

The

Covenant Nations

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3, 2008



INSIDE...

HE ONLY IS MY ROCK AND SALVATION

Jesus the author and finisher of our faith - *Hebrews 12:2*

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▲ Sheltering from a storm in a cleft of limestone rock, Augustus Montague Toplady was inspired to write the hymn 'Rock of Ages'. It was first published in *The Gospel Magazine* in 1775. During this experience Rev Toplady was in Burrington Combe which is near to Cheddar Gorge in the Mendip Hills as shown in this picture.

◀ COVER PICTURE. The Rock of Gibraltar is located at the entrance of the Mediterranean. Its strategic location and history have made it an international symbol of solidity and strength. ".....and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies" *Genesis 22:17*

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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.

OUR MISSION

To teach the Covenant Nations their Kingdom Identity
and unique Destiny to lead all nations in peace.
To proclaim the imminent Return of our Risen Lord

OUR IMMEDIATE TASK

To alert the people of God's servant nation to the fact that the deepening global crisis now facing them is a spiritual crisis, satanically inspired, and that if they are to restore their integrity and freedom as a Sovereign Company of Nations they have only one course open to them –

**TO RETURN TO THEIR COVENANT-KEEPING
GOD AND OBEY HIS DIVINE LAW.**

An interdenominational magazine emphasizing the need for the closest possible co-operation between the English-speaking and kindred peoples as the vital factor in the preservation of the freedom inherent in the Kingdom of God on Earth, through the Code of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe that they embody the great bulk of the descendants of God's servant, Israel – irrespective of world Jewry, among whom we find only a residue of today's Israel folk.

Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness,
ye that seek the LORD. look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.

Isaiah 51:1

EDITORIAL

THE RUSSIAN LEADERSHIP

Peter the Great and the Disintegrating 'Rock' of the Roman Church

Russia has a new president, Dmitri Medvedev, who took office on 7th May, 2008. His name means 'bear,' a rather appropriate meaning one would think. Asked as to who will be in charge of Russia, himself or his predecessor, Vladimir Putin, who is now his prime minister, Medvedev said that is easy – *he* will direct Russia's foreign policy, while Mr Putin will direct Russia's internal policy. Of course, Mr Putin might well continue to run things from behind the scenes and could then stand again for the presidency in 2012, with the prospect of continuing in office for a further eight years. However, with tension rising between Russia and NATO over the breakaway provinces of Abkhazia and South Ossetia in Georgia on the Black Sea, events may reveal sooner rather than later, who will really be in charge in Russia in the coming months.

In Russian history, the Romanov dynasty lasted for a period of 304 years from 21st February 1613, when Michael Romanov was elected Tzar by a representative assembly, to 15th March (1st March old style), 1917 when Tzar Nicholas II abdicated. The greatest advance in Russia under the Romanov dynasty was made from 1689 when Peter Romanov the Great assumed sole rule and looked to the West. A giant figure of a man at 6ft 8in, he learnt how to build a navy in British shipyards. In 1700 he started a war with Sweden which lasted 21 years until 1721.

On 27th May, 1703, Peter the Great founded St Petersburg, known as the Venice of the north and to which city he moved Russia's capital in 1712. The double-headed eagle is everywhere in this fascinating city as people look east and west. For many it symbolizes the split between nationalists – or Slavophiles – who feel Russia's destiny lies rooted in the east and those who look to the west in hope of stronger ties with Europe.



The double-headed Eagle is everywhere in St Petersburg.

Looking ahead, we should note that 27th May, 2009 will be 306, or 2 x 153 years, a double period of *the Elect*, from the founding of St Petersburg. While the same period from 1712 will expire in 2018 – a date foreseen by Rev. Robert Fleming in 1701 in his book *The Rise and Fall of Rome Papal*. The year 2018 will mark 1,260 years from when the papacy under Pope Paul I became a temporal power in AD 758. In prophetic time revealed by the *Apocalypse*, 1,260 years defines the duration of the papacy.

In this context, the association of the name Peter with the Roman Catholic Church, which (wrongly) claims the Apostle Peter as its first bishop, or pope, is prophetically significant. The 'Rock' of the Roman Church is disintegrating fast through the lack of candidates for the priesthood, particularly in Ireland. It is also desperately trying to recover from the child abuse scandal in the United States. We might note that Pope Benedict's recent visit to the United States in mid-April fell on the pontiff's 81st birthday

– a period of 9 x 9 years for finality and judgment.

One further interesting point, related to the above time projections and the papacy, came up recently in Cambridge, England, during an intellectually demanding course on Imperial Russian culture. As told to us by a reader who attended, Michael Romanov, the first in the line, stated that Moscow is the third Rome and that there will never be another and therefore until the end Russia will be the third and last Rome.

St Petersburg saved from destruction! The date 30th June 2008, marked 100 years from the colossal cosmic Tunguska explosion in Siberia which struck at around 7.10am. If it had taken 286/287 minutes later – the Great Pyramid's displacement factor being 286.1022 – it is calculated that St Petersburg, the then capital of Imperial Russia, would have been completely destroyed.

HE ONLY IS MY ROCK AND MY SALVATION



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN BATTERSBY

In the earthly ministry of our Lord, He asked His disciples a most pertinent question, “Whom do men say that I the son of man am?” (Matthew 16:13). In response, the disciples gave the Lord the various opinions that were prevalent among the people at the time. Then our Lord asked His disciples a more direct question, “But whom say ye that I am?” The Apostle Peter then boldly declared by divine revelation, “Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God.” The Lord readily acknowledged that this declaration came from His Father in heaven and not by earthly wisdom. Jesus then uttered a statement involving a truth that had its beginning with the Hebrew patriarchs of old. Jesus said, “upon this rock I will build my church” (Matthew

16:13-18). W.E. Vine defines this word ‘rock’ as ‘petra’, which denotes a mass of rock as opposed to just a fragment.

It is evident that the Lord Jesus meant it was the revealed declaration concerning His deity upon which He was going to build His church. Among most New Testament believers, it is commonly accepted that the Lord was establishing a brand new institution. They believe this institution called the church would exist in New Testament times and would be totally separate from the Old Testament Kingdom of Israel. In contrast to this belief, the Apostle Paul in writing to the Ephesian saints said that the foundation of the church would be built upon both the New Testament

Apostles and Old Testament Prophets (Ephesians 2:11-22). Paul then says that Jesus Christ, He whom Peter earlier declared was the Son of God, was the chief cornerstone.

This statement of Paul is extremely significant because his language in the Ephesian letter gives clear indication that the Ephesians were Israelites of the Northern House. The Apostle used terms which have reference to the former state of division among the House of Judah and the House of Israel. Such terms as, uncircumcision and circumcision, aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, strangers from the covenants of promise, “He (Christ Jesus) is our peace who hath made both (houses) one” and “he (Christ) might reconcile both unto God” can find their root principles in God’s relationship with ancient Israel. The establishment and building of the Lord’s church is based upon the prophetic declaration of Jesus Christ as being the Rock of Israel as expressed in the Old Testament. If Jesus was not the rock to and for the people of Israel in the Old Testament, then He is not the rock of the church in the New Testament. There is only one rock.

The Apostle, in writing to the saints at Corinth emphatically states that when the children of Israel drank the waters from the smitten rock, they were drinking the spiritual water from Christ Himself. “Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea, And did all eat the same spiritual meat, And did all drink the same spiritual drink, for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ” (1 Corinthians 10:1-4). At the feast of Tabernacles recorded in John 7:37-53, “Jesus stood and cried, saying, if any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink.” This invitation of Jesus is the spiritual anti-type based on His physical provision for ancient Israel under the leadership of Moses at a place called Massah and Meribah (Exodus 17:1-7). The Psalmist recalled that “He (Christ) brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers” (Psalms 78:16). Again the Psalmist records, “The people asked . . . He opened the rock, and the waters gushed

out, they ran in the dry places like a river" (*Psalms* 105:40-41). It cannot be denied that the covenant nations of western civilization, as a major part of our historical heritage, have drunk the spiritual waters that have flowed from the fount of living water, the **Rock** of our salvation.

When King David proclaimed in *Psalms* 18:2 "The Lord is my rock. . ." it was based upon his knowledge of the song of Moses. In his last address to Israel, Moses said, "He is the Rock. . ." (*Deuteronomy* 32:4). Moses continued his song by declaring that Israel, once known as 'Jeshurun', referring to the days of youth and innocence "waxed fat and kicked. . . then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the rock of his salvation" (*Deuteronomy* 32:15). This seems to be typical of the covenant nations of Israel even today. We have our beginnings in innocence and godly fear, but in process of time we wander away from our first love and wallow in our wealth and prosperity. In repeating the sins of our forefathers, we also "lightly esteem the rock of our salvation."

The Lord was and is not only the Rock of Israel in supplying both physical and spiritual drink, but He is the Rock from whence they came. In his last address, Moses listed the iniquitous shortcomings of Israel in their departure from their youthful love relationship with the Lord. The most egregious sin of ancient Israel which is now being repeated in their modern offspring is provoking our God to jealousy by their worship of foreign gods. Moses then reiterates this act of spiritual fornication by several descriptive adjectives, such as. strange gods, abominations, sacrificed unto devils, gods whom they knew not, and to

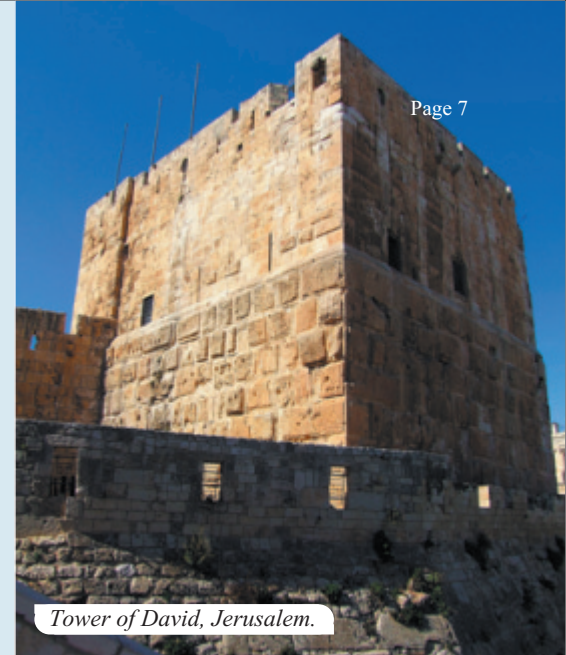
new gods (*Deuteronomy* 32:16-17). The recognition of 'strange' gods within the covenant nations of Israel is yet to bring God's severe judgment to our lands.

