christ has died and been resurrected the New (Covenant) Testament has begun its operation with Christ being the firstfruits of them that slept.

‘But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.’

1 Corinthians ch.15 v.20

If Christ can raise up children of Abraham from the stones where we walk (see Matthew ch.3 v.9), then He will cause our stony heart to become one of flesh, upon which He will write that part of the Law which was not annulled at the Cross (see Ezekiel ch.36 vv 24-27 & Ephesians ch.2 vv 14 -15). This is where our hope lies; not in a world of demonic design where the tares have carried out their desires. Our hope lies in a world order where Christ rules with His chosen and in equitable justice over His dominion.

The disobedience of Israel has been written for us to learn from history and for our admonition. This is one of the reasons why the Old (Covenant) Testament appears as a harsh commentary. One of the outcomes of the New (Covenant) Testament association with Israel is that she will be ashamed of her disobedience. National and personal benefits of obedience to the perfect or complete Law will be realised when national blessings and salvation become a reality.

‘The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.’

Psalms 19 v.7

So in conclusion, the following verses help us to refocus our hope for the future.

‘For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.’

Romans ch.15 v.4

‘Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world [age] are come.’

1 Corinthians ch.10 v.11

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