

The

Covenant Nations



VOLUME 6, NUMBER 1, 2023



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▲ The Clifton Suspension Bridge over the Avon Gorge in Bristol. It was designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel who was appointed in March 1831. The bridge finally opened in December 1864 after many disruptions and obstacles to the work. Unfortunately, Brunel himself had died in 1859 so he did not see its completion.

◀ COVER PICTURE:

The Stone of Destiny as displayed in Edinburgh Castle to where it was removed in November 1996. It is due to be returned to Westminster Abbey for the Coronation of King Charles III in May this year. This stone is Jacob's Stone: "*And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. ... And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house*" (Genesis 28:18, 22).

*Join us in the Great Cause
to Wake Up God's
Covenant Nations!*

The Covenant Nations

Volume 6, Number 1 2023

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Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in the articles are generally well-researched and considered. However, they do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.

Yorkshire's 'Stonehenge of the North' gifted to the nation



Photo: Damian Grady/Historic England

Two huge Neolithic monuments in Yorkshire which have been described as “The Stonehenge of the North” have been gifted to the nation.

The Thornborough Henges complex, near Ripon, date back to around 3500 BC to 2500 BC and consist of three 656ft wide circular earthworks.

Two construction firms have donated the henges site to Historic England.

EDITORIAL

WHY THIS PLOT AGAINST THE THRONE?

The plague of rebellion to be followed by the fire of judgment

As we approach the first Coronation of a British monarch in 70 years there is a background of increasing alarm over national and international events. In prophetic terms, whether it is realized or not, we are witness to the final titanic battles for supremacy in the world order.

Throughout the history of the servant people, Israel, whose destiny it is to lead the nations in peace, there has been a continuous struggle between good and evil for our destiny as a nation under God, this to reach its ultimate fulfilment when, as the King James Bible states “*Shiloh comes.*” This is a figure mentioned in *Genesis 49:10* as part of the benediction given by Jacob to his son Judah stating that “*the sceptre will not depart from Judah . . . until Shiloh come.*”

Other translations render the whole phrase in English, as “*until he comes to whom it belongs*” (Revised Standard Version), “*until He whose right it is comes*” (Holman Christian Standard Bible) or “*until tribute comes to him*” (English Standard Version).

In the second *Psalms*, there is a most intriguing question. It has likely been asked many times through the centuries, but at no time is it more replete with meaning than at the present time. It is asked of people who are termed ‘heathen.’ The question is: “*Why do the heathen rage?*” The word ‘rage’ is further explained in

the Bible margin as ‘tumultuously assemble.’ The Psalmist further asks, “*Why do the people imagine a vain thing?*”

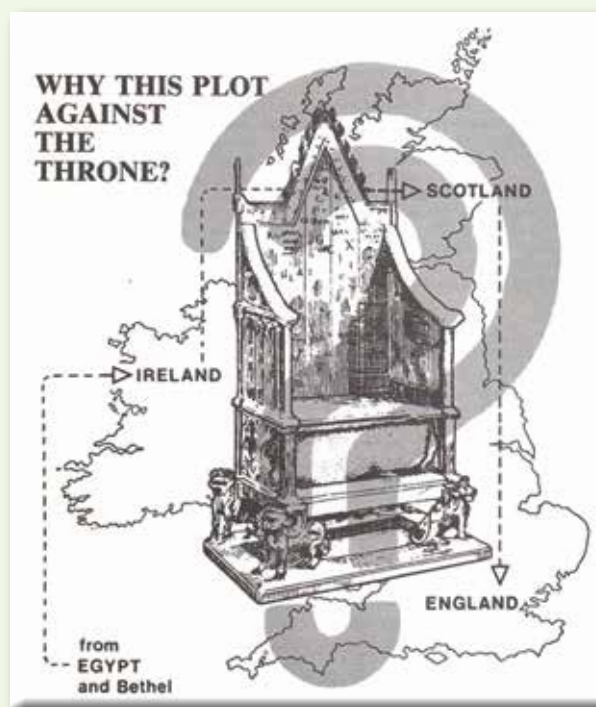
For once the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible is worth quoting on this question when it gives: “*Why do the [heathen] nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?*” Here is a situation in which the Godless people create confusion and riots in the world, and plot, but they plot **in vain**.

The word ‘vain’ in this context means fruitless, ineffective, without avail, futile. Verse 2 speaks of those who are called ‘the kings of the earth’ and the ‘rulers.’ They have gathered together **in counsel**, secret or otherwise, for a specific purpose which for a time may seem to be successful, but which will be frustrated, for they are plotting **against the LORD** and against ‘his

Anointed One,’ (NIV), saying, “*Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.*” It has been the general consensus of opinion that the word ‘anointed’ refers to our Lord Jesus Christ. The NIV so translates but significantly adds the word ‘One.’ This would lead us to understand the ‘Anointed One’ to be the occupant of the throne of the LORD until ‘Shiloh comes.’

In his book, *Elizabeth, Our Queen* (1976), Reginald Davis wrote (page 26) on the anointing of the Queen, that “it is the most mystical and sacred part of the people’s choice –. It is this anointing that gives the Sovereign claim to the Royal Title.” In the same book (page 156) Queen Elizabeth I is quoted as saying to her 16th century Parliament, “I am your anointed Queen.”

What we witnessed over the past 70 years of Queen Elizabeth II’s reign was ever-increasing plotting to destroy the Sovereignty of the Anointed British monarchy. The main plot being the 47-years of Britain’s constitutionally illegal membership of the EU that came close to achieving that very thing; equal to the many plots against the Throne during the Reformation period. Now it is globalisation that is the threat – but it will run into the Word of the LORD when He declared “*Touch not mine anointed*” (*I Chronicles 16:22*). As in 1665-1666, the plague (of rebellion) will be followed by the cleansing fire of judgment.





THE CORONATION WITH NATIONAL REPENTANCE?

The Coronation Ceremony for King Charles III will follow a centuries-long tradition for British monarchs which has continued for over one thousand years in these Appointed Isles following to the letter the biblical pattern for ancient Israel. Why should this be so? Can it really be because our forefathers set out, without any historical link, to usurp the grandeur and majesty of the world's greatest throne subsequent to the divided Kingdoms of Israel and Judah that had been taken into captivity by the Assyrian Empire? A remainder only from Judah, that retained the Davidic throne, *excluding its female descendants*, was wiped out 120 years later with its people being deported to Babylon.

Now, for the first time in **70 years** – *the number linked to the restoration of 'Jerusalem'* – the **spiritual ceremony** of the Coronation presents us with the challenge of reminding ourselves that our national departure from *the Faith* and the destruction of our (literal) forefathers in ancient Israel came about as a result of accumulative national transgressions and a failure to repent.

Why do we also have the unique, but peculiar, tradition of crowning our monarchs upon a rough-cut block of sandstone known as 'Jacob's Pillar,' or 'Pillar'? The Israelites carried *this very stone*, which has non-corrosive well-worn metal rings, for forty years through the Wilderness after the Exodus. The patriarch Jacob-Israel **anointed** the stone and named it 'Beth-el' (God's house). It is described in the New Testament (or Covenant) as the "*spiritual Rock*" (I Corinthians 10:4 – the original word for 'Christ' here in the Greek is '**the anointed**').

Furthermore and of great significance, why do we have *all the heraldic symbols* of ancient Israel on the Royal Coat of Arms and the Royal Standard? These symbols being **the lion of Judah and the unicorn of Joseph, together with the harp of King David**. Heraldic symbols are not used by nations and families by chance. They are handed down by succeeding generations because they are part of a known and remembered heritage of a nation and its people.

One of the first points to be noted at the Coronation Service of our monarchs is the fact that

although God has ordained that the Davidic succession must endure, nevertheless every monarch has to be presented to the people *for the people's acceptance* before the coronation ceremony takes place. God never compels: He always gives us our choice, either to go His way and reap the benefit, or go our own way and reap the resultant trouble and distress. Yet through repeated distress in our history, God has always led us back into Divine order, the only way to lasting peace and happiness. So we see that at the outset in the service how the Archbishop of Canterbury will challenge the whole congregation with the following words:

"Sirs, I present unto you King Charles, the undoubted king of the realm; wherefore all you are come this day to do your homage, are ye willing to do the same?" The people then signify their assent by acclamation and cries of **GOD SAVE THE KING!**

It was in a similar manner that the first king of God's nation Israel was chosen in the 11th century BC, for on that occasion, after the people had rejected Jehovah as their King and asked for a human king like

the other nations around them, God graciously permitted them to have their own way; and so we read:

*“And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, **God save the king**”* (I Samuel 10:24).

This biblical reference, in our National Prophetic Record, shows that from earliest times it was customary in Israel for the prophet or priest, as God’s representative, to address the congregation at the coronation of their monarchs and then for the people to voice their own consent. In 2023 it is the Archbishop of Canterbury who will address the assembled congregation representing the ‘company of nations’ from the Commonwealth – formerly ‘Brit-ish,’ consisting of two Hebrew words meaning ‘covenant man.’

There were occasions then, as now, when royalty and dignitaries from other nations also came to do honour to Israel’s king. For example, in Solomon’s days there was Hiram king of Tyre, who had loved David and who sent Solomon presents and servants also to help in building the Temple for which his father David had prepared. There was also the Queen of Sheba, who came with all her retinue and on witnessing the glory and peace of Solomon’s kingdom, exclaimed: *“Blessed be the LORD thy God which delighted in thee to set thee on the throne of Israel, because the LORD loved Israel for ever. Therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice”* (I Kings 10:9).