The next statement of Moses describes the God of Israel as "The Rock that begat thee" (*Deuteronomy* 32:18). This relationship between the Israel family and the Almighty goes beyond one of just a spiritual connection as a god with his subjects. This word 'begat' in the Hebrew language (Strong's 3205) means "to bear young, to show lineage, make to bring forth (children), bring up, calve, child, be delivered (of a child), be the son of," etc.

This shows an organic connection between the Lord and His people Israel. This one who is the **Rock** actually gave birth to His people, so therefore there exists an inseparable bond with His people as a father with his only son. Approximately 700 years later, the LORD is again pleading with His people Israel through the prophet Isaiah, and calls in deep passionate terms for His offspring to return unto Him. He calls for Israel to "Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD. look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged. Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you. for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him" (*Isaiah* 51:1-2). In Wilson's *Old Testament Word Studies*, the word 'rock' in this verse is defined as "the founder of a people." Further evidence is given to this fact when the prophet tells the people to look unto Abraham their father and Sarah their mother. He is telling them to remember their origin and to return to the Rock that gave them birth.

In our Lord's longsuffering and mercy for His people Israel, He calls for them to return to Him in terms which show enduring affection. In the words of the weeping prophet Jeremiah, the Lord said, "For I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn" (*Jeremiah* 31:9).

In addition to Jesus Christ being the rock upon which the church is founded, the rock out of whom rivers of living waters flow, the rock that begat Israel, He was and is Israel's rock of strength and protection. The silver tongued prophet Isaiah, accuses Israel of not being "mindful of the rock of thy strength" (*Isaiah* 17:10). In one of King David's last addresses to the people, is recorded his praise for the Lord as being his rock and fortress, "And David spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of



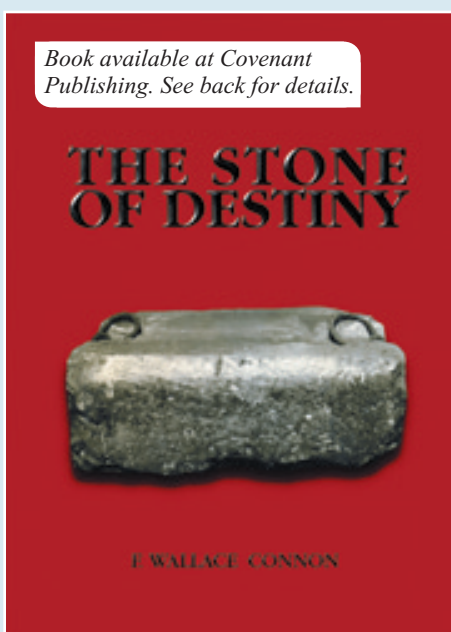
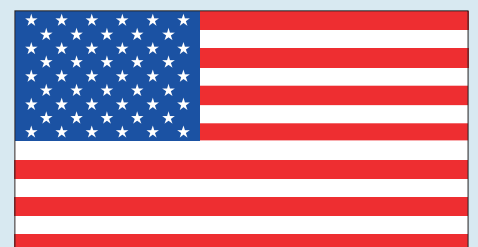
Tower of David, Jerusalem.

the hand of Saul. And he said, The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer, The God of my rock, in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence" (*11 Samuel* 22:1-3). David continued his song of praise, "For who is God, save the LORD? and who is a rock, save our God?" and "The LORD liveth, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation." (*11 Samuel* 22:32, 47). The sweet Palmist of Israel even attributed his command for just rule by saying, "The Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God" (*11 Samuel* 23:3).

In direct prophetic reference to Jesus Christ, Isaiah proclaimed Him as "a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offense to both the houses of Israel" (*Isaiah* 8:14). Both Apostles Paul and Peter made direct reference to this prophecy and applied it to the Lord Jesus Christ Himself (*Romans* 9:33 and *1 Peter* 2:8). It is the manifestation of God in flesh, Jesus Christ, which is the most critical question of lasting and severe consequence facing the covenant nations today in every area of our national life.

We who have placed our total confidence in the Rock of Israel for our personal and national salvation can say, "Truly my soul waiteth upon God. from him cometh my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation, he is my defence, I shall not be greatly moved" (*Psalms* 62:1-2).

CHARLES A JENNINGS





THE PREPARED APPOINTED ISLES

When Britain became Separated from Mainland Europe

There is a very early history discovered by scientists of how the island of Britain became separated from the continent of Europe. A series of events initiated by a catastrophic flood, which they say occurred some time before 200,000 years ago, is revealed by a sonar study of the English Channel. The images reveal deep scars on the Channel bed that must have been cut by a sudden, massive discharge of water. Scientists explain that the torrent probably came from a giant lake in what is now the North Sea. They believe that some event – perhaps an earthquake – caused the lake’s rim to breach the Dover Strait.

More interestingly and much nearer to the Adamic era, Archaeologists have recently been uncovering a huge “lost country” hidden below the North Sea which reveals a comparatively recent inundation of the land bridge. It was reported by the BBC News education on 23rd April, 2007, that researchers at the University of Birmingham

in England, are heralding “stunning” findings as they map the “best-preserved prehistoric landscape in Europe.” This large plain of land disappeared below the water as recently as 8,000 years ago – a lost landscape, where communities once lived, swallowed by rising water levels as climatic change melted huge fields of ice to the north.

The Birmingham researchers have been using oil exploration technology to build a map of the once-inhabited area that now lies below the North Sea – stretching from the east coast of Britain up to the Shetland Islands and across to Scandinavia. “It’s like finding another country,” says Professor Vince Gaffney, of Landscape Archaeology and Geomatics. “In 10,000 BC, hunter-gatherers were living on the land in the middle of the North Sea. By 6000 BC, Britain was an island. The area we have mapped was wiped out in the space of 4,000 years,” explains Professor Gaffney.

The North Sea averages about 325 feet deep, with a maximum depth of 2,300 feet – *the sanctuary number!* So far, the team has examined a 23,000 sq km area of the sea bed – mapping out coastlines, rivers, hills sandbanks and salt marches as they would have appeared about 12,000 years ago. Once the physical features have been established, Professor Gaffney says it will be possible to narrow the search for sites that could yield more evidences of how the people at that time lived. The mapping of this landscape could also raise questions about its preservation, he says and how it can be protected from activities such as pipe-laying and the building of wind farms.

In the final removal of the land bridge between Great Britain and the mainland of Europe, taking place as it did in recent geological history, we see evidence that the British Isles were prepared just ahead of the great sweep of incoming tribes that took place thereafter. These peculiarly shaped islands on the west coast of Continental



Europe became a new home and a place of safety for a people migrating by land and sea from the Caucasus region in BC times. It proved to be a place where destiny took over, as from this Sceptred Isle, Christian civilization emerged spreading forth to all parts of the world.

Therefore, in the many references by the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah to “islands,” the “isles of the sea,” the “isles afar off” and to “the isles that shall wait for His law” (*Isaiah* 11:11; 24:15; 41:1; 42:12; 42:4; 49:1; 51:5; 60:9; 66:19; *Jeremiah* 31:10), we see that the British Isles were cut out by the hand of Jehovah, the God of Israel, from the Continent of Europe as a further appointed and prepared place for His people to dwell in safety, as recorded in *2 Samuel* 7:10 – this when they were *already* in the promised land of Palestine.

Why would these major prophets in Israel give such emphasis to another home in islands afar off from Palestine for their

people, whom they foresaw heading for captivity, if they were to be wiped out altogether, to disappear from the pages of history? From the very beginning it was God’s great plan to expand the Israel family of tribes into a powerful “company of nations” in the world in order to establish the New Jerusalem. In view of all this, why is it that secular history fails to record the migration of the Israel tribes to the West? The answer is to be found in a strange black hole that exists in the records of classical ancient history.

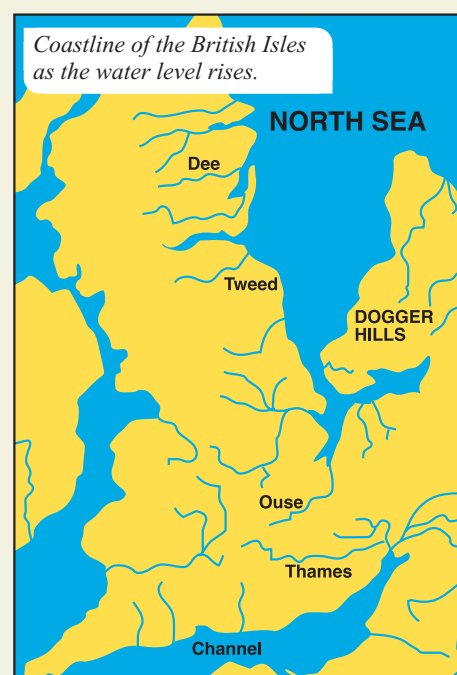
A false Timeline in history has created Centuries of Darkness

The Israelites had been removed to both Media and northern Mesopotamia between 732 and 700 BC. Within fifty years of these dates a people whom the Assyrians called Gimira appeared for the first time in history in both these areas, they were in fact the Israelites. Their movement West however, has been overlaid by a false timeline of

expanded histories which has created centuries of darkness. The chronology of the ancient world, being in chaos, has implanted a false Dark Age in Greece – which also exists in the Egyptian dynasties - of some 650 years when, as is said, nothing happened. The reason nothing happened is that *it does not exist!*

History records a great many people moving West across Europe in distinct waves from 650 BC towards the British Isles and the North Sea fringe. They include the Etruscans and people like the Celts, Anglo-Saxons, the Danes and Vikings, the Jutes and finally the Normans. Once the logjam of non-existent centuries of the so-called Dark Age is removed from the timeline of history, it is immediately possible to realize that this great movement of peoples westward in Europe was in fact a migration of the millions of Israelites, *of all Twelve Tribes*, who had emerged from their captivity in Assyria. It is high time that the chronology of the ancient world, which has even brought Carbon 14 dating into doubt, is *corrected* instead of being calibrated (or fudged) by the “experts.”

MICHAEL A CLARK



ESTHER, THE HIDDEN STAR

In the study of human history it is often quite remarkable how that history has been influenced by the action of just one individual. In our own time we think of Churchill whose leadership was vital to our national survival at a critical time in our nation's history. As we look back over the period of our national growth numerous other leaders stand out as prominent figures in shaping our national development.

