

The

Covenant Nations



VOLUME 2, NUMBER 4, 2011

THE BIBLE

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THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

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▲ This is the first national remembrance garden in memory of all those who have served in the RAF and Commonwealth air forces. It was opened in the National Memorial Arboretum by HRH The Princess Royal on Monday, 28th September, 2009.

◀ COVER PICTURE: This oil painting of a mountain behind cascading river waterfalls reminds us of the mountain of the LORD and the rivers of living water which flow from the Rock.

“For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ [“the Anointed”]” (I Corinthians 10:4).

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Volume 2, Number 4, 2011

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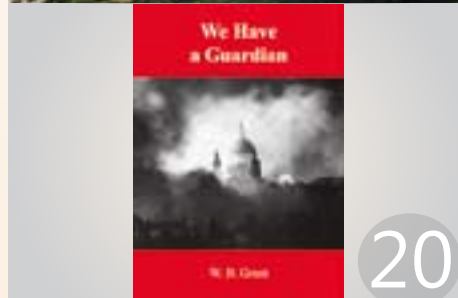
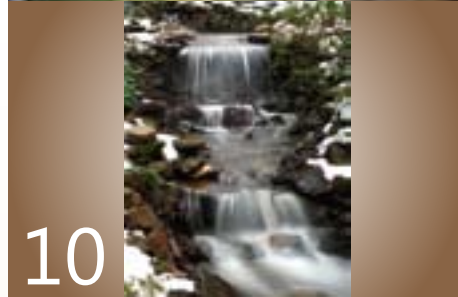
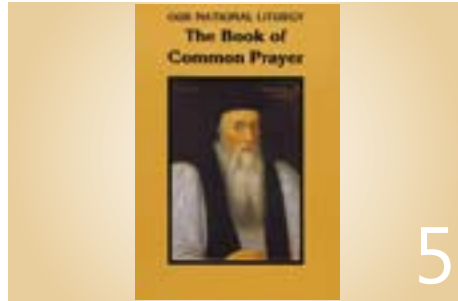
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Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in the articles are generally well-researched and considered. However, they do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.



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 this company of nations 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 always 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.

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. 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.

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.

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.

EDITORIAL

40 YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS

On 28 October 1971 a fateful decision was taken by the British Parliament to ensnare Great Britain and Northern Ireland with a yoke of bondage under the Treaty of Rome. It was called a 'decision in principle.' What has followed over the past 40 years can only be described as a wilderness experience for our nation during which it has lost all sense of its role and its place in the world. It led to the abandonment of our ties with our kinsmen in the covenant nations as we turned towards an alien system.

This, however, has been increasingly hard for the people to grasp. They live in the midst of their history but subconsciously, they remain aware that they have a Divine destiny. Within the European Union, it has become increasingly uncomfortable for our people to feel that they are in their own bed. As the prophet Isaiah declared: **"For the bed is shorter than that a man can stretch himself on it: and the covering is narrower than he can wrap himself in it"** (Isaiah 28:20).

It is hardly credible that these people in the British Isles and on the North Sea fringe could have been reduced to a role where this yoke of bondage has become so burdensome, without producing a powerful revolt to bring us out of this servitude to a supra-national institution which has powerful echoes of the former Soviet Union.

The answer as to why the people have not been in revolt lies in the fact that over the 40 year period the enslavement has been gradual as treaty after treaty has passed into Statute Law, like an incoming tide rising around our coasts and inundating the land. These laws of course have been unconstitutional as they are in conflict with existing Statute Laws which remain in force. This fact has been concealed from the people. The Queen, who promised on

Oath at her Coronation to uphold the 'laws and customs' of the Realm, has been what is termed at law, 'deceived in her grants.' In plain words, she has been betrayed – but apparently without protest from the Sovereign.

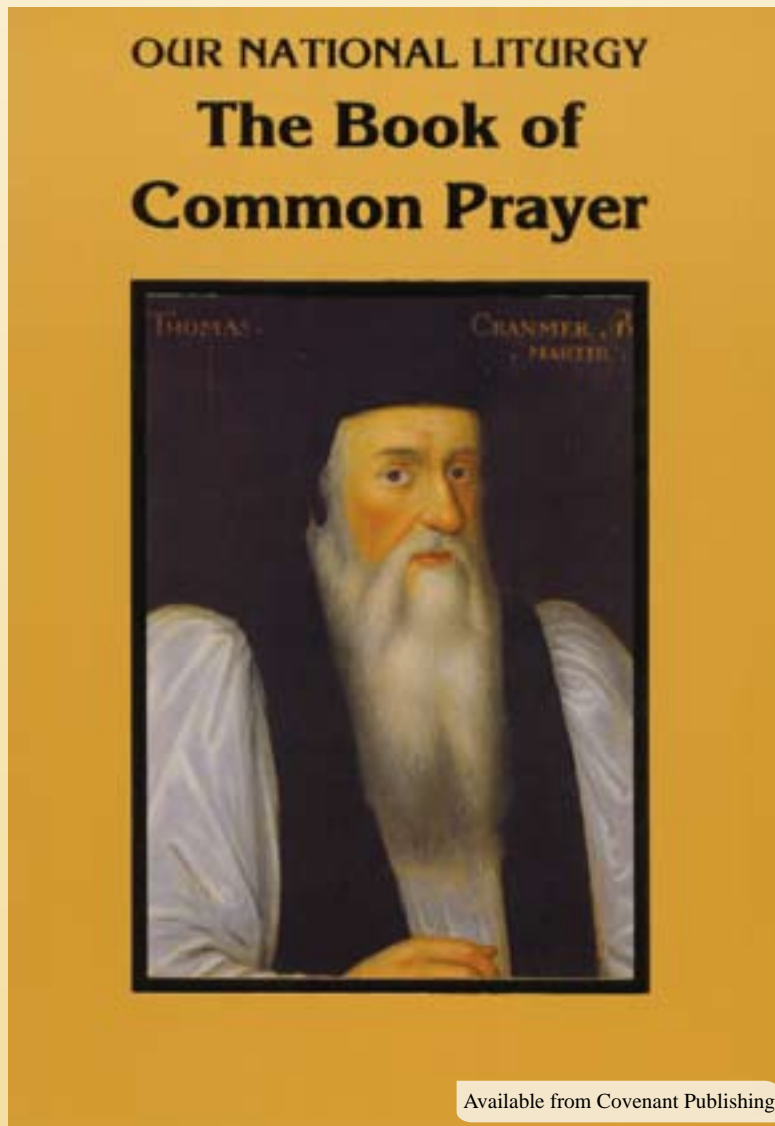
Europe with no loss of sovereignty. It was, they insisted, for our financial benefit and most of all because we could not continue alone in the world after losing the empire. *A false vision indeed!* Our people know differently now of course, but it is only because of the financial crisis that they are at last waking up to the awful reality and nightmare of what has happened to them.

It is well that we should recall how the Word of God through the prophet Isaiah spoke to the British nation on the morning of 28 October 1971, before the fateful vote on Europe was taken that evening. The Lesson for Morning Prayer in the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer* is *Isaiah 28:9-16*. It is the message of woe to Ephraim-Britain which in verses 14-15 includes the words: **"Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem. Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we in agreement; ..."**

This warning should have been heeded that day in London – *our New Jerusalem* – but we can assume it was not even read or known about. The 'little book' of *Revelation 10:9-10* had not been taken up and eaten to become 'as sweet as honey' to the mouth of our leaders in

Church and State. *They had even discarded it.* Now, 40 years later, they are starting to experience "the overflowing scourge" that shall pass through the banking system as the tables of the moneychangers are overturned.

From 28 – 30 October, 2011, the Commonwealth conference was held in Perth, Western Australia. Britain is emerging from the European 'wilderness;' the time has come for the 'company of nations' to revive and join her to fulfil their calling as the servant people of the Lord God Almighty.



The precedent in refusing the Royal Assent on Acts of Parliament was allowed to fall away by her predecessors. This is not to say, however, that in her Diamond Jubilee year, the Lord's Anointed could not rise above all the betrayal and, in the power of that anointing and by the Holy Spirit, speak forth in authority to her ministers that the words of her Oath should be put into effect to recover our constitutional powers from Europe.

From the beginning the political leadership has acted as false shepherds with the lie that we were only joining a trading club in

THE BIBLE

To give a very brief description of the Bible one can do no better than refer to the declaration made at the Coronation Service in Westminster Abbey of a new monarch. The Bible was presented to the Queen on that great occasion in 1953 with the declaration of the Archbishop, stating: "Our gracious Queen; we present you with this Book, the most valuable thing this world affords. Here is wisdom, this is the royal law, these are the lively Oracles of God."

The value of the Bible is incalculable because it reveals so much on so many, many subjects, giving the true origin of species and matter. Wisdom is defined as the right use of knowledge and this unique book is the written word from the fount of all knowledge Who is the God and Father of us all. In that word He imparts knowledge of His creation and of all matters pertaining to human life. The royal Law signifies the supreme authority of that immutable Law, emanating as it does, from Him Who is the King of kings. It is thus superior to man-made law which is founded on incomplete knowledge.

The 'lively Oracles of God' are the prophetic words of the living God Who knows the end from the beginning. They foretell situations and events which are yet to take place, just as past events on the world stage took place as was foretold before they occurred. The history of empires, of peoples and of the everlasting kingdom of God on earth was all laid out in that great master plan of human history and destiny. When we think about it we must surely realise that the Bible fulfils a basic necessity of human existence, the need for communication with our Maker.

The business of communication began in the Garden of Eden as we read in *Genesis* chapter 2. There God spoke to Adam and in chapter 3, verse 8, it is recorded that Adam and Eve heard the voice of the Lord God as He walked in the garden in the cool of the evening. It was no disembodied voice but a face to face encounter with God in His divine personage. Such encounters were not restricted to Adam and Eve exclusively; Enoch, we are told, walked with God (*Genesis* 5:22) as did Noah (*Genesis* 6:9). On the plain of Mamre Abram met a group

of three men, one of whom he addressed as 'my Lord,' recognising the Divine personage. A further and quite specific encounter with God in person is recorded in *Exodus* 33:11 in which we read: "*And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face as a man speaketh unto his friend.*"

There is an apparent contradiction to this later in the same chapter where we read the Lord's statement: "... *for there shall no man see me and live.*" However this was in response to Moses' request, "*I beseech thee, show me Thy glory.*" This would have meant God displaying His awesome mighty power which He knew would be more than mortal man could withstand. But God had, from the beginning, taken human form in order to communicate in person with man whom He had created.

However, later in Israel's history, when the people had become rebellious and unfaithful, such personal communication no longer took place, but was replaced by inspiration through the Holy Spirit of God. Thus God chose a few faithful individuals to relay to the people His advice, instructions



and judgments. These were the prophets of the Old Testament who are referred to as: “*holy men of God [who] spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit*” (II Peter 1:21).

It was not until New Testament times, when the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, restored for a time that face to face speaking with the Israel remnant in the Holy Land, two thousand years ago. He was, as the gospel writer John declared: “*the word made flesh who dwelt among us*” (John 1:14). He by Whom all things were made.