The Coronation Oath

Next in the Coronation service, conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the King has to express his free will also, before taking the Oath and promising to uphold

justice in the kingdom. This he does in the words *“I am willing,”* and *“All this I will do.”* He then kisses the Bible (God’s ‘Book of the Law’), and signs a copy of the same in ink with his royal signature.

The Oath was significantly changed for the Coronation of King George V in 1911, removing all reference to the Roman Church and its superstitious and idolatrous beliefs. Yet the Oath, as it was, is still part of our national law and constitution, incorporated in the *Act of Settlement* 1701 (Art. 12, 13). The Act of Settlement was designed to secure the Protestant succession to the throne, and to strengthen the guarantees for ensuring a parliamentary system of government. The Act also strengthened the *Bill of Rights* 1689, which had previously established the order of succession for Mary II’s heirs.

The King, having promised to govern the Peoples of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, plus 14 other Commonwealth Realms and other Territories, will be asked by the Archbishop:

*“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?”*

The King responds by saying: All this I promise to do.

The King arising out of his Chair, supported as before, the Sword of State being carried before him, shall go to the Altar, and make his solemn oath in the sight of all the people to observe the premisses: laying his right hand upon the Holy Gospel in the Bible (which was before carried in the procession and is now brought from the Altar by the Archbishop, and tendered to him as he kneels upon the steps), and saying these words:

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

Then the King shall kiss the Book and sign the Oath.

The King having thus taken his Oath, shall return again to his Chair, and the Bible shall be delivered to the Dean of Westminster:

The Presenting of the Holy Bible

When the King is again seated, the Archbishop shall go to his Chair, and the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, receiving the Holy Bible from the Dean of Westminster, shall bring it to the King and present it to him, the Archbishop saying these words:

Our Gracious King: 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 that this world affords.**

And the Moderator shall continue: Here is Wisdom; This is the royal Law; These are the lively Oracles of God.

The Anointing

Anointing with oil was an act which God ordained long ago as an outward and visible sign of Divine election into Office or special service. In I Samuel 2:10 it is stated

that *“The Lord shall give strength unto his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.”*

This being the most important part of the Coronation Ceremony, the Archbishop shall say “Let us Pray” and in the following words:

O LORD and heavenly Father, the exalter of the humble and the strength of thy chosen, who by anointing with Oil didst of old make and consecrate kings, and priests, and prophets, to teach and govern thy people **Israel**: Bless and sanctify thy chosen servant Charles, who by our office and ministry is

now to be anointed with this Oil, and consecrated King . . .

This prayer being ended, and the people standing, the choir shall sing as recorded in I Kings 1:39-40:

Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anointed Solomon king; and all the people rejoiced and said God save the king, May the king live forever, *Amen*. Hallelujah.

Nowhere else in the world is such a service of consecration of a monarch conducted. It is the ultimate sign of the Lord’s Regent on earth who after the Crowning upon **Jacob’s Pillar**,

with St Edwards Crown, has been installed upon the Throne of David that one day will be taken up by Our Lord Jesus Christ (*Luke 1:32*).

Surely the nation must see that National Repentance is required in the days of supreme crisis ahead. We pray that the Archbishop of Canterbury will make this a matter of his most earnest consideration and prayer.

MICHAEL A CLARK

Photo of regalia: Royal Collection Trust
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ST EDWARD’S CROWN

The most important piece in the Crown Jewels



St Edward’s Crown is arguably the most important piece in the Crown Jewels: it is the one a Monarch is crowned with during the coronation ceremony. It was made for Charles II in 1661 to replace the medieval crown which had been melted down in 1649 by

the Parliamentarians. The order of 9 August said the Crown Jewels should be ‘totallie Broken and defaced’ in a symbolic act of the abolition of the Monarchy, which began with Charles I’s execution on 30 January (9 February, New Style).

The original St Edward’s Crown was thought to date back to the eleventh-century royal saint, Edward the Confessor – the last Anglo-Saxon king of England, who was eventually succeeded by William the Conqueror.

The Crown Chronicles

THE TRIBE OF EPHRAIM

Why is it missing in the Book of Revelation?

The question has been asked: “Why Ephraim as a named tribe has been omitted from the list of the 12 tribes of Israel in *Revelation* 7:4-8, along with Dan. Ephraim is not mentioned in *Revelation* at all, which is extremely strange if Ephraim-Britain makes up a significant proportion of the Lord’s people.”

The terms, Ephraim and House of Joseph, are synonymous. The birthright was given to Joseph and his descendants (I *Chronicles* 5:1-2): “Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, (for he was the firstborn; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father’s bed, **his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel ... the birthright was Joseph’s**.)” Note that the birthright was never given to Judah.

Ephraim was the son of Joseph, the inheritor of the birthright, and not mentioned in the Book of *Revelation*, but Joseph is (*Revelation* 7:8). Joseph is mentioned 250 times in Scripture! Ephraim appears another 176 as well. Ignorance of the biblical birthright causes a lack of logic: “Ephraim is not mentioned at all.” The chosen birthright seedline are known by several monikers or synonyms: Ephraim, Joseph, House of Ephraim, Israel, House of Israel, Israelites, Jews, Hebrews, children of Abraham, Daughter Zion, Daughter of Zion, God’s chosen people. They are also known in both testaments as the Lord’s “sheep.” The lack of using a particular moniker does not mean they are missing!

The tribes of Israel are given in

several lists in Scripture, but always total twelve in number, never thirteen. Biblical numerals have a special significance that give an important clue to their meaning. Dr E. W. Bullinger, in *Number in Scripture*, says: “Twelve is a perfect number, signifying perfection of government, or governmental perfection. It is found as a multiple in all that has to do with rule” (p. 253). Israel was to be a strong worldpower conquering their enemies (*Isaiah* 41:12, 15; *Deuteronomy* 28:7; *Jeremiah* 51:20; *Micah* 4:13). In contrast: “As to the significance of thirteen, all are aware that it has come down to us as a number of ill-omen” (ibid p. 205). For this reason, the tribes of Israel are never constituted as thirteen! Therefore, sometimes we see the tribes of Levi and Joseph listed without specific mention of the sons of Ephraim and Manasseh. At other times, when dealing with land distribution, we find Ephraim and Manasseh recorded without Levi (a tribe that held no territory). So the

lists, as well as exact biblical terms, do vary.

As for the tribe of Dan missing, most biblical scholars believe a copyist error occurred in *Revelation* 7, with some early texts listing the tribe of “Man,” which was taken to mean “Manasseh,” but very possibly was a scribal error for Dan. Yet the early text called the Memphitic Version does have “Dan.”

As for the name Ephraim not appearing in *Revelation*, we also encounter a similar situation: the word “church” does not appear after Chapter 3 of *Revelation*, and the Futurists seize on this to claim that the Church is gone in a rapture. But the Church does appear in other terms. Similarly, Ephraim is included under the House of Joseph in *Revelation* 7:8 and therefore is not “missing.”

JORY STEVEN BROOKS

From *Question Box*, Autumn 2022,
Canadian British-Israel Association



The Bull of Joseph, *Deuteronomy* 33:17

AS IN THE DAYS OF JOSIAH

In the works of Jonathan Edwards, (theologian 1703-1758) he makes the astonishing statement that during Christ's 30 years of earthly sojourn from his birth till his death **"the idols of idolatrous worship did not speak but were struck dumb."** What does this mean? The very power and force of their nature being so evil that only the presence of Christ could demand their silence.

Shrines and groves where people could worship pagan 'gods,' such as Baal, Molech, Asherah and Astarte were part of heathen culture. Most terrible of all was parents offering up their own children to the 'gods' of Molech and Baal by burning them alive.

History records in 933 BC that both the kings of Israel and Judah did wickedly in God's sight. Israel served the golden calf whilst Judah served idols.

King Josiah of Judah

As prophesied in the reign of King Jeroboam a child named Josiah would be born to cleanse Judah of its idolatry.

"And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's

bones shall be burnt upon thee" (I Kings 13:2).

This young man, who would be crowned King Josiah of the House of Judah, was born in the year 641 BC. He was only eight years old when he came to the throne but the Bible informs us that when he was 16 years old, he began to **"seek after the God of David his father"** (II Chronicles 34:3). And by the time he was 24 years of age he had begun to **"...purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places and groves, the carved images and molten images"** (II Chronicles 34:4).

