

The

Covenant Nations



VOLUME 1, NUMBER 9, 2010

INSIDE...

ASSURED HOPE

Page 6

CHRIST IS RISEN

Page 8



▲ Lady's Well at Holystone in the Northumberland National Park about 9 miles west of Rothbury on a minor Roman road running from Dere Street towards Alnwick. The inscription reads 'It was here that Paulinus the bishop baptised 3,000 Northumbrians at Easter in the year AD 627.'

Photograph by John Battersby

◀ COVER PICTURE: The Garden Tomb in Jerusalem thought by many to be the site of Christ's burial.

Photograph by Ed Skelding

The Covenant Nations

Volume 1, Number 9, 2010

EDITORIAL STAFF

Michael A Clark
Ernest S Gage
David J Aimer

Philippa M Clark
Kathleen D Gage

HEAD OFFICE

The British-Israel-World Federation
121 Low Etherley
Bishop Auckland DL14 0HA
United Kingdom

Telephone: 01388 834395
Fax: 01388 835957
E-mail: admin@britishisrael.co.uk
Web: www.britishisrael.co.uk

The Covenant Publishing Co Ltd
121 Low Etherley
Bishop Auckland DL14 0HA
United Kingdom

Telephone: 01388 835753
E-mail: admin@covpub.co.uk
Web: www.covpub.co.uk

OVERSEAS OFFICES

Australia

BIWF in NSW Ltd, PO Box 76, Ungarie, NSW, 2669
E-mail: britis1@bigpond.com

BIWF (Queensland) Inc., 41 Kirikee Street,
Ferny Grove, Queensland, 4055

Telephone: +61 (0) 3851 2697
E-mail: micdor1@optusnet.com.au

BIWF (Victoria) Inc., PO Box 596, Camberwell,
Victoria, 3124

Telephone: +61 (0) 39882 4256
+61 (0) 39882 8643

New Zealand

BIWF (NZ) Auckland Inc., PO Box 56-142, Dominion
Road, Mount Eden, Auckland, 1446
Telephone: (09) 630 0982

Canada

BIWF (Canada) Inc., 313 Sherbourne Street,
Toronto, Ontario, M5A 2S3

Telephone: (416) 921 5996
E-mail: british-israel@bellnet.ca
Web: www.british-israel-world-fed.ca

Canadian British-Israel Association
500 Tecumseh Rd. E., Box 28047, Windsor,
Ontario, N8X 5E4

Telephone: 1-800-919-8819
E-mail: staff@israelite.ca
Web: www.israelite.ca

The Netherlands

Bond Netherlands Israel
Postbus 30009, 1303 AA Almere
Telephone: 036 5296956

South Africa

South African Office - Mrs A Fromburg
PO Box 2565, Port Alfred, 6170
Telephone: +27 (0) 46 6243342

USA

BIWF-USA, (also The Covenant Publishing Company of
North America) 405 West Searcy Street, Heber Springs,
Arkansas, 72543, USA

Telephone: 501 362 5299
Fax: 501 362 5312
E-mail: biwfusa@sbcglobal.net
covpubna@sbcglobal.net
Web: www.biwf-usa.com

Inside...

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

The God-given purpose to spread the Christian Message

5 The Greatest Kingdom Hope

Our National Faith will preserve ...

6 Assured Hope

God's prophecies are unchanging

8 Christ is Risen

We serve a risen Saviour!

11 London: A New Jerusalem

Full of interesting historical facts

12 Israel, the Wife of God

Marriage, divorce and reconciliation

14 Treasure hid in a Field

A new look at the parable



16 Joseph's Risen Host

Thought to be dead - yet alive!

18 The Hope that is in you

The promise of eternal life

19 What Hope for the Future?

The sovereignty of Almighty God

20 The Seed of Great Hope, Wonder and Romance

From small beginnings ...

22 What is Happening to our Nation?

A call to prayer

24 The Israel Identity Haplogroup Issue

Scientific advances providing evidence for our case

26 Galileo's conflict is the same today

An interesting anniversary

26 FAQ: Is the Shroud of Turin the actual burial cloth of Jesus Christ?

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.



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 by 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!



The Greatest Kingdom Hope -

Our National Faith will preserve the Integrity and Destiny of the Covenant Nations

‘**W**e can’t go on like this’ is the phrase appearing on a current political poster in Great Britain. As a General Election approaches, the political parties seek the support of the Electorate by looking to the direction they can take the nation during the next five years. It is not a new phrase as it was used in the 1970s when Mrs Thatcher was campaigning. What is new is the scale of the crisis that is facing the nation; the huge financial debt resulting from the financial and banking collapse will dominate our lives and subsequent generations. Years of official denial have ended and the result of mass immigration has been revealed – it is projected to push the population of the country from its present 62 million to 70 million by 2029, half of the increase expected to come from immigrant populations.

After six decades of this mass influx of alien peoples and religions with the slur of ‘racist’ being thrown at any who protested at what was happening, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey, has called for a halt to mass immigration. It is late in the day, but it represents a start on what must undoubtedly be done for the long-term integrity and peace of the nation.

Lord Carey has actually gone much further than the obvious concerns of the strains on all aspects of society. He has said that Britain must uphold Christianity as the bedrock of Britain’s democratic and liberal

traditions, and warned of the inability to hold the line for British culture in the face of mass immigration by people determined to replace it by Islam. “The sheer numbers of migrants from within Europe and elsewhere put the resources of Britain under enormous pressure, but also threaten the very ethos or DNA of our nation,” he said. This was a voice that needed to be raised and coming from the former Archbishop, it is far more significant.

Millions of true British voters, lost in a decades-long ‘winter’ of lost vision and spiritual decline look at their television screens at the horrific disasters and troubles around the world and wonder – could *our nation*, and the other great nations of British origin, descend into extreme disorder and chaos?

Very many solid voters for the mainstream parties are so dissatisfied with their leaderships that they are voting now for the smaller parties which have no fear of speaking out about core values on which the British nation is founded. The people see no alternative – the nation has been betrayed – constitutionally under the Treaty of Lisbon to the EU; through mass immigration and through legislation against foundational family values. The leaderships express little moral courage or authority and appear running scared from militant pressure groups.

Then there is the loss of millions of manufacturing jobs and the crisis in farming and agriculture, threatening food production in

the future, which could not be more serious for an island nation. Added to this, as became apparent during the recent adverse winter weather, are the low reserves that Britain has in its power supplies.

Britain could be entering a very volatile period politically in which the usual stability of the nation is disturbed. Where then and to whom should people look? We believe our greatest Kingdom hope rests in the national faith of our fathers. It is *the* faith and gospel of the *continuing* Kingdom of God upon earth alone which is capable of preserving the integrity of the covenant nations at large.

The nation ruling with God, or Is-ra-el, is required to know where it has come from in order to know where it is going. This elementary truth, if understood and followed, would profit the covenant nations at large more than any other factor that could be put forth as a party political manifesto.

The same stark choice is set before us today as was put to our forefathers in the wilderness of old (*Deuteronomy* 30:19). We have to choose between life and death. Do we serve the Lord and His Divine Purpose for national life, or do we serve Mammon in slavery to national defeat and spiritual death? The Lord says, “*I will do a new thing in Israel*” (*Isaiah* 43:19). May our expectation be in Him who is the Hope of Israel.

ASSURED HOPE



Mount Faith and Mount Hope
in the Cascades, Oregon

The prophetic word of Scripture is regarded by many as a minefield and to be avoided wherever possible. With the belief that the Jews are the modern descendants of all the twelve tribes of Israel, or that the church is the kingdom of God in the Christian era, one can understand why the prophecies of the Old Testament, and of Our Lord Himself, would be like a minefield to all who tried to make them fit these erroneous beliefs. It is only by recognizing the fulfilment of prophecy in our own nation and company of Anglo-Saxon and Celtic nations that this minefield is cleared and ceases to be a great problem.

The prophetic books of the Old Testament are sixteen in number, of which twelve are termed Minor Prophets. These twelve are not minor in importance only in the comparatively short length of each book. In the Apocryphal book of *Ecclesiasticus* 14:10, the writer refers to these twelve saying, “*And of the twelve prophets let the memorial be blessed, and let their bones flourish again out of their place; for they comforted Jacob and delivered them by assured hope.*”

This is a positive and encouraging statement, more so than the common saying by people today when they remark “we live in hope.” In this latter there is an element of

doubt and uncertainty whereas the prophets gave assured hope in which there is no place for doubt. In the course of the study of prophecy, in regard to the future of Israel, assured hope is a constant theme.

This is very clearly seen in the prophecy of *Hosea*, for example, for it vividly encapsulates the life and history of Israel from her earliest years through to the coming restoration of the kingdom at Christ’s Second Advent. It is graphically illustrated by the life of Hosea and his family in which the husband and wife relationship is analogous of God’s relationship with Israel. This is corroborated in the declaration of Isaiah’s words in chapter 54, verse 5, “*For thy Maker is thine husband ... and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel.*”

Hosea and his wife Gomer have two sons and a daughter whose names have meanings (as all Scripture names do) which relate to Israel’s apostate condition and God’s judgment upon her. They were Jezreel meaning ‘may God scatter;’ Lo Ruhamah meaning ‘unpitied;’ and Lo Ammi which meant ‘not my people.’ These names therefore symbolized the collapse of the kingdom and its captivity and exile from the promised land in retribution for its breaking of the Mosaic Covenant. Yet the prophecy contains the promise in chapter 2, verse 23, “... and I

will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people, and they shall say Thou art my God.” *Hosea* is the first of the group of twelve Minor Prophets and it is surely significant that his name means ‘salvation.’

These Minor Prophets each make their own contribution to the overall picture of Israel’s historical record and future destiny. While *Hosea* gives an outline description of the husband and wife scenario it is followed by *Joel* who refers to particular stages in that history. The analogy of the plague of insects with which he begins had its historical fulfilment in the downfall of the northern kingdom of Israel through successive invasions. The Assyrians did not conquer Israel in one single action but made three incursions into the kingdom, each invasion destroying what had been left by the previous one. The final destruction of the remaining southern kingdom of Judah was completed by the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar, the final phase of the insect plague analogy. What the prophet recorded was in effect God’s judgment on all of Israel for her rebellion and her restoration would require repentance on the part of the kingdom. “*Rend your hearts and not your garments*” (*Joel* 2:13) was the prophet’s admonition to the people. Then he makes a rousing plea to them, “*Blow the trumpet*

in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly” (Joel 2:15). “Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them” (Joel 2:17).

How pertinent that call is in our present state of national apostasy with its need for repentance. The insects of the earlier plagues are referred to again but this is followed by the promise of the kingdom’s future restoration. A common factor in the study of these prophets is their witnessing to the faithfulness of God in contrast to the deceitfulness of Israel and the retribution this incurs.