Jesus was and is the living Word of God. He continues to communicate with us through His inspired and living word in the Bible. This book thus contains the written and visible manifestations of the thoughts and desires of the invisible God, albeit through the inspiration of human agency. This surely sets the Bible apart from any other book on faith, religion or on life itself. All other such writings are the products of human minds which are fallible and thus carry no comparable authority. No other book accurately records the origins of the animate and inanimate products of creation, planned and designed by a supreme being identified therein as God. No other book reveals His plans, purposes and immutable laws for He has not authorised or inspired any other such book. His word contained in the Bible is all-sufficient and complete in its content for all time.

It contains an accurate record of human life and the reason for our very existence, as we read in *Revelation 4:11*: “*Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory, honour and power; for thou hast created all things and for thy pleasure they were and are created.*” We are here because we are wanted. To know that we are wanted, loved and cared for by our Creator should be a great joy to mankind, a great boost to his spirit. The alternative, that we are here by pure accident, unplanned, unwanted and uncared for is just too depressing to contemplate.

While the Bible records the origin of human life it also records the origin of man’s death and the reason for it. Adam and Eve were perfect human beings physically and mentally. But they were not puppets, they could make choices. The consequence of choosing to ignore that one major prohibition God had placed before them, the eating of the forbidden fruit, meant they had to face death. So opposition to the will of God, which He regarded as sin, was the reason for this judgment.

Satan, who is the arch-rebel and is ever

in rebellion against God, was the instigator of Adam’s fall from grace. It was like a disease which would thereafter mar the perfection of God’s creation and there was only one way to eradicate it. It necessitated the giving in sacrifice of a sinless and perfect human life as an atonement for the sins of mankind. God’s plan for such reconciliation involved the setting up of a kingdom of people, in covenant relationship with Him, who would be a showcase to all nations. They were to demonstrate the blessings of national life under a constitutional form of government of Divine origin. From amongst that special kingdom of Israel God promised that the Saviour of the world would come, Who would, by the shedding of His sinless blood, bring salvation to all mankind and redemption to His covenant-breaking kingdom.

“Holy men of God spake
as they were moved
by the Holy Spirit”
II Peter 1:21

God is truly omniscient and thus His plans are contingency-proof. Amongst that remnant of the kingdom living in the Holy Land two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ was born. His mother Mary was a descendant of King David, the first king of Israel from the house, or family, of Judah. Mary’s husband, Joseph, was also a descendant of David but through his son Solomon whereas Mary’s ancestry went back to Solomon’s brother Nathan. The genealogies of Mary and Joseph are given in the gospels of Luke and Matthew respectively. The importance of communication and record-keeping is exemplified in the work of these two gospel writers in the matter of Jesus’ ancestry. He was to be heir to the throne of David and to be the Saviour of His people (*Luke 1:32 and Matthew 1:21*).

On His mother’s side Jesus was heir to the throne according to law, but on Joseph’s side that line had had a bar placed on it in the reign of Jeconiah. For that king’s evil deeds God passed judgment on him which was the total exclusion from the throne for all his progeny. So no son of Joseph could inherit the throne of David (*Jeremiah 22:30*). Also no son of Joseph would be free from sin for, as St Paul wrote in *I Corinthians 15:22*: “*For, as in Adam all die ...*” So Our Lord’s right to be heir to the throne of David was only possible through Mary and the virgin birth. To be the spotless Lamb of God, free

of the disease of sin, was also only possible through the virgin birth. There was, in biological terms, no place for Joseph, Mary’s husband, in this critical situation. This is a fundamental truth affecting the life and destiny of the kingdom of God and of all mankind. In what other books on faith or religion will we find such facts communicated to us? Neither in the Koran nor in the writings of Hinduism or Buddhism, nor in the holy book of the Sikhs.

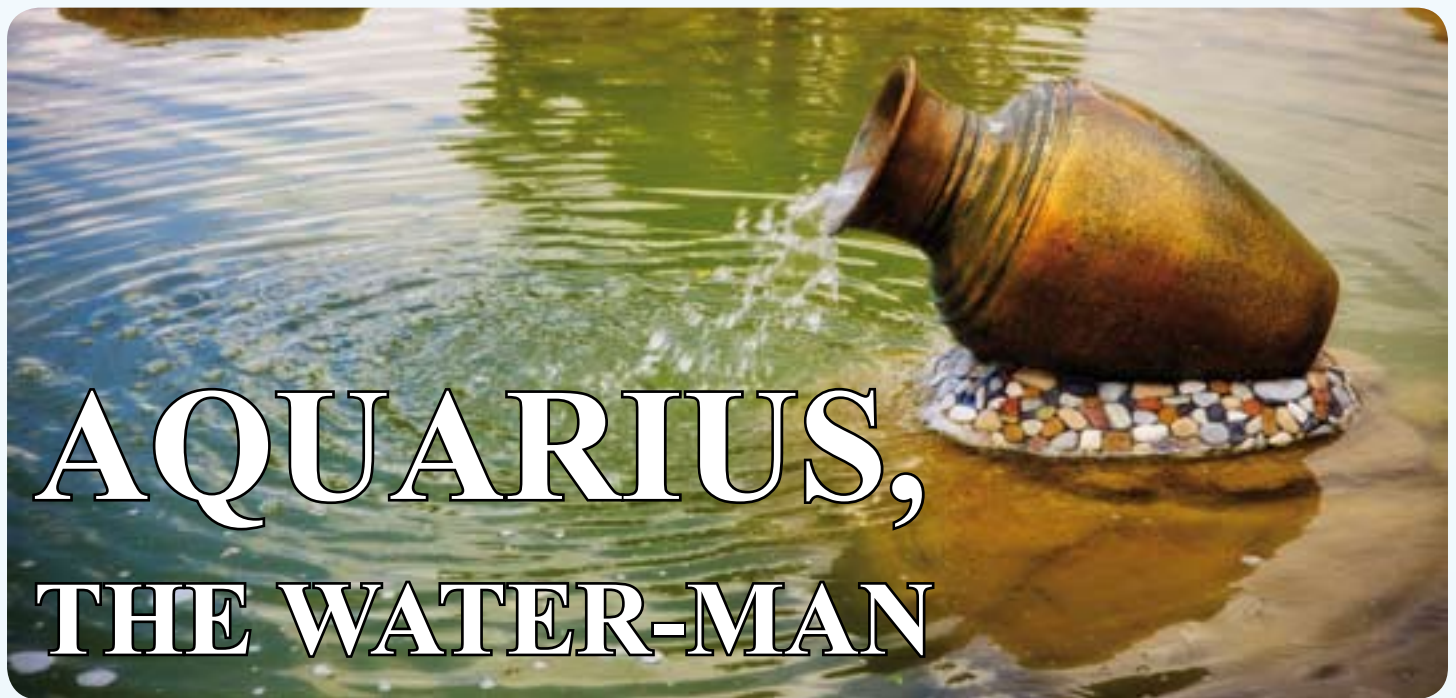
The Bible is unique and I believe it was in the plans of God that His word would be in the sole custody of His kingdom which is itself unique. This privilege is surely confirmed in the words of the Psalmist as we read in *Psalm 147:19-20*: “*He sheweth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and his judgments unto Israel. He hath not dealt so with any nation, and as for his judgments they have not known them.*”

The Bible is thus a unique book containing the revealed word of God given exclusively to His kingdom. But that kingdom was given the responsibility of being a blessing to the nations of the world by witnessing to the love, righteousness and glory of God in its national life. The gospel of the kingdom was to be taken to all nations with the good news of Salvation and Redemption achieved at Calvary and available to all who will acknowledge Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

The work of our Bible societies and missionary societies has been a fulfilment, in part, of this responsibility. But the full potential of their outreach could not be achieved while their headquarters, the kingdom, was still in an unrighteous condition in its body politic. So the most urgent need to make that blessing a reality and truly effective is the cleansing of the kingdom itself.

The identity of that kingdom in the world today is a prerequisite to the understanding of the plans and purposes of God. For only in the recognition of the Anglo-Saxon and Celtic peoples as the literal descendants of the Israelites in the Bible narrative can the promises of God be seen to have been fulfilled in world history. Only in the Bible is that history given and the covenants God made with them recorded. Only the Bible explains the meaning of past events, gives reasons for present day situations and provides hope and assurance for the future. It is, without doubt, the most valuable thing this world affords.

ALFRED S BROWN



AQUARIUS, THE WATER-MAN

This is the dawning of the Age of Aquarius..." So runs the 1970s pop song of the same title, supposedly heralding a new era of peace, heightened spirituality and brotherly love. But is this at all possible? And what does the "age of Aquarius" really mean?

Aquarius is the eleventh sign of the zodiac, the band of twelve constellations that the sun appears to move through annually due to the circuit of the earth around the sun. These twelve signs were well known to the ancients, and the zodiac is also mentioned in Scripture in the book of Job – thought to be the oldest book in the Bible – under the name *Mazzaroth*: "*Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth [margin: "the twelve signs"] in his season?*" (Job 38:32). There is also a hidden reference in II Kings 23:5, where the Hebrew, spelled *Mazzaloth* here, is translated as "planets" in the King James Version, but it really means "stations," i.e. the twelve signs or constellations of the zodiac (*The Companion Bible*).

A study of the spiritual meaning of the zodiac is most enlightening, as it tells the story of the plan of the ages and the outworking of our salvation through Jesus Christ. This is made possible because the names of the constellations and of their most prominent stars – many of which names are in Arabic or Hebrew – were ordained by God at their creation. *Psalms* 147:14 states: "*He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names.*" And a similar passage in *Isaiah* 40:26 reads: "*Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names.*" The meanings inherent in these names reveal the biblical story in what is often termed The Covenant Nations

"the Gospel of the Stars." However, in the present study, rather than the star names, we will focus on the meaning of the zodiacal ages. (Note: this celestial study is not to be confused with astrology, which is a separate discipline, based on the locations of the sun, moon and planets in the heavens at a particular time and thus their supposed influence on earth – referred to in the Bible as "monthly prognostication" – *Isaiah* 47:13).

The Zodiacal Ages

Now the song speaks of the Age of Aquarius, and the age in which we live is determined by the constellation that the sun occupies on the vernal equinox (March 20, in the northern hemisphere). However, this relationship is constantly changing due to a phenomenon known as the "precession of the equinoxes." This happens because the earth wobbles slightly on its axis, like a spinning top, causing the constellations to appear to move gradually backward through the zodiac. The time period for the star groupings to shift by one sign is approximately 2160 years, or 2000 years in rough reckoning, and so we see that every 2000 years or so we move into a new zodiacal age.