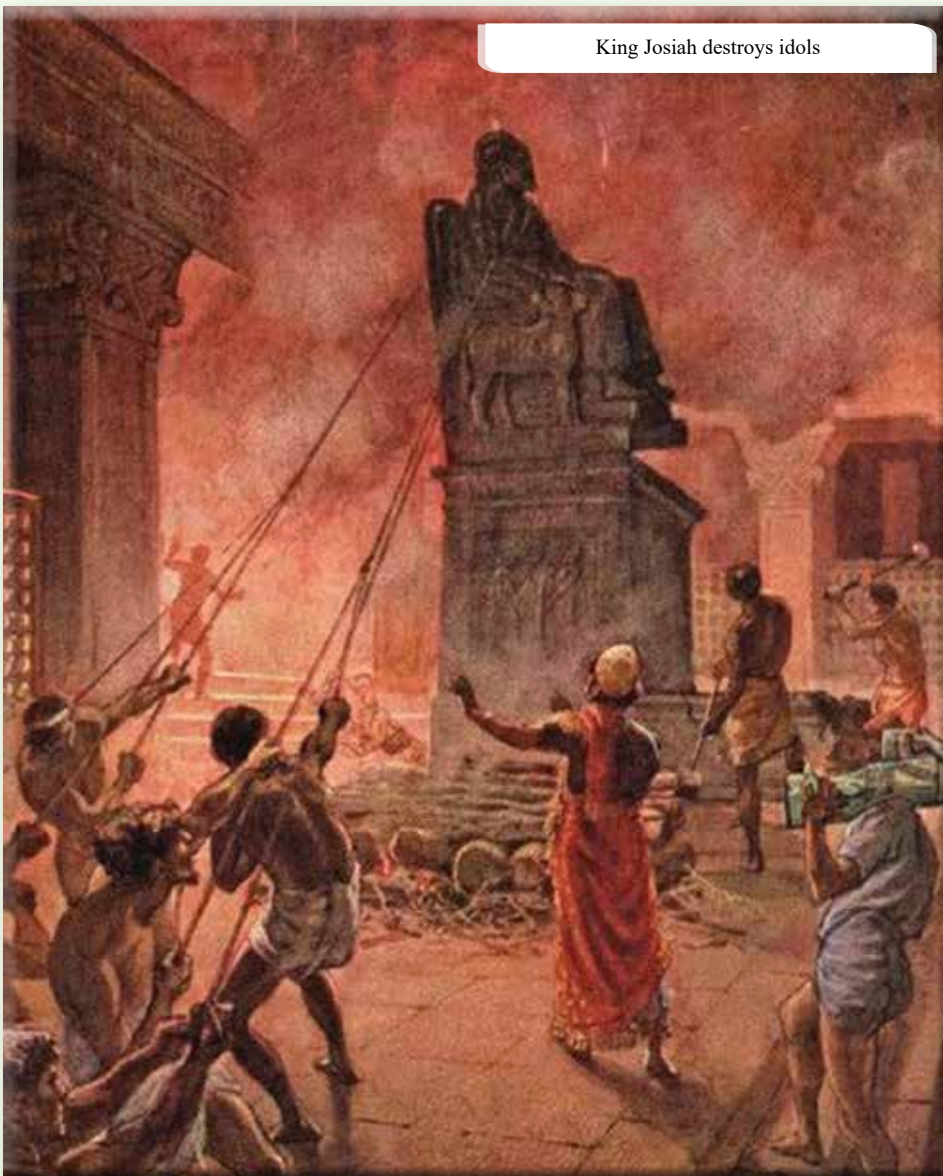
But **King Josiah's wonderful reign** did not end there. In the 18th year of his reign workmen, whilst rebuilding the Temple, found a copy of the Book of the Law which had been neglected for centuries and which is believed to be Deuteronomy (II Kings 22:8-13). The book made a profound impression on the King and the people, both solemnly covenanted to keep its injunctions. The King caused the book to be read publicly; he inaugurated a sweeping reform designed to eradicate idolatry; and he commanded that a solemn Passover be kept (II Kings 23:1-23).

The Reforms of Josiah – II Kings 23

It must be understood that the reforms of Josiah were likely unparalleled in the history of the kingdom. Verse 25 states

"And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him."

Josiah spared nothing that was offensive to God. He did not spare that which his own father,



King Josiah destroys idols

Manasseh, had instigated. Nor did his regard for the greatness of King Solomon deter him from destroying that which he had made in defiance of God's truth.

“And the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile” (II Kings 23:13).

Josiah carried out his reforms to the fullest degree. The words employed by God to describe his actions are most expressive. “Burned,” “put down the idolatrous priests,” “stamped it small to powder,” “break down,” “defiled,” “beat down and break,” “he slew all the priests of the high places that were there upon the altars.” These expressions are a clear indication of the extent and the depths of Josiah's reforms.

Josiah's reformation did not prevent God's judgment on Judah and Jerusalem. Without a doubt the obedience of Josiah impacted his life:

“Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, sayeth the LORD. Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace; and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place. And they brought the King word again” (II Kings 22:19-20)

But it must be remembered that God's sparing mercy went no further than Josiah. In 588 BC Jerusalem was defeated and destroyed by the armies of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, just a generation after the great reformation that Josiah had instituted.

Hidden evil power in high places
Whilst Josiah destroyed the high places and the idolatrous worship of idols during his reign, the same spectre of their destructive tentacles on ancient Judah and Jerusalem can be found in our modern society today as these hidden evil powers

strive to regain the foothold that Josiah destroyed.

There exists today a cabal of hidden evil power that attacks our very way of life that Ephesians warns us about.

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Ephesians 6:12).

The following media reports are some examples of that power where a distinguished journalist and two American Presidents brought to light the hidden works of darkness. The journalist was paid to keep his honest opinion out of his newspaper. Woodrow Wilson who won the Nobel Peace Prize, writes of this hidden power whilst the most famous of all was assassinated. Their testimonies need to be heeded.

John Swinton was a Scottish-American journalist, newspaper publisher, and orator, chief editorial writer of the *New York Times*. His explosive revelations of that hidden power in high places broke the



Jerusalem captured and burning

mould of secrecy when his words were put into print.

The Independent Press?

One night, probably in 1880, John Swinton, then the preeminent New York journalist, was the guest of honour at a banquet given him by the leaders of his craft. Someone who knew neither the press nor Swinton offered a toast to the **independent press**. Swinton outraged his colleagues by replying:

“There is no such thing at this date of world’s history, in America, as an independent press. You know it and I know it. There is not one of you who dares to write your honest opinions, and if you did, you know beforehand that it would never appear in print.

The business of journalists is to destroy the truth, to lie outright, to pervert, to vilify; to fawn at the feet of mammon, and to sell his country and his race for his daily bread. You know it and I know it, and what folly is this toasting an independent press? We are the tools and vassals of rich men behind the scenes. We are the jumping jacks, they pull the strings and we dance. Our talents, our possibilities and

our lives are all the property of other men. We are intellectual prostitutes.” (Source: *Labor’s Untold Story* by Richard O. Boyer and Herbert M. Morais, published by United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America, NY, 1955/1979)

Woodrow Wilson (Nobel Peace Prize winner)

“Since I entered politics, I have chiefly had men’s views confided to me privately. **Some of the biggest men in the United States**, in the field of commerce and manufacture are afraid of something. They know that there is a power somewhere so organised, so subtle, so watchful, so interlocked, so complex, so pervasive, that they had better not speak above their breath when they speak in condemnation of it.”

(Woodrow Wilson, 28th President of the USA, from one of his own writings, *The New Freedom – A Call for the Emancipation of the General Energies of a People*, dated 1913).

John F. Kennedy (assassinated in 1963)

“Our way of life is under attack. Those who make themselves our enemy are advancing around the globe. For we are opposed around the

world by a monolithic and **ruthless conspiracy** that relies primarily on covert means for expanding its sphere of influence – on infiltration instead of invasion, on subversion instead of elections, on intimidation instead of free choice, on guerrillas by night instead of armies by day.

It is a system which has conscripted vast human and material resources into the building of a tightly knit, highly efficient machine that combines military, diplomatic, intelligence, economic, scientific and political operations. Its preparations are concealed, not published. Its mistakes are buried, not headlined. Its dissenters are silenced, not praised. No expenditure is questioned, no rumour is printed, no secret is revealed.”

(John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the USA, from a speech delivered to the American Newspaper Publishers Association on 27th April 1961 and known as the secret society speech. I ask: Did he say too much?)

How do we challenge this enigma?

In *Luke 16* we are given a clue in the Parable of the Unjust Steward:

“And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light and I say unto you, make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when you fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations” (Luke 16:8 & 9).

Scripture confirms that there is spiritual wickedness in ‘high places’ and we are commanded to uncover and make a show of it openly. But whilst the Church ‘sleeps’ and stewards waste their gifts, then those in ‘high places’ will go unchallenged. Not so with the world which we are taught to be separate from, but the text is clear, we are to make friends of its children as



they hold the keys of a mystery hidden from us throughout the ages. Examples already given of worldly wisdom justifies this scriptural paradox.

Idols in your garden

Anyone who enjoys gardening will spend many hours in garden centres searching for the right plant or garden feature that will help beautify your little patch of serenity. During recent decades the variety of such items has multiplied in number. What has become obvious is the introduction of religious statues and related pagan icons. The variety is expansive. Paganism and idolatry are alive and well in the gardens of suburbia. There is archeological evidence to show that the suburbs of all previous civilizations had religious statues in the family garden.

As the teaching of Scripture fades into the background, the masses are turning to ancient beliefs and idols of other faiths that are in conflict with the Second Commandment.

Just as Thomas needed to see the evidence, before he would believe, so people who are looking for answers, feel that they need to see a visual representation of their desires. As Voltaire said, **“If there was no God it would be necessary that man would have to create one.”**

The human mind still needs a visual image to see and touch. What in effect is happening is that the imagination becomes reality. Add to these imaginative gods the incense you feel as you enter a temple of worship. The gift shop, with all its New Age symbols of the occult, has presented the gardener with subtle thoughts of idolatry. It was idolatry that caused God to scatter Israel (*Deuteronomy 4:27-31*).