The prophecy of Amos follows a similar pattern and, being a herdsman, his pastoral way of life is reflected in his writing. In the first chapter of his book he describes a situation in which the people are in some despair, “... and the habitations of the shepherds shall mourn” (Amos 1:2). Ezekiel also refers to shepherds, the same Hebrew word being used, saying in chapter 34, verse 2, “Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?”

In both these references to shepherds it is the leaders in the nation to whom reference is being made. In their positions of power and authority they have a responsibility to those in their charge and care. This applies to those in government, finance and industry and, in the spiritual sense, to our church leaders. The people have good reason to mourn for they are, in our present generation, being let down by so many of those leaders who do not really have the interests of the people at heart.


Amos goes on to say, “... and the top of Carmel shall wither” (Amos 1:2). Mountains in scriptural symbolism usually refer to places of power or government and the diminution of that power is appropriately described by Amos as withering. How apt this prophecy is to our present situation as members of the European Union for the sovereignty of our government has been gradually usurped by the European parliament. But this prophet too ends his discourse with the promise of restoration of the kingdom in some future time.

Like all the prophets, Micah has good reason to castigate the people of Israel. This, however, was not their only mission for the prophets also acted as confessors for the sinful nation, as Micah apparently did, “I will bear the indignation of the LORD

because I have sinned against him ...” (Micah 7:9). The prophecy of Micah, however, is one which is full of hope and has the prediction of a restored kingdom which shall one day be the envy of the world with foreign representatives being sent to learn about the righteous laws of God which will be established in Israel (Micah 4:2).

This situation of the restored kingdom is also referred to by the prophet Zephaniah in chapter 3. For Israel it is a time to sing, shout, be glad and rejoice (verse 14) and in the final verse we have the reason for such joy, “... for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the LORD” (Zephaniah 3:20).

The final verses of Micah’s prophecy declare the greatness of God in these words, “Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of His heritage? He retaineth not



“Blow the trumpet in Zion”
Joel 2:15

his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy” (Micah 7:18). We are not worthy of such a God but He is the God of Israel, ever faithful and true.

The prophets, then, laid no minefield for twenty-first century mankind. Their task was to warn an unfaithful nation of the future trouble they would face if they did not return to God who had freed them from Egyptian bondage, provided for all their needs, shown them a way of life which guaranteed them health, wealth and happiness and protection from their enemies. Through the prophet Micah God even challenged the people to say where He had gone wrong to incur their displeasure, “O my people, what have I done unto thee? and wherein have I wearied thee? Testify against me” (Micah 6:3). They could not, of course.

The husband and wife relationship founded on the wife’s adultery and ended in divorce. Under the law the wife could not remarry during the lifetime of her husband. Yet the prophets foretold a time when the wife would be re-betrothed so the husband

must therefore have died. He did, on a cross at Calvary two thousand years ago. This is the Gospel of the Kingdom, the glorious hope of an Israel having repented, been forgiven and restored to a right relationship with God. Let it be said and understood that this does not negate or belittle the salvation of the individual through faith in the risen Lord Jesus. That belief is the foundation of our Christian heritage and cannot be diminished. It is a personal choice and commitment which is available to everyone.

Redemption of the kingdom, however, is God’s choice and commitment. His promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that they would be the progenitors of a nation and company of nations were an unqualified commitment, as was His promise to King David that the throne would exist for all succeeding generations. God has honoured these commitments for three thousand years and more. Would He give up now? Through the prophet Ezekiel He explains His position quite clearly. In chapter 36 God points out the sins of the Israelites who had defiled their own land, worshipped idols and profaned the name of the Lord. So He scattered them among the heathen and dispersed them.

“But I had pity for mine holy name,” God said (verse 21). “Therefore say unto the house of Israel, ... I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name’s sake” (verse 22). Then from verse 23 to verse 31 we read of the complete restoration and refurbishment of the kingdom. In verse 32 God repeats His reason for His actions, “Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord GOD, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel.”

In the final few verses we see God being honoured and glorified and then His expectation of what is to come, in that familiar entreaty of a humble and contrite kingdom, “I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them” (Ezekiel 36:37).

What more positive and assured hope for the future could we have than that contained in these verses of this prophecy?

ALFRED BROWN



In the Garden of the Tomb, Jerusalem.
Photograph by Ed Skelding

CHRIST IS RISEN

Evidences for the Resurrection

“And declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of Holiness, by the Resurrection from the dead” (Romans 1:4).

In 1815 all of Europe agonized in suspense waiting for news of the impending battle between the Duke of Wellington and the French emperor Napoleon. For over 25 years Europe had been convulsed by the French Revolution, the mass executions of French nobles, the guillotine, and two decades of Napoleonic wars, which had turned all of Europe into a battlefield. And, just when they had thought that the threat was over, with Napoleon defeated and in exile on Elba, Napoleon had returned, mustered a huge army and marched to destroy

the British Army under the Duke of Wellington. People waited in great anticipation for news of the critical battle, which would decide the future of all of them.

A sailing ship semaphored (signalled with coded flags) the result of the decisive battle. A signalman on the top of Winchester cathedral decoded the message from a ship in the channel: “*Wellington defeated ...*” then fog obscured the ship and the message was sent out throughout the British Isles: “*Wellington defeated!*” Shock and depres-

sion spread with the devastating news. Then several hours later, when the fog lifted, the signal was completed: “*Wellington defeated the enemy!*” As the full message of the decisive victory at Waterloo was proclaimed throughout the land there was tremendous rejoicing. Wellington’s victory at Waterloo ushered in 99 years of peace in Western Europe.

The bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is tremendously important. Death is man’s greatest enemy, and it has conquered all men – but Christ. Cities and nations, like people, are born and grow for a season, and then fade away. Homes, clothes, even vehicles, wear out and eventually go back to dust, just as do their owners. The Bible describes this universal reign of decay and death as “*the bondage of corruption*” (Romans 8:21). In science it is recognised as the Second Law of Thermodynamics – the Law of Increasing Entropy. Left to themselves, every system tends to become disordered, to run down and eventually die. All the founders of great religions and movements have died and you can visit their graves – Zoroaster, Confucius, Buddha, Muhammad, Marx and Lenin. They are all dead and decayed in the grave. But Jesus Christ is alive!

So, what difference does that make? you may ask. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is vitally important because it demonstrates Christ’s victory over death, it gives hope to all mankind, it shows that eternal life is available to believers, it points to the ultimate triumph of God over all evil, and it provides an indisputable proof that the message about Jesus Christ, as both Judge and Saviour, is true. “*Because He has appointed a Day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man Whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead*” (Acts 17:31).

The Research of Sceptics

The Resurrection is so important and foundational to Christianity that it has been targeted for the most relentless attacks. Frank Morison, a lawyer, determined to disprove the Resurrection and thereby undermine Christianity. The result of his exhaustive investigations was his conversion to Christ and the publication of his book *Who Moved the Stone?* which decisively demonstrates the overwhelming evidence for the Resurrection.

A sceptical university lecturer, Josh McDowell, determined to disprove Christianity by investigating evidence against the

Resurrection. The result was his conversion to Christ and publication of the monumental *Evidence That Demands a Verdict* which exhaustively and conclusively presents documentation and evidence upon evidence substantiating the historical truth, factual accuracy, archaeological evidence, manuscript evidence, fulfilled prophecies, transformed lives, and other indisputable evidences which support the fact of the Resurrection of Christ from the dead and the truth claims of Christianity.

Thomas Arnold, Professor of History at Oxford University, one of the greatest historians of the nineteenth century wrote: *"I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better, fuller evidence of every sort, to the understanding of a fair enquirer, than the great sign which God has given us that Christ died and rose from the dead."*

Simon Greenleaf, recognized as one of the most skilled legal minds ever produced, developed the Harvard Law School. He is recognized as the top authority on what constitutes sound evidence. Simon Greenleaf made a thorough and exhaustive examination of the objective evidence and the testimony of the four Gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. In his book *The Testimony of the Evangelists* (Baker, 1874) he concluded: *"It was therefore impossible that they could have persisted in affirming the truths they have narrated, had not Jesus actually risen from the dead, and had they not known this fact as certainly as they knew any other fact."*

Simon Greenleaf declared that any court of law, if presented with the evidence of the Resurrection, would have to give a verdict in favour of the integrity and accuracy of the Gospel writers and the fact of the Resurrection.

One of the most popular books ever written and most successful films ever produced, *Ben Hur*, was a result of a sceptical challenge by General Lew Wallace to the authenticity of Christ's Resurrection, and a careful examination of the evidence.

What are the Facts?

The religious leaders, the Pharisees and Sadducees, who had campaigned and conspired to have Christ arrested and executed on trumped up charges, had a compelling interest in disproving any claims of the Resurrection. They had presumed that the execution of Jesus would eliminate this threat to their religious power base and silence His supporters. These Jewish religious leaders had great concerns about

the corpse of Jesus and they approached the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, for a military detachment to secure the tomb (*Matthew 28:62-64*).

The Roman governor's priority in the volatile province of Palestine was to preserve peace and stability. He recognized the political problems that would ensue if anything happened to this religious Teacher whom he had three times declared innocent, and ultimately washed his hands in front of the crowd declaring, *"I am innocent of this Man's blood"* (*Matthew 27:24*). His wife had warned him: *"Do not have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of Him"* (*Matthew 27:19*).

**"I am alive
forever more"
Revelation 1:18**

Pilate was only too aware that a travesty of justice had taken place, and the last thing he needed was a review of his shameful conduct and dereliction of duty in this case. Ensuring that the victim's corpse remained buried was definitely in Pilate's political interests as well. *"Take a guard", Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how". So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard"* (*Matthew 27:65*).

The Roman Guard

As the chief priests had approached the Roman governor, and as the Greek word *Koustodia* is used to describe the detachment of soldiers, it was evidently a Roman guard. If only a temple guard had been used, there would have been no need to approach Pilate to issue the order. Additionally the concern of the guards after the Resurrection to be protected from consequences from the governor (*Matthew 28:14*) confirms that those guarding the tomb were Roman soldiers. The detachment would have consisted of at least sixteen soldiers with four men placed directly in front of the entrance of the tomb, on duty, at any time. Under Roman military law any guard who deserted his post, or who fell asleep on duty, would face crucifixion. Typically, if Roman soldiers allowed a prisoner to escape they would face the same sentence as the prisoner – in this case crucifixion.

The seal placed on the stone at the entrance to the tomb signified the administrative authority, and only an authorised officer of Rome would be permitted to break the seal. Anyone breaking a Roman seal without permission would be tracked down and executed.

Although the intention of the religious and political leaders had been to ensure that the phenomenon of Jesus ended at the tomb, their extraordinary security measures have only served to confirm the truth that they had murdered an innocent Man and that Jesus Christ was truly the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, *"the firstborn from the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth ... the One Who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forever more"* (*Revelation 1:5, 18*).