Thus, the age of Aries, the Ram, stretched roughly from the time of Abraham (c. 2000 BC) to the time of Christ, during which epoch rams and lambs were frequently offered as sacrifices, and Egypt was ruled by the ram-headed god, Amon. Symbolically, the age of Aries began when Abraham offered a ram to God in place of his son, Isaac (*Genesis* 22), and it ended with the crucifixion of Christ, the Lamb of God, in 33 AD. Then began the age of Pisces for the next 2000 years. Pisces is the sign of the Fish, and it

corresponds to the Christian age, as many of Jesus' disciples were fishermen (they were to become "fishers of men"), and the early church used the sign of the fish as a symbol for Christ. (The first letters of the phrase "Jesus Christ Son of God, Saviour" in Greek spell *Ichthys*, the Greek word for "fish"). In addition, the sign directly opposite Pisces in the zodiac – a very significant placing – is Virgo, the Virgin, connecting the Fish of Christ to His mother, the Virgin Mary. Now, with the beginning of the new millennium, we are entering into the age of Aquarius, during which time the thousand-year Sabbath of peace, brotherly love and the restoration of the earth will ensue; so in that respect, the song is correct!

The Water of Aquarius

But, to delve deeper into this sign, the word Aquarius itself is modern Latin, meaning "the pourer forth of water." ¹ The depiction of Aquarius is a man with a large water-pot on his shoulder, from which he is pouring out "an inexhaustible stream of water" ², and its symbol is two wavy lines representing water. Strangely, these very symbols are also found in two veiled references in the Bible. *Numbers* 24:7, in a prophecy regarding the future Kingdom of Israel says, "*He shall pour the water out of his buckets [Hebrew "a jar for drawing water"] and his seed shall be in many waters, and his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted.*" This prophetic picture of Israel "pouring water out of his buckets" reveals that the glories and blessings of the Kingdom age will come to fruition in the coming age of Aquarius. Then in *Mark* 14:13 and *Luke* 22:10, Jesus sends two of His disciples to prepare a room in which to eat the Passover, with the instruction, "*When ye are entered into the city, there*

shall a man meet you, bearing a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he entereth in." In those days, carrying water was women's work, so to see a man bearing a pitcher of water would be most unusual, and therefore, a sign to be followed. The man bearing the pitcher is none other than Aquarius, the Water Bearer of the New Age.

What, then, is this water that is being poured out? In *The Glory of the Stars*, the author, Raymond Capt, writes: "The inexhaustible reservoir of water symbolizes the fullness of the renewing...and sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit."³ He then goes on to quote the prophet Joel, who said, "I [the Lord] will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions" (Joel 2:28). The apostle Peter later preached that the demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit in Acts, chapter 2, was a fulfilment of Joel's prophecy. However, as Paul explains further in II Corinthians 1:22, this outpouring was only the earnest, or down-payment, of the Spirit, not its full realization. The fullness of the Spirit will only be poured out at the yet-to-come Millennial fulfilment of the Israelite Feast of Tabernacles.

Jesus spoke of this in John, chapter 7, when on the last day, the great day of the Feast of Tabernacles at which He was present, He stood and cried, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:37-38). This statement reveals that Jesus Himself is the Aquarian Water-man, pouring out the fullness of the Holy Spirit upon His followers, who will, in turn, manifest it to others – until that great time to come spoken of by Habakkuk, the prophet, when "...the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

But there is another interpretation of the Aquarian stream, as author David Ovason suggests in his book *Lost Symbols?*. He writes that "the 'water' poured out by Aquarius is not an ordinary liquid, but a celestial dew, a life force – in other words, ambrosia."⁴ This is most interesting, as the word "ambrosia" comes from the Greek *a brotos*, meaning "not mortal;" in other words, to partake of it was to acquire immortality. However, technically, ambrosia was not a liquid, but a food – the food of the gods. The drink of the gods was called "nectar," which is also derived from two Greek words, *necros*, "dead" and *tar*, "who overcomes." Hence, it means "overcoming death," the same meaning as ambrosia, as

it, too, was held to confer immortality. And so, these ancient Greek terms also serve to enlighten us as to the meaning of Aquarius' river of life – to drink of it is to become immortal. Even as Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at the well, "Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:14).

The Plague of Blood

The twelve signs of the zodiac are each said to rule over a particular part of the human body. Aquarius rules the circulatory system, which, fittingly, is the liquid river of life that flows through our bodies. This is most significant because of a little-known theory about the origin of blood. Bible expositor, the late George Hawtin, in his magazine *The Page* of Sept. 1978, quotes British scientist Dr. Langmuir's remarkable statement, "Blood plasma is congealed light." Hawtin goes on to say that when Adam was created in God's image, he was covered with a garment of light, but that after his transgression, "the light of life that covered Adam in his first glorious state turned inward...and became a liquid tissue, which we call blood, running in the veins of his body...Just as invisible vapour congeals and becomes water, even so the life-giving blood is congealed or crystallized light."⁵ This transition from light to blood was the result of the curse on Adam and Eve, and it is reflected in the fact that the first plague that God brought to pass by the hand of Moses in the land of Egypt, was the Nile River – the life-source of the nation – being turned to blood.

This Egyptian plague of blood lasted seven days (Exodus 7:25), which we may take to be prophetic of 7000 prophetic years from Adam's curse in 4000 BC to approximately 3000 AD. Thus, by the end of the Millennium, we find that the curse of blood on mankind due to sin has run its course and has been reversed. This was foreshadowed by Jesus after His resurrection when He demonstrated to His disciples His glorified, immortal body, which was able to pass through locked doors. Jesus calmed their fears that He was a ghost by stating in Luke 24:39, "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see me have." Notice, He said "flesh and bones," not "flesh and blood," as it is usually termed, because the blood in His veins was gone. He had regained the spiritual body such as Adam and Eve possessed before the Fall, when Adam said of his wife, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man" (Gen-

esis 2:23). Again, he did not say "flesh and blood," as at this point the blood had not yet materialized.

An even earlier foreshadowing of this occurred in the life of the aforementioned Moses. After the first tables of the Law – the Ten Commandments – were broken, Moses went up on Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights for the second time, and received from God the second tables of the Law. When he came down again with these tablets, the Word tells us that Moses was unaware that the skin of his face shone – a reflection of the glory of the Lord – and the people were afraid to come near him. They could not bear to look upon the glory, and so, when Moses spoke to the people, he put on a veil to cover his face (Exodus 34:27-35). Paul refers to this in II Corinthians 3:13-18, and prophesies that one day the veil, which is the flesh, will be taken away that the full radiance, wrought in us by the Holy Spirit, may be seen. And even today, a person may be so filled with the Spirit that their face appears to shine – a faint promise of our eventual return to Adam's pre-Fall splendour.

This rejuvenation is also gloriously confirmed in the final chapter of the Bible, *Revelation 22*, which states: "And [the angel] shewed me [John] a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month...And there shall be no more curse..." From this we see that the river of life, which was once made blood, is now clear as crystal, as the curse has been removed. And, surely, the Tree of Life, which bears a different fruit each month of the year, represents none other than the twelve signs of the zodiac, with Aquarius' river of immortal life pouring forth, prompting the closing words of Jesus in the Bible: "And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (verse 17). The imbibing of this water will, in time to come, restore mankind, and indeed all the earth, to its original glory – the true meaning and blessed fulfilment of the age of Aquarius.

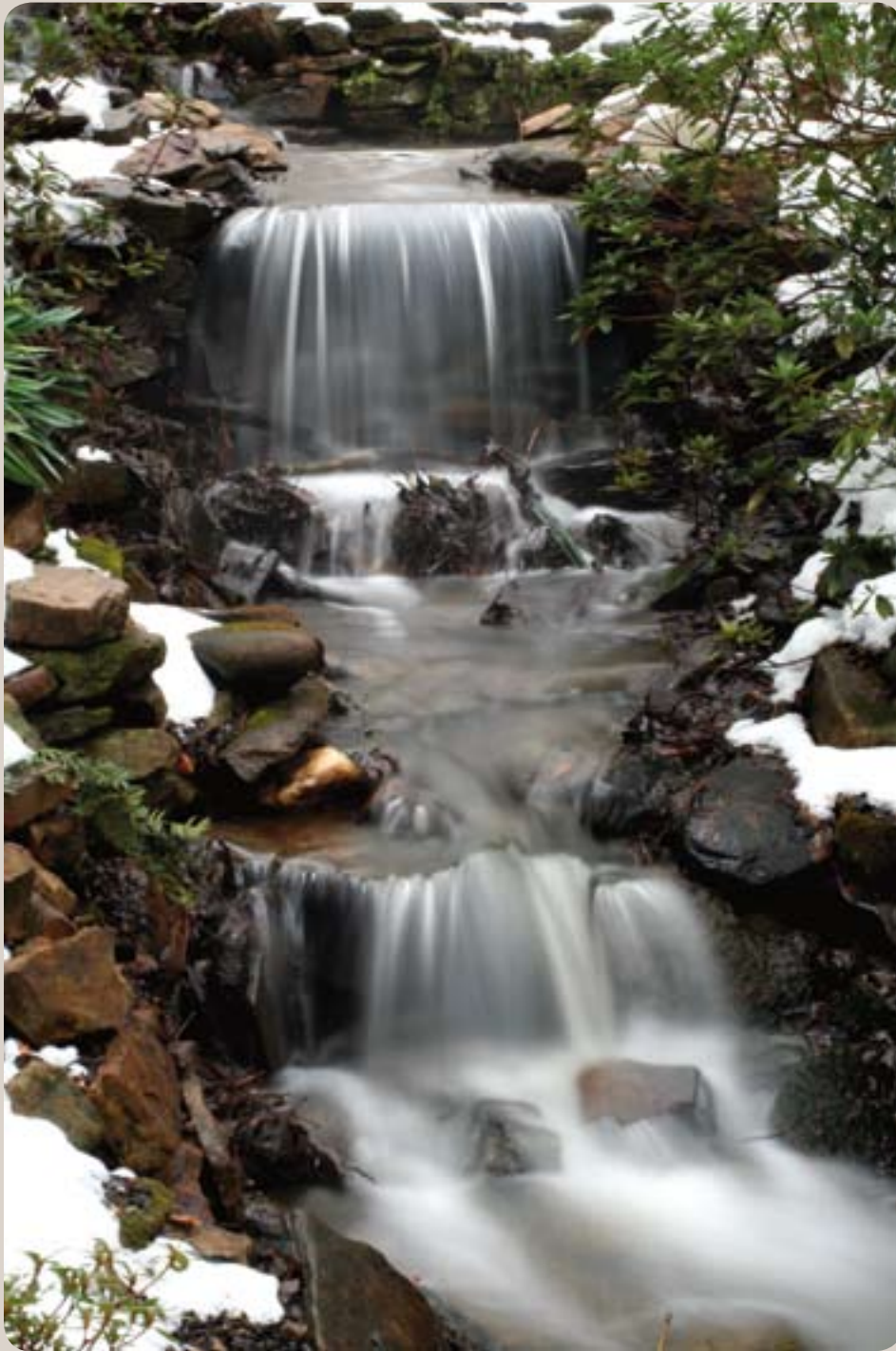
PATRICIA BAGWELL BA

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THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS



This parable of Jesus, found in *Luke* 16:19-31, is often expounded along the lines of the poor in this life when they die go to heaven and the rich in this life go to hell. But it has nothing to do with that at all. For this parable is about the House of Israel, the remnant of the House of Judah and the kingdom.