Further back in time and into Biblical history we find there, too, individuals whose influence shaped the development of the kingdom of God, the people of Israel. It began with Abraham who was to be, as his name means, the father of a multitude. The leadership of the increasing descendants of Abraham was then placed by God in the hands of Moses and under his direction the people were safely extricated from their restricted life in Egypt and moved to their independent life under God's care in the Sinai wilderness. Under Joshua they were brought into the land of promise and the Bible record then details the history of Israel

from that time until the divided kingdom succumbs to the alien invasions from, first, the Assyrian empire and then the Babylonian empire which followed it. The latter conquered the southern kingdom of Judah which had not yet fallen to the Assyrians as had the northern ten-tribed kingdom of Israel. This is an important distinction to be noted for it was these people of the southern kingdom who became subject to the Persian king Ahasuerus when he, in turn, had routed the Babylonians. It was only these people to whom the term 'Jews' ever applied.

This brings us to an interesting piece of social history and introduces us to a lady whose entry on to the world stage will be seen to be pivotal not only to the history of the kingdom of God but to that of mankind as a whole. The lady referred to is Esther who, very deservedly as we shall see, has her place in the canon of Scripture. The book of Esther comes after Nehemiah in the Bible but chronologically she predates Ezra.

In this book there is the account of Mordecai,

a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, being employed in the service of the Persian king in his royal palace. The king's wife was Queen Vashti and we read of the occasion when she was summoned to attend a celebration banquet with her husband. Because she did not receive her invitation by way of one of the princes or nobles but via some inferior underling she took the huff and declined to attend. This defiance was viewed by the king and his advisers as extremely reprehensible and would send the wrong message to all wives in the kingdom, encouraging them to disobey their husbands. Vashti had to be punished so she was disinherited and banished from the royal courts. An interesting example of social life showing the place of women in the culture of the people of that region and it has changed little in thousands of years.

With Queen Vashti out of the way it was decided that the king should choose another lady to become his queen and many eligible young maidens were brought before him, including Esther who was related to

Mordecai and under his foster care following the death of her parents. She was very beautiful and the king, of course, fell in love with her and she became his queen. On Mordecai's advice she did not disclose beforehand her Jewish parentage, she kept that hidden for a time. All biblical names have a meaning and, rather appropriately, Esther means Star for she was indeed the star in this particular act of this drama of the kingdom story.

Mordecai's privileged position in the court of the king was, of course, advantageous and he learned of the treachery planned against the king by two of his chamberlains. He reported this to Esther who, through one of the servants, warned the king of this threat to his life. He had the matter investigated and when the two officials were found to be guilty they were immediately hanged. Doubtless Esther's exposure of the danger to her husband would count in her favour and would be to her advantage in the situation which was about to develop.

For some reason the king promoted one of his officials, Haman, to the position of chief or Prime Minister.

He was, by his ancestry, an Amalekite, which should ring alarm bells in our minds, considering the antagonism of these people towards Israel throughout their history. It probably did in Mordecai's mind for, of all the princes, nobles and servants employed in the royal palace, Mordecai refused to bow or give reverence to Haman as he had demanded. By this time Mordecai had made known his Jewish roots and Haman, being incensed by Mordecai's refusal to pay him obeisance, took up the matter with the king. He told him that Mordecai was one of these Jewish people who were very perverse and kept their own laws and customs and, therefore, were a threat to the stability of Ahasuerus's kingdom and should be destroyed. So the king issued a decree which was sent to all the cities in his realm ordering that all the Jews must be destroyed, to perish by the sword.

Here was Satan at work once again. He has opposed God from the beginning, seeking to thwart God's plans for the redemption of His creation and the salvation of mankind. He has sought the destruction of God's kingdom from its very inception and the

Pharaoh in Egypt was one of his earliest instruments when that king tried to prevent the exodus of Israel from Egypt. So in Ahasuerus there is a repetition of history for Satan knew that amongst those Jews living under the control of the Persian king was the seed royal of the house of David and of the line of Judah from whom was to come the Christ child, Jesus of Nazareth. Thus we have Haman, the Amalekite, well placed to achieve what his ancestors had failed to achieve in their previous attacks against Israel.

Back in the book of *Exodus* we read of the warlike character of the Amalekites, of their contempt for the God of Israel and their treacherous assault on the vulnerable Israelites in their early history. For this God declared His opposition to these people and said that there would be war with Amalek from generation to generation. Their complete destruction is foretold in the book of *Numbers* 24 . 20. They were a different type of enemy, not like the Babylonian

Persian law and custom. She was, in effect, risking her own life, for the king held in his hands such power and authority and could, if he so wished, order her execution for this breach of the law.

However, although it does not say so, for this is the one book in the Bible where God is not mentioned by name, His hand and His blessing must surely have been with Esther, for the king granted her an audience to present her petition for clemency for her people and a reversal of the decree ordering their destruction. She declared that the plot to destroy the Jews had been devised by an enemy and the king demanded to know the identity of this person. Esther revealed that it was Haman who had planned the execution of Mordecai and this virtual ethnic cleansing, to use modern terminology.

The king then demanded to see the royal records and found, of course, that Mordecai, for whom Haman had specially prepared the gallows, had been the man who had saved his life by naming the king's enemies who had plotted to kill him.

So the news that this man, who had proved to be such an outstandingly loyal servant of the king, was to be

executed on these gallows at Haman's order incensed the king and he immediately ordered that Haman himself should be hanged.

Mordecai thereafter was given more power and authority and throughout the provinces of the Persian Empire Haman's supporters were rounded up and killed. Amongst these were the ten sons of Haman and these are listed by name in the text of this book of Esther. Dr Bullinger, an authority and exponent of the significance of numbers in Scripture, has a note in his *Companion Bible* in which he calculates the numeric values of the names of Haman, his wife and their ten sons. This adds up to a large number when they are totalled together and the common factor, significantly, is found to be the number 13. This number is one associated with apostasy and rebellion, thus stamping these evil people with the influence of Satan, evident in their treacherous deeds against that nucleus of God's kingdom. In contrast the names of Mordecai and Esther have together a numeric value in which the common factor is the number 8. This number is associated with resurrection and

“...for such a time as this?”

Esther 4:14

succession of military and political powers which have occupied the world stage for many hundreds of years. They are more a racial group of people implacably opposed to God and His kingdom rule on earth and some B.I. writers believe that the Mongol/Tartar people who occupy much of the vast Asian continent are the modern Amalekites and that according to the prophecy of Ezekiel they will again treacherously attack a weakened and vulnerable Israel. Militarily, economically and spiritually we who are the modern descendants of Israel are now in this vulnerable condition.

Now Haman had a large gallows constructed outside the gates of the royal palace and on this he intended that Mordecai would be hanged. The news of the impending disaster facing the Jews caused them to have days of prayer and fasting as these captive people awaited their fate. Esther, too, shared in this time of appeal for aid and support. Then she resolved to petition the king on behalf of the Jews who, she told him, were her people, knowing that such an approach was against

regeneration, a new beginning and this was soon to happen in the Promised Land.

In the book of Esther the king is referred to as Ahasuerus but this is not his actual name only an appellative, just as Pharaoh was not the name of any Egyptian king, nor Tzar the name of any king of Russia in more recent times. These were titles rather than actual names. From Greek, Median and Persian sources it has been found that the king Esther married was really called Astyages. Dr Bullinger has a genealogical chart in his Bible notes and in this there is recorded a son from this marriage whose name was Cyrus. This was the king who, as is declared in the book of Ezra, issued the decree for the return of the Jews to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem and to rebuild the city walls. As we know it was their descendants who were the occupants of the Holy Land in our Lord's Day two thousand years ago.

It is rather remarkable that in the prophecy of Isaiah Cyrus is mentioned by name some 137 years before his birth (45:1). Only four people in the Old Testament were named by Divine prophecy before they were born. They were. Isaac in *Genesis* 17, Solomon in *1 Chronicles* 22, Josiah in *1 Kings* 13, and Cyrus here in *Isaiah*. In the New Testament, of course, Mary was told before His birth that her prospective son would be called Jesus. Five men named before they were born who would play a significant role in God's plans for His kingdom and His creation. Four in the Old Testament and one in the New.

Referring again to Bullinger there is significance in this 4 plus 1 numbering. Four is what is called the 'world' number and signifies or represents man's weakness and helplessness. Adding the one is significant of Divine strength being added to that human

weakness, omnipotence as a supplement to that impotence of man's world, the combination of the two revealing God's grace, numerically 5, in man's affairs, that grace being emphasised, perhaps, in the fact that the first and last named, Isaac and Jesus, were both miracle births, showing God's overruling power in our human history.

It was stated earlier that this is the one book in the Bible where God is not mentioned. In the Bible as it has come down to us from the translators this is true. But in the oldest Hebrew manuscripts of this book *Esther* it has been found that the Massorites, Jewish



scholars of the tenth century and earlier who went to great lengths to preserve a true and accurate record of these texts, highlighted five acrostics which revealed the name of God in an abbreviated form hidden in the text. In four of the texts the four consonant letters of the name Jehovah, J H V H, are highlighted in larger print. In the fifth acrostic the Lord's title which He used of Himself, I Am That I Am, is highlighted in the letters E H Y H. So God's name is there in this book, hidden so that His enemies would not see it but there to be seen and recognized by His own people.

So these five acrostics are significant, once more, of God's grace and enduring favour for His errant people, that although they had incurred His wrath He had not abandoned them. And here we see again the 4 plus 1 combination in use. The name 'Jehovah' is associated with God in His covenant relationship with His people Israel which, of course, takes us back to *Genesis* and the first record of these wonderful covenants which He made. Then the 'I Am' brings us up to the first advent when Jesus says to the Jews, - "*Before Abraham was I Am...*" identifying Himself with God, the same 'I AM' Whom Moses was instructed to quote to the people of Israel as his authority for his leadership. Thus this further sign of God's grace gives further proof that God's promises and covenants have not been annulled.

How very significant, then, is this short book of *Esther* and how well deserved is its place in Scripture. What would have been the future for Israel and for mankind had Esther not succeeded in reversing the king's decree ordering that first Jewish holocaust? Jerusalem and the Temple would not have been rebuilt, the Holy Land never again occupied by people of the house of Judah, thus no Mary and Joseph, no Jesus Christ, no Saviour, no Redeemer, no Christian faith to bring hope and assurance to a world in turmoil.

