

"THE TURKEY TREE TAX"

Dear Reader, have you heard about "T. T. T. T."?

A little history ...

The Bible is nothing but a history book ... full of facts and figures ... a future history book ... it's called **prophecy**.

Prophecy is the future told in advance before it happens, and the Bible has hundreds and hundreds of them ... God says "I will do this" and then he does it!

For example, in the Book of Ezekiel, God states his purposes 59 times ... and says that Israel might know that he is the LORD.

Prophecy is **not** prediction, guesswork, "most likely will be", "hopefully" or "the odds are".

Now there's a prophecy spoken by Ezekiel ... that God would scatter the children of Israel throughout the nations and make the land desolate ... as follows ...

*"I (the LORD God Almighty), even I, will bring a sword upon you ... **when ye shall be scattered through the countries ... and make the land desolate, yea, more desolate than the wilderness ...**" ([Ezekiel 6:3, 8, 14](#))*

Now history tells us that Israel was under the control of Turkey from **1517 to 1917** ... and they utterly laid waste, and thoroughly destroyed the land.

How did they do this?

In their 'wisdom' the Turkish rulers enacted ridiculous laws ... one of which that **taxes had to be paid on live trees!**

So what did people do? Simple ... the people **cut down the trees so they wouldn't have to pay any taxes**. The country thereby became an absolute desert and wretched wasteland.

The Reverend Samuel Manning said in 1874 ... *"the land is left void and desolate ... without inhabitants."*

It's amazing isn't it ... how the stupidity of man brings about the fulfilment of prophecy.

And God works through desolation and barrenness ... Abraham and Sarah ... indeed, after 400 years of barrenness after Malachi, Christ appears and so on.

"For he shall grow up before him **as a tender plant**, and **as a root out of a dry ground**: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him." ([Isaiah 53:2](#))

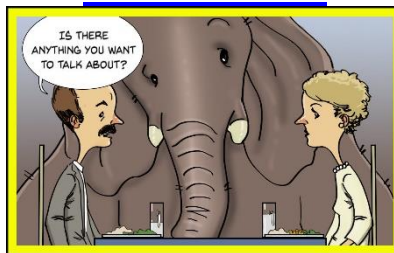
Indeed the world is now desolate and barren ... as Christians look forward to the rapture.

And then again, after seven years of tribulation, the world will be an absolute 'desolate' and 'barren' cot-case ... when the Lord Jesus Christ will return '**as a root out of dry ground**' ... but **not as a tender plant** ... and this time ... **very comely** and **full of beauty** (Revelation 19).

Harley Hitchcock
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Australian Bible Ministries, PO Box 5058 Mt. Gravatt East 4122 Qld, Australia
www.AustralianBibleMinistries.com