First of all, Jesus mentions a rich man, “Which was clothed in purple and fine linen and who fared sumptuously every day.” This rich man is representative of the House of Judah, but in particular, the rem-

nant of Judah who returned from Babylon to the Promised Land under the leadership of Ezra, to rebuild the temple and also, eventually, to be present at the coming of the long awaited Messiah. Thus the rich man had the scriptures, the temple worship, and all the good things of the stewardship of the kingdom in his care, explained by his rich apparel and sumptuous living. In other words, he had everything and was very aware of his importance in the scheme of things.

Verse 20, “And there was a certain beggar

named Lazarus which was laid at his gate, full of sores and desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.” Now the plight of the House of Israel, or Lazarus here in the parable, was quite different from that enjoyed by the rich man, Judah. If we go back to the Old Testament we find the House of Israel departed from the Lord, and became a stiff-necked idolatrous people. In God’s sight they had taken other lovers by following the idol worship of the nations round about them. And so in the course of time because the House of Israel would not heed the prophets the Lord sent to them, they were finally removed from the Promised Land and taken into captivity by the Assyrians. The House of Judah fared slightly better as they sometimes heeded the warnings of the prophets of the Lord and attempted to put their house in order. But even they, eventually, succumbed to idolatry and about 130 years later, even though they had seen what happened to their sister nation, they were taken into captivity to Babylon. Seventy years from then a small remnant of Judah returned to Jerusalem as has already been described regarding the rich man.

And this beggar was laid at the rich man’s gate. After the fall of the Assyrian Empire, the House of Israel began to migrate away from their place of captivity and some of them went to Asia Minor and became known in the course of time as Celts. Now the south east corner of Asia Minor is adjacent to the land of Palestine. So in that sense it could be said they were laid at the rich man’s gate. They desired to be fed with the crumbs, or words of comfort which fell from the rich man’s table. The rich man, the remnant of Judah, had the stewardship of the kingdom at that time and Lazarus/Israel just wanted the crumbs from off that table. It is interesting to note that according to Young’s *Concordance*, ‘Lazarus’ means ‘without help.’ And of course, Lazarus received no help from the rich man. Backsliding Israel, because of idolatry, had been punished and removed from the land of promise and as a people were dwelling amongst other nations who were also idolators, and the only succour they received was from them, as described in the parable here, “the dogs came and licked his sores.”

Verse 22, “And it came to pass that the beggar died and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom.” In the course of time

the people of the House of Israel lost all knowledge of who they were or where they came from and in their migrations down through the centuries, ever in a westward direction, they disappeared as it were. They were lost to their identity and in the eyes of other nations they were also lost; in that sense they had died.

Then we have the significant reference of Lazarus being in 'Abraham's bosom.' One of the main reasons why Our Lord died on Calvary was to break the bondage of the curse of the law upon the people of Israel. He allowed Himself to become accursed by hanging upon a tree and took all of Israel's sins, and indeed the sins of the whole world, upon Himself. He did not come to do away with the Law of the Lord for He said He came to fulfil the Law. It was the bondage or curse of the sacrificial laws upon the people, because they had broken God's Law, that Jesus did away with, thus becoming the Redeemer of Israel and the Saviour of the world. We can see how the restoration of Israel to the Covenant, described in the parable as Abraham's bosom, was brought about by Jesus' victory at Calvary. In spite of the waywardness of His people, God planned, in the long term, to bring His nation back into covenant relationship with Himself.

Continuing in verse 22, "*the rich man also died, and was buried. And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.*" Now circumstances for the rich man had drastically changed. What had happened to cause this terrible disaster to overtake him? There was a complete end to the remnant of Judah as a nation in the Promised Land. For in AD 70, the Romans, under their General Titus, besieged the city of Jerusalem and many of the Jews were slaughtered. Those who managed to escape death were scattered amongst the nations round about the Mediterranean. How terrible that time was for them is described graphically by Josephus, the historian, in his book *The Jewish War*.

Our Lord knew this calamity would come upon the remnant of Judah., as stated in *Luke 19:41-44*, "*And when he came near, he beheld the city and wept over it, saying, if thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! But now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, and shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children*

within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation." Thus from having in his sole care the stewardship of the kingdom, the rich man has had it torn from him and he has nothing left of great value. In that sense it can be seen that the rich man died.

Now the fact that the rich man is in hell here, and in torment, does not mean he is literally in hell, as we understand the word. For as time goes by the rich man, Judah, sees that the poor man, Israel, is enjoying all the blessings of Abraham and he has nothing. So he asks Abraham to allow Lazarus to dip his finger in water and cool his tongue. But Abraham points out that the great gulf between them does not allow Lazarus to come and succour him, and neither can the rich man traverse this gulf and be with Lazarus to share the goodly blessings he is now enjoying.

"Neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead"

Luke 16:19-31

The great gulf between Lazarus and the rich man was the acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as their Messiah and Redeemer. The Jews would not accept Him as the promised Messiah. They had hoped for a Messiah who would come and overthrow the hated Romans and they would then reign in triumph over their enemies.

The rich man's desire for the cool water Lazarus had was also denied him. For the water Lazarus had is the Living Water which comes only from the Lord Jesus Christ and that was not possible for the rich man to receive, because he had repudiated the Giver of the Water of Life, their rejected Messiah. That verse in *John 1:11* is a very sad indictment against Judah, "*He came unto his own and his own received him not.*"

So the rich man says to Abraham, reading from verse 27, "*I pray thee, therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: for I have five brethren: that he may testify unto them.*" Judah had five full brothers – all from the same mother, Leah – whose names were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Issachar and Zebulon. Therefore this statement by the rich man in the parable is further proof that we are dealing with Judah. And he asks for ministry to come to

them that they will not come into the place of torment where he is. But Abraham says to him that they, the full brothers, have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. Now we know that the House of Judah was composed of the head tribe Judah, the tribe of Benjamin and some of Levi. Whilst the House of Israel was composed of the other ten tribes, which included the full brothers of Judah mentioned above with the half tribe of Levi. We find in the Christian era that 'lost' Israel have Moses and the prophets in their Holy Bible – our Holy Bible.

But the rich man is not happy with this reply to his request and says in verse 30, "*Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him. If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.*" Those two phrases, "*they have Moses and the prophets*" and "*if they hear not Moses and the prophets,*" are very important. After all they have been mentioned twice in this parable so they must be of great significance and making a double witness of the words of Our Lord.

If the rich man or Judah had heeded Moses and the prophets they would have known that the Messiah had to come first to accomplish the redemption of his people. Thus because the Jews would not have this man Jesus to rule over them the kingdom and all its authority was taken from them and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof, namely the 'Lost Sheep of the House of Israel' whom Jesus came to seek. The marvellous plan and purpose of Almighty God was ready to go forward with the sacrifice and resurrection of Our Lord and this remnant of Judah were not willing to go forward with it. They wanted the kingdom on their terms. Finally, one had been raised from the dead, namely Lazarus/Israel, but that was of no significance to the rich man.

How very important was the admonition by Our Lord in His parable of the rich man and Lazarus, to read Moses and the prophets. For in those prophetic utterances can be found the blueprint of Almighty God's Master Plan for His Covenant Nations.

KATHLEEN GAGE



COVENANT NATIONS WEEKEND

SATURDAY, 10 MARCH 2012



‘CROWN & COMMONWEALTH in Diamond Jubilee Year’

12 noon – 9 pm

Michael A Clark, President BIWF
Pastor David Aimer, Principal,
The National Bible College
Reverend Barrie Williams



‘PRAYER FOR THE NATIONS’

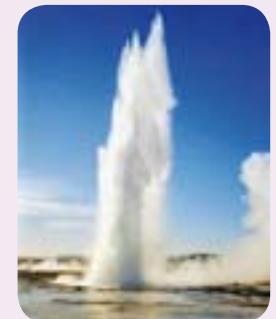
SUNDAY, 11 MARCH 2012

10 am – 12 noon

At: The Quality Hotel, St. Albans

For programme details and booking:

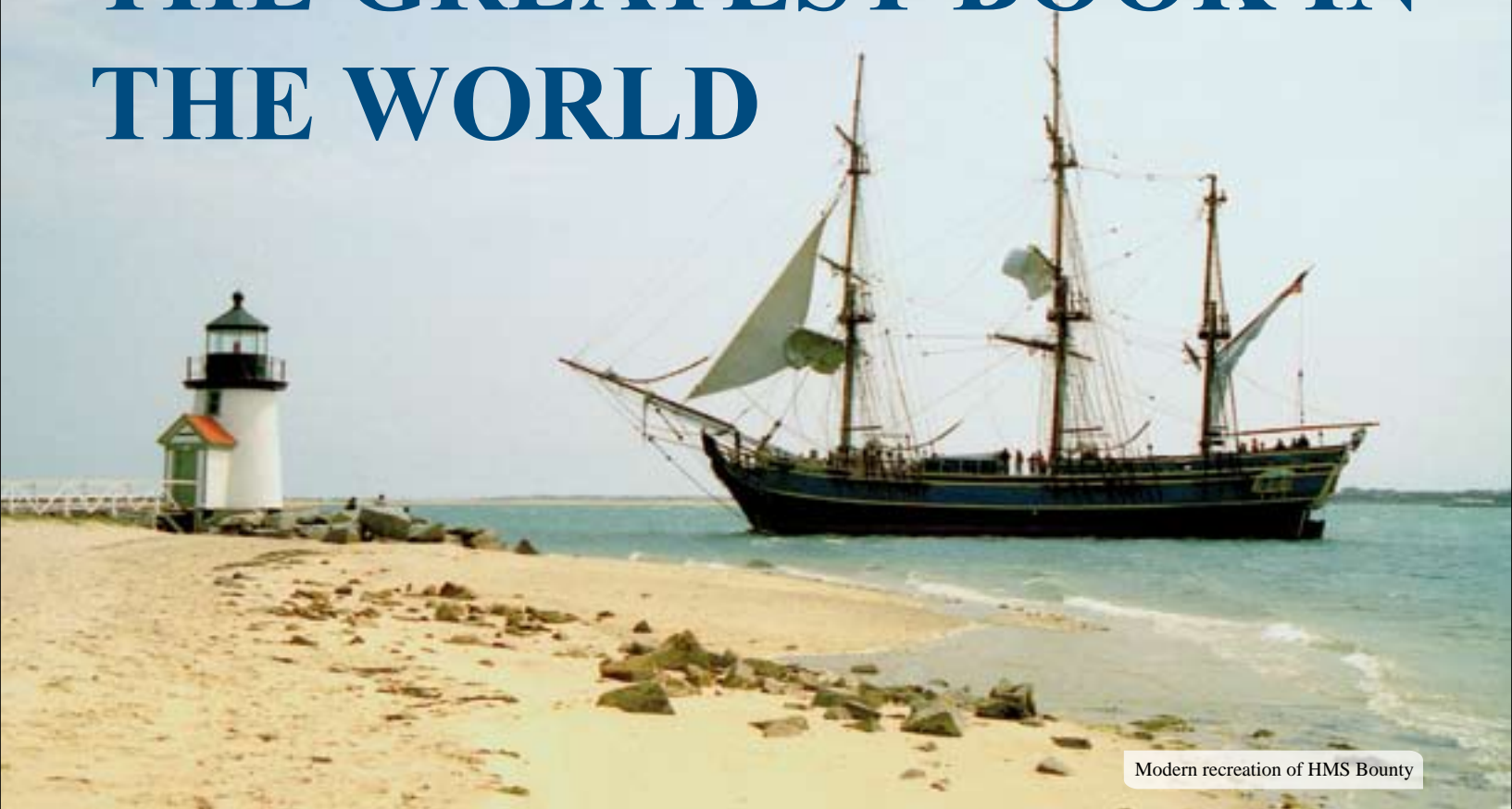
Contact Nicola at BIWF
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ALL WELCOME



THE GREATEST BOOK IN THE WORLD



Modern recreation of HMS Bounty

One cannot speak of the Bible without speaking in superlatives. It is the most widely read book in the world; it is the most translated book in all of history; it has continued to be the number one best-selling book in all of history and it is the most valuable book in the world. (A single copy of a Gutenberg Bible was sold in 1987 for over \$4 million. One copy of William Tyndale's original printed New Testament was sold for over £1 million). The Bible is the most inspiring book in history and it is the most important book in history.