But thanks to Esther we can rejoice with the Psalmist and say, as he did. -

"The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God my strength, in whom I will trust, my buckler and the horn of my salvation and my high tower." (Psalms 18:2)

ALFRED BROWN

BIWF 89th Annual Congress

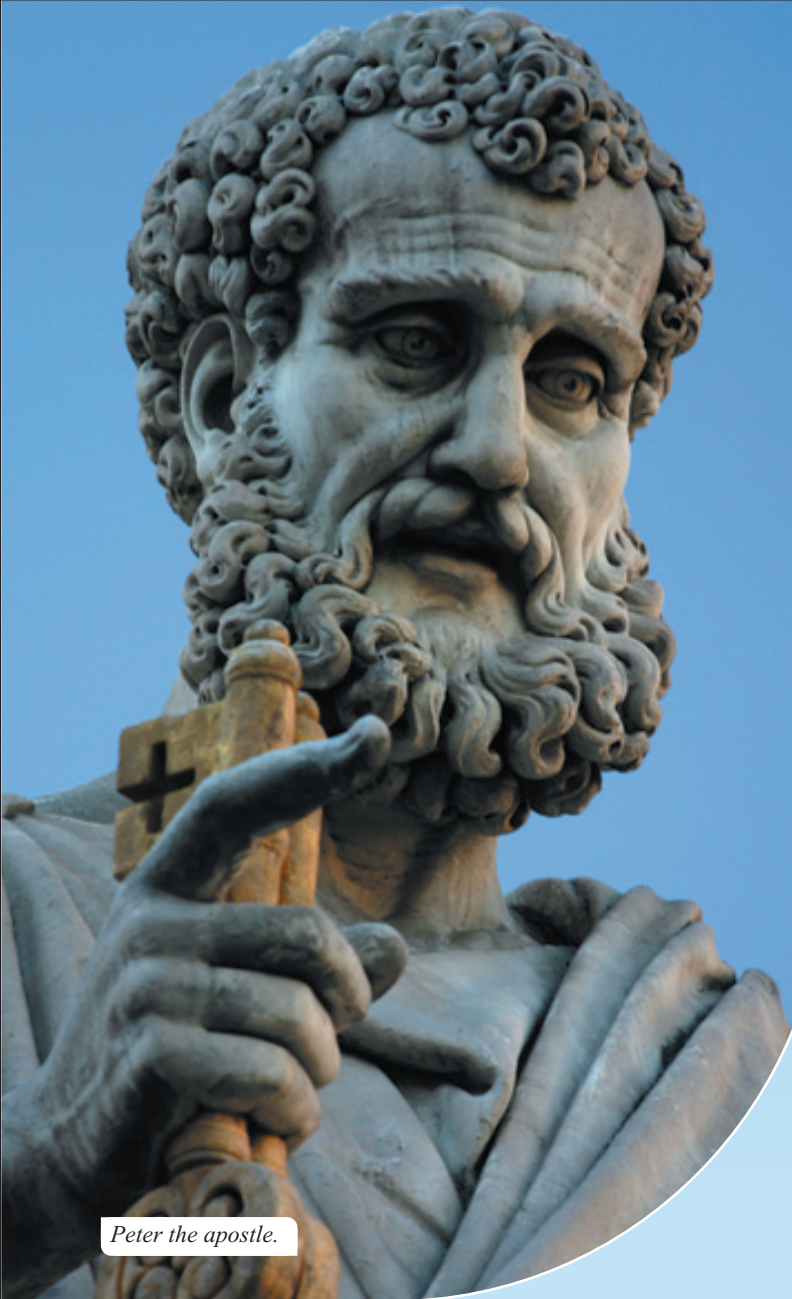
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Peter the apostle.

WHO IS THE ROCK-MAN?

When I began my theological training, all ordinands under 30 had to learn Greek. I leapt at the chance. Having (not without some difficulty) learned Latin at school, here was the opportunity to tackle the other great classical language. The bonus was having access to some of the world's greatest literature – Homer, Plato and Euripides, always among my favourite authors. The real payoff, of course, was direct access to the text of Scripture, not least the very words of Our Lord. How many times have problems in interpretation been solved by reference to the original text, where some shade of meaning has been lost in translation.

It may sound far-fetched that a minor point of grammar can have theological implications, but with regard to *Matthew 16:18*, this is literally the case. *'Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church'*. The word for 'rock' in Greek is *petra*, a feminine noun, which conveys the meaning of 'bed-rock' – that which is rooted in Mother Earth. But *petros* (=Peter) is masculine, and means not 'rock' but 'stone' – a piece detached from the bed-rock. Our Lord was making a pun – proof, if we needed

it, that He had a sense of humour. What He was saying was equivalent of 'Peter, you are a chip off the old block'. What He was not saying is that Peter was the rock on which the Church was to be built. That rock is Christ Himself. The same word *petra* is used in the same symbolic sense three times in the Epistles. Each time, it clearly refers to Christ Himself.

The subtlety of meaning in this change of gender is lost in Latin where the word *saxum* is neuter and means either 'rock' or 'stone', though in the passage in question, the distinction is preserved between *Petrus* and *petra*. The distinction would be academic if the decline in Greek learning in the West, with the fall of the Roman Empire, had not coincided with the rise of the pretensions of the papacy. Starting with claims to be the successor of St. Peter (absurd in itself, since Peter, along with Paul, was the founder of the see of Rome, not its first bishop), these claims became ever more inflated until Innocent III (1198-1216) claimed to be 'Vicar (i.e. deputy) of Christ'. This is to put a fictitious Peter in the place that belongs to Christ and Christ alone. His deputy on earth is the Holy Spirit,

but He is not absent from us – we have His promise that He is with us to the end of the age.

Sadly, this diverts our attention from Peter's real role of leadership in the early days of the Church, a collegial role jointly with the other apostles. It diverts attention too from the saintliness of some of the early Bishops of Rome – our own Linus, for instance, or the martyr Clement. Nor would anyone deny the personal saintliness of some of the recent popes. That is not the point – it is the office, not the man. Nor is there any hiding of the fact that this is the greatest obstacle to Christian unity. A wise and saintly High Churchman, Lancelot Andrewes (1555-1626) wrote, 'Not till Rome be truly Catholic can we be truly Roman'. Unfortunately, the very word 'catholic' has been distorted by being taken over by Rome. But nevertheless, we continue our earthly pilgrimage knowing that the Rock follows us, and that Rock is Christ (*I Corinthians 10:4*).

REV BARRIE WILLIAMS

DEAL OR NO DEAL BRITISH-ISRAEL

Not much more than ten years old, I recall sitting uneasily in a Methodist Church Sunday School class in the small seaside town of Hornsea, in East Yorkshire. I had no problem with believing in God. I looked at flowers and birds and animals and people and felt instinctively that there must be a creator God. Many have read Richard Dawkins book *"The God Delusion"* which promotes evolution by blind chance and recommends such a theory as scientific. But (and it is a big "but"), the scientific law of thermodynamics demonstrates every day of our lives the scientifically proven fact that everything left to itself deteriorates over time (entropy) and denies the possibility of anything evolving from the simple to the complex without a substantial input of intelligence and energy. So, to me it seemed foolish not to believe in a creator God. *Psalm 14.1* states *"The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God"*

So why as a child was I uneasy? It did not concern me too much that there was a lot of bad stuff in the world, either in terms of the raging planet or nature red in tooth and claw or the evil actions of mankind. I understood that God had a wicked rival in the devil who instigated ruin in a perfect world but that heaven was going to be wonderful.

What made me uneasy were all the detailed

stories we were taught from the Bible. Stories of Moses in the bulrushes, Daniel in the lions' den, David and Goliath, of places like Jerusalem, and Bethlehem and Nazareth, and, of course, the many stories of Jesus and his disciples. I felt that I knew as much about the Sea of Galilee as I did about Hornsea Mere. These places were thousands of miles away. The people did not wear the same clothes as me, and they all apparently spoke a totally different language. I remember asking my mother on one occasion why it was that we learnt and knew so much about the Bible. Her reply was simply that we were a Christian country.

It was some years later when, as a teenager, my girlfriend's mother (later to become my mother-in-law) one evening in conversation about the Bible, and the people of Israel in particular, in a very matter of fact manner said, "... of course, you know, we are the lost tribes of Israel .." Of course, I did not know but the idea clicked immediately. It seemed that the Bible was important to us as a nation because we are not only "the people of a book, and that book, the Bible", as described by the historian J R Green (*A Short History of the English People* ch.8 p.460) we are the people in the book. We are British-Israel.

I cannot recall how my future mother-in-law explained her specific reasons for believing the British-Israel teaching, but she understood that it thoroughly vindicated the covenant

promises made to Israel as recorded in the Bible. My girlfriend and I soon became the youngest members of the British-Israel branch in Hull, and enthusiastically quizzed the speakers at each monthly meeting.

So let us summarise British-Israel teaching.

The 12 tribes of Israel were formed from the 12 sons of Jacob, grandson of the Hebrew patriarch Abraham. Having been delivered from slavery in Egypt, they were led into the land of Canaan by Moses and Joshua. The Bible records their division into two kingdoms, northern Israel and southern Judah, and their utter failure to fulfil their divine destiny as God's servant nation. Around the middle of the 8th century BC, Northern Israel, and subsequently much of Southern Judah became prey to invasion and captivity into Assyria. They did not return, but rather were lost amongst the Gentile nations, no longer known as Israel, and adopted other languages and customs. They finally emerged as the Christian nations of Western Europe and in particular, the British Isles. Over a century after the Assyrian rampage, the remaining remnant of Southern Judah in their capital city Jerusalem were taken captive into Babylon by the armies of Nebuchadnezzar. Descendants of this remnant were allowed to return some 70 years later to Jerusalem, and became known as "Jews".

In support of these claims, I quote from the *Jewish Encyclopedia.com* under the title "Tribes – Lost Ten"

"According to the Bible, Tiglath-pileser (II Kings xv. 29) or Shalmaneser (ib. xvii. 6, xviii. 11), after the defeat of Israel, transported the majority of the inhabitants of the Northern Kingdom to Assyria, and placed them in Halah and Habor, on the stream of Gozan, and in the towns of Media. In their stead a mixed multitude was transported to the plains and mountains of Israel. As a large number of prophecies relate to the return of "Israel" to the Holy Land, believers in the literal inspiration of the Scriptures have always laboured under a difficulty in regard to the continued existence of the tribes of Israel, with the exception of those of Judah and Levi (or Benjamin), which returned with Ezra and Nehemiah. If the Ten Tribes have disappeared, the literal fulfilment of the prophecies would be impossible, if they have not disappeared, obviously they must exist under a different name..."

