

BIBLE TRUTH

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

Genesis ch.1 v.1

THE INCOMING GOVERNMENT

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The incalculable evil that is being unleashed on our peoples leaves little doubt that the time is rapidly approaching when the Second Advent of Our Lord Jesus Christ shall soon occur and with it, the establishment of His Governmental system. At the same time all that stands in opposition in the form of the present world political, religious and economic systems and everything which is collectively styled 'Babylon' in the scriptures, shall disappear.

Care should be taken when considering yet future events and to bear in mind that these things have a habit of not turning out exactly as we expect. It is very interesting to postulate, against the background of the many clues and statements contained in scripture, how the new Government may be organised. What form will it take, what will be its aims, objectives and outcome, who will be the participants, what will be their special attributes, roles and privileges? At this point in history, while further events are yet to be fulfilled, Israel now lies in that state of national decadence and individual indifference which was stated as would prevail immediately before the second advent.

'And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.'

Daniel ch.12 v.7

(See also Matthew ch.24 vv 3-39, 2 Timothy ch.3 vv 1-5 & Revelation ch.3 vv 14-22.)

The Role of Israel, the Church, the Body and the Bride

The central role of the nation Israel in the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth is embedded in the Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic and the New Covenants in which God declared the development of a race of people through whom He would bring about His purposes to restore a creation despoiled by the activities of Satan.

There is a very common misconception that the 'calling out' of the Church began with the ministry of Jesus Christ and continued from the Day of Pentecost. However, under the Old Covenant, the seed of Jacob were to become, not only a 'multitude', but a 'qahal', an 'ecclesia', an 'assembly', a 'congregation', a 'church' of peoples and a demonstration nation operating under God's instructions and Laws. A role which they failed. However, it is hard to conceive how those who championed the cause of God throughout the early millennia of the history of Israel could possibly be excluded from the glory of membership in the coming Kingdom Order!

Indeed, Jesus Himself indicated that the Old Testament patriarchs would play a role in the Kingdom on earth when He said,

'... That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven'.

Matthew ch.8 v.11

So, the foreknowledge of God accounted for the signal failure of Israel to initially fulfil her part of the contract but enabled Him to use this imperfect instrument to bring to a conclusion His work in a way which has been gradually revealed and which has continued to evolve.

There is also a great deal of confusion and misleading theology associated with the Body of Christ and Bride of Christ, many of the modern 'churches' claiming both titles.

The members of the true church we are told, constitute the 'Body of Christ'. Not every born Israelite will ultimately or automatically become a member of the Body of Christ because privilege of membership of the true church is given through faith in Jesus Christ and not necessarily because of Israel descent. The true church is not a multiplicity of corporate setups and is not incorporated under man-made laws but functions under the power of the Holy Spirit. Its members hold allegiance to Jesus Christ and are being prepared for responsibilities which will be theirs in the new and coming administration of the affairs of His Kingdom.

Who or what is the Bride?

The Bride is not and cannot be the agglomeration of the modern day churches. The Bride is the redeemed nation of Israel, at present in her re-betrothed state. There is no alternative if the consistency of the scriptural story is to be maintained. The Creator, the Word, the Husband, Jesus the Christ, the Redeemer, the Bridegroom are all One and the same Person of the Godhead. The adolescent Nation, the Wife, the Adulteress, the divorced Wife, the rebetrothed Bride, the Bride are all one and the same national group of people. It is amazing that such confusion could have arisen - but then hardly surprising, since the national message of the Bible is currently not a feature of theological teaching.

Thus, at the present moment the Body of Christ (the true Church) is divided. There are those who have died in Christ and are 'sleeping', waiting for the resurrection, and those yet alive believing and trusting in Him. At the pending first resurrection these will all be raised or changed respectively and will be united with Christ, the Head of the Body entering that same immortal state which Christ Jesus achieved at His resurrection 2000 years ago. This is the completion of the Bridegroom. Christ the Head, the resurrected true Church (the body), united with Him. How then, can the Church be both the Body of Christ and the Bride of Christ? The Bridegroom cannot marry His own Body!

The purpose of 'the Church' then, is to prepare men for administration in the Kingdom over which it is to rule with Christ Jesus (as the Nation under the Old Covenant was supposed to do). Its attitude to the Law of God is therefore of paramount importance (as was that of the Nation under the Old Covenant). It has always had an immediate role, namely, that of proclaiming the Gospels of personal salvation and national redemption. It has a future role. From its membership will be drawn, at the time of the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, those who will have been deemed worthy to inherit the Kingdom of God and who will reign with Him as coheirs during the millennium.

'If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:'

2 Timothy ch 2 v.12

In this period of the Laodicean church we have departed far from these responsibilities. It seems reasonable to deduce, therefore, that those chosen to be part of this obviously very large throng of resurrected people at the time of the second coming of Christ the

King, will include all those faithful and believing Israelites plus those who have been adopted as faithful Israelites (from 'all tribes and tongues and peoples') whose transgressions have been covered by the terms of both the Old and the New Covenants during their respective eras.