There is no question that it is the most life-changing book ever written.

The Bounty's Bible

On 28 April 1789, Fletcher Christian staged the most famous mutiny in history, on the English ship *HMS Bounty*, in the South Pacific. The captain, William Bligh, and those loyal to him, were set adrift in an overloaded lifeboat which they miraculously navigated across the Pacific Ocean 3,700 miles to Timor.

The mutineers on the *Bounty* immediately began quarrelling about what to do next. Fletcher returned to Tahiti, where he left some of the mutineers, kidnapped some women, took some slaves, and travelled with the remaining mutineers 1,000 miles to the uninhabited Pitcairn Island. There the group quickly unravelled. They distilled whiskey from a native plant. Drunkenness and disorder characterized their colony. Disease and murder quickly took the lives

of each of the men, including Fletcher. Soon only one man was left – Alexander Smith. Smith found himself the only man on the island, surrounded by an assortment of women and children.

Then Smith found the *Bounty's* neglected Bible. As he read it, his heart was transformed and he began to instruct the survivors of their community. He taught the Scriptures and helped to implement its instructions. The message of Christ so transformed their lives that, 20 years later, in 1808, when the crew of the *Topaz* landed on the island, they found a joyful society of Christians living in peace and prosperity, free from crime, free from disease, and without murder and mutiny.

That Bible that transformed the people of Pitcairn Island resides on display in the

church in Pitcairn as a monument to its transforming message.

The Foundation of Western Civilization

The impact of the Bible upon Western civilization has been absolutely enormous. Western civilization is founded upon it. Professor William Phelps of Yale observed: "Our civilization is founded upon the Bible. More of our ideas, our wisdom, our philosophy, our literature, our art, our ideals come from the Bible than from all other books combined."

The Bible has inspired the greatest literature, the greatest art, the greatest achievements of architecture (the cathedrals), the age of exploration, world missions, the rule of law, the separation of powers, checks and balances, representative government, the sanctity of life, and so much more.

It is to the Bible that we owe our legacy of the rule of law. It is the Bible that ushered in an era of compassion, charity, liberty and justice. The Ten Commandments are the moral and legal foundation of Western civilization. Most of the world's languages were written down by Christian missionaries. The first book in most languages in the world was the Bible.

President Theodore Roosevelt declared: "Every thinking man, when he thinks, realizes that the teachings of the Bible are so interwoven with our whole civic and social life that it would be literally impossible for us to figure what life would be like if those teachings were removed. We would lose almost all the standards by which we now judge both public and private morals; all the standards to which we, with more or less resolution, strive to raise ourselves."

Educationalist Noah Webster declared: "The Bible is the chief moral cause of all that is good, and the best corrective of all that is evil, in human society; the best Book for regulating the temporal concerns of men, and the only Book that can serve as an infallible guide...the principles of genuine liberty, and of wise laws and administrations, are to be drawn from the Bible and sustained by its authority. The man therefore who weakens, or destroys, the Divine authority of that Book may be accessory to all the public disorders that society is doomed to suffer..."

Even Napoleon Bonaparte admitted: "The Bible is no mere book, but a living power that conquers all that oppose it."

The Foundation of Modern Science

All of the great pioneer scientists who laid the foundations of modern physics, astronomy, calculus, dynamics, oceanography, anaesthesiology, and every other branch of science, confirmed the Bible as the foundation and inspiration for their work.

This included Johannes Kepler, Francis Bacon, Galileo Galilei, Isaac Newton, Karl van Linnius, Charles Babbage, Blaise Pascal, Samuel Morse, Matthew Fontaine Maury, James Simpson, and many, many more.

Sir Michael Faraday, one of the greatest scientists of all time, who discovered electromagnetic induction and invented the generator, observed: "The Bible, and it alone, with nothing added to it nor taken away from it by man, is the sole and sufficient guide for each individual, at all times and in all circumstances...Faith in the Di-

vinity and work of Christ is a gift of God, and evidence of this faith is obedience to the commandments of Christ."

The Rule of Law

The foundations of the Common Law were made by King Alfred the Great of England who introduced his code with the Ten Commandments, the Case Laws of Exodus, the Golden Rule of Christ, and other biblical principles. The *Magna Carta* of 1215 was the first statute, the first written restriction on the powers of government. It was written by a pastor, Stephen Langton, and thoroughly saturated with scriptural principles.

The Greatest Best Seller of All Time

The Bible is the number one best-selling book in all of history. The Bible Society alone has a world distribution of 24 million Bibles, 26 million New Testaments and 577 million portions of Scripture each year. This does not include the over 1 million New Testaments distributed each week by the Gideons or the New Testaments distributed by the Pocket Testament League. Nor the over 80 million Scriptures provided each year by the Bible League, or the over 30 million Scripture booklets and tracts given away so far by World Missionary Press and Scripture Gift Mission. Then there are even more Bibles sold by Zondervan, Thomas Nelson, Tyndale and others. It is estimated that over 30 million Bibles are sold each year and possibly over 100 million New Testaments!

The Bible, New Testament, or at least Gospels, have been published in over 2,300 different languages worldwide.

Incomparable

There is no other book that can compare to the Bible in value, inspiration, importance, and the amount of languages into which it is translated. No other book could compare with the Bible in how many have been sold, how often it is read, and in terms of its worldwide impact throughout history.

Yet, the Bible is also the most attacked book in all of history. From the time of Nero, and throughout the ten waves of persecution by Imperial Rome, to Diocletian, the Romans made successive attempts to eradicate all Bibles. Yet, despite the waves of repression by Rome and the destruction unleashed by the Barbarians and the Vikings, and intensive campaigns of persecution such as under Stalin's Soviet Union, and Mao Tse Tung's Red China, the Bible remains the best attested to book in antiquity. Over 1,700 Hebrew manuscripts of the Old Testament still exist. There are over 5,000 Greek

manuscripts for the New Testament, 8,000 Latin and 1,000 other ancient versions of the New Testament in existence.

As Dr Martin Luther declared: "It is a miracle how God has so long preserved His book! How great and glorious it is to have the Word of God!"

The Book of Books

Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, who gave his life for the message of the Scriptures, declared: "The Word of God is above the Church."

W.E. Sangster observed: "The Christian feels that the tooth of time gnaws all books but the Bible...19 centuries of experience have tested it. It has passed through critical fires no other volume has suffered and its spiritual truth has endured the flames and come out without so much as a smell of burning."

The Prince of Preachers, Charles Spurgeon, declared: "Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the Book widens and deepens with our years."

John Flavel wrote: "The Scriptures teach us the best way of living, the noblest way of suffering, and the most comfortable way of dying."

R.A. Torey said: "The truly wise man is he who always believes the Bible against the opinion of any man."

Scientist Isaac Newton declared: "I will put down all apparent inconsistencies in the Bible to my own ignorance."

German scientist Professor Wernher von Braun, who pioneered rocket science and oversaw the Apollo Space Project, observed: "In this age of space flight when we use the modern tools of science to advance into new regions of human activity, the Bible...remains in every way an up-to-date book. Our knowledge and use of the laws of nature that enable us to fly to the moon, also enable us to destroy our home planet with the atom bomb. Science itself does not address the question whether we should use the power at our disposal for good or evil. The guidelines of what we ought to do are furnished in the moral Law of God."

Bishop J.C. Ryle taught: "A Bible-reading laity is a nation's surest defence against error."

The Bible is the Word of God

Almost every page of the Bible contains

words such as: “The Lord said...;” “God spoke;” “The Word of the Lord came...”

The Gospel accounts are based on careful research, historical facts and eyewitness testimonies. The physician Luke introduces his Gospel account with these words: “*They were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the Word. Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning...to write an orderly account... so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught*” (Luke 1:2-4).

The Apostle John wrote: “*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testified...we proclaim to you what we have seen and heard*” (I John 1:1-3).

“*No prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation*” (II Peter 1:20).

“*Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit*” (II Peter 1:21).

“*God spoke...through the prophets...and by His Son*” (Hebrews 1:1-2).

“*The Scripture cannot be broken*” (John 10:35).

“*The Word of the Lord stands forever*” (I Peter 1:25).

“*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work*” (II Timothy 3:16-17).

Overwhelming Evidence

We cannot accept the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ without accepting the authority of the Old Testament which He lived, taught, appealed to, and fulfilled. We also need to recognise that the Lord Jesus carefully chose and trained certain men to be His Apostles. He gave them a special anointing with the Holy Spirit (John 20:21; Acts 1:8). He promised to send them the Holy Spirit to guide them into all truth. Jesus taught that His Words have a unique power and life (John 6:63; 15:3). His Words would never pass away (Mark 13:31). Jesus taught that His Words must be heard and obeyed (Matthew 5:17-48; 7:24; John 8:31-38; 14:23).

We can also appeal to fulfilled prophecy. During His life on earth our Lord Jesus fulfilled over 300 Old Testament prophecies. Archaeological discoveries, manuscript evidence and history support these internal evidences to the accuracy and uniqueness of the Bible. Most convincingly of all, we can point to the unique impact of the Bible on millions of lives throughout the centuries, and now on our own as well. Now, some sceptics may not believe that the Bible is the Word of God, but they have to ignore a lot of accumulative evidence to do this.

The Power of God’s Word

The Bible is the source of Truth: “*Sanctify them by Your Truth; Your Word is Truth*” (John 17:17).

The Bible is the source of God’s Blessings: “*Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and obey it*” (Luke 11:28).

The Bible is a source of power: “*For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes...*” (Romans 1:16).

The Bible is the source of Spiritual guidance: “*Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path*” (Psalm 119:105).

The Bible is infallible: “*The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple*” (Psalm 19:7).

