



The Silver Trumpets

By Dr. F. W. Boreham

The air is thrilling with the music of a joyous zeal. The British & Foreign Bible Society, founded in 1804, is about to celebrate its Triple Jubilee. The very word JUBILEE simply means a blare of trumpets. It takes us back to the Garden of Eden, for the word is based on the name of Jubal, the seventh from Adam, who was the father of all those who handle musical instruments. You may search all the archives of antiquity, and all the annals of more recent empires, for any enactment more intriguing or more suggestive than the Jewish law of jubilee. Every fiftieth year—the year that was welcomed with the blast of the silver trumpets—all lands and estates reverted to the possession of those who had owned them fifty years earlier. This important

1804

1954



consideration was, of course, taken into account in all sales and purchases of property. A block of land sold immediately after the year of Jubilee would be worth about fifty times as much as the same block sold just as the year of Jubilee was approaching. All persons who, to pay their debts, had sold themselves into slavery during the fifty years were compulsorily released when the silver trumpets sounded, and, under the laws relating to property, received back any estates which they or their progenitors may have possessed when last the Jubilee was celebrated.

The effect of such a law is obvious. No family could become excessively wealthy; none could become degradingly poor. Land monopoly was impossible. Every family and every individual enjoyed a fresh start on the old footing at the end of each half century.

The year of Jubilee was a year of REDEMPTION; it was a year of RESTORATION; and it was a year of EMANCIPATION.

1. It was a year of REDEMPTION. It began on the great Day of Atonement. When the high priest had donned his garments of snowy white, he took two goats, the one as a sin-offering and the other as a scapegoat. He then solemnly sacrificed the former, and, with its blood, sprinkled the mercy seat and the holy place. Then, coming forth, he laid his hands on the head of the second goat, confessing over it the sins of the congregation. And, whilst the people were weeping and lamenting their transgressions, the animal was driven away into the wilderness. Priest and people watched it vanishing into infinity, and as soon as the scapegoat had entirely disappeared, the silver trumpets rang out; sadness gave way to gladness; the year of Jubilee had begun.

The truth typified by all this stands crystal clear. All our rejoicing is based on redemption. It is because Christ, the Son of God, once suffered for our sins upon the bitter tree, that our hearts are overflowing with adoring gratitude. All the jubilation of the ages is based on the darkness of Gethsemane and the agony of Calvary. Up to the Cross all the world's sins and sorrows went groaning; down from the Cross all our joys come streaming.

It will be in keeping with the eternal fitness of things if this year of Triple Jubilee becomes, in all the churches, a year of passionate, powerful and persuasive evangelism; a year in which, with the Bible as its dynamic, multitudes are led to the Saviour.

2. The year of Jubilee was a year of RESTORATION. Each Jew found himself possessed once more of all that he had lost during the fifty years. That is the message for to-day. We are all in peril of losing the best as life goes on. We are like men who fill their pockets with gold, but have holes

in all their pockets. The years are great thieves; they creep upon us with stealthy footsteps and filch away our most precious treasure. Have we not all lost something of the rapture that flooded our souls at the time of our conversion? Have we not lost something of the radiance of our first simple faith in Jesus? Have we not lost something of the passionate devotion that first impelled us toward Christian service? Like the Church at Ephesus, we have lost our first love and no longer do our first works.

This year of Triple Jubilee must be a year in which, under the gentle admonition of our shamefully neglected Bibles, we recapture our first fervour, our first faith, our first jog and our first rapturous sense of one-ness with our Lord.

3. And the year of Jubilee is a year of EMANCIPATION. The slaves were all set free.

It is wonderful how easily the years enchain us. The world, the flesh and the devil make us their captives. We become enslaved by habit, by business, by pleasure, by fashion, by money, or by any of a thousand things.

But the day of deliverance has dawned. The bonds, whatever they are, may all be broken.

The year of Jubilee meant a fresh start for everybody. It was the divine festival of a new beginning. Nothing delights God more. He is an inveterate beginner. *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.* There you have the record, not of the beginning of Creation, but of the creation of beginnings. Back beyond that, nothing ever began; everything always was. If our eyes can peer beyond the boundaries of that beginning, you will see nothing but God—God inhabiting His own beginningless and endless realm, living His own beginningless and endless life, dreaming His own beginningless and endless dreams, laying His own supernal plans—plans of Creation and Redemption and of wonders inconceivable.

Then came the first beginning. And, having once fashioned a beginning, it became His divine habit. He is always doing it. He begins again with every morning, with every Spring, and with every baby born.

This year of Triple Jubilee must make a new birth in each of our souls, a new era in each of our lives, a new and delightful escape from all the forces that have heretofore hampered and enslaved us.

This year of Triple Jubilee is the year in which all the Churches, raising their voices in exultant praise for the amazing achievements of the British and Foreign Bible Society during the three Jubilee periods that lie behind, will vow that, splendid as is the record of the past, it shall be put to shame by the still more splendid triumphs of the years yet to come. Therein lies the enchanting music of the Silver Trumpets.

THE BRITISH & FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA

is responding to this Jubilee call of the Parent Society in England, and has established a Third Jubilee Fund with an objective of

£50,000

in order to share in London's enlarged programme of Scripture production and distribution throughout the world

HOW IT WILL BE SPENT

- Literacy Gospels for millions of new readers.
- Scriptures in modern Braille.
- Renewal of printing plates.
- Illustrated Gospels.
- The encouragement of new translations.
- A wider distribution of Scriptures.
- Children's Bibles.
- The erection of new Bible Houses in certain strategic areas, notably in South America and Africa.
- The provision of important transport in Africa and the Middle East for the distribution of Scriptures.
- The provision of a student version in Greek and Hebrew for the advancement of the study of the Scriptures.
- The building up of adequate stocks of Scriptures in danger spots of the world which may become closed to Christian missions.

This objective presents to every Christian in Australia an opportunity to realise what he personally owes to the Bible and its Message, and also an opportunity to share the Bible with others who do not yet possess it.

**Donations to the Jubilee Fund may be sent to the
State Secretary, Bible House**

Brisbane	363 George Street
Sydney	95 Bathurst Street
Melbourne	241 Flinders Lane
Launceston	44 Brisbane Street
Adelaide	73 Grenfell Street
Perth	167 St. George's Terrace