Christ's Victory over Death

"Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. But the angel answered and said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus, Who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold I have told you. So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word. And as they went to tell His disciples, behold Jesus met them, saying 'Rejoice!', so they came and held Him by the feet and worshipped Him. Then Jesus said to them, Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me" (*Matthew 28:1-10*).

Attempts To Avoid The Truth Of The Resurrection

To explain away the empty tomb, the enemies of the Gospel have had to resort to some desperate deceptions. The first was to suggest that the disciples had stolen the body. This incredible theory suggests that those same disciples who had slept in the garden, fled at His arrest, denied Him before a young woman, were hiding in fear behind locked doors, could have united to overcome sixteen professional Roman soldiers, dared to break a Roman seal, moved a two ton tomb stone, just to steal a corpse! A

dead Messiah would have served absolutely no purpose for the disciples. What possible motivation could they have had, even had they possessed the ability to overcome the military, political and logistical obstacles? They had nothing to gain and everything to lose. Every one of the disciples suffered severe persecution, most dying as martyrs for the Faith. **Would you die for a lie?**

Did Jesus Really Die?

Others have questioned whether Christ had really died on the cross. Perhaps He only fainted? This swoon theory would have us believe that the Roman soldiers, who were professional killers, (the centurion in charge would most probably have supervised dozens if not hundreds of executions), had failed to ensure that this high profile political prisoner was not actually dead. Considering the vicious flogging which the Lord had already endured, the excruciating torture of crucifixion, and the spear thrust into His side, with blood and water flowing out, all provide convincing evidence of death.

Yet, those advocating the swoon theory would have us believe that One Who had endured such savage flogging, crucifixion, and a spear thrust to the heart, could not only have survived the legendary Roman military efficiency, but that He was revived on a cold slab in a cold tomb. Further that He somehow disengaged from the grave clothes, and one hundred pounds of spices, ointments and wrappings which had effectively mummified Him, rolled away the two ton stone, overpowered, or eluded, the Roman soldiers, and somehow found and impressed the disciples with His Deity? These suggestions have only to be mentioned in order to be dismissed as unbelievable.

The Empty Tomb

Another desperate attempt to explain away the Resurrection of Christ has been that they went to the wrong tomb. All of them. Mary Magdalene, Peter, John, the other women, all went to the wrong tomb. And somehow neither the Pharisees, nor the Sadducees, nor the Roman soldiers, nor Joseph of Arimathea, whose tomb it was, thought to point out that the tomb was in fact still occupied! However, this theory is also impossible, as the tomb was not in a cemetery, but in a garden privately owned by Joseph of Arimathea. There was no other tomb in that garden.

The Absence of the Body

And all that the Roman and Jewish leaders had to do in order to end Christianity forever was produce the corpse of Jesus. But they could not do it. Even when the Apostle Peter stood up on the day of Pentecost and

proclaimed: *“Therefore, let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ”* (Acts 2:36). *“And with great power the apostles gave witness to the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus”* (Acts 4:33). And many thousands in Jerusalem, including many Pharisees, came to faith in Jesus Christ.

The Crisis of Credibility

To the Jewish religious leaders, this was their worst nightmare, a disaster. The proclamation of the Resurrection of Christ undermined their power and credibility. Thousands of their followers now believed that they had condemned an innocent Man, the Messiah Himself. The new religion of



On the door to the Garden Tomb.
Photograph by Ed Skelding

Christianity was undermining the power base and credibility of the Pharisees and Sadducees. If the body of Jesus could have been found, Christianity could be stopped dead in its tracks and the threat to the religious status quo would have ended. Since they desperately needed Jesus' corpse, the Jewish leaders would have used every means at their disposal to hunt it down and find it – if that was possible.

The Testimony of Eye Witnesses

However, we are not only dealing with the empty tomb, and the absence of the body, but the testimony of eyewitnesses. On at least twelve separate occasions Jesus Christ was seen after rising from the tomb. Mary Magdalene (*John* 20:11-18; *Mark* 16:9); the other women (*Matthew* 28:8-10); Peter (*Luke* 24:34); the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (*Luke* 24:13-35); ten of the disciples (*Luke* 24:36-43; *John* 20:19-24); all eleven disciples, eight days later (*John* 20:24-29); seven disciples by the Sea of Tiberias (*John* 21:1-23); to five hundred at one time (*I Corinthians* 15:6); to James (*I Corinthians* 15:7); to all eleven apostles, and others, at the Ascension (*Acts* 1:3-12); Paul (*Acts* 9:3-8); and John (*Revelation* 1:12-18), all saw the Lord bodily raised from the dead.

To explain away the testimony of all these eyewitnesses, enemies of Christianity suggest that these were merely hallucinations, perhaps as a result of hypnosis or hysteria. However, while hallucinations tend to be unique psychological experiences of an individual, we are here dealing with a large number of individuals, who at different times, in different groups, in different places, both indoors and outdoors, on a hilltop, along a roadside, by a lake shore, all saw the Lord. They saw Him, they ate with Him and they saw the wounds in His hands and in His side.

And far from being gullible, it would appear that His disciples were very sceptical and slow to believe. Thomas declared that he would not believe that Christ had risen unless he personally placed his fingers in the nail prints in His hands and feet and his hand in the wound in His side.

The Transformation of the Disciples

Not only do we have the testimony of the eyewitnesses, but the dramatic transformation of the disciples. The Resurrection of Christ from the dead transformed the disciples' grief to joy, their cowardice to boldness, their scepticism to faith and their doubt to determination. It turned Saul, the persecutor of the church, into Paul, the apostle of the church.

It also transformed society and history. It changed the Jewish Sabbath into the Christian Lord's Day. What else could explain the replacement of Saturday as the Jewish day of rest into Sunday as the Christian Lord's Day? The Resurrection transformed a Jewish remnant into the worldwide Christian Church. Over 2 billion people worldwide describe themselves as Christians who believe in the Resurrection of Christ from the dead. The very existence of the largest religious movement in the history of the world is another powerful evidence of the truth of the Resurrection.

Jesus Himself had prophesied His Resurrection from the dead. And because of His fulfilment of this, we can be absolutely certain that Jesus Christ is 'God with us,' as He claimed. By His Resurrection we can know that our sins are forgiven through His blood sacrificed on the cross of Calvary: *“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* (*John* 3:14-16).

Because of Christ's death on the cross we can rejoice that our sins are paid for – we are forgiven, justified by faith.

Because of Christ's Resurrection from the dead we can rejoice in the prospect of eternal life.

Because of Christ's Ascension we can know that He has all authority and that His Great Commission will be accomplished on earth.

Because of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost we do not need to trust in our own abilities, but in His power alone "*Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord.*"

William Sangster – the church leader and hymn writer – suffered from increasing paralysis which finally prevented him from even being able to talk. On his last Easter before he died, he wrote: "*How terrible to wake up on Easter and have no voice to shout, 'HE IS RISEN,' far worse, to have a voice and not to want to shout!*"

We serve a risen Saviour! Death is defeated. Christ has risen – victorious over death, hell, Satan and the grave.

Jesus Christ is the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Christ, though he may die, yet shall he live (*John 11:25*).

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (*1 Peter 1:3*).

DR. PETER HAMMOND

Frontline Fellowship
P O Box 74
Newlands, 7725
Cape Town, South Africa

LONDON: A NEW JERUSALEM

The Covenant Publishing Company has great pleasure in launching its new book:
London: A New Jerusalem.

This book is a new edition of Adrian Gilbert's previous book *The New Jerusalem* which was published in 2002. In it he took the reader on a guided tour of a hidden London and the rebuilding of St Paul's Cathedral after the Great Fire of London and he also gave the historical background of our nation from Brutus through to the Tudors and the Stuarts. His research showed clearly that our forefathers held firm beliefs in their descent from the Israel of old. They believed that Britain had a preordained role to fulfil as the leading Protestant nation in Europe. He brought in the development of British-Israel teaching and the new book has a chapter titled 'The Rise of British-Israel.' This book is a very interesting presentation of one aspect of our teaching. The Notes and Bibliography are extensive and provide opportunities for further research by readers.

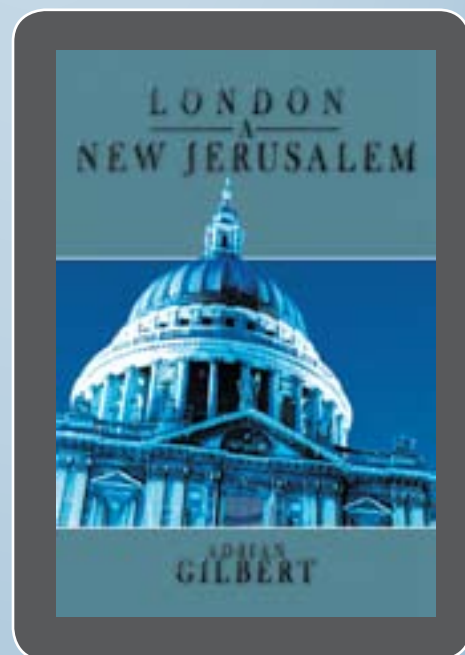
The phoenix and its association with resurrection is a reminder that truth will always triumph even if all seems lost at times – there is always hope. The following passage is an extract:

"When Wren came to lay out the foundations for the new building, he had first to mark the proposed centre, the point where the nave, choir and transepts would meet underneath the proposed new dome, from which all other measurements would be taken. Accordingly, he picked up the first piece of broken rubble that came to hand and used this to mark the position on the ground. Legend has it that when he examined this piece of rock more carefully he discovered it was part of a broken tombstone which had carved on it the single Latin word *Resurgam*: 'I will rise again.'

Thereafter this word, so pregnant with hope for a new beginning, became the motto for the resurrection of both St Paul's and London.

A symbol for resurrection, used by Christians but of much more ancient origin, is the phoenix — the mythical bird which, according to legend, deliberately immolates itself in its own nest so that its young might be reborn from its ashes. This symbol seemed thoroughly appropriate for the new cathedral as it rose out of the ashes of the old. Accordingly it was used as the main design element, in conjunction with the motto *Resurgam*, for one of the chief sculptures of the cathedral: the pediment relief over the south portico."

Price: £12.50 per copy plus post & packing. Order from The Covenant Publishing Company to obtain the launch offer price of **£10.00**, available until 31st July 2010.



ISRAEL

THE WIFE OF GOD

In Christian circles it is well known that the biblical nation of Israel was chosen by God to be His peculiar people. What is not so widely understood is what that “chosen” status means. They were chosen, not for their own power and glory, but to be a servant, and a blessing to all the nations of the earth – as God promised in His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, when He declared, “*I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great ... and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed*” (Genesis 12:2-3 and 28:14). And the prophet Isaiah stated plainly, “*But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen*” (Isaiah 41:8). However, though the Lord calls Israel His servant, the relationship between God and the nation was much closer than that of Master and servant; it was, in fact, the relationship of Husband and wife!