Finally, as we have journeyed from the days of Josiah to our so-called enlightened generation we are reminded it's the **“little foxes that spoil the grapes”** on the vine (*Song of Solomon 2:15*). Scripture warns us of the harmless little things that

creep into our lives: **“For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill and under every green tree”** (*I Kings 14:23*). Whilst the adoration of that man-made idol in your garden seems harmless enough the deity it represents is not.

Conclusion

From the high places, where the kings of this world seek dominion over us, to the garden idols that hide their pagan identity, we rejoice and are reminded of the words from *Colossians 2:15*:

“God took away the power of the leaders of this world and the powers of darkness. He showed them to the world. The battle was won over them through Christ. In this way he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.”

PAUL L OWENS JP

Acknowledgement to
John Trotter and Bob Burton

The Association of the Covenant People

ACP is a B.I. organization based in British Columbia, Canada, which has a longstanding relationship with BIWF. There has been mutual support ever since the establishment of the Federation in 1919, 10 years after that of ACP. The Editorial Team is very happy to give publicity to their request for more readers of their monthly magazine *Thy Kingdom Come*:

“At this crucial time for God’s Plan we Christians must work harder to convey the Israel Truth to our unaware brethren all over the Israel world. We invite you to try just one issue of our magazine, then you might like to be permanently placed on our mailing list. There is no cost to you. Email us at acp@associationcovenantpeople.org for your introductory copy. God bless.”



THE STONE KINGDOM

Stone is a very basic material but it has played a vital role throughout human history. It has been adapted as a tool, a weapon, to form monuments, or for use as paving material to walk on or for wheeled vehicles to run on. But more generally it has been used as building material to construct places for human habitation, to be lived in or as places of work. It is hard and durable, withstands weather and the changing temperatures which climate conditions can produce. Buildings which have foundation stones have the reputation of being more stable and longer lasting.

My title probably directs your thoughts to the words of the prophet Daniel, in chapter 2, verse 44, interpreting the meaning of the dream image of King Nebuchadnezzar. The stone kingdom there illustrates the hardness of that material which, in this instance, is in God's hands and used for His purposes. The

interpretation of the dream is the foretelling of the fall of future world empires and the final triumph of the stone kingdom, which is Israel, the Kingdom of God.

Stone has played a significant part in Israel's history. Early in the life of the kingdom God's Laws, which were to be their individual and national code of conduct, were presented to them on two stone tablets and written in God's own hand. Hence the expression, still used to this day when establishing some authority, that "it is written in stone." Writing in stone was, in fact, quite a common practice back in those ancient times and examples of historic records, written by people of high office, have been found by archaeologists and historians, many of which are on display in our museums and in museums across Europe. Business receipts and transactions were also recorded in this way and they would have the

advantage of being more durable than anything written on paper or papyrus.

That stones were used as monuments or memorials is evident visually as standing stones and stone circles, seen here in our own country and across Europe. It is referred to as the 'megalithic trail' by some historians. They vary in size and in numbers of stones and their purpose, up until more recent times, was a bit obscure, some people thinking they were used for nefarious or pagan purposes, others that they had some religious significance and some who thought they were used in the study of astronomy.

A circle has for long been thought to be symbolic of eternity, for neither has a beginning nor an end. When we consider these stone configurations it should be remembered that they have all originated in our planet Earth, which is essentially



Callanish stone circle, Isle of Lewis

composed of rock and thus the original source of all stone. That rock consists of twelve elements in its makeup, namely Oxygen, Silicon, Aluminium, Iron, Calcium, Sodium, Potassium, Manganese, Titanium, Phosphorous, Hydrogen and Magnesium. Each element has an atomic number (which is the number of protons in its nucleus) and when these are added together we arrive at a figure of 186. (from the Periodic table of Elements). In *Psalms* 18:2 we read the Psalmist's declaration: "*Jehovah is my rock.*" The gematria of these Hebrew words in that statement comes to that same figure of 186.

In both the Hebrew and the Greek alphabets the letters serve a dual purpose of forming both numbers and letters because there are no separate figures as the 1,2,3 etc. which we have in our English language. The Hebrew and Greek letters, therefore, have numeric values, so that if a person of either origin had to fill in a form, for example, requiring their date of birth, he or she would use letters having the appropriate numeric values. The importance of this will become clearer as this article proceeds.

More recent studies of our stone circles has revealed that the people who erected them had more knowledge and skills than had earlier been credited to them. The most remarkable stone circle in our country is, of course, Stonehenge and many books about it have been written by numerous authors. It is not just one ring of stones but four rings. The outer ring has the largest stones, called the Sarsen stones. There are 30 of these and, in its original state, had cap stones joining the tops of the uprights. Inside that ring was a smaller one made up of what are called bluestones. Inside these are two further rings in the form of a horse-shoe, as the rings

are not complete but open at one side.

Measurements taken on site reveal that the ring of large Sarsen stones have a mean circumference of 316.8ft. An unremarkable figure, you might think at first glance. But when you discover that the title in the Greek language – 'Lord Jesus Christ' – has the gematria of 3168 you begin to take notice. The area within that circumference of 316.8ft. would be 888 sq. yards. The gematria of the name 'Jesus' is 888. Well out from the Sarsen ring there is a circle of holes in the ground, called Aubrey holes after the man who first discovered them. There are 56 of these holes and it has been noted that the equivalent number for the word 'everlasting' is 56, and, likewise, the equivalent number for the word 'time' is also 56. So it is deduced to be a circle of time, a numerical symbol of eternity.

There is much more such information given in the books from which I have taken these few examples but there is one further measurement worth mentioning, although it is a purely astronomical one. About 50 yards out from the Sarsen circle, on its eastern side, there is a solitary large stone called the Heel stone. If one stands in the centre of the circle, on the morning of the summer solstice, and look at the Heel stone, which can be seen through a gap in the Sarsen stones, the sun will be seen to rise exactly over the top of the Heel stone. It is not due east, at 90°, but towards the north at 51°51'. Note that figure.

The significance of the numbers I have quoted as gematrias of Divine names or titles is that they give clear numerical evidence of God's involvement in our affairs. They are like signatures or trademarks He has left proving that this circle was created to His design. Signatures and trademarks give proof of identity

but the modern way is, of course, 'pin' numbers. These may be new to us but, actually, God has been using them for millennia, as I have already revealed. The date accorded to the building of Stonehenge is not, to my knowledge, clearly specified. It is rather vaguely declared to be about 4000 years old. This and other such stone edifices mostly predate the existence of the people of Israel and are believed to be the work of earlier Hebrew people. These are descendants of Eber, a grandson of Noah's son Shem and, according to the late Rev. Dr Norman Court, the name means 'colonist' or 'coloniser.' This is perhaps corroborated by a note in the Companion Bible, in which it states that the name Eber is derived from 'abar' which means 'to pass on' or 'move from place to place.' Possibly these early Hebrew people lived some years after the Flood but before the confusion of tongues. The knowledge and skills that the first Adamic people possessed, and which their long periods of life enabled them to develop and advance, would, to a large extent, be carried over in the family of Noah. These people later became, once again, so corrupt that God intervened by confusing their common language, as we read in *Genesis*. This effectively brought an end to their means of communication, no longer being able to share acquired knowledge and information. It would have been a traumatic experience and reduced the population to just having, and using, quite basic means of maintaining life. Many years ago archaeologists unearthed evidence of this on a site at Jericho, in which layers of former civilisations proved to be more primitive as each layer became exposed. But beneath the layer of stone-age people the excavators were surprised to find evidence of a well-developed civilisation. This would be, I suggest, evidence of the superior lifestyle enjoyed by the first

generations of Noah's descendants who still had the long spans of life enjoyed by their forefathers prior to the Flood, as we read in *Genesis* chapter 11. Gradually, over time, this became reduced to the life span with which we are now familiar.

There appears to be a reference in the Bible to a stone circle and it is in the book of *Joshua*, chapter 4, verses 5-7. They were clearly not large, like those of Stonehenge, but just big enough to be carried on a man's shoulders. Joshua did not actually say that they should be laid in the form of a ring, but the name of the elevated site on which they were laid, Gilgal, means 'circle' or 'wheel.' It had no apparent astronomical use for that was not its purpose. That purpose was quite specifically to be as a lasting memorial to the providence of God on behalf of His people in the drying up of the river Jordan for their safe crossing, just as was done at the Red Sea. The Latin historian, Jerome, attested to the ring still standing in the 4th century AD. Then a church was built on the site in the 7th century AD and the stones were said to still be there then. However, all that remains there in the present day is a circle of rubble.

There are many stone circles dotted about the country, simple basic single ring affairs, the stones varying in size and numbers. They are not all as old as Stonehenge, apparently, so some may have been constructed by earlier Israelite migrants having that Hebrew colonising characteristic as their motivation and, hence, leaving the promised land which, through frequent poor leadership, they found untenable. They may have remembered the stone circle at Gilgal and felt constrained to keep up the tradition in their own way; but this is just speculation.