One of these different names is suggested in the same encyclopædia under the heading "Anglo-Israelism"

"The identification of the Sacae, or Scythians, with the Ten Tribes because they appear in history at the same time, and very nearly in the same place, as the Israelites removed by Shalmaneser, is one of the chief supports of the theory which identifies the English people, and indeed the whole Teutonic race, with the Ten Tribes... but the main argument advanced is that the English satisfy the conditions of the Prophets regarding Israel in so far as they live in a far-off isle, speak in a strange tongue, have colonies throughout the world, and yet worship the true God."

Now for some objections.

In any theatrical production there are the actors, the props and the orchestra. Behind all of this is the background scenery. I quickly saw British-Israel teaching in terms of a backdrop to the understanding of Bible prophecy and world history. There are, however, several understandable objections raised against the idea that the Anglo Saxon and related peoples represent the descendants of the so-called lost tribes of Israel. Here are a few.

The Jews are all there is of Israel, why look elsewhere?

The above quotes from the *Jewish Encyclopædia* indicate that the Jewish scholars themselves admit they do not comprise all of the twelve tribes of Israel.

The scripture record is perfectly clear.

"... the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight, there was none left but the tribe of Judah only... So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day..." (2 Kings 17:18-24)

Not satisfied with merely taking the Northern kingdom captive, the Assyrian armies swept down into the Southern kingdom deporting many of the tribe of Judah also.

"Now in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah did Sennacherib king of Assyria come up against all the fenced cities of Judah, and took them." (2 Kings 18:13).

This left only the inhabitants of Jerusalem. King Hezekiah resisted the Assyrian attack on this capital city, which held out against invasion for over a hundred years. The city of Jerusalem was finally destroyed by the armies of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and the inhabitants deported to that alien land. After about seventy years some of these captives were allowed to return and rebuild their beloved city under a Persian decree. They did so, led by the prophet Nehemiah and Ezra the priest.

The 1st century Jewish historian Flavius Josephus confirms the record in the book of Ezra (Ezra 1:5) that only token representatives of Judah, Benjamin and Levi returning from Babylon formed the Jewish province centred around Jerusalem which then existed until AD 70.

"...there are but two tribes in Asia and Europe subject to the Romans, while the ten tribes are beyond the Euphrates 'til now, and are an immense multitude and not to be estimated by numbers." (*Antiquities Of The Jews*, Book XI, Chapter V, Section 2).

I have no problem with any biblical reference to Jews as "Israelites." Of course they were Israelites! The Bible often refers to them as such. But this in no way indicates the reverse - that all Israelites were (or are) "Jews"! The vast majority of Israel were lost among the nations and never returned to Palestine

This position is reinforced by prophets such as Ezekiel, who predicted the future coming together of the separated kingdoms of Judah and northern Israel. He is required by God to write their distinctive names on two sticks and prophesy that they will at some future time be joined again as one kingdom. *"... take thee one stick, and write upon it,*

For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions. and join them one to another into one stick, and they shall become one in thine hand... Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land" (Ezekiel 37:16-22)

This prophecy, along with several others that could be cited, clearly indicates that throughout history the two kingdoms would be separate entities, awaiting a future restoration to their homeland under an appointed king. As Christians, we believe that this king will be our saviour and redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ at his second coming.

Surplus to requirements?

Is it not sufficient that Christians simply believe in the New Testament saving power of Jesus and seek to follow him day by day? My answer is 'yes.' British Israel teaching also insists that individuals come to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Redeemer of Israel and Saviour of "whosoever will". The risen and ascended Christ must dwell in our hearts by faith. But I would respectfully suggest that a Christian can only invest implicit trust in Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant, on the grounds that God has been entirely faithful to the first covenant.

Some time ago, the brakes failed on my wife's car. The pedal went to the floor. No brakes! Thankfully the handbrake worked. Having then pumped the pedal back up again and checked that no fluid was lost, the brakes seemed to work as normal. But trust in the vehicle was lost completely. Rational people do not trust what has previously failed.

Israel was to be *"a nation and a company of nations"* (Genesis 35:11) under *"an everlasting covenant"* (Genesis 17:7) based upon the faithfulness of Abraham. The prophet Jeremiah aligns these promises to the existence of the sun, moon and stars. *"Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night ... If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever."* (Jeremiah 31:35-36) Christian believers who have put their faith in the New Testament promise of salvation and eternal life, need to be fully assured that God has been faithful to the terms of



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN BATTERSBY

the first covenant which was clearly made not only with the Jews who claim descent from Judah, but with the whole twelve tribes of Israel.

The Christian Church is the new Israel.

A while ago, I needed to transport some concrete slabs. I decided to load them a few at a time into the boot of my car. I should have realized that they were far too heavy and bulky. I set off down the road, not able to see anything through the rear view mirror because the boot lid would not close, but more seriously, the rear of the vehicle was too heavy and the steering at the front too light. This job needed a different vehicle. I borrowed my son-in-law's pickup truck, and regretted even trying to use the car.

In writing to the Galatian Church, the apostle Paul states “...if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:29). This and similar references, have led some to believe in a sort of replacement theology, namely that the Christian Church has inherited the role of Israel without recognising that the Church and the nation in the purpose of God are two different vehicles. Moreover, the promises made to Israel could not be applied to the Body of Christ, the Church. They were to have their ultimate fulfilment in families, nations, kings and land (Genesis 35). There are aspects of God's purpose which can only be worked out using the nation state as a political and, when the need arises, a military vehicle.

Mindful of Israel's function to “loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke” (Isaiah 58:6) it would be absurd to imagine that the Church could have enforced the abolition of slavery or implemented the Factories Act legislation, or defeated Nazi tyranny. The Church as a world wide spiritual body of Christian believers can and must have an influential role within the nation and can be a vehicle for promoting change. It is not, however, an appropriate vehicle for executing change in the nation state.

It Smacks of Partiality.

A friend of mine attended an interview for a job, confident that he was the best candidate. He knew the other applicants in the short list, and felt that their qualifications and experience were not as good as his. One of the other applicants was appointed. He was most disgruntled. The feedback from the interview panel commended him on his application and suitability for the job, but stated that they had only one post to fill and that they could only choose one person. I tried to console him by saying that it is not always the case that the most appropriate person gets the job. We both knew of “square pegs in round holes”.

It was the purpose of Almighty God to choose a servant nation. A kingdom of God on earth. The Bible records how Israel failed miserably in this task despite numerous divine interventions but they were the ones chosen for the post. It cannot be helped if it offends our sense of political correctness.

In the book of *Deuteronomy*, God spoke through Moses to his people indicating that there was nothing particularly special about them.

“...The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people, for ye were the fewest of all people. But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers” (Deuteronomy 7:6-8)

It is wrong to impose religious faith on a secular state.

The phrase “I could sleep on a clothes line” is sometimes still used by folk who are desperately tired. Its origin goes back to the cramped housing and large working families of post industrial revolution times. With little floor space, tired workers would rest their arms over a line or rope in order to sleep. This is not good. Better to lie down in a comfortable bed, with a pillow in a darkened room. In other words we create an environment conducive to sleep. In a similar way, the belief system or religion of a country should be conducive to encouraging the best behaviour of its citizens in terms of spirituality, morality, decency and accountability to God. In other words, the two great commandments of God given to Israel and endorsed by Jesus. “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself” (Matthew 22:37-40).

The British are a very mixed race.

The British-Israel position, when correctly understood, is not so much a matter of race and ethnicity but rather that of heritage. It is a matter of identifying the nation and company of nations which, as prophesied, was to inherit the promises made to the patriarchs and perform the function of a servant nation for Almighty God in His world. Neither is there any case to be made for Israel of old having kept a sense of ethnic integrity. True it was that they were commanded under Moses not to intermarry with other nations, but this was in order for them to avoid being seduced into the worship of heathen deities. Nor did they obey this command at any but the briefest periods of their history. But, in reality, how mixed are the British peoples? The Anglo-Saxon, Celtic, Viking and Norman races may be more homogenous than we are perhaps led to believe. William Ripley in his *Races of Europe* (1899, page 303) states. "The most remarkable trait of the British Isles is its headform, and especially the

uniformity in this respect which is everywhere manifested."

So, British-Israel is not about racial purity, nor is it, we believe, surplus to requirements. It is about asserting the integrity of Holy Scripture and the faithfulness of God to his everlasting covenant with all twelve tribes of Israel.

It is also a conviction that our company of nations, with its illustrious Christian heritage and extensive missionary and humanitarian enterprise, must review its obsession with secularisation and recognise that on its shoulders rests the mantle of God's servant nation, and in a broken world seek to work for the kingdom of God on earth.

