

The



Covenant Nations

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 5, 2021

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▲ James Harrison was a Scottish-born Australian inventor whose first mechanical ice-making machine began operation in 1851 at Rocky Point in Geelong. In 1856 he went to London where he patented both his process and his apparatus. On returning to Australia he continued to develop more uses for refrigeration.

◀ COVER PICTURE:

Black lake under Rysy peak, Tatra Mountains, Poland

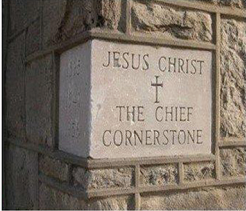
Peter said of Jesus, “*Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins*” (Acts 5:31). In symbolism, the mountain and the water illustrate the Kingdom of God on earth and the water which they drank from the Rock – “*that Rock was Christ [Gk. ‘the anointed’]”* (1 Corinthians 10:4).

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

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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.

GLOBAL BRITAIN – AGAIN !

1951 <----- *70 Years* -----> 2021

Restoring our trade with the Covenant Nations

70 years are determined for rebuilding the
walls of our 'New Jerusalem'

(Daniel 9:24)



THE FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN 1951

THE GREAT EXHIBITION 1851

1851 <----- *170 Years* -----> 2021

(Perfection of Spiritual Order)

EDITORIAL

CAN BRITAIN AND AMERICA MAKE IT IN 2021?

The Full Gospel of the Kingdom has the answer

In June 1975 at the first Referendum on Britain's membership of the *then* EEC – two and a half years *after* the Heath Administration took the United Kingdom into European bondage undermining the historic and unique British Constitution – our predecessor magazine *The National Message* published the special brochure, **Can Britain Make It?** (*see below*). Reproduced on the inside cover was the famous wartime cartoon from 1940 by David Low of the British soldier on our eastern shores facing the threatened invasion from Nazi Germany, raising his fist to the growing storm exclaiming, “Very well, Alone.”

Also in the 1975 brochure, we included the *then* new Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Coggan's, broadcast “Call to the Nation.” He argued that “economic regeneration had to be accompanied by moral regeneration.” Under the headline “**Blunt words from our Archbishop**” we quoted:

“Many are realizing that a materialistic answer is no real answer at all. There are moral and spiritual issues at stake. The truth is that we in Britain are without anchors. We are drifting towards chaos. A common enemy in two world wars drew us together in united action – and we defeated him. Another enemy is at the gates today, and we keep silence . . . It is time we spoke plainly.”

In broadcasting the “Call to the Nation,” Coggan was the first Archbishop of Canterbury to attempt to communicate *en masse* beyond the church. Around 28,000 people wrote letters to Coggan in response to his broadcast. For a time, the call aroused widespread

interest, but its long-term impact was negligible. Since 1975, the drift towards national and world chaos has increased beyond anything being experienced at that time and any impact the Church had on the nation has disappeared altogether. **Where are the shepherds to lead our national flock?**

The experience of the 2020 ‘pandemic’ for the covenant nations has been one of severe testing as the economic effects have deepened. Repeated requests have been made to the Prime Minister for a **National Day of Prayer**, all of which failed; The Queen and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, having been copied into these requests (Prayer for national deliverance from the judgment of **pestilence** is set out in II *Chronicles* 7:13-14). In late November Archbishop Welby announced he is to take a sabbatical this year from May to September, which includes a holiday. This appears to be most inappropriately timed. Tim Stanley in *The Daily Telegraph* of 23 November, 2020, wrote a very thrusting critique of this decision under the headline “**The dying CoFE cannot afford a sabbatical – Covid should have been its moment, but the Anglican hierarchy would rather talk progressive politics.**”

Together in 2021, the United Kingdom and the United States of America are entering new and uncharted waters. The UK has broken free from the European Union in respect of trade and law and is restoring our close trade links with the great company of covenant

nations. On 24 December the sides agreed a trade deal exactly **70** years from when the Coronation Stone was stolen and broken in two on Christmas Eve 1950. It also comes **70** years after the 1951 **Festival of Britain**, which are the number of years determined for the rebuilding of the walls of our ‘New Jerusalem’ (*Daniel* 9:24). Furthermore it comes 170 years from 1851 and **The Great Exhibition** of 1851, significant of the perfection of spiritual order for *Ephraim*-Britain. “**Global Britain – Again!**” will come into effect and enable our destiny to come to the fore once more.