The history of the first two millennia of human life is quite sparse. Indeed,

what we know of it is contained in the first eleven chapters of *Genesis*, and the first five books of the Bible are all attributed to Moses. There were no written records of those many earlier years handed down to the people of Abraham's era. Had there been any such paper or papyrus records kept, as there surely would have been, they would all have been destroyed in the Flood. Noah, the only righteous man of that distant age, knew, of course, of this coming judgment of God. So he may have kept such records for his own use but I have not found in Scripture any hint that two filing cabinets were loaded onto the Ark. But, even if they had been, their contents might well have been rendered useless at the confusion of tongues. How, then, did Moses get the details of those early years of Man's history, as he records them in the first few chapters of *Genesis*? We read about the commissioning of Moses to be the leader of the Israelites and to free them from Egyptian bondage, recorded in *Exodus* chapter 4. There God overcomes his reluctance to lead the people by promising Moses that he would receive God's inspiration in all that he said to them. It was surely the same inspiration He bestowed upon the prophets, as the apostle Peter declared in his second epistle in chapter 1, verse 21, for Moses was no less holy than these men. There is further testimony to Moses' great leadership given in *Acts* chapter 7, verse 22, showing the depth of his knowledge and intellect. Thus there can be no doubt that the record of the antediluvian age is truly authentic and complementary to the words of the prophets and the apostles in relation to the Kingdom of God, the principal subject of the Word of God.

But significant events and stages in the history of mankind and that of God's kingdom had already been registered, not in

conventional writing in a book, but in a mathematical code housed in a mighty stone monument containing internal passageways, whose measurements were linked to that code and their significance only revealed by means of that critical code. I am talking, of course, about the Great Pyramid of Gizeh in Egypt. It was the research of people such as Prof. Piazzzi Smyth and Sir Flinders Petrie, who found that by relating one inch of length to one year of time, significant points and changes in dimensions along the length of the passageways coincided with notable events in the history of God's kingdom. Such was the accuracy of these coincidences and their alignment with the biblical record that the Pyramid is frequently called the 'Bible in stone.' In the prophecy of Isaiah, chapter 19 verses 19-20, the prophet draws attention to the Pyramid, referring to it as: "*An altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the LORD. And it shall be for a sign and a witness to the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt.*"

The Nile delta, jutting out into the Mediterranean Sea was noticed to form a perfect quadrant of a circle and that the centre of such a circle would be at the exact point on which the Pyramid stands. It is thus in the middle of Egypt as declared in verse 19. But it also stands on the northern edge of the Gizeh cliff, which forms a natural border between the delta to the north, with its arable land irrigated by the waters of the Nile, while, to the south, it is all unproductive desert. To the west it is also hundreds of miles of desert, but, to the east, it is again good agricultural land adjacent to the river. So, being at the centre and also at the border is an accurate description of its location.

One could devote a whole book just to this one subject but I wanted to link the Pyramid with Stonehenge.

They are obviously very different in design and construction, and yet it has been observed that some measurements of distance and angle on Stonehenge are replicated in the Pyramid. That angle referred to earlier, $51^{\circ}51'$, is also the angle of the slope of each side of the Pyramid. My sources of information on this vast subject are Adam Rutherford, who goes into the subject in great detail, and George Riffert who dedicates his book to David Davidson, a long recognised authority on the Pyramid. From these writings it is clear that its construction took place before the Flood and before the lifetime of Noah. The entrance to the internal passageways is on the north face of the Pyramid and the Pole Star, at certain times, would shine down the length of the first descending passage. This provided evidence as to the date when the structure was built. The many measurements taken in these passageways, whose dimensions altered at some points

along their length, revealed that these structural changes synchronised with particular years and events in the history of mankind. Scholars and researchers found that by using that scale of one inch of length to a year of time, the progression of human history could be accurately traced.

Thus there is indicated the period in which the Pyramid was built, and the passageway descending from the entrance signifies the fall of man. On the downward slope the Flood is marked and the passage continues on down to a point where it changes to an upward direction. This point marks the Exodus from Egypt, indicated on the sketch maps provided by the aforementioned authors. The ascending passage proceeds on upwards to a point marking the birth of our Lord, followed shortly afterward on the map by His death and resurrection. At this point the passageway opens out into the much larger space called the Grand

Gallery. The significance of this marked change is indicated on the maps as depicting Israel going from being under Law to being under Grace in this new Christian era. It is clear from the distinct stages in man's history, marked in the passageway system, that there were three to be regarded as significant. First, the destruction of the earlier Adamic people in the Flood and the Covenant of promise, made with Noah, that such a judgment would never be repeated. Second, Israel, the specially chosen kingdom of God, entered freely into a Covenant relationship with God, following their exodus from Egypt, promising strict adherence to His Law. Thirdly, having broken that promise, they were released from the penalty of the Law at Calvary where Jesus Christ, the Son of God, redeemed Israel by the sacrifice of His own sinless life. The old Law Covenant is thus replaced by the new Covenant of Grace. The Covenants God made with Abraham and with king David

The Great Pyramid



are not specifically marked as they would come within the ambit of those major stages. At the top of the Grand Gallery the passageway becomes level and this coincides with the First World War. Though not mentioned on the maps it would also mark the end of Moslem rule in the Holy Land, when General Allenby brought the Turkish Ottoman administration there to an end when he entered Jerusalem on 11 December 1917, a significant date in our teaching. The passageway then enters what is called the King's

Chamber and this brings us into the present time. However, there is no indication of the date of Christ's second advent, nor could we expect to find it, for the Lord Himself did not state it. But, let it be noted that none of these historic details would have been revealed by the use of any other measure, they could only come to light by the use of the inch measure.

That there is all this historic detail mapped out in this unique way points to the existence of a great

mind with knowledge and vision far beyond that of any living being. In the historic Egyptian 'Book of the Dead' the Great Pyramid is referred to as the Pillar of Enoch. Enoch was a descendant of Seth and, as we read in *Genesis* chapter 5, verse 22: "*Enoch walked with God.*" With such a relationship and affinity with God it is reasonable to believe that Enoch would have the knowledge and ability to oversee the construction of such an edifice with its Divine message and symbolism incorporated in its unique design. According to Riffert the indigenous Egyptian people at the time were pagan and ruled by their king, who was called Cheops. Their own history records the invasion, from the east, of powerful Shepherd Kings. These are believed to have been other descendants of Seth and they used the available Egyptian manpower to quarry and cut the great stone blocks which went into the construction of the Pyramid. Rutherford quoted the Jewish historian Josephus who stated that the whole building process, including the quarrying of the stone, took 30 years and this was accomplished in the year 2622 BC.

What is striking about this great stone monument is that it bore witness, not only to the kingdom of God, but also to His foreknowledge, majesty and power. It proved that long before the kingdom existed in physical reality, it existed in the mind of God. Before it existed in reality, its birth as a nation in Egypt was marked in this highly visible manner. And, thinking further along these 'monumental' lines, the place where that kingdom would be located at the time of our Lord's second advent, is marked in that other very visible manner, in the Stonehenge monument in Wiltshire. No human mind could have projected more than 5,000 years of human history in such a



The Stone of Destiny in the Coronation Chair

remarkable physical way. So, these two great stone monuments are of unparalleled significance, as they have proved to be such constant witnesses to the omnipotence and the omniscience of God. Jeremiah also refers to them, in chapter 32, verse 20: "...signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, even unto this day, and in Israel....."

Two witnesses. "At the mouth of two witnesses or at the mouth of three witnesses shall the matter be established." So we read in *Deuteronomy* chapter 19, verse 15. There we have, then, two witnesses bearing testimony to the very existence of God and to His great faithfulness. Is there a third witness? Indeed there is, even if it is a mere pebble in comparison.

In *Genesis* chapter 28 we read the account of Jacob's dream and making use of a stone for a pillow while he slept. Having then been given, in a vision, the promise of God about his future of being the progenitor of a nation of people, he solemnly anointed the stone with oil and it became a much venerated stone thereafter. When Jacob was near the end of his life he gave each of his twelve sons a blessing and we read in Scripture that Joseph was given custody and responsibility for the stone. It was referred to as "the shepherd, the stone of Israel" (*Genesis* 49:24). It was later used by Moses, at God's command, as a source of running water when the Israelites were short of water in the wilderness and faced the possibility of dying of thirst. St. Paul refers to this incident in his first letter to the Corinthians (10:4), saying: "And did all drink the same spiritual drink; for they all drank of that spiritual Rock which followed them and that Rock was Christ." The word translated as 'followed' literally means 'carried along with.' Thus Paul was referring to the stone of Jacob and confirming

that it was portable. So, the people of Israel were clearly saved from dying of thirst, saved by the Rock which Paul declared was symbolic of Christ (see page 6).

Later in the kingdom's history, now settled in the Promised Land, the stone was used at the coronation of Israel's kings. The new monarch would stand by the stone while he was anointed with oil as God's confirmation of the new king's right to occupy that throne. The stone continued to have that central role in the succession of kings in Israel, right up until the reign of Zedekiah, the last king to occupy the throne before he witnessed the execution of his sons and was then imprisoned by the Babylonian powers, who had, by then, completed their occupation of his country.

The king's two daughters, however, had left the country and, along with Jeremiah the prophet, the scribe Baruch and the treasured coronation stone, had, for a short time, taken refuge in Egypt. From there they set out by sea and eventually reached these British Isles. The elder of the two women, Tea Tephi, landed in Ireland. There she met and married the country's reigning monarch, Eochaidh. The stone she brought with her was thereafter called the 'lia fail,' the Stone of Destiny and it undoubtedly served the purpose of being her 'passport in stone,' giving her identity and legitimacy as a Royal Princess of the house and throne of David. As we know, that stone continued to serve that purpose in its later relocation to Scotland, where it became known as the Stone of Scone and then in Westminster Abbey in London.