The children of Israel had been in bondage in Egypt for more than four hundred years when God brought them out in the Exodus by many plagues and miracles, culminating in the parting of the Red Sea, so that the people could cross on dry ground. From

there, they journeyed into the wilderness, eventually encamping at the foot of Mount Sinai. There God called their leader, Moses, to come up the mountain, where He gave him the laws for the nation, beginning with the Ten Commandments. The Lord then made the people an awesome promise, saying, “*Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people.*” These words were actually a marriage covenant, and by the people’s response, “*All that the LORD has spoken we will do,*” they made their wedding vow (Exodus 19:5-8).

This relationship between God and the children of Israel is confirmed many times in scripture, as for example in *Jeremiah 3:14*, where we read the words, “*Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you.*” And the prophet Isaiah, in a chapter about the wife of Jehovah, plainly states, “*For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel*” (Isai-

ah 54:5). So Israel started out as God’s virgin Bride; but it was not long – in fact only a few days – before they were unfaithful! The first commandment of the Decalogue establishes God’s primacy: “*I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt ... Thou shalt have no other gods before me*” (Exodus 20:1-3). But even before Moses had come down the mountain with the tablets of stone, the people had made and were worshipping a golden calf. This was to continue to be the pattern throughout the long, troubled history of Israel. Even in the Promised Land, which Jehovah had given them, they worshipped and made sacrifices to the other gods and idols of the surrounding nations. In God’s mind this violation of their wedding vow – worshipping false idols – was equivalent to adultery; God’s chosen Bride was continually playing the whore!

The Lord sent dozens of mighty judges and prophets to Israel to proclaim His word and to bring the people back into their covenant relationship with Him. But the prophets



Mount Sinai

were mostly ignored or, worse, persecuted, leading Jeremiah to admonish the people, “*And the LORD hath sent unto you all his servants the prophets, rising early and sending them; but ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear*” (Jeremiah 25:4). In fact, virtually all the prophetic books, more than one quarter of the Old Testament, are concerned solely with God’s dealings with the sins of Israel and with the other nations which negatively influenced them. For over seven hundred years God continually pleaded with His people, giving them every opportunity to return to Him, but they would not.

Finally the Lord’s patience ran out and reluctantly He gave them a bill of divorce, declaring: “*And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also*” (Jeremiah 3:8). What this divorce meant was that Israel was no longer under God’s protection and so it was soon conquered by Assyrian and Babylonian armies and most of the people carried away captive into exile, from which the majority never returned. They became known as “the lost sheep of the House of Israel.”

The New Covenant

But the story does not end in tragedy as God is long-suffering and ever faithful, and He had not given up on Israel. Instead, in spite of their great sins, He made them a promise of great hope. As Jeremiah records it: “*Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers ... which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days [i.e. in the future], saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people*” (Jeremiah 31:31-33).

However, there was a problem with making a new covenant with Israel that was inherent in God’s own law. In *Deuteronomy* 24:1-4 the law states: “*When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement ... and send her out of his house. And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man’s wife. And if the latter*

husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement ... her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that is abomination before the LORD.”

And yet, through the prophet Jeremiah the Lord said: “*They say, If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man’s, shall he return unto her again? shall not that land be greatly polluted? but thou [Israel] hast played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, saith the LORD*” (Jeremiah 3:1). How could this be? How could Israel return and be remarried to the Lord in violation of His own law? There was only one way in which a woman could be loosed from the law of her husband, as Paul tells us in *I Corinthians* 7:39: “*The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her*

**“For thy Maker
is thine husband”
Isaiah 54:5**

husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will ...” So the only way Israel could be freed from that law was if her husband – Jehovah – died. Which is, of course, impossible; God cannot die! And yet, that is precisely what happened, when God – incarnate in His Son, Jesus Christ – died on Calvary’s cross! His death not only brought salvation for all mankind, but also redeemed Israel, the wife of Jehovah, from her defiled and divorced state. When Jesus rose again from the dead on Easter morning, He had a new spiritual body – He was a New Man – and as such He was free to remarry the now widowed Israel, to become once again His beloved Bride. Thus, the New (Marriage) Covenant between God and Israel was made possible by the death, and sealed by the precious blood, of Jesus Christ.

That this was already in the plan of God is shown by the foreshadowing of it in the Old Testament book of *Hosea*, written in the eighth century BC. Speaking through the prophet, God says: “*Therefore, behold, I will allure her ... and speak comfortably unto her ... And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, that thou [Israel] shalt call me Ishi [Hebrew “my husband”] ... And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and*

in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD ... and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God” (*Hosea* 2:14-23).

This prophecy was to be fulfilled in a remarkable way. After seventy years of exile in Babylon, a remnant of the House of Judah (that is of the tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Levi) – a mere 42,360 souls in all – returned to the land of Palestine. The vast majority of Israel and Judah gradually left their homes in exile and journeyed north and west across the Middle East and Europe, settling eventually in the isles and coastlands of northwestern Europe. These lands, and the far-flung nations which sprang from them – the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples – are the “lost sheep,” the modern day descendants of ancient Israel. And through the preaching of the word of God over the centuries, the majority have become Christians, fulfilling Jeremiah’s prophecy that they would be in a new covenant relationship with God – a covenant made through His Son, Jesus Christ. By this covenant they have been forgiven of their sins, and the stigma of an adulterous wife has been put behind them.

The remarriage of God and His people – spoken of in the book of *Revelation* as “*the marriage of the Lamb*” (*Revelation* 19:7) – has not as yet been fully realized. But the apostle John gives us a wonderful vision of it, wherein the Lamb’s Bride is seen as a heavenly city, New Jerusalem, “*coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband*” (*Revelation* 21:2). That this city represents Israel is obvious from its description, as on its twelve gates are inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. It is not to be confused with the Church, which is the Body of Christ, set apart within the nation. Rather, the Bride is the Israel nation itself, in all its many disguises today. Their reunion with Christ, bringing to fruition the Kingdom of God on earth, will yet disseminate the blessings, promised of old by God to the patriarchs, throughout all the world. Truly, in that day, “*all the families of the earth will be blessed.*”

PATRICIA BAGWELL BA



TREASURE HID IN A FIELD

This parable of Jesus, one of His shorter parables, is found in *Matthew* 13:44, “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.” The treasure in this field is the people of the House of Israel; they are the kingdom of heaven, or the kingdom of God. They are hidden in the field of the world and the man that has found them is Jesus and He has great joy thereof in going and selling all that He had in order to own the field, the world itself, thereby owning the treasure within it.

In *Exodus* 19:5 we read, “Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar (or special) treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine.” This was said shortly after the children of Israel had been delivered from bondage in Egypt. We are well acquainted with the fact that they continued as a nation in the Promised Land and reached their zenith, as it were, under King David and his son, Solomon. That was Israel’s heyday. But then after dissension between the people became so great, there was a split into two kingdoms, the House of Israel and the House of Judah thus becoming separate kingdoms under their different kings. Eventually, the Lord would not allow them to stay in the Promised Land because of their idolatry and perverseness

and the northern House of Israel went into captivity to Assyria and about 130 years later the southern House of Judah was taken into captivity by the Babylonians. A remnant of Judah came back to Jerusalem but the House of Israel never returned and to secular history, seemingly, disappeared without trace.

Now in case it is thought that Almighty God no longer regarded the House of Israel as His people, let us turn to *Amos* chapter 9. This was spoken about the people of Israel in 797 BC, that was 80-90 years before their captivity, therefore it is couched in terms of “I will do this.” So *Amos* 9:9, “For lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth.” God’s care and protection would be upon them even though they were scattered among the nations. In Strong’s *Concordance* the Hebrew word ‘sift’ means ‘cause to move.’ It was future tense so far as the prophet Amos was concerned, but it was God’s intention to do this. Obviously, this moving was not a haphazard thing, there was a purpose to it. For in *II Samuel* 7:10 – this is the prophet Nathan speaking to David, “Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime.” The fact that they were to be gathered in one place meant they even-

tually had a geographical destination to reach for and arrive at.

In the parable we are looking at it says that the man finds the treasure. It is also stated in scripture that Jesus was sent only to the ‘lost sheep of the House of Israel.’ So where did He find these lost sheep? Now Jesus at the age of twelve says to Joseph and His mother, “I must be about my Father’s business” (*Luke* 2:49). It will be recalled that He had remained behind at Jerusalem when His parents had left for home and they eventually found Him in the Temple, “... sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers” (*Luke* 2:46-47). When we next read of Jesus in *Luke* chapter 4, He is a grown man. Where was He in those intervening years?

It is considered in British-Israel circles that He was here in these isles, the resting place of the House of Israel, brought here by His great-uncle, Joseph of Arimathea, the uncle of His mother, Mary. Perhaps one of the reasons He was brought here, and this is only conjecture on my part, was for a place of safety. For when He was speaking to the important men in the Temple, He could have come to the attention of the Jewish leaders, or rather the Esau/Edom element in Jewry. For at that time He was not ready to start His ministry being only a boy. There is also a pointer to Jesus being absent

from Palestine in *Matthew* 17:24-27 where Our Lord has to pay the strangers' tax in accordance with the Roman law in operation at that time.

So Jesus in His sojourn in these isles from the age of twelve found Himself amongst the Celtic peoples and they were some of the people of the northern tribed Israel. He had found 'the treasure hid in a field.' For the Lord states in *Isaiah* 41:1, "*Keep silence before me, O islands; and let the people renew their strength ...*" So they arrived in these islands and they could renew their nationhood. They could be built up as all the tribes gradually arrived here over a period of time. Thus the House of Israel, plus the throne of David are all hidden, growing into maturity and in the appointed place.

In *Ezekiel* 34:16 it states, "*I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick.*" And in verses 30-31 God says, "*Thus shall they know that I the LORD their God am with them, and that they, even the house of Israel, are my people, saith the Lord GOD. And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord GOD.*" As already mentioned, Jesus testified about His own calling in life, "*I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel*" (*Matthew* 15:24). So we should not be surprised that in *John* 10:7 He states that He is the door of the sheep. So Jesus has confirmed the words in *Ezekiel* in that He is the fulfilment of God's promise

to redeem His sheep. That is the ministry of Jesus Christ. He is the Good Shepherd and He lays His life down for His sheep.

In the parable we are studying we have read, "*and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.*" What Jesus 'sold' was His life to redeem His people. He set aside His glory which He had with the Father and suffered the cruel death of a malefactor. It must have been very hard for Him to do this. We have an inkling of this in *Luke* 22:42 in the way He prayed to His Father in the Garden of Gethsemane beforehand, "*Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*" And so great was His distress that He approached the Father three times praying the same prayer. And an angel came and strengthened Him for His agony was so great that He sweat great drops of blood. What was it that Our Lord found so hard to face? It was not the actual crucifixion or the disgraceful behaviour of His captors beforehand, awful though these things were. For it says in *Luke* 9:51, "*And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem.*" In Strong's *Concordance* under 'steadfastly' in this particular sentence it says 'to turn resolutely.'