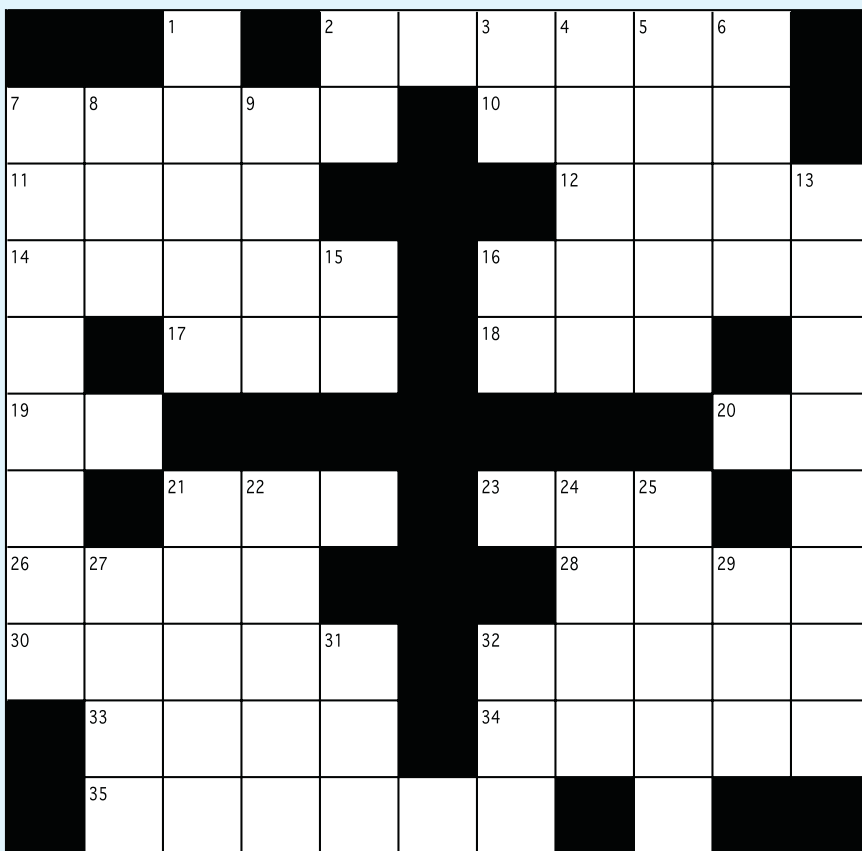
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CROSSWORD NO. 3



(Answers on page 26)

ACROSS

- 2. Musical instrument
- 7. Past notable queen
- 10. Years pass as this
- 11. Forbidden food
- 12. American feline quadruped
- 14. 'Children' conquered by Israel
- 16. He also prophesied in the camp
- 17. A 'ministering angel'
- 18. Suffix. inhabitants of a country
- 19. Ancient Egyptian (Sun) God
- 20. Not out
- 21. A son of Asher
- 23. Scenery
- 26. Also forbidden food
- 28. She who killed, reversed
- 30. A mountain
- 32. Joash slain nearby
- 33. Mesoamerican civilisation
- 34. Father of a prophet
- 35. To be lifted up to nations

DOWN

- 1. Some conditional, some unconditional
- 2. An extra branch of modern Israel's forces
- 3. A modern abbreviation of hereditary honour
- 4. The administrative districts of Sussex
- 5. Escape
- 6. Son of Ishmael
- 7. Passed through fire
- 8. One of three
- 9. Father of Bela
- 13. A son of David
- 15. A latin abbreviation of unknown name
- 16. Anybody to themselves
- 21. Abraham dwelt there
- 22. Does as told
- 24. A well-watered place.
- 25. Gives information
- 27. Modern city mentioned in the Bible
- 29. Another letter makes a cry of grief
- 31. For fishes, curtailed
- 32. Death is the wages of this

WHAT A WONDERFUL GOD WE HAVE

For God..... the greatest lover
So loved..... the greatest degree
The world..... the greatest company
That He gave..... the greatest act
His only begotten Son..... the greatest gift
That whosoever..... the greatest opportunity
Believeth..... the greatest simplicity
In Him..... the greatest attraction
Should not perish..... the greatest promise
But..... the greatest difference
Have..... the greatest certainty
Everlasting life..... the greatest possession

John 3:16



ST MARTIN'S CROSS at the ISLE of IONA

The Isle of Iona is on the west coast of Scotland near the Isle of Mull. It has been a sacred place since the arrival of Columba in AD 563 and the founding of a monastery there, and has had a rich history over the centuries as a place of pilgrimage. It became a centre of influence and learning not only within Scotland but also parts of medieval Europe.

There are a few remaining crosses still standing on the island after the purge from the puritan age that saw the destruction of many crosses. There is the St. John's Cross,

which is in fragments in the museum (a cement replica is standing outside the church), and the St. MacLean's Cross, dated around AD 1500, that is closer to the town. There are surviving fragments of the St. Oran's Cross and the St. Matthew's Cross also in the museum. The St. Martin's Cross, which is still standing (and we are told that it has not been disturbed), holds a particular interest for those who subscribe to the Israelitish origins of the British peoples.

The St. Martin's Cross was sculpted from a single slab of stone of grey epidiorite that

came from Argyll on the Scottish mainland in about AD 800. It is 16' 8" tall and 10' 5" thick. The shape of the cross is the traditional Celtic Cross but with two shortened sides that have grooves in them to hold stone or wooden extensions for special days of celebration. It has two sides. the one that faces east has many serpents and bosses carved into the stone, but it is the west side that is best viewed in the afternoon sun to show the relief of the detailed carving. The position of the cross is close to the church, and holds a prominent position giving out its message for all pilgrims who would study

it as they pass by. It was a form of modern day 'notice board' outside the church.

Let us analyse the various sections of the carving in detail.

The Centre Circle

This depicts Mary and the infant Jesus flanked by four angels. This image is confirmed by the Royal Commissions on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS).

Above the Circle

There are six animals with their tails entwined and in their mouths. The type of animal is indistinct, but clearly showing the classic Celtic symbol of the unbroken circle, representing unity and eternity.

Right of the Circle

This is a single animal, side-on view. My first impression was that it was the image of a horse because the neck has a distinctive shape. Remember that the carving on the cross has lasted for over 1,200 years and the artists' specific records and message are lost.

Left of the Circle

This is also a single animal that could well be a lion, suggested by the shape of the tail. As we will see from the next section, the RCAHMS suggests that the animals in the first carving under the circle are lions. If they are lions, then it would suggest that this could well be a lion on the left of the circle. This would give us a strong image of the Birth of Christ in the centre, with the two main supporters, the Lion and the Horse or Unicorn (Wild Ox), as mentioned in *Numbers* 24.8 and 9, on either side, which is also amazingly paralleled by the same supporters for the Royal Coat of Arms, that is, the Lion and the Unicorn. The Lion represents the two tribes of Judah, the Southern Kingdom, and the Unicorn represents the ten tribes of Israel, the Northern Kingdom. Is this Israel theme being made up? Why, as we examine the following panels underneath, do we see a strong Israel theme endorsed by the RCAHMS?

First Panel Underneath the Circle

This shows a man sitting with two animals, with maybe a third animal showing a head. The RCAHMS states that this is Daniel being flanked by lions in the den. The issue that we want to make very clear here is that the next panels are successively of Abraham and King David, which makes this panel completely out of historical order. It would be better to suggest that it could even be Noah with the animals going to the ark. But a better interpretation would be to see the carving as Adam naming the animals. It is interesting to note that one hand seems to be raised in blessing, which could support the

idea of Adam naming the animals. This would be the first message that the pilgrim would get, followed by the panels underneath that depict Abraham and David. It was mentioned in the introduction that Iona was a place of learning, and confusion to the pilgrims would be a bad mistake. It appears to me to celebrate the creation of man and all creation.

The Second Panel Underneath the Circle

Here we take no issue with the RCAHMS and it clearly depicts Abraham about to sacrifice Isaac with a dagger or sword in his hand, and an angel standing next to the altar. This second message is in harmony with the above panel, showing that after the Creation God called Abram, and brought about the birth (or creation) of the nation that was to follow Abraham. from Isaac to Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel. It therefore celebrates the creation of God's servant people Israel to be fulfilling God's plan in the world.

The Third Panel Underneath the Circle

Again we are in harmony with the RCAHMS in that it depicts a man with a harp and another man with a wind instrument. The interpretation is linked to David the shepherd who became King over Israel, but let us proceed to the fourth panel.

The Fourth Panel Underneath the Circle

When I was there in Iona, the tour guide said these four men depict the four main gospel writers! We really do have to examine things ourselves. Once again we can agree with the RCAHMS that this shows two scenes of David. one of David with Goliath, and the other of David and Saul. The raised hand of David with a sling action can be seen. David sitting with Saul is the interpretation of the other, but there is not enough detail here to determine clearly. It just shows two men, one standing and one sitting. The emphasis of these last two panels is amazing, as it surely speaks of the beginnings of the Royal House of David. Just as we have had the creation of man and the creation of God's nation, now we have the creation of the Royal Line within Israel. the three main starting blocks of understanding the Bible. Going back to the first panel. Daniel in the lions' den just does not fit! It is too insignificant an event and it is out of chronological order.

The Fifth Panel Underneath the Circle

This has twelve serpents writhing around six bosses. In Celtic mythology the symbolism of serpents can be interpreted in different ways. the serpent is the image of light, life and divine wisdom, or it could be speaking

of the evil underworld, or it could link the number twelve with the twelve apostles or the twelve tribes of Israel. The meaning here is not clear enough to draw a specific conclusion.

To have some further confirmation as to the Israel meaning behind the Cross as well as the Royal connection we can quote the *Encyclopædia Britannica* "The cemetery, called in Gaelic *Reilig Oiran* ("the burial-place of kings"), is said to contain the remains of 48 Scottish, 4 Irish and 8 Danish and Norwegian monarchs..."

We see then the Royal line of David within the Anglo Saxon Israel peoples in the isles of the west being carved into stone centuries ago holding a prominent place for pilgrims that are visiting a place of Christian learning. We need to take account of this silent witness that has stood for 1200 years.

DAVID AIMER





BACK TO THE GARDEN

She gave also to her husband with her, and he did eat.

The Garden of Eden story has been so universally accepted that any diversion from the usual understanding may be considered outright heresy. For centuries, it has been taught by ministers and bible scholars as a simple story of disobedience and punishment. This has been accepted by the laity with minimal dispute and any occasional objections by women were quickly dismissed as being unscriptural or out of line. The order of the creation, man first, then woman has been the basis of teachings about the relative position of men and women and also about the introduction of sin. The repercussions have been felt from then until today. Let us review the Garden story to see if what we have taken for granted is factual or reasonable in the light of scripture.

By God's own admission, all of his creation in the Garden of Eden "was very good". (Genesis 1:31). But soon after, when the command had been given to the man not to partake of a certain fruit, God said, "it is not good that the man should be alone." (Genesis 2:18) What would cause this remark? Adam, in perfect situation and in perfect communion with God could not have been acquainted with loneliness. What could have changed to cause this "not good" condition- a rift between the creation and his Creator? When God presented the woman, "a help meet (suitable) for him," Adam's first reaction was to take credit himself, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. she shall be called Woman because she was taken out of Man." (Genesis 2:23) Contrast this with Eve's remark at the birth of her son. "I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord".

(Genesis 4:1) Was it due to the "not good" state that Adam did not acknowledge his Creator?

Before the woman was created Adam received the direct command from God "of the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, thou shalt not eat of it for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die". (Genesis 2:17). Why did Adam not make any protest when this "flesh of my flesh" reached for the forbidden fruit? The Bible plainly tells us that he was with her. "She gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat." By his very silence he condoned the transgression. Selah !! How does that make Eve the temptress? What about her progeny who have struggled with this stigma to this day? Or have men in their assumed superior position found this a

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MARKING
90 YEARS
OF WITNESS

convenient excuse for their own carnal lusts?