The Resurrection and Associated Events

The next major event in the ongoing fulfilment of God's plan must be the resurrection closely coupled with the appearance of Jesus Christ.

At this present time in history what would really be required to stun mankind into the realisation that the prophecies and statements of the Bible do, indeed, describe the truth? We live in a period of scientific enlightenment. During the past century and in accordance with the words of Daniel 'knowledge has been increased'.

'But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.'

Daniel ch.12 v.4

You'll notice it doesn't say anything about wisdom!

Events which would have once terrified previous generations into religious revival, such as earthquakes, severe and unusual weather conditions, outbreaks and epidemics of serious diseases and the like are now readily explainable and are not likely to turn mankind to God. Wars, social disruption, crime and all the distress which, to the student of scripture are the clear result of neglecting Divine directives, are now accepted with equanimity in the knowledge that man's lot has always been fraught but that the application of the new economic internationalism and the doctrine of human rights will eventually succeed.

In this age of cynicism, it is going to require an event of spectacular and supernatural proportions, an act of obviously Divine origin, to confront the Nation and the world with the truth. **Is that event to be the resurrection of the dead?**

Is a possible sequence of events as follows?

- a. The turmoil of world and celestial events, as described generally as 'The Great and Terrible Day of the Lord'. (see

Isaiah ch.11 vv 15-16, ch.13 vv 10-13, ch.24 vv 21-23;

Ezekiel ch.38 vv 20-22;

Job ch.38 vv 22-23;
Joel ch.2 v.2, ch.3 vv 15-16;
Amos ch.8 v.9;
Zephaniah ch.1 vv 14-15;
Zechariah ch.14 vv 1-15;
2 Peter ch.3 v.10;
Matthew ch.24 vv 21-22 & 29-31;
Mark ch.13 vv 19-25;
Luke ch.21 vv 25-26;
Revelation ch.16 vv 16-21).

This must also be the time when, as it says in the events associated with Jesus' return, He will stand upon the Mount of Olives (whence He departed at His ascension see Acts ch.1 vv 9-11). This will precipitate the vast earthquake that must raze Jerusalem, divide Olivet and create the very great valley extending east to west. It will liberate the twin rivers from beneath the site of Jerusalem - but more about this later.

- b. Immediately associated is the destruction of 'Babylon' in all its manifestations.

'And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.'

Revelation ch.18 v.21

- c. And the first resurrection? This event is described clearly by Paul (1 Thessalonians ch.4 vv 13-17; 1 Corinthians ch.15 vv 51-53) in which the Lord shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God. The dead shall rise first, those believers which are alive will be changed and this retinue will be caught up to meet Him in the air! Can one imagine the consternation of the citizens of the Nation and the world who remain when the resurrected dead are seen? It does not say that Christ shall then instantly establish His Kingdom but it does appear that the relationship of the 'Head' and 'the Body' shall be completed at that time. That is, Christ and the true Church are brought together to complete the composite figure of the Bridegroom.
- d. This large group of the resurrected are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation ch.19 vv 7-9) and in all probability

this ceremony will mirror the sequence of events of the civil marriage ceremony which took place at the time of Jesus. First, in eastern weddings there was a period of courtship, followed by the official announcement of betrothal. Second, the bride commenced to prepare herself for the forthcoming formality. She especially prepared a beautiful, white wedding gown. Third, the bridegroom entertained his own personal friends at the marriage supper to which he specifically invited them. The friends of the bride were not invited as is the custom today. Fourth, at the end of the feast the bridegroom and his entourage went to meet the bride who was fully prepared and dressed in all her finery. Fifth, the wedding ceremony took place.

So, Christ Jesus (the Head) plus His friends (the true Church) complete the Body of the Bridegroom. He entertains them at the marriage feast (the marriage supper of the Lamb). This celebration will not take place on earth. There is, again, a significant correlation between the events of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and the two previous occasions in the history of Israel when first, Moses and the Elders 'went up' onto the mountain and communed with the pre-incarnate Christ. Subsequently, the disciples partook in a ceremony in which they 'went up' into the upper room and communed with Christ Himself. At the time of the second advent the resurrected shall be commanded to 'come up' to the ceremony and are to be inducted into their respective administrative roles, duties and functions for the Kingdom age.

- e. It would seem that at the same time as these events occur the second ministry of Elijah shall be fulfilled. It was the role of Elijah to challenge the alleged power of Baal at the time of Jezebel and to demonstrate to Israel the overriding power of God (see 1 Kings ch.18 vv 21-40). It will undoubtedly be his task to repeat this function as a messenger from God to a stupefied Israel Nation at the time when the true church shall have temporarily been removed and is not available to bring this message to the people. It would be inappropriate for Elijah to precede Christ's return but it would be reasonable for him to appear at the same time as the first resurrection. The reason for his return is, 'And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers ...' (see Malachi ch.4 v.6). In other words it will be he who brings the message of the identity and

responsibility to the Anglo-Israel peoples who, as a consequence, will prepare to receive the coming King and His Body [the Bridegroom] after the marriage supper.