Our Lord was willing to give His life for the sheep. But what He also knew was that for His sacrifice to be accepted by Almighty God, all the sins of Israel, and indeed the whole world, would have to be laid upon

Him. And that meant the Father would have to turn away from His Son. This had never happened before for He and His Father are One, for the glory He had with God before the world was. And this is borne out by the cry Jesus made while hanging upon the cross, found in *Matthew* 27:46, "*My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*" We can never fully comprehend with our finite minds the agony and sheer aloneness Jesus had to go through in body and mind to purchase the field and the treasure within it. But Jesus was willing to lay down His life for His sheep. He allowed Himself to be accursed and to hang upon a cross that He might deliver His people. And to us the wonderful thing is that His sacrifice was acceptable to God. For on the third day He arose triumphant and because of that Resurrection, He has enabled us to obtain everlasting life in the fullness of time.

So God has got His treasure hidden in the field and Jesus has gone all the way to pay the price in order that He can own the field of the world and thus have complete possession of the treasure, the lost sheep of the House of Israel. It seems most remarkable that the parable we have been looking at is so sparse in words – only one sentence long – yet so much truth is wrapped up in it. But if we search and delve in Holy Writ, as Our Lord has admonished us to do, then we are rewarded by a greater knowledge of Almighty God's plan and purpose for His people Israel and eventually the whole world.

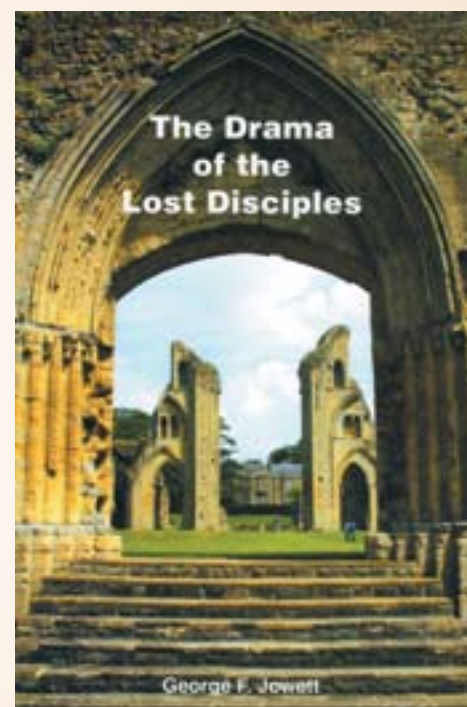
KATHLEEN GAGE

NEW EDITION: THE DRAMA OF THE LOST DISCIPLES

This new 16th edition, gives a fascinating account of the spread of Christianity to Britain from as early as AD 36-37. It tells of the journey westwards made by Joseph of Arimathea and his fellow-Christians to plant the Faith among the people of dispersed Israel; and from Britain to Rome through the members of the British Royal Family in exile and their relationship with the Apostle Paul.

Price: £9.50 (excluding post & packing)

**From: The Covenant Publishing Company Ltd
121 Low Etherley, Bishop Auckland, DL14 0HA
Tel: 01388 835753 Email: admin@covpub.co.uk
Web: www.covpub.co.uk**



JOSEPH'S RISEN HOST



The life story of the Old Testament patriarch Joseph is most fascinating of all biblical characters. Before he was conceived, his barren mother who deeply envied her older sister with her children, cried in desperation to her husband, “Give me children, or else I die” (*Genesis 30:1*). In his utter helplessness and anger, Jacob responded with deep emotion, “Am I in God’s stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb?” (*Genesis 30:2*).

After Jacob’s ten sons and daughter were born, it was then that “God remembered

Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb. And she conceived, and bare a son.” Rachel then gave recognition that it was God who had opened her womb and taken away her reproach. By Divine inspiration she named her son, Joseph, which means ‘adding’ or “*The LORD shall add to me another son*” (*Genesis 30:22-24*). The naming of Joseph was prophetic of the birth of Benjamin, the youngest of the twelve sons of Jacob. Joseph and Benjamin were full blood brothers and were predestined to play a major role throughout history, even to this present day. They

were joined together in Divine destiny even before their births; Joseph to receive and carry out the birthright in making a physical and cultural climate in which the Royal House of David was to dwell and Benjamin to become the tribe to furnish the light of understanding and spiritual revelation for guidance to the Royal House of David. This spiritual light is none other than the Word of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ which has served as the foundational bedrock of Western Civilization, especially among the English speaking peoples.

Joseph's life was ordained of God and the nations that came forth from his loins would later form the framework of God's great plan in the latter days. His personal life would be one of Divine choosing yet human rejection. He was loved of God, yet hated by his older brethren. Sold into Egypt as a slave, yet it was he who would save his brethren and their families from starvation and death. It was seventeen long years in Egyptian bondage, shame and rejection before he would realize the fulfilment of his God-given dreams given to him when yet a boy in his father's house. During those dark years, it appeared as though the promises of God would fail and Joseph would die in obscurity. David, the sweet Psalmist of Israel, recalled that "*He [God] sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant: Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron: Until the time that his word [of deliverance] came: the word of the LORD tried him*" (Psalm 105:17-19).

In revealing himself to his brethren, Joseph declared, "*And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: . . .*" (Genesis 45:7-8). When Joseph's brethren returned to their father Jacob in Canaan, their brief yet startling announcement was; "*Joseph is yet alive.*" Jacob's heart fainted because of unbelief when he heard those words, yet his spirit revived within him when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent in order to bring him to Egypt. It was then that Israel, the man who had wrestled with the angel and prevailed, declared in confidence and belief, "*It is enough; Joseph my son is yet alive: I will go and see him before I die*" (Genesis 45:26-28).

Our Lord Jesus, who was the master teacher, referred to this historical event in parabolic form in *Luke 15:11-32*. Jesus' reference to the younger brother in His parable was none other than the national House of Ephraim that was 'lost,' or put away in punishment because of its iniquities. The people were not only physically removed from Palestine, but spiritually cut off or divorced from God their husband (*Jeremiah 3:8*), yet destined to be remarried to their God under the terms and provisions of the New Covenant. The prophet Isaiah spoke of this remarriage of the House of Joseph or Ephraim who was the leading tribe, when he said, "*For thy Maker is thine husband.*" Then the prophet declared words of restoration by saying, "*but with great mercies will I gather thee*" (*Isaiah 54:1-7*). In the parable, our Saviour Jesus Christ, through whose blood paid the price of redemption,

announced the good news of Ephraim's return and said, "*For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.*" In the Book of *Jeremiah*, the nation of Ephraim or Joseph is referred to as a 'son.'

The sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh upon whom the name 'Israel' was bestowed were to become a multitude of nations in the midst of the earth in fulfilment of their birthright blessing (*Genesis 48:1-22*). The son, who once was considered dead, is yet alive and whose posterity is found in the great Anglo-American nations of today. The eleventh son of the

ancient Hebrew patriarch, who was considered an irrational illusionary by his brothers because of his despised God-given dreams was granted one portion above his brethren (*Genesis 48:22*). Through his sons Ephraim and Manasseh, the chief nations which proceeded from their loins have been the focus of the world's attention in the development of events which have shaped the western family of nations. Melvin E. King, in his book, *Heaven's Magnet* (pub. 1916) records the above poem which vividly portrays Joseph's victory over 'death' and the fulfilment of his destiny in the multitude of his children.

**“Joseph lives! Not rent in pieces
By an evil beast of prey!
Joseph lives! Mine eyes shall see him
Ere my spirit go its way.**

**Joseph lives, reigns victorious
In the courts of Pharaoh's day
Satan's intrigues cannot muster
Power to thwart heaven's delay.**

**But Joseph's children, where are they,
Wandering through darkest night?
Buried, O how deeply buried
Clad in death and far from sight?**

**Sound the news o'er God's great household
Wide the startling words relate;
Lost, discovered; dead but living
Found again in royal state!**

**Strange the speech, and strange the visage,
Strange the name and strange the land;
Stranger STILL he sits enthroned,
With a sceptre in his hand.**

**Yes 'tis Joseph, restored once more
Changed by time, but blessed of God
Pressing forward heaven's dominion
Wielding now his birthright rod.**

**Then to Him be glory ever
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Honour, endless praise unceasing
Rise from Joseph's risen host.”**

CHARLES A JENNINGS

CHARLES A JENNINGS

THE HOPE THAT IS IN YOU

I Peter 3:15

Those of you in your twenties or thirties may be looking forward to another fifty or sixty years or more of life, with trepidation probably because of the way the nation is governed at the moment, but look a bit further forward. Those in their forties or fifties, do you think you have accomplished about half of your life? Think again. Those who have reached their sixties or seventies – most of your life gone and in the twilight of your years? Total darkness is actually a long way off. Over eighty? There is a lot, an abundance of life left yet.

Our Lord's prayer ends with the phrase, "Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever." In *Revelation* 11:15, "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." Handel's *Messiah* certainly emphasises the phrase "He shall reign for ever and ever." *Exodus* 15:18 and *Psalms* 146:10 both state "The Lord shall reign for ever."

The Kingdom shall be forever and ever, but a kingdom needs subjects. Her Majesty could not be Queen without subjects in her kingdom, subjects for whom she is responsible as well as having their allegiance. "He shall reign forever and ever." The Lord shall reign forever. Over whom? There shall obviously be subjects for Him to reign over forever. A kingdom must have subjects and residents, not citizens. Who shall these subjects be and will they live for ever or just finite lives as we have today? Well, we hope some of these subjects will be us, provided we behave ourselves appropriately. I certainly hope I shall be one, even the Apostle Paul only hoped that he was worthy. Could we live in this Kingdom forever? Is there any assurance that one can be a resident in this Kingdom, which shall last forever and ever?

There are many references in the Holy Bible regarding eternal life, but I shall be quoting mainly those from the greatest

authority: those emanating from our Lord Jesus Himself. What higher authority could one want?

"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: (the previous few verses say who these are) but the righteous into life eternal" (*Matthew* 25:46).



Photograph by John Battersby

Mark 10:30 (referring to the truly faithful) the last sentence promises, "in the world to come eternal life."

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life" (*John* 3:14-15).

A warning to those who think one can just sit back and await Our Lord's return, not even praying, "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh the harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto

life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together" (*John* 4:35-36).

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (*John* 5:39).

"Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day" (*John* 6:54).

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (*John* 10:27-28).

"He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal" (*John* 12:25). Meaning, really, one should be desiring of life with Our Lord as King rather than the corrupt dispensation we suffer at the present.

In Jesus' prayer to the Father, "As thou has given him (Jesus) power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (*John* 17:2-3).