In those 3,000 years of its history that lump of sandstone has borne witness to the whereabouts of the monarchs of Israel and is thus a visible witness to the faithfulness of

God in keeping His promise to King David that he would never lack an heir to the throne of Israel. (*I Kings* 8:25).

So we have *three* stone witnesses to the existence of God and to His faithfulness to the Covenants He made with our distant forefathers. One bears witness to the location of God's kingdom at the time of its birth. Another bears witness to its location in the 'appointed place' of prophecy (*II Samuel* 7:10). The third bears witness to the location of the throne in God's kingdom, for it is the Throne of the Lord and to which He will shortly return and take His rightful place upon it.

One of the books used in the research for this article has the title *The Stones Cry Out*. It is very apt for, by their visible presence these stones clearly portray strength, stability and historic continuity. The kingdom, in the past two centuries, perhaps, has displayed similar virtues, personified for us in the life of our late Queen Elizabeth II in her 70-year reign. However, her mantle has now passed to her son, King Charles III, who has to prove his mettle in a time of serious financial and political turmoil in his kingdom. Indeed, he has appeared on the world stage at a time of critical scene changing and we are unsure about how the next act is going to work out. But the great Playwright, in His foreknowledge, has given us the assurance that the grand finale will be the final triumph over the present unrighteousness and evil in the kingdom by His leading man in this great drama of the ages, His own Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

ALFRED BROWN

KING SAUL

A Character Study

When the elders of Israel came to Samuel and demanded that he should give them a king to reign over them, the Almighty instructed him to give them their desire, but to protest solemnly and shew them the manner of the king that would reign over them. Ever obedient, Samuel told the people the kind of king they would have; one who would take their sons, daughters, servants, lands and livestock for himself to serve him (I Samuel 8). Part of this prophecy was fulfilled in chapter 14:52, where it says, “*When Saul saw any strong man, or any valiant man, he took him unto him.*” Despite the warning about what their king would be like, the people still demanded one, and Samuel according to God’s instruction gave them a king—King Saul.

Who was Saul and what was he like? Saul was the son of Kish, who was a mighty man of power, of the tribe of Benjamin. Physically, the Scriptures record that he was “*a choice young man, and a goodly; and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upwards he was higher than any of the people*” (I Samuel 9:1-2). In his lamentation over Saul and Jonathan when they had been slain, David says how they were “*swifter than eagles*” and “*stronger than lions.*” He also repeatedly speaks of their might, thus showing that throughout his life, Saul remained physically strong and mighty (II Samuel 1:17-27).

However, what was Saul like in character? What kind of man was he? When first reading about Saul in I Samuel 9, his father sends him to seek his asses which were lost. As instructed, Saul takes one of the servants and goes to seek them. After searching a great area and,

therefore, being gone for a long time, he expresses to his servant that they should return home before his father gets concerned for them. His servant advises him to seek Samuel’s help to know what course they should take, and Saul heeds his servant’s advice. This situation reveals two things about Saul’s character. First, that he was one who was subject to his father, giving him honour and respect, even away from his presence. The second thing is that he was humble enough to consent to the wise counsel of his servant. His humility was further displayed when, hearing Samuel’s words, “*... on whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on thee, and on all thy father’s house?*” Saul replied, “*Am not I a Benjaminite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? And my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Wherefore then speakest thou so to me?*” (I Samuel 9:19-21).

Saul was small in his own sight. Such was his humility, it led to a certain shyness, so that when the time came for Samuel to present the people with their new king, Saul was nowhere to be found, because he had hidden “*himself among the stuff*” (I Samuel 10:19-22). After Samuel had showed the people their king and “*the manner of the kingdom,*” he sent them home. “*Saul also went home to Gibeah.*” It is recorded in I Samuel 11:4-5, when messengers came to Gibeah, that, “*... behold, Saul came after the herd out of the field; ...*” Despite the fact that he was now king of Israel, Saul still went home to his family and did the humble work of caring for the herds on his family’s land.

More can be learned about what Saul was like in I Samuel 11:1-13, when Nahash the Ammonite came

up against Jabesh-gilead, and only agreed to make covenant with the men of Jabesh on the condition that he could “*thrust out*” all their right eyes, and “*lay it for a reproach upon all Israel.*” When messengers came to Gibeah and Saul heard the tidings of the men of Jabesh, the Scriptures say, “*And the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard those tidings, and his anger was kindled greatly.*” This was righteous anger at one seeking to lay a ‘*reproach upon all Israel*’ and therefore, seeking to defy the Redeemer of Israel. Later in the chapter when, under the leadership of Saul, deliverance had been gotten for Jabesh-gilead, the people then said unto Samuel, “*Who is he that said, Shall Saul reign over us? Bring the men, that we may put them to death.*” To which Saul replied, “*There shall not be a man put to death this day: for today the LORD hath wrought salvation in Israel.*” Even though the men who did not want Saul for king were in the wrong, yet because salvation had been wrought in Israel, he shewed mercy to these men and spared them from being put to death.

This side of Saul’s character is not the one generally thought about, for he is renowned for his bad character. Saul started off righteous, that much can be seen from the account of Scripture. However, he became unrighteous, and what a change came over him from when he was righteous!

Saul’s change of character began with a lack of trust and patience, which resulted in disobedience through the sin of pride. In I Samuel 13:5-13, when the Philistines came to fight against Israel, the men of Israel were distressed and the people hid. Now Saul “*tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed; but Samuel came*

not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.” Instead of being patient and waiting longer for Samuel and trusting in God to keep him till then, Saul, who had been so humble before, allowed pride to enter in, and offered the burnt offering which was not his place to do so. This was an act of pride, and it was disobedience too against God’s law, which Samuel made quite clear to him.

The next change that can be noticed about Saul’s character is in I *Samuel* 14. In this passage, when the Philistines were come against Israel, Jonathan and his armour-bearer fight against them and the Almighty gives them the victory. The men of Israel on seeing this are gathered together to join in the fight and “so the LORD saved Israel that day ...” However, as the Israelites pursued the Philistines, Saul swore an oath saying, “Cursed be the man that eateth any food until evening, that I may be avenged on **mine** enemies.” Unlike when Nahash the Ammonite had come against Jabesh-gilead and Saul had been righteously angry for the reproach that Nahash had sought to lay on all Israel, this time Saul had selfish motives; to avenge **himself** of his enemies!

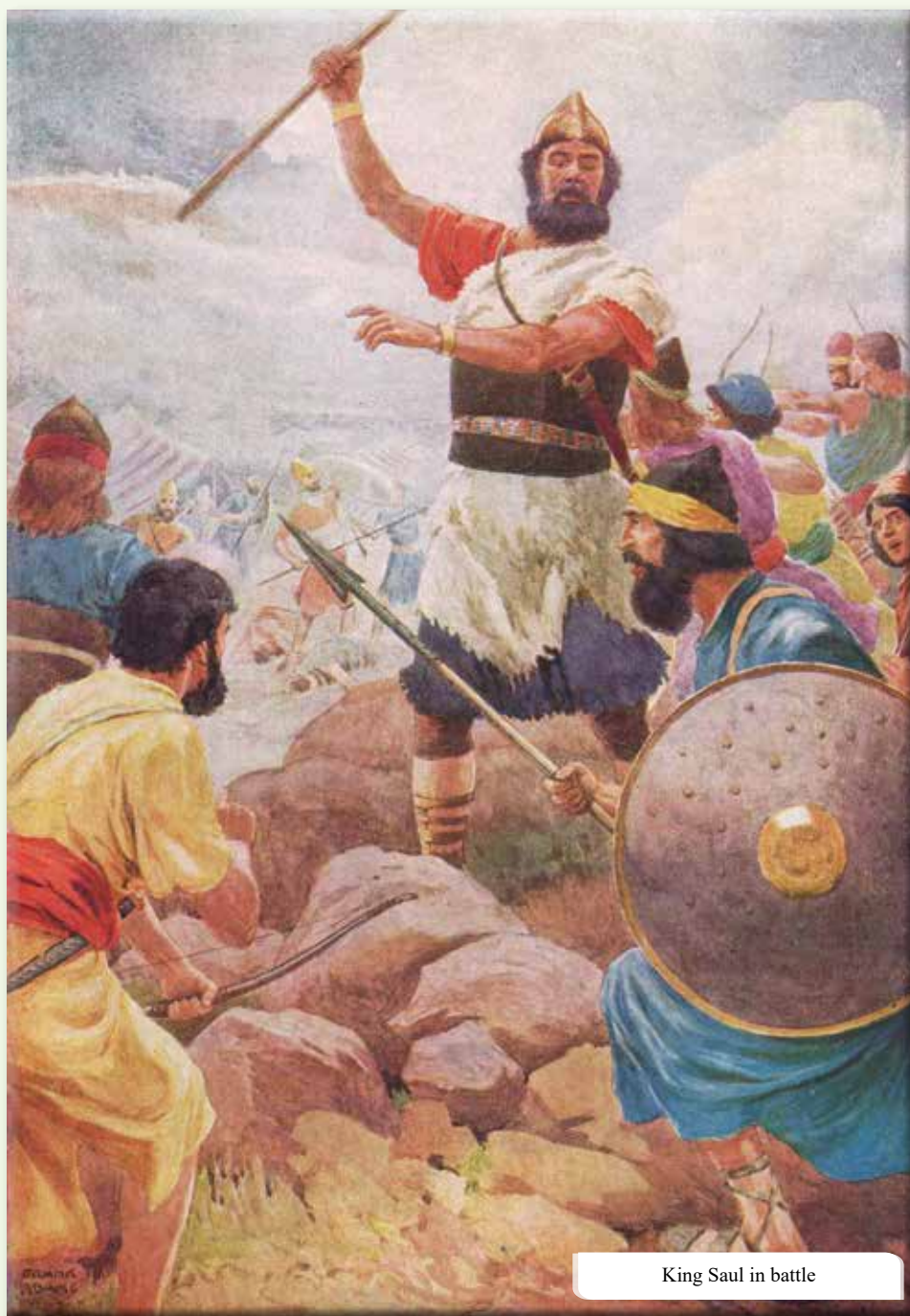
Later on in this same passage he reveals another change of character. After Saul had made his oath that none should eat until evening, Jonathan, who had not heard the oath, ate some honey. After the Philistines had been further smitten, it came to light that Jonathan had eaten, and Saul was going to have Jonathan put to death. The people had to deliver Jonathan saying, “Shall Jonathan die, **who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel?** God forbid: as the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground: **for he hath wrought with God this day.**” As well as delivering Jonathan from death, the people’s words would have served as a reminder to Saul about what he had said in