Our brother ‘great nation,’ the *Manasseh*-United States of America (*Genesis* 48:14-20), in 2021 will continue to experience a constitutional crisis over the contested result of the presidential election of 3 November, 2020, exactly **153** years – the number of The Elect – from the *Electoral Count Act* 1867 and the presidential election of 3 November, 1868; 2021 being **153** years from that election, the first to take place after the conclusion of the American Civil War and the abolition of slavery.

The evidence from the past four years is that Donald Trump was and remains a *prophetic Samson* – the 13th and last judge in ancient Israel whose strength was **renewed** – that has been raised up to destroy the false and revolutionary forces seeking to destroy the ‘great nation.’ In 2021, let us uphold *the* Faith through the full gospel of the Kingdom and so **let our light shine!**



DOES GOD ANSWER HIS PEOPLE?

National Days of Prayer lead to Days of National Deliverance

The covenant people were in various states of lockdown for the past year as our leaders fought to contain the Covid-19 pestilence with no success. As we write these lockdowns are being enforced again. Repeated requests for a **National Day of Prayer** have been made to the Prime Minister, all without success. This article by J. Bernard Nicklin was published 77 years ago by BIWF in August 1944, the year before the end of the War. It is reproduced here to bring to the attention of His people the full implications of our **national prophetic record** – the Holy Bible – contained in II Chronicles 7:13-14.

Even the sceptics will admit that Britain's escape from defeat and disaster during the last four years has been something of a miracle. For our part, we believe this immunity is to be explained mainly by two facts, viz.: that this nation is Israel and that God has answered our prayers.

On nine occasions since the war began we have called upon God nationally and He has heard us, and we believe that these deliverances, here briefly dealt with, have an important message for today. Let us consider them in order:

1st October, 1939 (Sunday) – Day of Prayer by Order in Council

If, after desolating Poland, Hitler had turned his Luftwaffe against Britain, where should we have

been? A restraining Hand seems to have held him back until we were prepared to meet the shock.

Perhaps Hitler had hopes of paralysing Britain with his magnetic mine, against which he believed no defence was possible. Sown at night by planes in our harbours, estuaries and shipping routes, he planned by this secret weapon to deal such a blow at our navy and mercantile marine that would bring us to our knees.

He launched the attack in November, but within a very short time something had gone wrong. One of these mines was spotted, recovered, examined, its secrets learnt, and counter-measures were at once devised, which largely neutralised its injurious effects. Was not this deliverance in answer to prayer?

26th May, 1940 (Sunday) – Day of Prayer by desire of H.M. the King

The “deliverance” of our armies from Flanders between 28th May and 2nd June was rightly acclaimed a miracle.

“When a week ago I asked the House to fix this afternoon for a statement,” said the Prime Minister on 4th June, “I feared it would be my hard lot to announce the greatest military disaster in our long history . . . The whole root and core and brain of the British Army seemed about to perish on the field or be led into an ignominious captivity. That was the prospect a week ago.” What had happened? Two great wonders

had made escape from Dunkirk possible – a storm which broke over Flanders on Tuesday 28th May, and the phenomenal calm which settled on the English Channel during the days following.

“Those who believe in the efficacy of prayer,” said the late J. B. Firth in the *Daily Telegraph*, “will not doubt that the prayers of the nation were answered . . . and that it was ‘under Providence’ that seven days after the day of National Prayer four-fifths of the B.E.F. were safe home across the Channel, extricated from an almost hopeless situation, proudly unconscious of defeat.”

8th September, 1940 (Sunday) – Day of Prayer by desire of H.M. the King

The Battle of Britain, which Hitler intended as the prelude to the invasion of this country, was approaching its climax. Rome had predicted that “in the final assault, about to be unleashed, Britain would be crushed.” On the 4th September, Hitler had boasted that he would “erase our cities.” The German Radio had given warning that “the German sword was about to strike with increasingly momentous strokes.” Then came this National Day of Intercession.