When God asked the woman, “*What is this that thou hast done?*” she admitted to giving in to the serpent’s deception. “*The serpent beguiled me and I did eat.*” (*Genesis 3:13*).

This was a truthful reply. She who was not even there when the command was first given to Adam takes responsibility for her transgression. When God calls on Adam to explain if he has eaten of the forbidden fruit he replies in *Genesis 3:12*, “*The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree and I did eat.*” Does Adam take responsibility for his action? No. Does he explain any deception or resistance? No. He does point to the woman and indirectly blames God for giving the woman to him. Was this also the result of the “not good” condition?

Great emphasis has also been put on *Genesis 3:16*, “*I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception... Thy desire shall be to thy husband and he shall rule over thee.*” God clearly stated that the punishment for sin is death, period! Why have we been led to believe that there was an extra punishment of pain in childbirth? Is this consistent with the joy of conception expressed by biblical women like Leah, Rachel, Sarah, Hannah?

The word “desire” which was chosen for the above text has many subtle meanings and it seems that the sexual connotation it implies is not appropriate in this context even if men would prefer it so. Perhaps the word “inclination” would lend a more perfect understanding here as in having a bias toward supporting the husband and being inclined to accepting his reasoning or giving him the benefit of a doubt. Desire cannot be legislated or commanded. Could this be a **prediction** only?

Was it also a command that “*he shall rule over thee?*”? That God meant for man to “rule over” woman is highly unlikely. If this was

so important, why did God, who gave man dominion over animals and the earth, not also instruct Adam – “it is your duty to rule over her”- so he would be sure of his position. Nowhere in the Bible is this made clear! Yet the church has continually taught this as a law. What horrors, fear, insults and subtle degradation women have been forced to endure both in Christian and secular life due to this supposed subordination.

J.D. Anderson (*Women’s Warfare & Ministry*) gives a very credible rendering of *Genesis 3:16* that may give us pause. “*A snare hath increased thy sorrow and sighing, thou art turning away to thy husband and he will rule over thee.*” A snare, indeed. Is this not what Eve confessed? Could Adam who already felt possessive of the “bone of my bone” have been instrumental in turning the woman away from God to himself? Is this what ultimately led to the illegal act? They were together and it is apparent that by his silence Adam condoned the transgression of God’s law. “*By one man sin entered into the world and death by sin.*” (*Romans 5:12*).

There are also numerous “shalts” concerning Adam after God had cursed the ground, “*in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life. Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee. In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread*” (*Genesis 4:17-19*). Why are these not considered to be commands to the man? No man has ever been made to feel guilty because he earns his living at a bank, office or factory and not from the ground as commanded. Does “shalt” mean something different in this case? Probably not! Why are these not treated as commands but only as **predictions**?

Did the Creator really intend that fully one half of his creation should live in subjection to the other half? This position assumed as truth by the church is totally contrary to Israelite experience in the Old and New

Testament and also contrary to the example of Christ. The physically “weaker vessel” was never dishonoured as being mentally inferior. In speaking of wives Peter teaches “*grant her honour as a fellow heir of the grace of life that your prayers may not be hindered*” (*1 Peter 3:7*). This term is the same one used to refer to the Bride of Christ who is a “Joint Heir” with Him.

Anything that causes division cannot be of Christ. These lies which the Romanist Reformers failed to address have been propagated for so long that they are embedded into our psyche to the detriment of us all. Satan in his hatred of woman continues to beguile us into accepting his anti-Christ truth. How he must delight in the disparity it brings between men and women, husbands and wives, and in the body of Christ. How can half of His body be inferior if the health of every part of the body is crucial to its proper function? (*1 Corinthians 12:21-27*).

Let our prayers not be hindered by condescending words and attitudes. Let us all seek the mind of Christ so that together we may be obedient to His good and perfect will to the praise and glory of His name. Amen!

NELL STEVENSON



ISRAEL - A FRAGRANT AROMA, OR NOT?

In 2 Corinthians 2:14-17, the Apostle Paul writes, “But thanks to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death, to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task? Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.” (NIV)

In a Roman triumphal procession, the Roman general usually displayed his treasures, as well as his captives, whilst incense was being burned to the Roman gods. To the victors this was a sweet aroma, but to the captives, the smell of death and slavery.

In order to make sense of what the Apostle Paul is saying, the words “fragrance” and “aroma” must be discussed. A fragrance is a pleasant smell – like perfume on a woman, and an aroma is the smell of a meal being prepared in the kitchen. These two smells have very different effects on our olfactory system and our brain. What Paul really meant is that we should be like a sweet fragrance to the world, and by doing so, we become a good aroma to God – we become like the aroma of good food to the Lord – good food for a dying world.

Should Israel not be fulfilling such a task? Should not God’s Israel people be a sweet fragrance to those around them, and then a good aroma before the throne of God? Is this not exactly the task God has laid upon them?

Jesus Himself spoke to Israel people in Matthew 5:13-16, when He said, “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its

saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” (NIV)

Also, in Matthew 28:19-20 the Lord Jesus Christ instructs them to become His instruments throughout the earth. The question to ask then is whether Israel is actually living up to her calling. The fact that so many Israel people are unaware of their calling, and are not fulfilling it, is testimony to the fact that they are ignorant of their identity at this time.

I do believe that this commission still stands and that it is time for God’s Israel people to awake to their calling. At this time, she is blind, as is stated in Isaiah 42:19 (NIV), “Who is blind but my servant, and deaf like

the messenger I send? Who is blind like the one committed to me, blind like the servant of the Lord?”

In Deuteronomy 28:13 (NIV) a promise is made to Israel, “The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. **If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God...**”

It is time to sound the trumpet, to arise to the call that our God may be glorified in the earth, and His Kingdom extended amongst men.

DR VALERIE STRYDOM (Ph.D)





Martin Luther, 1483-1546.

THE REFORMATION ROOTS OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

How the Kingdom Message was set free to flourish by the vision and work of great Reformers.

Western civilization has been blessed with the greatest freedom, productivity and prosperity ever known in history. The liberty, standards of justice and creativity enjoyed in Western civilisation is a direct result of the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century.

Our Lord Jesus Christ taught. *“But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”* (Matthew 6:33)

The Question of Authority

Martin Luther’s earnest quest for peace with God, intensive study of the Scriptures and 95 *Theses* challenge over the unethical fund raising tactics of the papacy, led to primary questions on authority. Martin Luther’s love for the Word of God and dedication to truth led him to challenge the entire ecclesiastical and political authority of the Roman Catholic church and the Holy Roman Empire.

The Covenant Nations

“Unless I am convinced by scripture or clear reasoning that I am in error – for popes and councils have often erred and contradicted themselves – I cannot recant, for I am subject to the Scriptures I have quoted, my conscience is captive to the word of God. It is unsafe and dangerous to do anything against one’s conscience. Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise. So help me God. Amen.”

Freedom of Conscience

In this incredibly courageous stand against the assembled political and religious might of Europe, Luther argued for freedom of conscience based upon the authority of Scripture alone. Until that time, the prevailing practice was authoritarianism both in church and state.

Scripture Alone

All religions supported the monarchy, aristocracy and authoritarianism. However, Martin Luther and the Reformers maintained

that because of the depravity of man, no human authority could be trusted as absolute. *“Popes and councils have often erred and contradicted themselves.”* He rejected ecclesiastical totalitarianism and championed the principle of *Sola Scriptura* – the Bible alone is our ultimate authority.

Religious Freedom

By translating the Bible from the original Greek and Hebrew into the common tongue and making it widely available to both nobles and peasants, Luther championed universal education and literacy, the priesthood of all believers, freedom of conscience and religious liberty.

Love in Action

By rejecting the sacramental system of the medieval Roman Catholic Church, with its encouragement of the devout retreating into monasteries and convents to subjectively seek inner holiness and salvation within themselves,

the Reformers freed society from this introverted and ultimately selfish obsession. The Reformation released that energy and redirected it to seeking to serve God and our neighbour, putting feet to our faith and love in action.

Energy Unleashed

The Protestant Reformation freed society from the religious subjectivism and stagnation which had crippled progress. The Reformation redirected the energy of Christians towards applying the Lordship of Christ to all areas of life – intellectually, politically, socially and economically.

Representative Governments

The Protestant doctrine of the priesthood of all believers became the foundation for modern representative republics. The equality of all men before God and the law undermined the absolutism of monarchs and popes who set themselves above the law.

Lex Rex

Instead of the prevailing *Rex Lex* (the king is the law), the reformers championed *Lex Rex* (the Law is king!). no one is above God's Law. Jesus Christ is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Everyone is under God's Law.

Constitutional Authority

Sola Scriptura eroded the foundations of ecclesiastical and political totalitarianism. The Protestant emphasis on the priesthood of all believers and the supreme authority of Scripture led to the concept of representative government and constitutional authority as the supreme law of the land.

Liberty of Conscience

Martin Luther wrote that Christians should be free of the arbitrary control of both church and state. God alone is the Lord of the conscience. Luther wrote. *"It is with the Word that we must fight, by the Word we must overthrow and destroy that which has been set up by violence. I will not make use of force against the superstitious and unbelieving... liberty is the very essence of Faith... I will preach, discuss and enlighten, but I will constrain none, for Faith is a voluntary act... I have stood up against the pope, indulgences and papists, but without violence or tumult. I put forward God's Word, I preached and I wrote – this was all I did, the Word did all... .God's Word should be allowed to work alone... .it is not in my power to fashion the hearts of men... . I can get no further than the ears, the hearts I cannot reach. And since I cannot pour faith into their hearts, I cannot, nor should I, force anyone to have faith. That is God's work alone, who causes faith to live in the heart... .we should preach the Word, but results must be left solely to God's good*

pleasure."

By emphasising the biblical doctrine of Faith as a gift of God, Luther undermined the Catholic Inquisition and provided the theological foundations for religious liberty and freedom of conscience.

Faith and Freedom

The social implications of this religious Reformation were enormous. The doctrine of *Sola Scriptura* led to constitutionalism. The priesthood of all believers led to the concept of representative republics and democratic forms of government. Religious liberty and freedom of conscience led to freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of association, and all the other out-workings of political and social freedom.