It is inerrant: “*Every Word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him*” (Proverbs 30:5).

It is authoritative and final: “*Forever, O Lord, your Word is settled in the Heavens*” (Psalm 119:89).

It will accomplish what is has been sent out to accomplish: “*So shall My Word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it*

shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:11).

It is complete: “*For I testify to everyone who hears the Words of the prophecy of this book; if anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this Book; and if anyone takes away from the Words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take his part from the Book of Life, from the Holy City, and from the things which are written in this Book*” (Revelation 22:18-19).

Therefore we should **believe** the Bible (John 6:68-69).

We should **honour** the Bible (John 29:18).

We should **study it** (Ezra 7:10).

Love it (Psalm 119:97).

Obey it (I John 2:5).

Guard it (I Timothy 6:20).

Fight for it (Jude 3).

Preach it (II Timothy 4:2).

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Isaac Newton on the Astronomers’ Monument, Griffith Observatory, California, USA

What was said 80 years ago about – PALESTINE, ZIONISM AND THE BIBLE

In these days when so much is heard of Zionism that the interpretation of our Palestine Mandate is in danger of becoming the sport of party politics, the average voter rarely remembers, if indeed, he ever knew, that the claims of the Jews to Palestine rest entirely on God's promises to the Patriarchs, as recorded in the Old Testament. Yet such is the case.

It is by virtue of their claim, as the Chosen People, to be entitled to the Land of Promise that the Zionists seek to influence the interpretation of the Balfour Declaration and of the Palestine mandate. As the legal claim is worthless, it is of more than academic interest to examine the Zionist position from the biblical standpoint, especially as we shall find other claimants with claims equally valid and based on the same authority. This authority, the Old Testament, is one which cannot be belittled in the case under consideration, for no small part of the difficulties in Palestine arises from its being a Holy Land for three great world religions, all of which use and respect the same sacred writings.

The claim of the Zionists, then, rests on God's promises to their forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and two quotations will suffice to show the nature of these. It is recorded that the Lord said unto Abram: "For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever" (*Genesis 13:15*). "And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land of thy sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession" (*Genesis 17:8*).

It is obvious that the first point to determine is "Who are the seed?" for the seed of Abraham includes the Arabs, as the descendants of Ishmael; the Turks, who are regarded as the Edomites of the Bible, descendants of Esau; and of course, the Israelites, descendants of Jacob. To determine who are the "seed" is essential. It must be noted that from the days of Joshua, about 1400 BC, Israel, Judah, Arab and Turk have successively been in possession of Palestine until AD 1917, when the Turkish domination ended. Many Arabs and Jews are still there, so we are fully justified in saying that this confirms the faithfulness of God to His promises, since the Promised Land has been in possession of the seed of Abraham for thousands of years, strictly according to the letter of the Abrahamic Covenant. This very admission, however, necessitates the consideration of the titles of the rival claimants.

Let us then first consider Israel. Abraham's son, Isaac, was the Child of the Promise and in quite a special sense the Heir of the Promise, a right which passed to his son, Jacob, the father of the Israelites. Jacob, very naturally, left his possessions and his rights to his children, and, equally naturally, allotted different legacies to each. To Judah was promised the Sceptre and the Royal Line, but he was nowhere granted the exclusive possession of the Promised Land (*Genesis 49:10*). This was left to all the sons and their descendants. The Twelve Tribes of Israel, therefore, are the Chosen People who have the prior claim to the Promised Land on the basis of the Abrahamic Covenant.

It is important to note that the Jews are not the descendants of the whole of the Twelve Tribes. It is true that in the Southern Kingdom of Judah there were the descendants of some families from the Northern Kingdom of Israel; since, after the Disruption of the Kingdoms, about 1000 BC, those who adhered to the pure worship of Jehovah fled south to Judah from the idolatries of "Jeroboam, son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin." For all practical purposes, however, the people of the Southern Kingdom, some of whose descendants are the Jews, were derived from only three tribes, Judah, Benjamin, and Levi. The well-recorded fate of the Ten Tribes, who formed the Northern Kingdom of Israel, together also with the bulk of the Southern Kingdom of Judah, was that they were carried away captive to Assyria over a period between 732-700 BC. Their biblical history leaves them. They never returned to Palestine, and any attempt to trace their further movements must rely on prophecy, secular history, and such things as the study of archaeology.

Later between 604-586 BC, that is to say, a century and a half after the captivity of some four-fifths of the Hebrew race in Assyria, the remaining remnant of the inhabitants of the Southern Kingdom of Judah were carried captive by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon. The decree of Cyrus, about 500 BC, permitted the return of the Jews to rebuild the Temple; two books, *Ezra* and *Nehemiah*, deal with this subject. We learn from them that fewer than 50,000 of the captives came back (*Ezra 1:64*), and that they were those "whose spirit God had stirred" (*Ezra 1:5*). These repatriated Hebrews are

described in great detail (*Ezra 1*), and only came from the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi. No other tribe is mentioned, and we know that these returned exiles were merged with Edom by the Romans and are the ancestors of some Jews today [The largest percentage by far of modern Jews do of course emanate from the ninth century Khazar kingdom in Central Europe; they are the Ashkenazi].

Thus we see that the modern Jews are descended from only a selected number, or remnant, of the Southern Kingdom of Judah who were carried captive to Babylon; so far from representing the whole of the Twelve Tribes of Israel, the modern Jews represent only a very small part of the Hebraic race – and of these people only the Sephardic, or Spanish Jews, can be said to be true Judahites.

Here it may be of interest to note that the terms, House of Judah, Judah or Jews, are never, under any circumstances, applied to the people of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Indeed, the term ‘Jews’ first occurs in the King James Bible in II *Kings 16:6*, which account is considered to have been written after the return from Babylon. The word ‘Jew’ is also used by Jeremiah (34:9), who lived about 600 BC, so we may say that this expression came into use after the Northern Kingdom of Israel and most of the Southern Kingdom of Judah were carried away into captivity in Assyria. It is applicable to the remaining inhabitants of the Southern Kingdom at Jerusalem from about the period of the Babylonish Captivity.

Now that we have seen who the modern Jews are, we may consider whether these descendants of part of three tribes are entitled to claim the whole of the Covenant Blessings of the seed of Abraham. The fact that they make such a claim today is no new phenomenon. They began to do so 2,500 years ago, but even this does not prove that the claim is valid, although it strengthens the view that their commercial aptitude is hereditary.

About 600 BC Ezekiel (11:15) wrote: “*All the House of Israel, all of them, are they unto whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, Get you far from the Lord; unto us is this land [Palestine] given for a possession.*” [These words were finally reinforced 17 years after the author wrote this article in May 1948 when Britain-Israel gave up the British Mandate of Palestine at the birth of the State of Israel]. But the prophet continues (11:17): “*Thus saith the Lord God: I will gather you [the lost Ten Tribes] from the peoples, and assemble you*

out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.” This clearly expresses God’s disapproval of the attitude of the Jews of that day and absolutely disposes of the Zionist claims to Palestine to the exclusion of the rest of the descendants of Jacob, that is to say, of the “Lost Ten Tribes.”

In another place (*Jeremiah 3:18*) it is said: “*The House of Judah shall walk with [or margin to] the House of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I gave for an inheritance unto your fathers.*” The same idea is expressed in *Ezekiel (37: 15-28)*, where the prophet unites two sticks, representing the House of Israel and the House of Judah, as a sign that the twelve will be reunited ultimately. Representatives of all Twelve Tribes were present when Jerusalem was delivered from the Turks in December 1917 [There is chronological evidence that the ‘Arab Spring’ of 2011 is repeating a pattern of events in 1917].

We must bear in mind that the ostensible object of Zionism is the reoccupation of Palestine in accordance with God’s promises: yet the above quotations prove that, if the ultimate peaceful settlement of Palestine is to be in accordance with these promises, it cannot be in accordance with the full claims of the Zionists [*Zephaniah 3:20* certainly does not envision what has happened in Palestine since 1948]. Thus it is essential that the Jews should not be placed in such a position of privilege as would enable them to exclude other descendants of Abraham.

At the present time [1931] the other claimants to Palestine, who occasion most anxiety to the Mandatory Power, are undoubtedly the Arabs. Let us consider their claim, again entirely from the standpoint of the Bible.

It is universally held that the Arabs represent the stock of Ishmael, the son of Abraham by Hagar, and it was foretold to Hagar, before the birth of her son, that her seed should be greatly multiplied and that Ishmael should “ *dwell in the presence of all his brethren*” (*Genesis 16:12*). When we remember that the Arabs have always dwelt in the neighbourhood of Palestine ever since that date, some four thousand years ago, we may reasonably assume that this promise has been fulfilled and that its interpretation is clear. No less than the Jews, who have been absent from the Land of Promise for the last two thousand years [the non-Hebraic European Zionists as such never were in the Land], the Arabs, who have remained, have the right to continue “*to dwell in the pres-*

ence of all their brethren.”

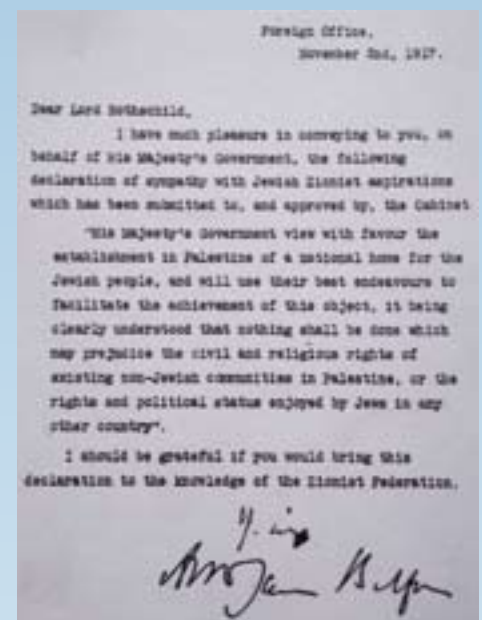
As the Turks for long occupied Palestine and are also of Abrahamic stock, we may glance at them in passing. There are many biblical references to Esau and Edom, but the one which is vital to this inquiry is: Esau “*sold his birthright unto Jacob*” (*Genesis 25:33*). This is final: the Turks have no claim against the Children of Israel on the basis of the Abrahamic Covenant.

It is obvious that other factors have to be reckoned with, but the subject has been considered here solely from the biblical standpoint, because this is the foundation of the claim of the Zionists to special rights in Palestine, a claim which was recognized by the League of Nations [also since 29 November 1947 by the General Assembly of the United Nations in Resolution 181 (II) Future Government of Palestine]. We are, therefore, bound to be guided in this matter by the Bible.

The practical applications of this conclusion are of great importance: not only must the Mandatory Power [Britain] dispense even-handed justice between the Jews and the Arabs in Palestine, but the former must not be allowed to gain such an ascendancy that they can exclude the Arabs or thwart the legitimate claims of their kindred at a later date. Unless steps are taken to prevent this, a new and more complicated Palestinian problem will arise in the future. [Eighty years later, in 2011, these words have surely come to pass].