At the Service in Westminster Abbey, at which Mr Churchill and Members of the Cabinet attended, the final prayer began: “**Remember, O God, for good, those watchmen who by day and by night climb**

into the air . . . Let Thy Hand lead them, we beseech Thee, and Thy right Hand hold them.”

In a broadcast to the nation on 11th September, Mr Churchill said: “We must rank the next week or so as a very important period in our history. It ranks with the days when the Spanish Armada was approaching the Channel and Drake was finishing his game of bowls, or when Nelson stood between us and Napoleon’s Grand Army at Boulogne.”

The greatest day of the epic struggle was 16th September, when a grand attack on London cost the Luftwaffe one hundred and eighty-five aircraft. The last desperate daylight attempt to lay London in ruins, on the 27th, cost the enemy one hundred and thirty planes.

Hopelessly outnumbered, Britain’s air force had won the day; London had been saved and Hitler’s plan for the invasion of England frustrated. In paying homage to the gallant boys who had laid down their lives and a tribute to their leaders, **Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding**, their Commander-in-Chief, made this striking admission: **“I say with absolute conviction that I can trace the intervention of God, not only in the battle itself, but in the events that led up to it.”**

23rd March, 1941 (Sunday) – Appointed by the King as a day of national prayer for strength and guidance in the days to come and of thanksgiving for blessings already received

Many blessings had followed the previous day of Prayer. Not only had the Royal Air Force beaten the Hun out of the daylight sky, but the United States had come to our aid by passing the Lend-Lease Act, by which a total of \$50.1 billion [today’s equivalent is \$575

billion] of the wealth of the New World were to be devoted to help us to defend our liberties. Thus, the nation again drew near to God; indeed, throughout the Empire, in cathedrals, chapels, synagogues, temples and mosques, prayers and thanksgiving for mercies and deliverances were offered up.

Two remarkable events followed. On 29th March came the great naval victory over the Italians at Matapan – a blow from which the Italian navy never recovered, when at least three Italian cruisers and two destroyers were sunk and a 35,000 ton battleship was torpedoed, while the British fleet did not suffer a single casualty or even a scratch on the paint of its warships. On land, Asmara, capital of Eritrea, fell 1st April, and Addis Ababa, capital of Abyssinia, 6th April. Like Gideon’s little [300] army of old, a mere handful of Britishers had routed the Italian hosts and set free the first victim of Axis aggression.

7th September, 1941 (Sunday) – Day of Prayer by desire of H.M. the King

Raids by the Luftwaffe on Britain

had almost ceased and the German armies threatening our shores had been withdrawn. For the time being, Hitler’s attack on Russia had saved us. In less than three months the Nazi hordes, bent on a quick knockout blow, had penetrated deeply into Russian territory. If Stalin’s armies were overwhelmed the whole of Russia and its resources would then be turned upon us. Could Russia hold out? The position looked grave. On the eve of this National Day of Prayer, the Archbishop of Canterbury bade us **“Remember Russia” [80 per cent of the German Army were destroyed by the hammer and sickle of Russia between 1941 and 1945 – the “battle axe and weapons of war,” Jeremiah 51:20].**

Did God answer? The German armies, which by then had invested Leningrad and reached the Neva on a broad front, got no further. Although elsewhere the Russian line continued to bend, it refused to break. Hitler’s offensive against Moscow failed, and his neglect to make adequate preparations for the Russian winter cost him dearly. Meanwhile, Britain’s



preparations for accomplishing the ultimate defeat of Germany went on unhindered. A Higher Power was helping us.

29th March, 1942 (Sunday) – Day of Prayer by desire of H.M. the King

In a broadcast the evening beforehand the King said: “There can be no peace until the wicked forces that have wrecked the world are cast down and utterly destroyed. In our prayers let us thank Almighty God for bringing us thus far in safety through so many dangers, and let us ask Him to give us that spiritual strength which great causes deserve and with which they conquer.”