Other authorities: "Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life" (*John* 6:68). Paul states what we can learn from Our Lord Jesus Christ, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (*Romans* 6:23). "And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life" (*I John* 2:25). "Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of Our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life" (*Jude*, verse 21).

These words from the Holy Bible assure us that as we grow older we are not approaching death; we are approaching life eternal with the Lord, whose name be praised for this wonderful gift.

ERNEST GAGE

WHAT HOPE FOR THE FUTURE?

Many Christians seem to have succumbed to a negative and defeatist view of the future. Paralyzed by pessimism, many passive pew warmers are praying for the rapture to rescue them out of their responsibilities. Yet, if we were to rightly divide the Word of Truth, and correctly understand the signs of the times, we would return to the fight of Faith with renewed vigour and a revitalized vision.

God is all-powerful, all knowing and everywhere present. He is sovereign over the affairs of men. History is His-story. God has not predestined defeat for His people. The ultimate victory of the Kingdom of God is inevitable. We as Christians are not doomed to defeat, but called to conquest.

“Ask of Me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will rule them with an iron sceptre; you will dash them to pieces like pottery. Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned you rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear...” (Psalm 2:8-11).

“All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before Him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and He rules over the nations” (Psalm 22:27-28).

“In His days the righteous will flourish ... He will rule from sea to sea ... to the ends of the earth ... His enemies will lick the dust ... all kings will bow down to Him and all nations will serve Him” (Psalm 72:11).

In these and so many other Psalms it is made clear that the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ will be fulfilled. All the families of all the nations will bow down before Christ, and He will rule the nations. Because of these Scriptural prophecies we can have every confidence that the Great Commission will be fulfilled – that all kings will bow down to Christ and all nations will serve Him. We are neither working at uncertainty nor afraid of the result. **God’s cause will triumph.**

In that famous verse so often quoted at Christmas time: *“For unto us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders ... of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end”* (Isaiah 9:6-7).

The prophet Daniel was given that tremendous vision and insight to world history. He saw a statue with a head of gold, the chest of silver, the stomach of bronze, the legs



Are we as God’s Covenant people doomed to defeat on earth – or are we destined for victory? Does your understanding of the future inspire you to positive prayer and action - or are you being paralysed into inactivity by an eschatology of escapism? Is your faith being strengthened by the victorious vision of the Bible - or have you been neutralised by a defeatist view of the end times? Do you long to see the Church revived and faithfully “making disciples of all nations” - or do you long to be removed from your responsibilities here on earth? Is the fulfilment of our Lord’s Great Commission your supreme ambition - or is your main obsession to be raptured from your responsibilities here on earth?

of iron and the feet of iron and clay. This symbolized the various empires and kingdoms of the world. He saw a rock come and smash the entire statue – the iron, bronze, clay, silver and gold, to pieces. And this stone, which the builders rejected as worthless, grew to be a mountain that filled the whole earth, *“In the time of those kings, the God of Heaven will set up a Kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever”* (Daniel 2:44).

Daniel saw clearly that Jesus *“was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshipped Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His Kingdom is one that will never be destroyed”* (Daniel 7:14).

Even more than this, Daniel prophesied of the day when: *“The sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole Heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His Kingdom will be an everlasting Kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey Him”* (Daniel 7:27).

This is confirmed through the prophets: *“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea”* (Habakkuk 2:14).

“The Lord will be awesome to them when He destroys all the gods of the land. The nations on every shore will worship Him, everyone in its own land” (Zephaniah 2:11).

“The Lord will be King over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and His Name the only Name” (Zechariah 14:9).

Is there hope for the future? Absolutely. Almighty God is sovereign. He has granted us the keys of the Kingdom, what we bind on earth will be bound, what we loose will be loosed. The Gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes (Romans 1:16). We are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus Who loves us (Romans 8:37). Greater is Him Who is in us than him who is in the world (I John 4:4). We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13).

This is what the Great Commission calls us to: *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all the nations ... teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you...”* (Matthew 28:18-19).

This is what it means to pray the Lord’s Prayer: *“Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven”* (Matthew 6:10).

“The kingdoms of this world are become the Kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever” (Revelation 11:15).

DR PETER HAMMOND

THE SEED OF GREAT HOPE, WONDER AND ROMANCE

In this parable Jesus gives us a most powerful vision of the remarkable growth of the Kingdom of God, from very small beginnings to what was to become a world-wide global power. The Kingdom story has in it all the ingredients of an epic story of charm, wonder and romance. It all goes back to one man who was chosen to be the basis of a tremendous universal plan. This is *the* story of the ages. One family was chosen to be the basis of a great civilization. One nation was actually appointed to be the seed and nucleus of the Kingdom of God on earth.

If Jesus was to choose a symbol for His parable of growth, He could have done no better than to take the mustard seed as a symbol of the beginning of the Kingdom. Modern-day critics refuse to even consider that God's Kingdom is founded on a single nation; it appears to be so improbable. Not only that, but now the name of Israel (Is-ra-el meaning 'ruling with God') has modern

political associations, it is thought absurd to even consider that God's Kingdom has a literal reality. The method is too startling, too surprising and far too romantic.

It is of vital importance at this point to acknowledge that biblical prophecy is always far more profound in its fulfilment than can be understood prior to the unfolding events of history. In respect of the prophetic vision of God's great plan for world order, this fact is particularly true. The story of the development and growth of that people is the most fascinating narrative of all time. What is considered highly improbable actually happened, the marvellous came true and the little Kingdom-nation of Israel became the most powerful Commonwealth in history.

The mustard tree grew over the centuries to become the great wonder of the world. The birds of the air – from the other nations – have discovered where safety lies

and have come to the great tree of the covenant nations to be taught and blessed by it. Many who come do not realize how blessed they are to lodge in our branches. If too many come of course, branches can break, but great old trees are rarely felled by such abuse - they revive and grow stronger.

The parable speaks of the time when 'it is grown' into full maturity. In the days of the British Empire it was thought, quite understandably, that the great tree had indeed reached full maturity. Even as the Empire became the Commonwealth in the 1930s, the maturity was evidenced in the minds of our predecessors. Yet there came the destructive storms of the Age-end, breaking off branches and seemingly threatening the very stability of the tree itself. It has survived the destructive elements for its roots are deep.

We can be confident that greater surprises and more wonderful developments will

*“Another parable put he forth unto them, saying,
The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed,
which a man took, and sowed in his field:
Which indeed is the least of all seeds; but when it is grown,
it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree,
so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the
branches thereof”*

(Matthew 13:31-32)

yet appear on the world scene. The pagan New World Order of man will not be the final righteous order for world peace and harmony.

The tree will not be fully grown until the Kingdom comes under the Sovereign Kingship of Jesus Christ who will enable its then wise government. It will undertake the guardian care of the peoples of Israel, extending out in its great spread to all nations. The multitude of peoples will come to know and experience the benefit of the Kingdom of God upon earth. In respect of the global influence of the Kingdom, let us not overlook the fact that the tree is to grow in the field of the world.

The Kingdom is not the world but the controlling company of nations in the world. The Gentile nations will come one by one into the great structure and spread of the tree until all the birds of the air are lodged in its branches.

When Almighty God chose Abraham and Jacob-Israel, He was sowing the seed of the Kingdom in the earth. This was fully understood by Jesus when He spoke the parable of the Kingdom saying: "*The kingdom of heaven [or the heavenly ordered kingdom] is like to a grain of mustard seed.*" It was the same literal kingdom, but growing into a great tree. It could be nothing else. Those who replace the literal with a *spiritual only* kingdom, utterly destroy the significance of Christ's parable.

As descendants of this people, we come into the story when the tree is well grown, and it will be our joy, we trust, to see the Kingdom come fully into its own place in the life of the world. The birds of the air have discovered where safety lies, and we foresee a day when all opposition to the Kingdom will have broken down and Israel, cleansed and filled with the Holy Spirit, will truly be as "*a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season*" (Psalm 1:3).

When the tree has reached maturity and strength, the great promise given to Abraham will be fulfilled: "*In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed*" (Genesis 12:3). Could there be any greater cause for hope when the distress of nations is so great?

MICHAELA CLARK

(with acknowledgements to John J Morey
in *Parables of the Kingdom*,
available from Covenant Publishing)

BIWF SUMMER CONVENTION

19th to 24th July 2010

At: Hothorpe Hall, Theddingworth,
Leicestershire, LE17 6QX



Theme: Foundations of the Kingdom Message

The programme covers the plan of God from
Genesis to Revelation

Monday, 19th - Arrival and Welcome

Tuesday, 20th - History of BIWF Annual Meeting;
God's Great Plan

Wednesday, 21st - Covenants

Thursday, 22nd - Bible History

Friday, 23rd - Captivities; Migrations; Covenant Service

All welcome - especially new friends!
come to learn and to enjoy the fellowship

Bookings accepted for single days or for the full
period; Contact BIWF for details, Tel: 01388 834395

Hothorpe Hall is a Christian conference centre in
beautiful countryside providing excellent
accommodation and facilities

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR NATION?

Here is a question you may not have thought about. “Does God reward good behaviour?” I am not referring to the reward of individuals in heaven; I am relating this question to “countries and nations.” In other words does God reward and bless a nation which takes His laws seriously, or does it not matter how a nation behaves?

The Bible gives an emphatic answer. Many passages of the Bible show that just as God rewards individuals in the next life, He likewise blesses nations or countries that follow Him. Perhaps it does not need to be

stated but of course the reverse is also true – God withdraws His blessing and protection proportionate to how far a nation ignores His laws. Many sections of Scripture teach this, “*a fruitful nation will become impoverished because of the wickedness of those who dwell in it*” (Psalm 107:34), “*righteousness will exalt a nation but wickedness will destroy a people*” (Proverbs 14:34) and of course there is the whole of Deuteronomy chapter 28 which lists one example after another explaining the practical problems and troubles that will befall any nation or society that rejects the laws of God.

Our country is lurching from one crisis to another and it is not difficult to recognize that God is neither blessing our nation nor protecting it. The following sad statistics perhaps highlight some of the reasons why:

- “Britain has the worst record in Europe (excluding Ireland) for pilfering.” (5/10/05)
- “Britain is now the card fraud capital of Europe.” Classic FM Radio (21/11/06)
- “Britain is the single parent capital of the world.” *Daily Telegraph* (23/3/05)
- “London is the abortion capital of the world.” *Evening Standard* (7/8/07)



National Portrait Gallery, London

“Britain’s youngsters are the most destructive in Europe.” Classic FM Radio (21/11/06)

“Britain has one of the highest rates in the world of children dropping out of education.” (6/7/07)

“Britain has the highest rate of school truancy since records began.” (21/9/05)

Between 1969 and 2005 an average of one church closed down every 8 days!