KENNETH B AIKMAN MA MD

The Covenant Publishing Co Ltd leaflet:
‘Reprinted from *The Empire Review*,
August 1931’ - Slightly revised



AMAZING PROPHECY FULFILLED

Many people have been alarmed by recent events in the Middle East which once again shows how fragile global peace and stability really is. The Middle East is the focus of world attention and it is understood by even the casual observer that if war should break out in that area it has the potential to engulf us all in conflict. When we see nations in that region in turmoil, governments being overthrown and the rise of radical fundamentalism, it is all too easy to forget the promises of Scripture which assure us that God will

never allow the human race to destroy itself (*Matthew 24:22*).

When studying for my degree in Theology we were taught that about one-third of the Bible was composed of prophecy. The reason for predicting future events long before these events took place was to show that Scripture was no ordinary book and that its writers were indeed being inspired by God.

Studying fulfilled prophecy calms fear and

strengthens faith so with this in mind I want to look at one fascinating example which clearly shows that God is in control of the future of this world and nobody else!

The example I have selected relates to a famous historical event in the last century which was clearly foretold in Scripture literally thousands of years earlier. It concerns the deliverance of Jerusalem in 1917 during the First World War. (It was this liberation from the Turks which is of major prophetic, historical, political and religious significance. It was a defining moment which has shaped the Middle East right down to the present day).

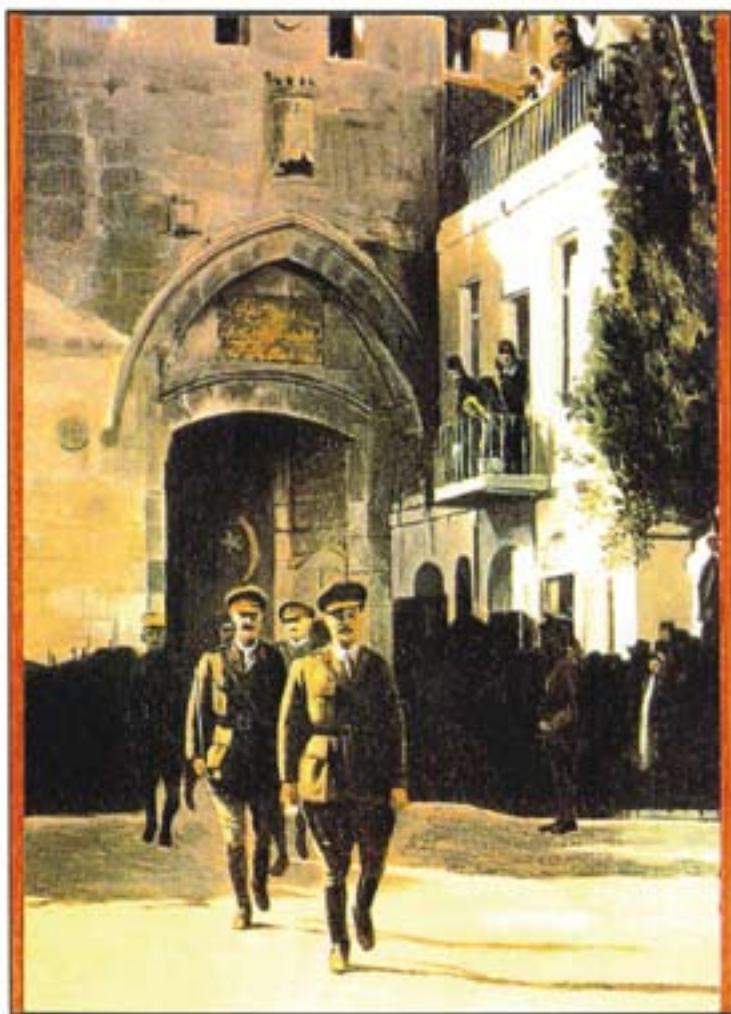
Scripture not only predicted the year in which Jerusalem would be delivered but also the manner by which this deliverance would be achieved.

First of all let us examine two prophecies relating to its actual year of liberation.

(a) When speaking about punishing the nation for immorality God warned Judah *“if after all these troubles you will not listen to Me, but walk contrary to Me, then I will walk contrary to you and I will chastise you seven Times for your sins”* (*Leviticus 26:27-28*). Any Israelite reading this would have understood that a ‘Time’ meant an actual number not just some vague measurement. To them a ‘Time’ represented 360 years and so if God stated that a punishment was to be seven ‘Times’ then it was 7 multiplied by 360 which comes to 2520 years.

(Their understanding of a ‘Time’ came from their belief that one portion of Scripture must be cross-referenced with another part in order to get its full meaning. Using this principle they held that there were 360 days in a ‘prophetic year’ and unless otherwise stated each prophetic day represented a full calendar year. An example of this day/year principle can be seen in *Ezekiel 4:6* where God said to the prophet *“you shall bear the iniquity of Judah for forty days. I have appointed you each day for a year.”* It is interesting to notice that their measurement of a ‘Time’ as representing 360 ‘units’ is the same as that used in the New Testament. For instance, in *Revelation 12:6* it states that God will take care of the woman (Israel) for ‘1260 days.’ Later in verse 14 this number is identified as being the same as 3.5 ‘Times.’ 3.5 ‘Times’ equalling 1260 is of course the same as a seven ‘Times’ punishment equalling 2520 years).

‘As Birds Flying’ over Jerusalem



Available from Covenant Publishing

(b) The other prophecy relating to Jerusalem's year of liberation is found in the Book of *Daniel*. Daniel refers to the ending of this seven 'Times' punishment of Jerusalem in this manner: "*Blessed is he who waits and comes to the 1335 days*" (*Daniel* 12:12).

So what happened and what do the figures 2520 and 1335 mean in practice? History reveals that Judah ignored repeated warnings from God about their corrupt belief and behaviour. Finally, God allowed Jerusalem to be delivered into the hands of a succession of foreign powers. In 604 BC Judah began to come under the influence of the 'Gentile' King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and in 603 BC the theocracy of Jerusalem was changed so it became fully subject to 'Gentile' control. From this year onwards history shows that Jerusalem was indeed ruled by a succession of foreign empires for exactly 2520 years (or seven 'Times') as predicted in *Leviticus* chapter 26. Its liberation from Turkish control in 1917 marked the end of this punishment period.

And what of Daniel's 1335 days/years? Before the liberation of Jerusalem in 1917 the Turks controlled the region for four hundred years and before them the Arabs controlled it for six hundred years. These two powers used the Moslem calendar. Using the same principle of interpretation of a day representing a year we find that the year 1335 in the Moslem calendar is simply 1917 in the Christian calendar.

The year of Jerusalem's release from bondage is so specific in Bible prophecy that the theologian and scholar Dr Grattan Guinness highlighted it decades before its fulfilment in his famous work on prophecy called *Light for the Last Days* (published in 1886). He wrote "The year 1917 is doubly indicated as a crisis date ... in connection with Israel. There can be no question that those who live to see this year of 1917 will have reached one of the most important of these terminal years."

But Scripture not only predicted the actual year of the deliverance of Jerusalem, it also predicted the peculiar way this deliverance would be achieved.

Using the language of his day the prophet Isaiah described a strange vision God gave him concerning the deliverance of the city. He stated "*As birds flying so will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also He will deliver it, and passing over He will preserve it*" (*Isaiah* 31:5). Clearly he had seen something similar to birds flying over

the city in order to deliver it.

So what happened in 1917 and what was Isaiah actually describing? On 2 November 1917 the British government made the following historic announcement known as the 'Balfour Declaration.' It stated that Great Britain supported "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of that object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine."

General Edmund Allenby who was in charge of the British forces in Palestine was given orders to liberate the city. Being a committed Christian he was reluctant to undertake a full scale military attack because of the damage it would cause to such a sacred place. Seeking advice he wrote to

"Blessed is he that
waiteth, and cometh to the
thousand three hundred and
five and thirty days"
Daniel 12:12

King George V only to receive a one word telegram saying "Pray"! Calling his staff together for a prayer meeting Allenby opened his Bible. It opened at *Isaiah* chapter 31 and as he read the prophecy he knew what God wanted him to do. He ordered a squadron of the Royal Flying Corps (the forerunner of the RAF) and they flew over the city dropping leaflets calling for surrender. The next day the city surrendered without damage or bloodshed. Jerusalem had been preserved from military attack "*as birds flying*" yet at the same time delivered from the Turks who had been in control of the city since the Crusades. It was exactly as Isaiah had predicted over 2,600 years earlier.

On 11 December 1917 General Allenby, at the head of the British Forces, rode up to the Jaffa Gate, dismounted and humbly led his men on foot as the deliverer of the city. It was exactly 2520 years since the proud Nebuchadnezzar had humbled the city. The seven 'Times' punishment of 2520 years had expired and Daniel's figure of '1335' (1917) had arrived. Jesus predicted Jerusalem would "*be downtrodden by the Gentiles until the Times of the Gentiles are fulfilled*" (*Luke* 21:24). Beginning in 603 BC it had been downtrodden by the Babylonians followed by the Medo-Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs and finally the Turks. The

'Times of the Gentiles' were over.

While all this was happening in Jerusalem a remarkable 'worldwide event' took place which again reveals God's providential timing and control. The Church of England (or Anglican Church) has particular Scripture readings appointed for each day of the year outlined in its *Book of Common Prayer*. Incredibly, at the same time these events were unfolding in Jerusalem the appointed Scripture readings in every Anglican church across the world were the relevant prophecies from *Isaiah*.

On 8 December the appointed reading was *Isaiah* chapter 31 which states "*as birds flying so will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem ...*" On 9 December Allenby's planes flew over Jerusalem dropping leaflets calling for surrender. Then on 10 December the appointed reading was *Isaiah* 40:1-12 which stated "*Comfort my people. Speak comfort to Jerusalem and cry out to her that her warfare is ended and her iniquity is pardoned.*" (The Hebrew word translated 'warfare' literally means 'the appointed time'). Finally on 11 December General Allenby led British Forces into the city liberating it from Turkish control. These Scripture readings were appointed in 1552 in the *Prayer Book* of Edward VI and had survived the revisions of 1662 and 1872.

The purpose of this short article has been to show that God is firmly in control of the future of the world rather than any 'terrorist organisation' or actual 'nation' (no matter how powerful they may seem). Bible prophecy can be totally trusted and relied upon to be fulfilled because as Jesus stated in *John* 10:35 "*Scripture cannot be broken.*" Just as prophecy predicted the deliverance of Jerusalem so likewise it promises that one day Jesus Christ will return in His glory to establish peace and justice from the Throne of David (*Luke* 1:32-33) over the entire earth. The world will not be destroyed. These are prophecies of great comfort for those who really follow and obey the Lord and for them He returns as their Saviour and Friend. But for those who love darkness, stifle their conscience and refuse to deal with the sin in their lives He returns as their Judge. Let us all make certain that when the prophecy of II *Corinthians* 5:10-11 is fulfilled He will say to us "*well done good and faithful one*" and not "*depart from Me into punishment you who practise disobedience.*" Sadly those who wilfully refuse to accept the witness of fulfilled prophecy are sleepwalking to judgment.