Again the days were critical. Japan’s forces like a great tidal wave were surging southwards, sweeping all before them. But two deliverances occurred almost immediately. After the evacuation from Burma, torrential rains held back the Japanese and saved our men. In New Guinea, floods drove the Japs to their bases and gave the time so vitally needed for the reorganising of Australia’s defences. In North Africa, the German attack launched 26th May, compelled our armies, after suffering heavy losses, to fall back almost to the Nile. In Russia, immensely powerful German legions struck south-eastwards for the oilfields of the Caucasus and eastwards towards the Volga. Yet not one of these grand-scale offensives succeeded, although each one came within an ace of doing so. In the South Pacific two blows struck at the U.S. Navy – the Battle of the Coral Sea, 7th May, and the Battle of Midway Island, 4th-6th June – put a halt to Japanese aggression in that region. In Egypt, the Germans were effectively checked at El Alamein. In Russia, they were stopped short at Stalingrad and before Maikop in the Caucasus. Once more to our enemies the God of battles had said:

“Thus far and no farther.”

3rd September, 1942 (Thursday) – Day of Prayer by the King’s command and common consent

Led by the King and Queen and Members of the Government – *the third anniversary of the outbreak of the war* – the people of Britain, in churches, chapels, barnyards, workshops, homes and cinemas, on this third anniversary of the War and seventh British National Day of Prayer, prayed for victory and re-dedicated themselves to the cause of defeating the Aggressors.

The date marked the turning-point of the War or very near it. It brought the news that [the “Desert Fox,” Field Marshal] Rommel in Egypt had been repulsed. A few days later Madagascar was occupied. In October and November the Germans in Egypt, completely routed, were in full retreat before our victorious Eighth Army, fleeing a distance of 1,350 miles [**1335 + 15 = hour of finality**] in 80 days. By the middle of May not a German or Italian fighting man remained in Africa. The great Russian counter-offensive launched in November, by 2nd February, had resulted in the liberation of Stalingrad and the infliction of one of the greatest military disasters ever suffered by the Germans. Meanwhile, in the Far East, the Japanese were being slowly but steadily pressed back. On the seas, the U-boat menace was being conquered. With the occupation of the near Italian islands, Malta’s three-year siege had, at last, been raised. Thus, for the Allies in every theatre of war had come success and deliverance.

19th May, 1943 (Wednesday) – The King, with representatives of his people and Allied Governments, attended a Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul’s

At the opening, the Archbishop of Canterbury said: **“We come before God especially on this day to offer Him hearty thanks for the success which He has vouchsafed to our arms and those of our Allies in North Africa and to beseech Him so to keep us in humble confidence and reliance upon His help, that we may carry to a successful end the task which He has laid before us.”**

Blessings again followed this national recognition of Almighty God: as, for instance, the successful invasion and occupation of Sicily, the downfall of [the Italian dictator] Mussolini, and the launching of the great Soviet 1943 counter-offensive which, besides liberating immense tracts of Russian soil, imposed a continuous strain on Germany’s resources.

3rd September, 1943 (Friday) – Day of Prayer by desire of the King

On this morning, when the people of Britain again answered the King’s call to prayer and dedication – *the fourth anniversary of the outbreak of the war* – British and Canadian troops had begun the invasion of Italy. On the 8th September, the surrender of Italy was announced; soon afterwards the Italian fleet was escorted into Malta; Corsica was liberated, and Italy had come over as a co-belligerent. Great things also were in progress on the Russian front, while in the South Pacific, still heavier blows were being struck at the Japanese.

Who will doubt that God has answered the prayers of this nation? But the half has not been told. In the hour of our greatest need, the man pre-eminently destined to lead us through such a crisis became Prime Minister; we found ourselves blessed with wise Empire counsellors; the nation exhibited a wonderful unity; and never in our history has such

courage and heroism been displayed by men and women of our race [77 years later repeated requests have been made to the Prime Minister, copied to H.M. The Queen and the Archbishop of Canterbury, for a Day of National Prayer for deliverance from the Covid-19 pestilence. It would surely bring about another wonderful unity for an increasingly despairing and depressed nation].