chapter 11 in regards to the men who had not wanted him for king, “**There shall not a man be put to death this day: for the LORD hath wrought salvation in Israel.**” Saul had changed; where had mercy in the day of salvation gone?

The final change to come over Saul can be read of in I *Samuel* 15. He was commanded to smite and to utterly destroy the Amalekites. He did not follow this through, and when Samuel confronted him with his disobedience, Saul refused to acknowledge his disobedience saying, “*Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD ...*” (verse 20). Whereas before, Saul had

been willing to listen to what the Almighty had to say through His servant Samuel and to obey, on this occasion he had disobeyed and was now stubbornly refusing to acknowledge it! From that point onwards Saul was never the righteous man he had been before, but instead he became an angry, distrusting, murderous and greatly troubled man. What a different man Saul had become! Such a change of character from the man who had been so humble and righteous.

What caused Saul to change to this man for which he is infamously remembered? A look at two major mistakes, which became the turning



King Saul in battle

ALMIGHTY GOD'S WRATH REMAINS TODAY

Will our 'Lampstands' be Removed?

I believe that if the unfaithfulness and disobedience to Almighty God continues as it is today, our covenant nations will no longer be Christian civilisations. The days are evil. Will our 'lampstands' be removed? Will we 'hear'? Will we listen? Jesus warned of immediate judgment: *"Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from*

its place. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches..." (Revelation 2:4-5, 7).

Are our covenant nations hardened and indifferent to Almighty God in these Laodicean times? The Apostle Paul records of godlessness:

"But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ... having a form of godliness but denying its power" (II Timothy 3:1-5).

Again, are our covenant nations becoming more unfaithful and disobedient to Almighty God? Will He harden – cause further 'blindness' as Isaiah recorded: *"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? And I said, Here am I. Send me! He said, Go and tell this people: Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving. Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with*

KING SAUL *continued*

points in his life and had resulting consequences, will be beneficial at this point. The first mistake was when he presumptuously and proudly offered up the burnt offering in I Samuel 13. As a result of this, Samuel declared unto Saul, *"Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. But now thy kingdom shall not continue ..."* Although he would still be king, his children would not follow after him as king. This was the first blow and turning point in Saul's life.

His second mistake was when he disobeyed the Almighty's command to utterly destroy Amalek and then stubbornly refused to acknowledge it. The consequence of this was that the Almighty got Samuel to say to Saul, *"... to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because*

thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath rejected thee from being king" (verses 22-23). Samuel repeats this judgment in verse 26, saying, *"... thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel."* Now it was not just that his kingdom would not continue, but Saul himself was now rejected from being king, and the kingdom was to go to someone better than him (verse 28).

These two mistakes were the points in Saul's life where his character changed. The consequences of these two occasions meant his family line would not be the kings of Israel, and that he himself would no longer be king in the sight of the Almighty. Although these words of judgment had to come to pass, he could have repented and been delivered. However, Saul, like it says of Esau in Hebrews 12:17, *"... found no place of repentance."* From that point, his character continued on that downward spiral, right up to the day of his death, when he

took his own life (I Samuel 31:4; I Chronicles 10:2-4).

Saul was standing sure, but fell to unrighteousness. Let us take warning from the example of King Saul and remember those words in I Corinthians 10:12, *"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."*

Although not about Saul's character, there is one more thing to be noted. In the Almighty's will, Saul had to lose the kingdom, though that is no excuse for him to then continue in his wicked ways. The reason his kingdom could not continue was because he was of the tribe of Benjamin, and the kingly line was to come through the line of Judah (Genesis 49:8-12). Therefore, ultimately, Saul's line could not have continued as the kings of Israel. This however is another study in itself and may be covered in the future in another article.

TAMAR TEPHI McKAY

their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed” (Isaiah 6:8-10).

Will Almighty God give a certificate of ‘divorce’? *“This is what the LORD says: Where is your mother’s certificate of divorce with which I sent her away? Or to which of my creditors did I sell you? Because of your sins you were sold; because of your transgressions your mother was sent away”* (Isaiah 50:1).

Similarly, Jeremiah recorded years later: *“I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries. Yet I saw that her unfaithful sister Judah had no fear; she also went out and committed adultery. Because Israel’s immorality mattered so little to her, she defiled the land and committed adultery with stone and wood. In spite of all this, her unfaithful sister Judah did not return to me with all her heart, **but only in pretence, declares the Lord**”* (Jeremiah 3:8-10).

Are our covenant nations in ‘pretence’ before Almighty God

today? Do they think they can pretend before His Majesty? – He is Almighty God. We need to remember our position in Christ before Him. Has our true love of Him gone cold? From the references on ‘divorce’ above, we pray that this is a temporary situation as in the Old Covenant.

We need now to focus on the New Covenant – on Jesus, of whom Luke records: *“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved”* (Acts 4:12). Our only hope is in Jesus – Almighty God’s only Son sent to save the elect! There is great sadness for those who do not believe in Jesus. Those who do not know their eternal future.

Jesus compassionately explained about diligence, faithfulness and being watchful: *“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ... **Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will***

come” (Matthew 24:36-37, 42).

Jesus further explained: *“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak”* (Matthew 26:41). Jesus is our light – He illuminates our hearts. Through His Holy Spirit He has guided England (Ephraim) and the covenant nations for centuries. But are they asleep?

The Apostle Paul recorded: *“Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil”* (Ephesians 5:15-16).

Further to being watchful there are other considerations. I am still reminded of the wonderful Editorial¹ focusing on “...mixing ourselves and our laws and culture with other nations and pagan supranational organisations...”

The Editorial Team’s work ‘The Immigration Crisis’ is of great concern and adds to the problems above: “The illegal migrant invasion of the British Isles is clear evidence that Britain is Israel – we are in the



role of a latter-day Noah's Ark ... Thy Kingdom come on Earth."²

The above highlights the problems of globalist and green state 'last days' godless evil fueled by political correctness and an "'unclean' spiritual onslaught by pro-EU legal Lords." I have heard that there are moves to rejoin the EU.

Covenant nation Britain, indeed, all covenant nations, were faithful to Almighty God before the 1960s. The deception quoted above, aided by the liberal church, has led them astray to unfaithfulness, unholiness and disobedience. Remember another Editorial³ "With death striking at the leading covenant nations and people's livelihoods under threat, many people have been praying for the first time in their lives. This is significant as the LORD declared: ***"If I send pestilence among my people: If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways: then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land"*** (II Chronicles 7:13-14).

The liberal church has gone soft on holiness (Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:24-27; I Corinthians 6:9-10) and has corrupted biblical truth. Further we remember in relation to the quote above "mixing ourselves and our laws and culture with other nations," similarly Almighty God gives a warning with anger as He did with the House of Israel: ***"Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land where you are going, or they will be a snare among you"*** (Exodus 34:12).

Complacency and giving in to claims of discrimination led to history repeating itself: ***"Foreigners sap his strength, but he does not realize it. His hair is sprinkled with grey, but he does not notice"*** (Hosea 7:9).

When will all covenant nations forget the evil intentions of the EU and United Nations? Again, when will they remember their "*first love*" and "*the height from which they have fallen*" (Revelation 2:4-5). We pray for repentance and spiritual revival.

We have recently celebrated Christmas, that joyous time when Almighty God paved the way for His only Son Jesus to come into His world. At this point, I loved the article: "How to Face the Future with Certainty."⁴ "The Hebrew Perspective of Past & Future – In Hebrew the past is expressed with the word which literally means 'yesterday.' Where it gets interesting is when we look at the root from which this word is derived. It is derived from the root word which means 'in front of'."

The article speaks of 'future,' what is 'in front of' – and this is what needs to be grasped by covenant nations now. People need a way out of the darkness – the darkness of the human story with its lies, wars and greed. Almighty God made a way. Almighty God took the initiative – He sent His Son Jesus – the greatest gift.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ... Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him" (John 3:16, 36).

Remember, mankind on our own had no way to get back into a relationship with Almighty God – no road to walk, no bridge to cross, no ladder to climb to Heaven – but He made a way – more precisely **the way**: ***"Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"*** (John 14:6).