JONATHAN WILLANS BD
www.internetpulpit.co.uk

WE HAVE A GUARDIAN

The Covenant Publishing Co Ltd has great pleasure in publishing this revised and enlarged Fifth Edition of *We Have a Guardian*.

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This extract is from the opening pages:

‘No weapon . . . shall prosper’.

This book, three editions of which were published during the later years of World War II, was compiled with the object of making known some of the numerous forthright statements by British Cabinet Ministers, Clergy, Senior Officers of the Fighting Services, Journalists and others at various critical stages during the great conflict. They expressed their profound conviction that Divine Intervention was vouchsafed on behalf of the Armed Forces of Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, the United States and our Allies fighting for freedom against the forces of evil and oppression.

Since 1945, much additional evidence became available and the fourth edition was a greatly enlarged version of the former work. A number of further testimonies were included and the background of many operations was filled in

from official documents and memoirs. The evidence that God intervened and gave us victory, despite our mistakes and folly, is overwhelming. This fifth edition has added sections about events from more recent decades.

weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper . . . this is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of Me’ (Isaiah 54:17).

Since those days, to our great loss, we have turned our backs on God. We have sought a secular Utopia instead of heeding Christ’s injunction: *‘Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness’ (Matthew 6:25-34).*

What a sorry plight we are in today! Dare we expect God to deliver us from our present rejection of His Law and use us again as His Servants – a *‘company of nations’* guided by His Divine Will?

As individuals making up our nation, we have a unique responsibility in this matter. This is true whether we be subjects of Her Majesty at home or abroad, citizens of the United States of America or of the freedom-loving countries of North-West Europe.

Do we acknowledge our need for and dependence upon Almighty God? Do we ask that Christ shall rule our lives and direct our national affairs that we might lead the nations in peace?

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The significant fact also emerges that Commanding Officers believed and Padres taught that we were the servants of God in the cause of justice, liberty, freedom and peace.

May we not believe that the promise of the Lord made through His prophet Isaiah was fulfilled? This was that *‘No*



FAQ: HOW MANY DAYS OF PRAYER WERE THERE IN WORLD WAR TWO?

There were seven Days of Prayer called by King George VI at these crucial times. The nation trusted God and remained united in adversity never once contemplating defeat.

1. **Dunkirk** Crowds flocked to church to pray for the men stranded on the beaches and Churchill ordered every available seagoing vessel across the Channel, hoping to snatch 30,000 back. A miracle occurred as the water became as calm as a millpond, enabling even the smallest crafts to set sail, and a heavy storm grounded the Luftwaffe. Hitler then inexplicably halted his advance and within 10 days more than 335,000 Allied military personnel were rescued.

2 and 3. **Battle of Britain** The German objective was to destroy the RAF and its airfields.

a) A Day of Prayer was called at the height of the Battle on Sunday 11 August, 1940, and the King made an appeal to all young people to pray especially for the equally young pilots. Many responded, resulting in abandoned tennis courts and playing fields. During the following week Spitfires and Hurricanes shot down 180 Nazi bombers.

b) On 30 August, 1940, 800 enemy aircraft filled the skies intending to destroy key RAF airfields. By 6 September the situation was dire and defeat in the air seemed inevitable. The King therefore called another Day of Prayer on 8 September when churches were full to bursting. That week 185 German planes were shot down and Goering gave up his assault. By 15 September Churchill was able to declare victory in the air.

4. **Planned Invasion of Britain** The next Day of Prayer was called by the King on 23 March, 1941, during a period of heavy bombing in London. He was unaware it was the actual date planned by Hitler for the invasion! German ships were soon blown off course and the Fuehrer changed his entire plans, switching instead to an invasion of Russia.

5. **North Africa** The fifth Day of Prayer was called in September 1942 when the British Eighth Army had been driven back to the borders of Egypt by Rommel's Afrika Korps. General Montgomery was appointed as the Eighth Army Commander and led British forces to the significant vic-

tory at El Alamein when Rommel was on leave and enemy fuel supplies from Rome failed to arrive on time. The battle was a turning point in the war.

6. **Italy defeated** A Day of Prayer was called on 3 September, 1943, the fourth anniversary of the declaration of war on Germany. Italy surrendered to the Allies within 24 hours and Mussolini was assassinated.

7. **D-Day and beyond** The seventh Day of Prayer was called in Spring 1944, for all military personnel. The poor weather hindering the D-Day offensive suddenly re-

lent and fine weather on 6 June allowed the Normandy invasion of France and Europe to begin, during which time far fewer lives than expected were lost.

Unbelievers will always remain sceptical but Christians believe God responded directly to the National Days of Prayer and caused miracles to happen, eventually leading to Victory in Europe on 8 May, 1945.

With acknowledgement to:
E JOHN METCALFE
This England Winter 2010



I Desire Solemnly to call my People to prayer and dedication. We are not unmindful of our own shortcomings, past and present. We shall ask not that God may do our will, but that we may be enabled to do the will of God; and we dare to believe that God has used our Nation and Empire as an instrument for fulfilling His high purpose.

His Majesty's Call to Prayer to the Nation, June 6th, 1944.

THE STORY OF THE UNICORN

As an addendum to an article published previously in *The Covenant Nations*, Volume 2, Number 1, 2011, regarding the King James Version as ‘Unleavened Bread,’ another pertinent example of the spiritual accuracy of the King James Version over modern translations is the story of the unicorn. In *Numbers*, chapters 23 and 24, it is recorded that Balaam, though he was a false prophet, nevertheless, at God’s direction, made several prophecies about the people of Israel which turned out to be true. *Numbers* 23:22 relates that “*God brought [Israel] out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn;*” and it is paired with another prophecy two verses later, “*Behold, the people shall rise up as a great lion, and lift up himself as a young lion.*” These analogies to a unicorn and a lion are repeated in the next chapter also, verses 8 and 9, for a second witness.



However, when we come to the Revised Versions and new translations such as the New English Bible (NEB) and the New International Version (NIV), we find the Hebrew word *reem* being rendered as “wild ox,” rather than “unicorn.” The rationale for this change is that it is supposedly more accurate, since there is no such one-horned animal as a unicorn. But its technical accuracy comes at the expense of spiritual truth, since, along with the lion, the unicorn is one of the supporters in Britain’s Royal Coat of Arms. With these two supporters – the lion and the unicorn – symbolizing the fulfilment of Balaam’s prophecies regarding Israel, they are one of the clearest markers that Britain and the British peoples are the true Israel of God – a fact that is totally obscured when the translation “wild ox” is used.

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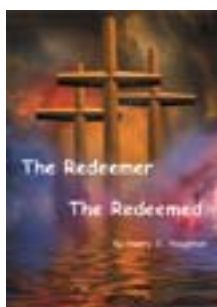
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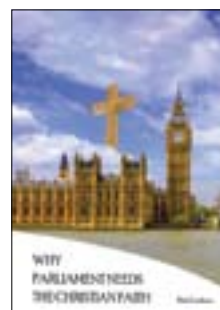
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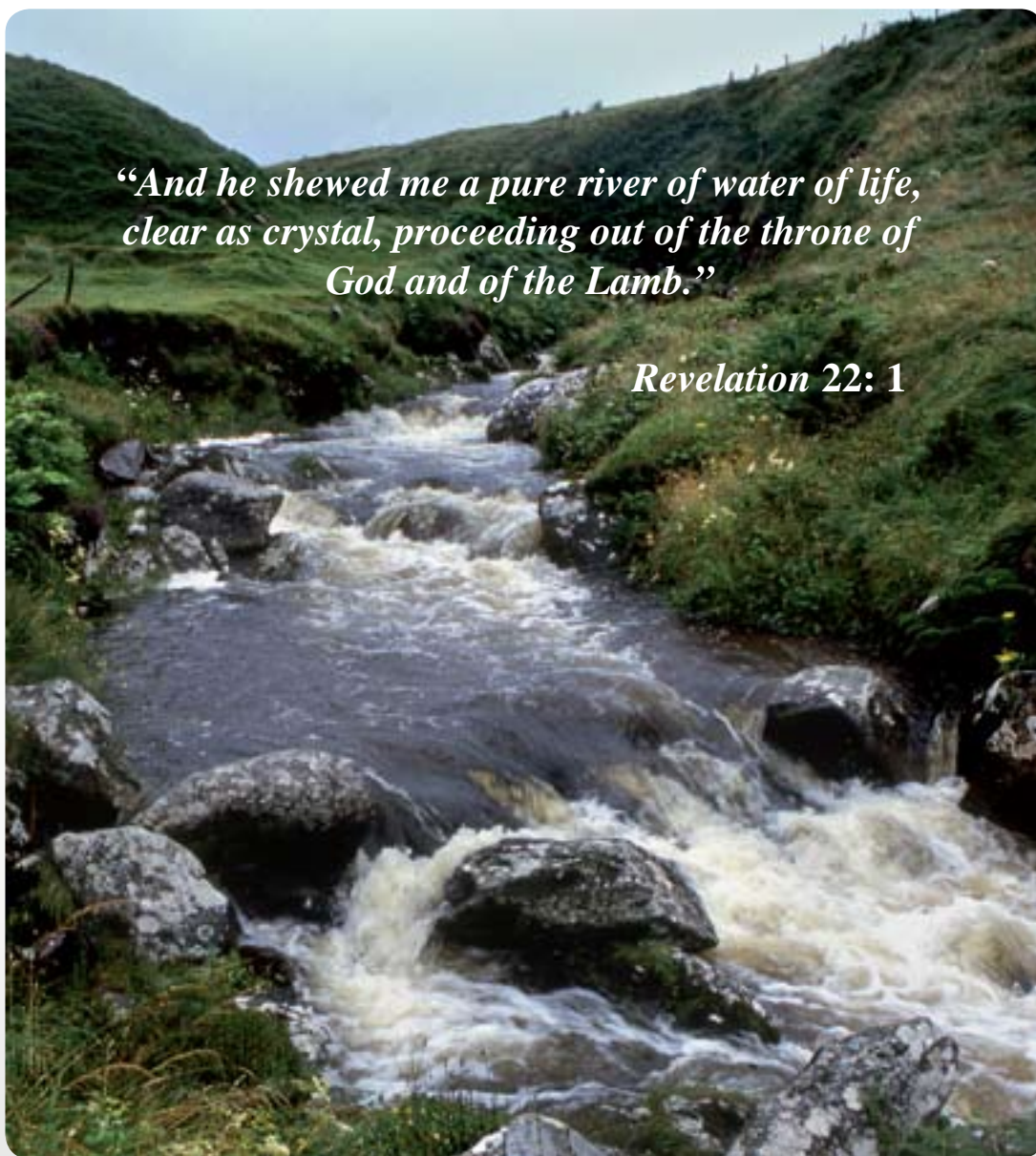
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*“And he shewed me a pure river of water of life,
clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of
God and of the Lamb.”*

Revelation 22: 1



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