Westminster Abbey, 26th May 1940

Why was it after Dunkirk, with less than one division of trained troops here in England, Hitler, with an army of over two hundred divisions, separated only by a narrow streak of water, failed to invade us? For a whole year, after the defeat of France, Britain stood alone, almost unarmed, facing the greatest military colossus the world had ever seen. Yet, not alone, for in our homes we felt that some mighty influence was shielding and guiding us. We know full well, in the words of the Psalmist, that, *“If it had not been the Lord, who was on our side when men rose up against us: Then they had swallowed us up quick”* (Psalm 124:2-3).

Let us never forget the prayers that have been offered on our behalf throughout the Empire and the United States. Such intercession was made for us in America on 29th September, 1940. In Washington Cathedral the prayer then went up: **“In this hour of their need do Thou strengthen them. Guard and save them from the blows of their enemies. Ease their burden, heal their wounds, calm their fears . . .”** The supreme value of prayer has been demonstrated in more ways than one. During the days of the

Blitz which followed, there came over the British people a wonderful calmness, courage, endurance, unselfishness, cheerfulness and ability “to take it.”

We have had bountiful harvests. Despite the enemy’s bombings, u-boat and other attacks, we have been marvellously provided with food, raiment and shelter for all. Powerful allies have come to our aid; and liberty has been given to create the mighty Air Force which is now methodically annihilating the Nazi war machine.

We have been warned that the worst fighting has yet to come. Germany and Japan, we know, are still powerful foes. How, then, do things stand with us at present? Many have short memories, but there is one lesson we should not yet have forgotten. When Israel fought Amalek they prospered so long as the hands of Moses were held up; and in our fight against the modern Amalek so long as our hands have been held up we too have prospered. But when Moses’ hands dropped Amalek prevailed. Are our hands likewise beginning to tire? If so, like Moses, we must

keep them pointing heavenwards. There is the temptation, now that we are powerfully armed and have powerful allies, to lean more upon our material strength than upon our God. While victory over all the powers of evil and great blessings are promised to Israel, God has also said: *“I will yet . . . be inquired of by the House of Israel to do it for them”* (Ezekiel 36:37).

Our beloved King and Queen are not unmindful of these things. Our Archbishop, Prime Minister, the President of the United States, and many of our leaders, we know full well, value the efficacy of prayer. Four days previous to Britain’s great attack, which began on 8th August, 1918, and swept onwards like an avalanche till victory was achieved, there had been a National Day of Prayer. If such days lead to Days of National Deliverance, let us have more of them.

J. BERNARD NICKLIN

10th August, 1944, BIWF

Emphasis and [brackets] added by
Michael A. Clark

**THE NEED FOR A NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
IS SURELY AS VITAL AND URGENT TODAY**

CHRIST ALONE, CORNERSTONE

To understand the theme of *The Covenant Nations 2021* and to unmask the ‘unclean’ spirit forces seeking to bring down the western Covenant Nations, an examination into the great cornerstones is required.

Acts 4:11: “*This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.*”

Most of us have had the experience, either as parents or youngsters, of trying to discover the ‘hidden picture’ within another picture in a children’s magazine. Usually you are shown a landscape with trees, bushes, flowers and other things in the natural world. The caption reads something like this:

“Concealed somewhere in this picture is a donkey pulling a cart with a boy in it. Can you find them?”

Try as you might, usually you could not find the hidden picture until you

turned to a page farther back in the magazine which would reveal how cleverly the artist had hidden it from you. If we study the landscape we realise that the whole picture was painted in such a way as to conceal the real picture within, and once we see the ‘real picture’ it stands out like the proverbial sore toe.

We believe the picture painters of the mass media are artfully creating landscapes for us which deliberately hide the real picture. The difficulty we all face is how to discover the ‘hidden picture’ in the landscapes presented to us daily through newspapers, radio and television. Once you can see through the camouflage you will see ... the boy, the cart and the donkey who have been there all along.