The time interval between the resurrection and the completion of the marriage supper is not clear but at an eastern wedding at the time of Jesus the feast could last up to a week. Clearly a period of time must elapse and it must be that during this interval the work of Elijah will be done, at the end of which the Nation will be prepared to receive the new administration.

- f. The return of the composite body of the Bridegroom to establish the Kingdom and all that that entails.

The Recipient of the Government

Popular theological teaching knows very little about the concept of a divinely ordered Government on earth under the Kingship of Christ Jesus and much less of the practicality of the National and world plan for the future. Neither is the concept of a righteous God bringing the judgments and discipline of such a Government to bear upon the people a very popular notion. The preference is that those who have been and currently are believers, will be raptured away from the earth and will thereafter dwell in Heaven with Jesus. The impression is that a state of pleasant and cushioned luxury will be achieved which is somewhat dependent upon agreeing with the viewpoint of the particular religious group or sect of the believer. Everybody else will be judged and dealt with very severely - and serve them right !

Since Israel is the only race with whom God established a contract, that nation must be the primary target for the new administration following the expunging of the contamination of 'Babylon'. The Bible states quite emphatically that although many people may be expecting to be included in the Kingdom their selection is by the choice of Christ alone.

In this context, the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares is revealing. Matthew ch.13 vv 41-43, vv 49-50, ch.24 vv 50-51, ch.25 vv 29-30 and Luke ch.13 vv 27-28 strongly suggest that it is 'the wicked' (evil ones - the tares) who do 'iniquity' (lawlessness) who will be completely removed from the kingdom (Israel) by the angelic hosts at the time of the end of the age. They are those who have persistently devoted their lives to the deliberate practice of 'evil' and 'lawlessness' and who, in the eyes of Christ, are incorrigible recidivists regardless of the fact that

they may be of Israel national descent. The National residue who are not eligible for the first resurrection are therefore cleansed of this contaminating influence but remain to gladly receive the new, incoming Government as the Bride prepared for her husband.

The Seat of Government

There are many references about the new Government proceeding from Zion. The name Zion is often used of the whole city of Jerusalem, considered as the 'city of God', especially in passages referring to the future Kingdom age (see Isaiah ch.1 v.27, ch.2 v.3; Joel ch.3 v.16; Zechariah ch.1 vv 16-17, ch.8 vv 3-8 and Romans ch.11 v.26) but a study of both 'Zion' and 'Jerusalem' indicates that they are not the same. David took the castle of Zion, which became the 'city of David' (see 1 Chronicles ch.11 vv 4-8). Zion was the city of David (see 2 Chronicles ch.5 v.2 and 1 Kings ch.8 v.1) within the city of Jerusalem. Similarly, Jerusalem was not the 'city of David'. In other words Zion was where the House of David, i.e. the Throne, dwelt.

[Editor's Note - It is an interesting thought that there is no Throne of David in Jerusalem at the present time but there is a throne centred on Westminster within the greater city of London in the same way as, at the time of David, it was within the greater city of Jerusalem. If Christ is to come to take the Throne of His father David (see Isaiah ch. 9 v.7 and Luke ch.1 vv 30-33) then is it to Westminster that He must come, initially, because the Throne of Britain is obviously not going to be relocated to Jerusalem prior to His advent?]

The platform on which Jerusalem is to be reconstructed is to be created by the events described as occurring when Jesus stands on the Mount of Olives - that is, the divided Mount, the great valley and plain, the twin rivers of living water. And it is abundantly clear that Jerusalem has to become the seat of Zion again and from which His Government shall continue to be administered (see Joel ch.3 v.16 and Zechariah ch.8 vv 3-8) although the time is not specified.

'Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury. Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.'

Zechariah ch.8 vv 2-3

And again,

'... for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem'.

Micah ch.4 v.2

Jerusalem's population comprises a representative population of Israel.

‘Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion: And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.’

Jeremiah ch.3 vv 14-15

(See also Jeremiah ch.30 vv 3-7)

Now the word ‘kingdom’ is defined as follows.

‘A body of people in a defined area, bound into a social whole, ruled over by a code of laws administered by a central authority.’

Webster's Dictionary

So, a further requirement is that of territory which, of course, is covered by God’s promise to Abraham that his descendants would be the inheritors of a piece of real estate bounded by the Euphrates river and the River of Egypt.

This is a triangular territory bounded in the north by the river Euphrates, in the south by the line of latitude from the delta of the Nile to the mouth of the Euphrates (very close to the previous position of Ur) and on the west, by the Mediterranean Sea. Included, therefore, is the southern two thirds of Syria, the southern half of Iraq, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan and a small piece of northern Saudi Arabia. Indeed, Abram’s experience in his journey from Ur to Bethel via Haran would have actually encompassed practically all this region and he would have been familiar with it. So, this is Israel’s inheritance. Is it so surprising then that it is an area of unbelievable strife and war at the present time?