How can a righteous God bless and protect a nation which clearly wants nothing to do with Him, His church or the Ten Commandments He gave? Our society has lost touch with the reality of sin and the consequences it brings. For some this may seem an old-fashioned message – a message that sits uncomfortably with their own personal agenda of “me first selfishness” but to such people I would ask the following, “if liberalism is so good, why is everything going bad?!”

Our country is now developing an unprecedented level of debt, but more borrowing and spending cannot fix the problems caused by too much borrowing and spending! Money will not save us. Our national salvation lies instead in addressing the spiritual crisis which is the root cause of our national ills. A sane, spiritual revival which changes the hearts and minds of our people is what is really needed!

There is a famous incident which occurred during the reign of Queen Victoria which illustrates this. On one occasion she was asked by a prince of India to explain the secret of Britain’s power. For her answer the Queen picked up a Bible from the table and said “This is the secret.” The secret was that the nation took the laws of God seriously and people applied the Commandments to their own personal lives, God’s blessings flowed.

And it is easy to forget just how great Britain was and how recently. At the turn of the twentieth century our wealth and power was unmatched. Our country was the world’s number one or two producer of petroleum, coal, steel, pig iron, gold and every other precious metal. The Royal Navy, by law larger than the world’s next two largest navies combined, provided a presence around the globe. We made sure we were reliant on no other country for defence! At its peak the Royal Navy had almost 900 warships. Currently we have 22 and only a third of these can operate at any one time.

Our once prized military self-sufficiency in arena after arena has gone – we are forced to trust in the goodwill of other nations for our military needs. Put another way we now rely on other countries for our defence and liberty. People may hold various views about Britain’s past but this does not change the fact that a country which not long ago governed one out of every four people on the planet, is now having trouble governing its own children and has become a fractious nation full of infighting! Our society has done away with God’s “Thou shalt nots” which were intended for our benefit and blessing and the consequences of this rejection can be seen all around us. These consequences are outlined in detail in chapter 2 of the resource *A Call to the Nation* which can be downloaded free from www.churchsurvey.co.uk.

As uncomfortable as it may be, what we need to hear loudly and clearly are hard truths about repentance and living a life that is pleasing to God. As Abraham Lincoln stated, “It is the duty of nations as well as of individuals, to recognize their dependence upon the overruling power of God, and to acknowledge the sublime truth taught in Holy Scripture and proven by all history that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.”

I urge you to pray for our nation and that closed minds may be opened. The following prayer was written by Thomas Jefferson, a former president of America. It is a useful guide regarding how we should pray.

A prayer for the nation

Almighty God, Who has given us this good land for our heritage, we beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favour and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honourable industry, sound learning and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord and confusion; from pride and arrogance and from every evil way. Defend our liberties and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endow with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in Thy name we entrust the authority of the government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness and in the days of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail.

JONATHAN WILLANS BD

CALLING ALL READERS!

Our second documentary film is in production and making good progress. It will tell the story of what happened to the Israelites when the Assyrian empire collapsed and they were free to move on.

Colonel R G Pearse wrote an article called ‘The Pass of the Israelites’ about the Caucasus Mountains which was printed in *The National Message*, 23rd October, 1937. He also spoke at the BIWF Congress in 1942. However we do not know very much about him and we are asking for your help.

We would be very grateful for any biographical information, in particular his Christian name(s), so that we can accurately identify him and his research.

This film will be an exciting follow-up to *Our Christian Heritage* which has already been seen by audiences worldwide.

Please send any details about Colonel Pearse to:

**Martin Lightfoot
BIWF
121 Low Etherley
Bishop Auckland
Co Durham
DL14 0HA**

THE ISRAEL IDENTITY HAPLOGROUP ISSUE

Modern genetic findings are providing some very interesting information about the populations settled in different parts of the world. There are claims that these findings are inconsistent with British-Israel teaching but this article contests them and puts forward the following evidence.

This is an introduction to the topic for those new to the subject and does not pretend to be an exhaustive study. Recombination is the process by which each parent contributes half of an offspring's DNA, creating a new genetic identity. Inside the nucleus of each cell of each individual there are the chromosomes in which there are long strands of DNA. Each human cell has 46 chromosomes in 23 pairs. One chromosome of each pair is inherited from the mother, the other from the father. The X and Y chromosomes determine the sex of the person. Females have two X chromosomes while males have one X and one Y. So if the male contributes an X the offspring will be female, if a Y then the offspring will be male. The male Y chromosome is passed on from father to son virtually unchanged other than the very rare possibility of a mutation occurring. A mutation is a structural alteration in the DNA.

Haplogroups are a group of similar haplotypes that share a common ancestor with a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) mutation:

*"SNPs are a change in a single nucleotide in a chromosome and occur infrequently; once they occur they are stable and typically define a whole chromosome and become its signature."*¹

A haplotype is a set of closely linked genetic markers present on one chromosome which tend to be inherited together. The haplogroups are like genetic branches on the family tree of Homo Sapiens. These branches characterize the early migrations of population groups and therefore haplogroups are associated with geographic regions. A Y DNA haplogroup is all of the male descendants of a male who first showed a particular SNP mutation in his Y chromosome. The *Y Haplogroups of the World* 2005 research map by J D McDon-

ald² shows the distribution of the different groups throughout the world.

The large variety of haplogroup markers in the Middle East as illustrated in this map corroborates the biblical account of Assyrian invasions that removed almost the entire population of the Northern Kingdom of Israel and a very large proportion of Judah into Assyria, and replaced them with peoples from various conquered provinces (see *II Kings* 17:24).

The Anglo-Saxon-Celtic inhabitants of the British Isles and white Caucasian related peoples are predominantly in haplogroup R:

*"Y-DNA haplogroup R may be the most numerous Y-DNA in the world today. It is the most prominent haplogroup in Europe at ~50% and the United States at ~42%. The origin of haplogroup R is located in Central to West Asia, although a precise region has not yet been determined ... The R1b branch is the most abundant European haplogroup and is notoriously prominent in West Europe (levels around 90% in British Isles), while R1a is more prevalent occupying East Europe and neighbouring West Asia. The complementing pattern of R1b in the west and R1a in the east covers all of Europe and much of Asia. The overall trend for haplogroup R is highest frequencies in Northwest Europe and decreasing in a Southwestern direction."*³

According to Josephus (*The Antiquities of the Jews*, Book 11 ch.1) and Esdras (*II Esdras* 13:39-45) these lost tribes of Israel migrated out of Assyria, and were last recorded beyond the narrow passages of the River Euphrates which rise from the highlands of Armenia in the Black Sea region south of the Caucasus.

Dr. Anne Kristensen, a Danish linguistics scholar, states:

*"There is scarcely reason, any longer, to doubt the exciting and verily astonishing assertion propounded by the students of the Ten Tribes that the Israelites deported from Bit Humria, of the House of Omri, are identical with the Gimirraja (Cimmerians) of the Assyrian sources."*⁴

The antiquarian Samuel Lysons regards the Cimmerians as Gauls or Celts:

"The Cimmerians seeming to be ... Gauls or Celts under a different name. It is observable that the Welsh (a Celtic people) still call themselves 'Cymri'"

(Lysons S., *Our British Ancestors*, 1865, p.23)

The *Jewish Encyclopaedia* volume 12 outlines several theories as to the fate of the lost tribes of Israel, but under the heading Anglo Israelism makes the following observation:

"The identification of the Sacæ, 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."

This would allow for an R haplogroup identity of the Northern Kingdom lost tribes of Israel, similar to that of Western Europeans, many of whom according to Milton (*History Of Britain*, 1670, Book 3, para. 41-43) and Turner (*The History of the Anglo Saxons*, 1852, volume 1, p.82) are known to have originated as Scythians in the Black Sea region of the Middle East.

Moreover it is significant that the:

*"Y-DNA Haplogroup R is perhaps the most prominent Y-DNA lineage on Earth today."*⁵

This observation corresponds with the biblical promise to Ephraim and Manasseh, the birthright tribes of the Israel nation:

“... *he (Manasseh) also shall be great: but truly his younger brother (Ephraim) ... shall become a multitude of nations*” (Genesis 48:19).

The haplogroups J1 & J2 which are largely associated with Jews could have developed from R simply by loss of the DNA information that distinguishes J from R. Observed mutations are always the result of lost DNA information. The Jews who are from the tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Levi (*Ezra* 1:5) have been separated for some 3,000 years from the Ten Tribes. The Jews were in the Middle East for much longer than the deported Northern Kingdom tribes. The male DNA (Y chromosome) of Jews is close to that of groups who have dwelt in the Middle East for an extended period such as the Kurds, Turks, Armenians and to a lesser degree Arabs.

This length of separation together with inevitable foreign infusion, environmental influences, genetic drift, and so on, is more than enough to explain any differences that may exist between the two peoples.

Furthermore, some combination does occur between the Y and X chromosomes. The Stanford School of Medicine ⁶ suggests that the Y chromosome not only recombines with up to 5% of the X, it also recombines with its own Y duplicate DNA. There is a need to find evidence that the progression from one haplogroup to another is most likely to have gone from a ‘developed’ haplogroup (such as R or N) by *losing DNA information*. This does accord with decades of scientific research into both observed and artificially induced mutations which demonstrate that mutations involve a loss of DNA information.

Finally, Israel identity researchers have continually contended that the Anglo Saxon / Cymri-Celtic / Norman peoples are largely of common stock. This is now demonstrated by current haplogroup data as seen on J D McDonald’s (2005) research map.

MARTIN LIGHTFOOT

Martin Lightfoot is to chair a working party to address this important issue. Preliminary discussion has already taken place with other organizations and we are grateful to Yair Davidiy for his input.

1. <http://www.genebase.com/tutorial/item.php?tuId=11>
2. <http://www.scs.uiuc.edu/~mcdonald/WorldHaplogroupsMap>
3. <http://www.genebase.com/tutorial/item.php?tuId=11>
4. Kristensen, A., *Who were the Cimmerians and where did they come from?* : 1988
5. <http://www.genebase.com/tutorial/item.php?tuId=11>
6. www.thetech.org/genetics/ask.php?id=295

Latest research provides more evidence

Most Britons are direct descendants of farmers who moved west from the Near East 10,000 years ago, a study claims.