Thousands of us are concerned and frustrated over mishappenings in our nation. They feel that something is wrong, drastically wrong, but because of the picture painters they

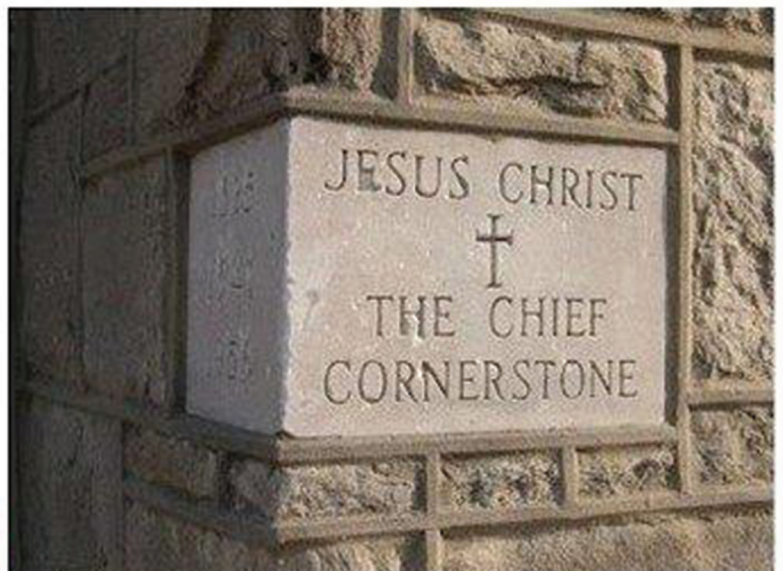
can’t quite put their fingers on it.

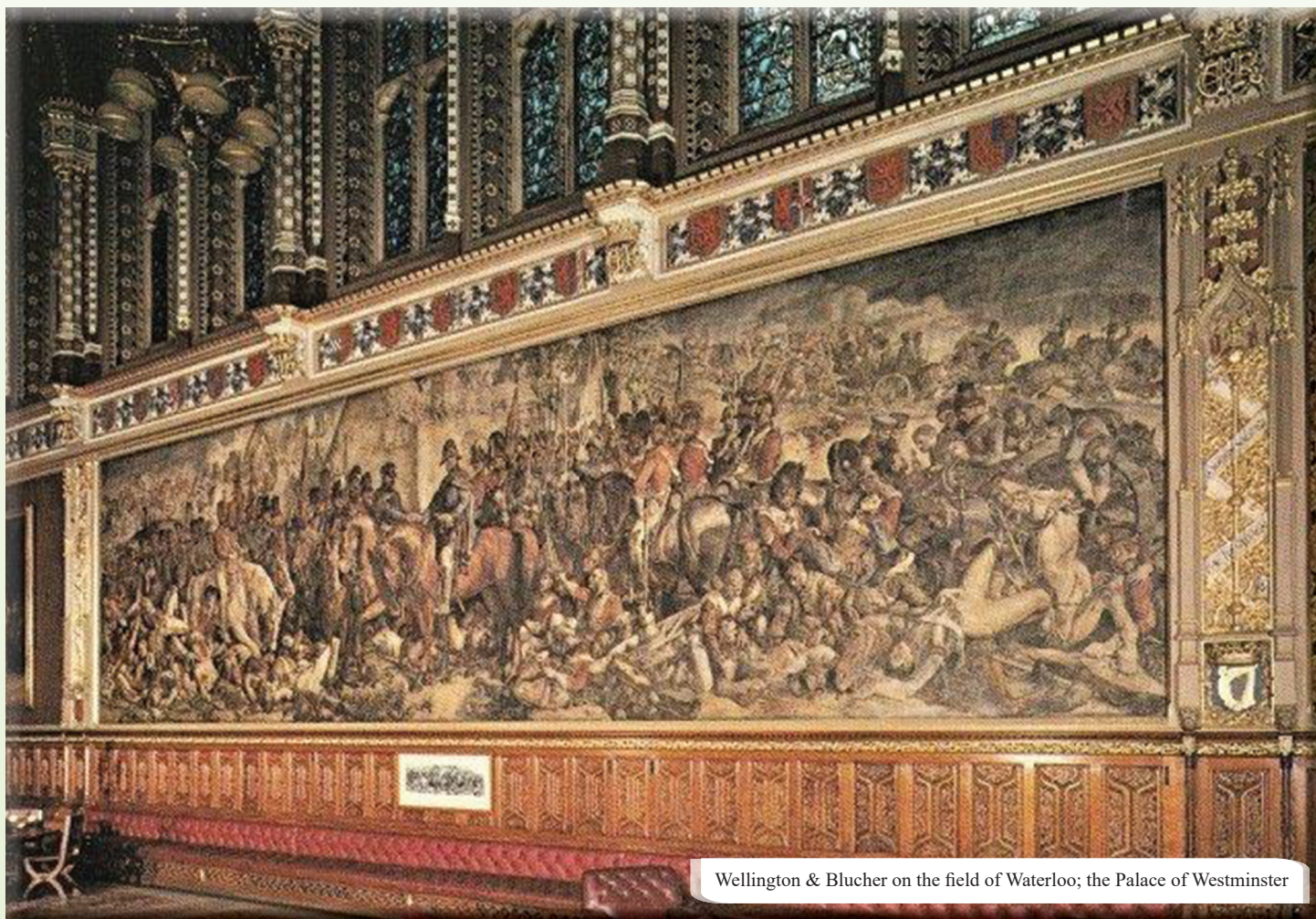
Ephesians 2:19-22: “*Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*”