Jesus coming into His world does

everything about our darkness, our blindness, if we are able to truly believe in Him for our lives now and eternally. Above I quoted from Isaiah 6:1-10. Mark quotes Isaiah 6:9-10: ***"He (Jesus) told them, The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables so that, they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!"*** (Mark 4:11-12).

At this point I quote from the article: "The 'Mystery' of our National Blindness"⁵: "A mystery, in one sense of the word, is something baffling to the human mind, something unaccountable, or something unaccounted for. In scriptural usage, however, it has been defined as a previously hidden truth now divinely revealed in which there is still something that is not clearly understood." Yes, there was a 'mystery' – concealed in the Old Covenant and now revealed in Jesus in the New Covenant. All revealed.

It is true that the Gentiles will be grafted into the remnant of the House of Israel and thus all Israel will be saved. Here I see the Gentiles as the Elect who believed and keep on believing in Jesus. This is clear from Holy Scripture as John records: ***"He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God"*** (John 1:10-13).

Notice ***"Yet to all who received Him..."*** This is an awesome statement – if you **receive** – you must have **been given something** – given new birth – **born-again**. The

Apostle John truly explains this and there is now no ‘mystery.’

The truth is clear. Indeed, it is about your position in Christ – in Jesus. It is about ‘seeing’ when initially spiritually blind – it is about **being given by the Father to the Son** as one of the elect. There is no ‘mystery.’ Faith is given to a believing heart by the Holy Spirit. All born-again elect know this truth. The Apostle John confirms this as he records about the elect ‘seeing’ as Jesus said: *“For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day”* (John 6:40).

Here ‘looks to’ means that this born-again believer has spiritually seen and heard and is instantly regenerated – saved. Further we do not do the choosing – Almighty God does, as confirmed by Jesus: *“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ... No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day”* (John 6:37, 44). Further proving the elect are born of Almighty God – they did not choose – He did.

*“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. **For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight**”* (Ephesians 1:3-4).

Before regeneration each elect person was guided by the Holy Spirit to see and perceive, hear and understand as Jesus teaches: *“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me”* (John 10:14). For our eternity with Almighty God there is no ‘mystery’ – all has been revealed in Jesus.

There is great joy in knowing that

we as elect Gentiles will be grafted into the House of Israel with the faithful remnant – Paul records: *“But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in (and of) Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. **He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus”*** (Romans 3:21-26).

The ‘sins committed beforehand’ refer to the faithful remnant of the Old Covenant where the sacrificial system was efficacious until Jesus’ once-for-all and all-time sacrifice of Himself on the Cross for the sins of the ‘whole world’ (I John 2:2). ‘Whole world’ means the elect in all nations of Almighty God’s world.

However, the wrath of Almighty God is real. The Apostle Paul recorded: *“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them”* (Romans 1:18-19).

Further John recorded: *“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life. The Pharisees challenged him, Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid. Jesus answered, Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where*

*I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. ... But he continued, You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; **I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins”*** (John 8:12-14, 23-24).

It is a great comfort in these troubled evil times to know our saved position in Jesus: *“Therefore Jesus said again, I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. ... My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand”* (John 10:7, 27-28).

I pray all who call themselves Christians in our covenant nations will truly remember their ‘first love’ and be encouraged as the Apostle Paul’s truth: *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, **to stand**”* (Ephesians 6:10-13).

Remember our ‘lampstands.’

Blessings
DR GRAHAM WHELAN
Minister Emeritus
Australian Christian Churches

1. *The Covenant Nations*, Vol 5, No. 4
2020, p.5
2. *The Covenant Nations* Vol 5, No. 12
2022, p.17
3. *The Covenant Nations* Vol 5, No. 2
2020, p.5
4. *The Covenant Nations* Vol 5, No. 12
2022, p.12
5. *The Covenant Nations* Vol 5, No. 12, p.8

WAS RAHAB THE HARLOT A FOREBEAR OF JESUS?

This most interesting and detailed study has been heavily edited for reasons of space. Readers are invited to request the full article from the Editorial Team

It has been stated, and it is most commonly believed, that **Rahab the Harlot**, she of peculiar renown, a resident of Jericho, and a member of the ethnic *Canaanites*, more specifically the *Amorites*, was the **great-great-grandmother of David the King**.

This view is arrived at through a faulty understanding, and reading, of *Matthew 1:5*: “**And Salmon brought forth Boaz of Rachab; and Boaz brought forth Obed of Ruth; and Obed brought forth Jesse; and Jesse brought forth David the King...**”

There you have it – the proof, the fact, the end of the matter... **Rahab the harlot of Jericho was a forebear of the Saviour Jesus**, by virtue of the fact she was ‘**David’s Grandmother**.’

Or was She?

The end result of our study is to discover that it is a misreading of *Matthew 1:5*, a misunderstanding if you like, which has led to an erroneous view of **the Redeemer of Israel’s lineage** to include **Rahab the harlot**, a foreigner, as one of **Jesus’s forebears**.

In all the references to the woman of Jericho, she is identified as **Rahab the harlot/the harlot Rahab** (*Joshua 2:1; 6:17, 22, 23, 25; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25*).

It is a worthy matter to tie-up the point of identifying this lady, **Rachab**, insofar as we can, for she is not given the appellation of ‘**the**

harlot.’ (This is because she was not a woman of such reputation.)

We will take issue with the notion that the names of **these two women** are *interchangeable*. Whilst we acknowledge they have the same root, we must also recognise they are laden with divergence... and they are not strictly the same – we should be careful on this point.

Let us call forth the witnesses to bear testimony evidencing the fact these women are *two separate individuals*. Even in the **Greek** the names of **Rachab** and **Rahab** are differentiated.

In *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance* we find that **Rachab** is 4477. **Rahab** is 4460 – (This, then directs us to the **Hebrew 7343**). In the book *Name Meanings* by *HalleluYAH Scriptures* (a group having no ‘*truck*’ with our Identity beliefs), they see fit to list the *two names separately* (we shall return to this momentarily).

When we turn to the *Aramaic-English New Testament* by Andrew Gabriel Roth (a (Sephardic?) ‘Jew’ who has no agreement with our Identity position), the text differentiates between **Rachav** in *Matthew*, and **Rahab** in *Hebrews* and *James*. Finally, in the *Greek-English Inter-linear Bible*, edited and translated by Jay P. Green, Sr., we find the transliteration for the names to be **Raxab** (Rachab) in *Matthew*, and **Ra’ab** (Rahab) in *Hebrews* and *James*.

This is helpful in that the names of these two women, whilst often spelled the same by some in our English script, they have quite

distinct meanings. Citing the *Name Meanings* list referred to above, an examination of the two names are as follows:

1. Rahab (rahav – there should be a line under the ‘b’, giving a ‘v’ sound) – this is **Rahab**.
2. Rahab (rachav – as above, and additionally, a dot beneath the ‘h’, giving a guttural ‘ch’ sound) – this is **Rachab**.

In the first case, the name means ‘*proud*’ – and that is exactly how the Scriptures assign women of a whorish, or adulterous, disposition (*Proverbs 7:10-13; Jeremiah 3:1-3; Revelation 17:3-5*). In the second case, the name means ‘*wide, broad*.’

These names do not import the same meaning, simply because they are not the same woman. It is clear that **David’s** great-great-grandmother **Rachab** bore a name which spoke of a soon coming king of her lineage, **David, the Anointed of the LORD**, who would be wide and broad enough to encompass the whole House of Israel under the Kingdom, and under whose kingship the Nation would be united. Of course, this would be true also of the **KING OF KINGS** Who would ultimately come (and will ultimately return to sit forever on **Shiloh’s Throne**).

Surely this should inspire us to sing as did our forebears before us: “**Hosanna; favoured (is) He that cometh in the Name of the Lord: Favoured (be) the kingdom of our father David, that cometh in the Name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest**” (*Mark 11:9, 10* – See also *Matthew 21:9, 15; John 12:13*).

STUART MCKAY

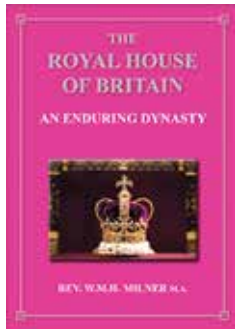
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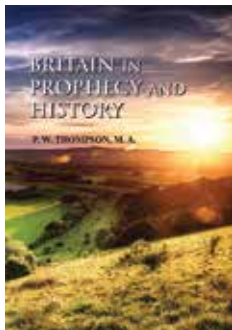
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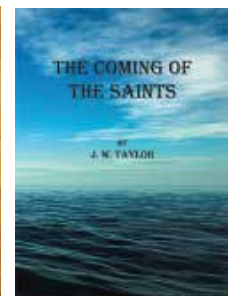
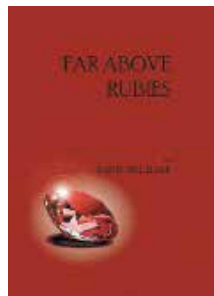
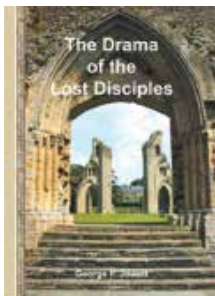
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Published by
BIWF, 121 Low Etherley, Bishop Auckland, DL14 0HA, United Kingdom
Tel: 01388 834395

e-mail: admin@britishisrael.co.uk web: www.britishisrael.co.uk

Printed in England by printing.com