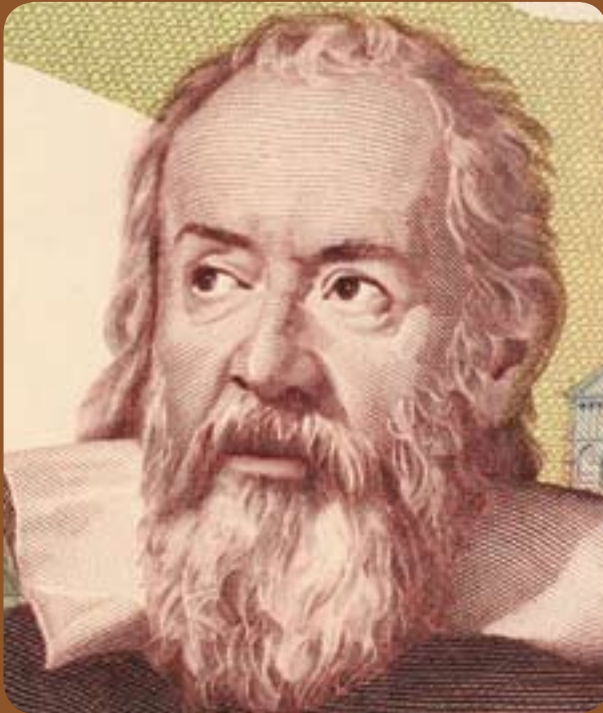
After analysing the DNA of more than 2,000 men, researchers at Leicester University say they have compelling evidence that four out of five white Europeans can trace their roots to lands that form part of modern-day Iraq and Syria.

Daily Mail, London, January 20, 2010



X , Y Chromosomes

GALILEO'S CONFLICT IS THE SAME TODAY



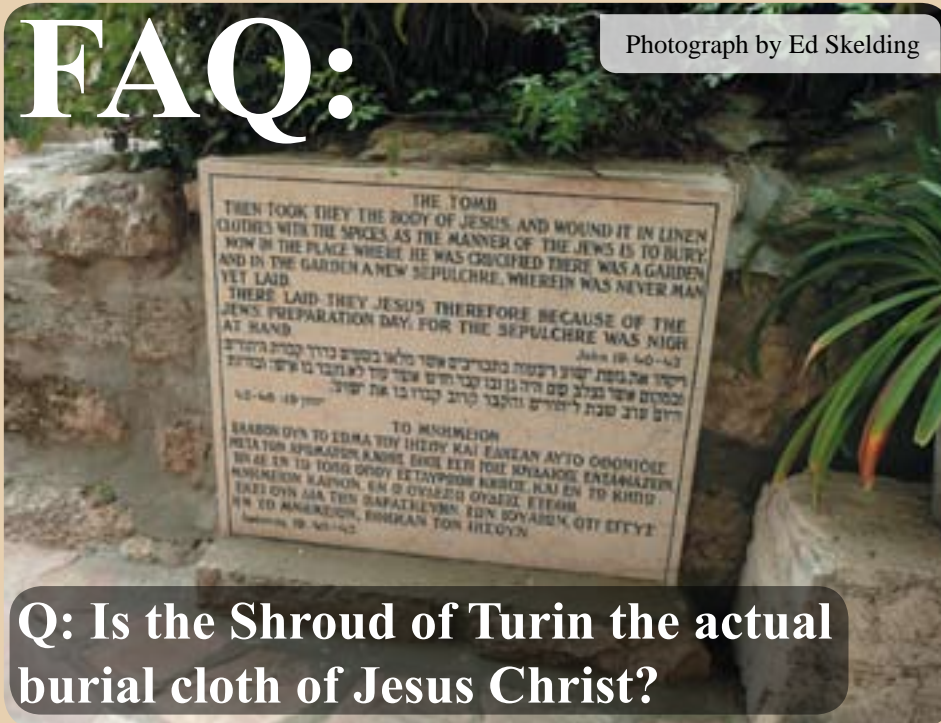
January 8 is the anniversary of the death (at 78) of Galileo in 1642 who spent much time in conflict with the Pope over whether the Sun or the Earth formed the centre of the solar system. In *Psalms* 89:36 the Sun is likened to the Throne of David - which is the Royal Throne of Great Britain - not the papal throne. It is the Throne of David which is at the centre of things upon earth and not the European Union and the Roman Catholic Church. It is actually the same conflict today as that faced by Galileo.

The same principle applies to the financial and banking orbits. It is not the corrupt financial throne that should form the centre of things in the world, but the British Crown and its fiduciary issue - not even an independent Bank of England under the thumb of international finance and the European Central Bank.

MICHAEL A CLARK

FAQ:

Photograph by Ed Skelding



Q: Is the Shroud of Turin the actual burial cloth of Jesus Christ?

A: There has been much debate, both religious and scientific, as to whether the Shroud of Turin was the very burial shroud of Christ, but the biblical evidence is against this. Both *Matthew* (27:59) and *Luke* (23:53) say that Jesus' body was "wrapped in linen." This suggests that a long strip of linen was wrapped around and around the body, not just below and above it, as the Shroud is. The Greek confirms this, as the word translated "wrapped" in *Matthew* and *Luke* has the root meaning "to twist, to The Covenant Nations

entwine, i.e. wind up in." Similarly, in *Mark* 15:46 it means "to enwrap," and is translated as "wound" in the Revised Version. The King James Version also uses "wound" in *John* 19:40, "Then they took the body of Jesus and wound it in linen clothes..."

There is no sense in which the Shroud of Turin could be said to have been wound about the body. In addition, the account in *John* 19 goes on to say that Nicodemus had brought about a hundred pounds of myrrh

and aloes, and that these spices were interspersed with the winding "as the manner of the Jews is to bury." Again, no evidence of such spices is found on the Shroud.

Furthermore, we are told quite plainly that Jesus' head was not wrapped in this manner but covered with a separate napkin. On resurrection morn, Peter found that "the napkin, that was about his head, [was] not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself" (*John* 20:7). A second witness to this (as is required by biblical law) is Lazarus, whom Jesus raised from the dead. *John* 11:44 states, "And he that was dead came forth [from the tomb], bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go." So Lazarus had likewise been wound or bound with the grave clothes, with a separate napkin over his face.

This proves conclusively that the Shroud of Turin, which is all of one piece, cannot possibly be the shroud of Christ, irrespective of any radio carbon-dating or other tests that have been, or may be, carried out. It is a true mystery how the image of an apparently crucified man got on to the Shroud, but it cannot be explained by any connection with the burial of Jesus Christ.

PATRICIA BAGWELL BA



The Stone of Destiny
by E. Wallace Connon

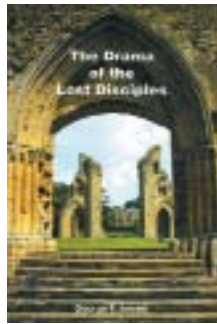
An extensive account of the Traditions, Historical Records and Circumstantial Evidence concerning the Stone from earliest times until today. Includes the theft in 1950 and a new chapter on the return of the Stone to Scotland.

Price £4.00 *85 pages*

Our Christian Heritage DVD
presented by Ed Skelding

This film tells the story of the development of Christianity in Britain, in a new and unique way. It was shot on location in the Holy Land and at key sites in Britain, and includes dramatic images from Glastonbury, London, Rochester, Winchester and Oxford.

Price £12.99 *Running Time: 50 min*



Drama of the Lost Disciples
by George F Jowett

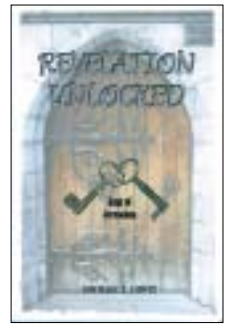
This new 16th edition, gives a fascinating account of the spread of Christianity to Britain from as early as AD 36-37. It tells of the journey westwards made by Joseph of Arimathea and his fellow-Christians to plant the Faith among the people of dispersed Israel; and from Britain to Rome through the members of the British Royal Family in exile and their relationship with the Apostle Paul.

Price £9.50 *260 pages*

Revelation Unlocked
by Michael S Jarvis

This book gives us a glimpse into the mystery of things to come, of Heaven, the great tribulation, Satan and his angels' doom and most importantly, the promise of the saints who live forever with Jesus in the New Jerusalem.

Price £4.50 *112 pages*



Did Our Lord Visit Britain
by The Rev CC Dobson MA

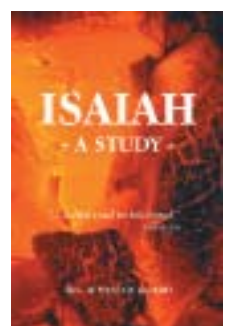
This well presented booklet keeps alive the traditions and legends of the early Christian Church, long before Augustine. An A5 size 8th Edition with new photographs, of this well know work, first published in 1936.

Price £3.50 *40 pages*

Isaiah - A Study
by Rev W Pascoe Goard

Prophecies dealing with two major phases of the 'House of Israel' - Israel in the Islands and their release from Babylonian captivity. Now comes the third phase, namely, their returning home again. *Updated 2010 Third Edition.*

Price £4.00 *71 pages*



The Lost Tribes of Israel FAQs
by J Martin Lightfoot

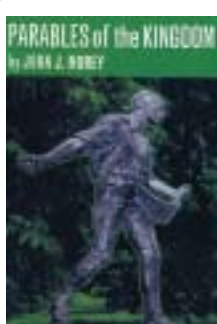
Who are the 'Lost' Ten Tribes of Israel? Are they still lost today? This booklet will answer questions you may have on the subject.

Price £2.00 *24 pages*

The Faith of a British Israelite
by Rev Alban Heath

A simple and condensed explanation of fundamentals of the British Israel faith.

Price £4.00 *72 pages*



Parables of the Kingdom
by John J Morey

In this classic reproduction, Morey gives new presentations of old truths, with clear and logical explanations showing the relationship of the parables to the Kingdom teaching of our Lord.

Price £7.00 *167 pages*

God's Great Plan
by R Llewelyn Williams

A classic reproduction of a clearly-set out bible-study guide and commentary, regarding God's nation, Israel.

Price £7.50 *174 pages*



Postage & Packing not included

The Covenant Publishing Co Ltd

Publishers and Booksellers - Established 1922

121 Low Etherley, Bishop Auckland, DL14 0HA, United Kingdom

Tel: 01388 835 753 Fax: 01388 835 957

Email: admin@covpub.co.uk Web: www.covpub.co.uk

For USA Contact and Other Suppliers see Inside Front Cover

OUR MISSION

To teach the Covenant Nations their Kingdom Identity
and unique calling to lead all nations in peace.
To publish that the Return of our Risen Lord is imminent.

OUR IMMEDIATE TASK

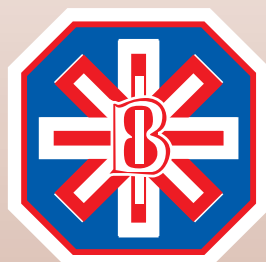
To alert the People of the Book to their
history and destiny as God's servant nation to administer
the *Continuing* Kingdom of God upon Earth
in God's Great Purpose.

*“The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem;
and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope
of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.”*

Joel 3:16

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 Anointed Kingship of
Our Lord Jesus Christ.

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



**Published by BIWF, 121 Low Etherley, Bishop Auckland,
DL14 0HA, United Kingdom.**

Tel: 01388 834395 Fax: 01388 835 957

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

Printed in England by printing.com