A walk through Westminster

In the city of London, the great clock of Big Ben has for over a hundred years announced the hours from the great tower of the mother of all parliaments as the Westminster Palace is fondly called. The sound of Big Ben is broadcast daily all over the world. The Gothic façade of the Houses of Parliament is one of great beauty and has a magnificence

**Christ
Is Made
The Sure
Foundation**





Wellington & Blucher on the field of Waterloo; the Palace of Westminster

which gives an appropriate air of elegance and dignity into this famous centre of law making.

From the Victoria Tower we see 'our Palace of Westminster' which contains the Houses of Lords and Commons. The tidal River Thames washes the terraces below. Its barge-lined shores lie peacefully in the mist rising from its icy waters. But the river and the Palace of Westminster have seen stirring and disturbing events in a history of centuries recorded in print and canvas by Englishmen whose lives changed the course of history.

Crowds are gathered outside these great Houses of Parliament at St. Stephen's entrance.

Our journey into the heart of Westminster begins at the porch of St. Stephen's adjacent to Westminster Hall, along St. Stephen's Hall to the Central Lobby. Take a turn right

into the Peer's corridor to the Peer's Lobby, where one waits to be invited into this breathtaking chamber of the House of Lords, a masterpiece of nineteenth century architecture.

At the farther end of the chamber is a gilded canopy on a dais for the Royal Throne, and set down in front is the padded woollen sack, which is occupied by the Lord Chancellor acting as Speaker during sittings of the House.

Along the walls, on pedestals between the huge windows are eighteen statues of the Barons who were responsible for the Magna Carta, the famous document which received a Royal Charter under the seal of King John, granted in the meadow called Runny-Mede between Windsor and Staines on the 15th June 1215.

At last we enter the Royal Gallery, it forms a processional room through

which the Queen walks in her robes to the opening of Parliament, attended by the Chief Officers of State. It is a very handsome room, 110 feet long with a marvellous panelled ceiling and two vast paintings on the longer walls depicting the death of Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar on the 21st October 1805 and the meeting of Wellington and Blucher on the field of Waterloo after the victory in 1815.

Here one is commended to pause and contemplate these two great decisive battles, Trafalgar and Waterloo, now recorded forever on canvas. Those were decisive battles fought openly that altered the history of great nations and which changed the course of world events.

And yet the most decisive battles of the world have not been fought in public on the fields of combat but behind closed doors and in private.



HM The Queen signs the Australia Act

Decisions are being made today on your behalf that reflect a departure from biblical Christianity in both church and state, and unless we heed the warnings from history we shall again be revisited by that same spirit of darkness that tried to silence the voices of our founding fathers, the Reformers.

When a nation and its people are finally given over to a system that has both spiritual and secular power at its command – **a fusion, not separation of Church and State** – then perhaps we will understand the warnings of the Reformers.

Psalm 118:22-23: “The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.”

From history we also learn that in almost every place where the Reformation flourished there was not only religious noncompliance; there was civil disobedience as well.