Foundations for Freedom

The 19th century German historian, Leopold Von Ranke described John Calvin as the *"virtual founder of America."* Reformer John Calvin laid the foundations for the English and American Bills of Rights, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, the privilege against self-incrimination, the independence of the judiciary, the right of *habeas corpus*, the right not to be imprisoned without cause, and other key principles of separation of powers, checks and balances, constitutional and representative government, etc.

The Protestant Work Ethic

Sociologist, Max Weber's book, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (1908), documented that the free market economy was a product of the Protestant Reformation. Free market capitalism had historically flourished in those Protestant countries where the Calvinist principles of hard work, honesty, frugality, thrift,

punctuality and doctrine of a Christian work ethic had created conditions for the greatest innovations and successes in economics ever experienced in all of history.

Christian Roots of America

French historian Alexis de Tocqueville, in *Democracy in America*, observed that the unprecedented liberty, justice and productivity achieved in the United States of America was a direct result of its Christian principles. *"There is no country in the world where the Christian religion maintains a greater influence over the souls of men than in America."*

The Fruit of Faith

Historian Carlton Hayes, in *Christianity and Western Civilisation*, observed. *"Wherever Christian ideals have been generally accepted and their practice sincerely attempted, there is a dynamic liberty, and wherever Christianity is being ignored or rejected, persecuted or chained to the state, there is tyranny."*

Moral Compass

Jewish author Kevin Abrams has written. *"The American civilization rests on the basic principles of Christian morality, which have their origin in the Hebrew Scriptures... .without the Bible as the constellation that guides the American ship of state the whole edifice that guides the American civilization collapses."*

Liberty and Justice

Professor Alvin Schmidt, in *Under the Influence – How Christianity Transformed Civilisation*, concludes. *"In whatever nations Christianity has had a prominent presence, there have been marked improvements in liberty and justice as opposed to societies*



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN BATTERSBY

that have been, and continue to be, dominated by non-Christian religions.”

The Reformation Heritage

Ideas have consequences. There is no doubt that the Reformation in Europe during the 16th century has to be seen as one of the most important epochs in the history of the world. The Reformation gave us the Bible – now freely available in our own languages. The Reformation pioneered the principles of religious freedom, liberty of conscience, the rule of Law, separation of powers and constitutional limited republics. All of these foundational principles were unthinkable before the Reformation.

The Reformers emphasised **God’s Sovereignty**, that **Scripture alone** is the final authority, that **Christ alone** is the Head of the Church, that justification is by **God’s grace alone**, on the basis of the finished work of Christ, received by **faith alone**.

The Reformers’ teachings on the depravity of man, the Covenant, and Church government have influenced positive political developments in liberty throughout the Western world and beyond, establishing checks and balances, the separation of powers and constitutional authority.

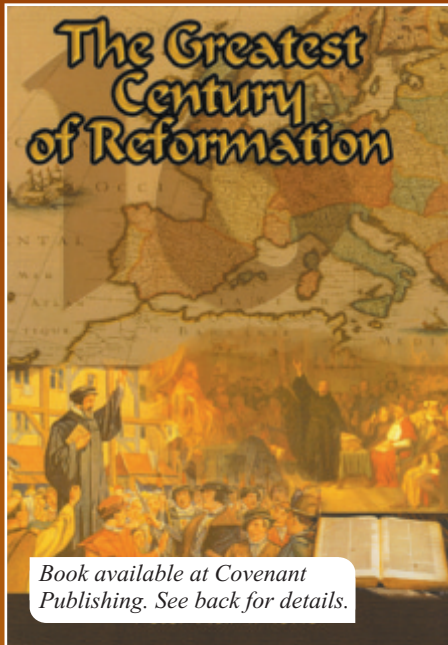
All of us are beneficiaries of this tremendous movement for Faith and freedom. If you love liberty, you need to re-examine the history and principles of the Reformation.

“If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God, except precisely that point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, then I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Him. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved, and to be steady on all

the battlefield besides is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point.” Martin Luther.

DR PETER HAMMOND

With acknowledgement to The Reformation Society, PO Box 74, Newlands, 7725, Cape Town, South Africa



Book available at Covenant Publishing. See back for details.



Some Light Relief

“A Sunday School Teacher was telling her class about the flight into Egypt of Mary and Joseph. At the end of her story she asked the class to draw a picture of the story. As she walked around the class she saw that one of her little boys had drawn an aeroplane with three people in it. When she asked the boy who the three people were in the aeroplane, he answered ‘Oh, the two people at the back of the plane are Mary and Joseph and the one driving the plane is Pilot’.”

“There was a fortune teller who was so good at telling fortunes that people came to see her from far and wide. One day she came home to find that robbers had taken everything in her home.”

With thanks to Miss Barbara Brett of South Africa for these contributions. She was the successful winner of a pen.

Editorial Note.

In Volume 1, Number 2, an editorial change was made to the concluding sentence of Judith Bull’s article “A Sin Against The Lord”.

Her conclusion should have read. “And that would bring blessing, not only here, but worldwide”.

Mrs Bull intended to convey the thought that the Israel people are intended by God to bring blessing to the rest of the world. The conclusion as printed read. “And this would bring blessing, not only in once Great Britain, but in the Covenant Nations worldwide”.

The editorial intention was to highlight the Sovereign’s role as Head of State throughout the Covenant Nations and to emphasise the need for prayer for her in the whole of her realm.

We apologise for any misunderstanding which might have implied an inward-looking attitude. We fully agree that the blessings of God are to be spread to the whole world by the prayers of the servant people.

CROSSWORD 3. SOLUTION

ACROSS.

2. Tabret (1 Sam. 18.6)
7. Sheba (1 Kings 10.1)
10. Tale (Psa. 90.9)
11. Hare (Lev. 11.6)
12. Puma
14. Ammon (Judges 11.4)
16. Medad (Num. 11.26)
17. SRN
18. ESE
19. RA (egyptian sun god)
20. In
21. Hod (1 Chron. 7.3)
23. Set
26. Crab (Lev. 11.10)
28. Jael (Leaj) (Judges 4.11)
30. Horeb (Exod. 3.1)
32. Silla (2 Kings 12.20)
33. Maya
34. Imlah (1 Kings 22.8)
35. Ensign (Isa. 5.26)

DOWN.

1. Terms
2. TA (territorial army)
3. BT (baronet)
4. Rapes
5. Elude
6. Tema (Gen. 25.15)
7. Shadrach (Dan. 3.20)
8. Ham (Gen. 5.32)
9. Beor (Gen. 36.32)
13. Adonijah (2 Sam. 3.4)
15. NN (nomen nominandum)
16. Me
21. Haran (Ger. 11.31)
22. Obeys
24. Elim (Exod. 15.27)
25. Tells
27. Rome (Acts 19.21)
29. Ala(s)
31. Bai(t)
32. Sin (Rom. 6.23)

CROSSWORD 2. SOLUTION

ACROSS.

2. ABEL (Gen. 4.8)
7. GEMS
8. AMAL (Lama)
10. EBAL (Deut. 27.13)
12. DEMAS (2 Tim. 4.10)
14. MAGI (Matt. 2.1)
15. LACKS (Deut. 8.9)
18. N.E.
19. AS
20. LEAH (Gen. 29.30, 31)
24. READ (Deut. 17.19)
26. AN
27. IS
29. BANAL
31. RASE (Psa. 137.7)
34. CANON
36. IRON (Deut. 8.9)
37. ARID
38. ABUT
40. TASS

DOWN.

1. SEEM (Gen. 27.12)
2. AGAG (1 Sam. 15.32)
3. BELIAL (1 Sam. 2.12)
4. E’a3.S.D.
5. HAMAN (Esther 7.9)
6. TASK (Exod. 5.14)
9. MACES
11. BARS (Isa. 45.2)
13. EL (Gen. 21.33, Heb)
16. SION (Matt. 21.5)
17. Jael (Judges 4.21)
19. ABIB (Exod. 13.4)
21. E.R.
22. HA (Job 39.25)
23. SINAI (Exod. 19.2)



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

THE WORLD in the 21st century should be a better place to live in than that of the previous century. Amid all the unspeakable chaos it clearly is not and the slide to disaster accelerates. The reason for this is that the key to civilization ordered by Almighty God is being substituted for a pagan globalization, dominated by materialism, causing God's Covenant Nations to be merged with Mammon and a hierarchy of evil.

Only with an understanding of the Great Plan and Purpose for the company of great Christian nations, which emerged to lead the world in civilization over the past 500 years, can we hope to prevent destruction.

In *The Covenant Nations* our mission is to demonstrate that the spread of the Christian message is the Divinely appointed task of the Britannic peoples throughout the world; those today who are descended from God's Servant people, Jacob-Israel, whose covenant responsibility has ever been the proclamation of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. While He has endowed them with authority and power to discharge this heavy duty, it can only be executed if, like the patriarch Abraham, they believe God and obey Him, leaning on the righteousness of Christ.

This is a message of great hope for all who will allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to them what God purposed to remain hidden as the treasure in the field of the world, until this appointed Age-end period of history.

As events unfold we will continue to develop the scriptural theme of a dedicated people in the light of current affairs as proclaimed in prophetic vision by our Lord Jesus Christ and the apostles He commissioned. The dedicated family and Company of Nations are soon to emerge again and rise up, to the astonishment of those who seek a One-World Order of man.

This message of overruling Providence in history is of supreme importance at this time of the end of the Age – a tempestuous period of which our Lord warned in His final address to His disciples. He foretold that His arch-enemy, Satan, would be increasingly active in a final endeavour to prevent the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth. The world today reflects the tragedy which he said would herald the final manifestation of His Kingdom and His Return in power and glory to take-up the Throne of David, established on earth as an everlasting throne of righteousness.

We invite you to use *The Covenant Nations* as a witness to all who will receive this message. Please help us to make the maximum contribution to the spread of His Age-end counsel among our Christian Israel peoples – as a first crucial step towards world peace!

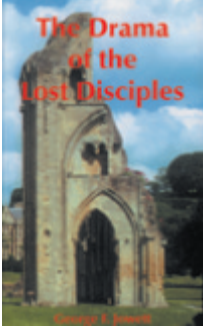


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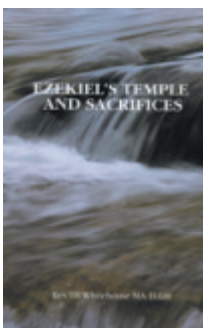
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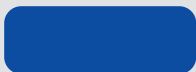
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