It was in this setting that Samuel Rutherford (1600-1661) wrote his *Lex Rex: or The Law and the Prince* (1644). What is the concept

in *Lex Rex*? Very simply: The law is King, and if the king and the government disobey the law they are to be disobeyed. And the law is founded on the Law of God. *Lex Rex* was outlawed in both England and Scotland. The parliament of Scotland was meeting in order to condemn Samuel Rutherford to death for his views, and the only reason he was not executed as a civil rebel is because he died first.

Rutherford argued that *Romans 13* indicates that “*all power is from God and that government is ordained and instituted by God.*” The state, however, is to be administered according to the principles of God’s Law. Acts of the state which contradicted God’s Law were illegitimate and acts of tyranny. Tyranny was defined as ruling without the sanction of God.

Rutherford held that a tyrannical government is always immoral. He said that “*a power ethical, politic, or moral, to oppress, is not from God, and is not a power, but a licentious deviation of a power; and is no more from God, but from sinful nature and the old serpent, than a license to sin.*”

Remove the cornerstone from its place and the two joint foundations of a Christian society will collapse as church and state are both religious orders, the church as a ministry of ‘**grace**’ and the state as a ministry of ‘**justice**.’

This is exactly what the former Prime Minister of Australia, Bob Hawke, did in 1984 after addressing the Australian Fabian Society in Melbourne on 18th May 1984 in which he spelt out the Fabian approach of the government he represented. He equated ‘consensus’ with the traditional Fabian approach of ‘the inevitability of gradualism,’ or ‘permeation’ of Fabian principles into national government. In part he said:

“... We all have to face the fact that if our government is to make great and really worthwhile reforms – reforms that will endure, reforms that will permanently change this nation – then it is simply not enough to obtain a temporary majority at an election, or even successive elections ... For our reforms to endure, the whole mood and mind and attitudes of the nation must be permanently changed ...”

What Mr Hawke was trying to say is that control over you and I would come through 'legislative programming' initiated from behind closed doors. Acts of Parliament would be the tool of these dreamers to dominate the lives of us all. Years ago local issues initiated Acts of Parliament, unfortunately today it is the reverse, Acts of Parliament affect and decide local issues.

Darkest day in Australia's history
Sunday 2nd March 1986 will go down in Australia's history calendar as a day of ignominy when the cornerstone of the union between Great Britain and Australia was severed without any public consultation by way of referendum and as we have said it was an Act of Parliament that cut the tie. It was a triumph for republicanism in Australia, a day when with the stroke of a pen the Queen signed and later proclaimed *The Australia Act*. As Her Majesty signed this historic document the Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, flanked by his federal ministers and their wives declared the moment an historic occasion.

Historic indeed, signed on the Lord's Sabbath behind closed doors. Yes, *The Australia Act*, now made public, was at long last given media attention; we were told "it will now be framed and displayed publicly in the new Parliament House."

Isaiah 28:16: *"Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste."*

I am reminded that when facing their darkest hour during World War II the peoples of the Empire responded in multitudes to King George VI's broadcast when he said:

"At this fateful hour we turn, as our fathers before us have turned in all times of trial, to God Most High. Here in the Old Country I have asked that Sunday next should be observed as a Day of National Prayer. It may be possible for many of our brothers across the seas to join their prayers with ours. Let us with one heart and soul

humbly but confidently commit our cause to God, and ask His aid that we may valiantly defend the right as it is given to us to see it.

So now, Peoples of the Empire, men and women in all quarters of the globe, I say to you: Put into your task, whatever it may be, all the courage and purpose of which you are capable. Keep your hearts proud and your resolve unshaken. Let us go forward to that task as one man, a smile on our lips, and our heads held high, and with God's help we shall not fail."

Today as we face our darkest hour let us remember their finest hour when they responded to the King's speech.... and triumph prevailed ...

**Hallelujah!
Christ alone, cornerstone!**

PAUL L. OWENS JP

Sources: *None Dare Call it Conspiracy*
by Gary Allen
A Walk Through Westminster's Guide Book
A Christian Manifesto by Francis Schaeffer
Historian, Bob Burton



King George VI broadcasting on Empire Day, 24th May 1940

THE BLESSING OF SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION

My focus over recent months is that in the covenant nations the love for Almighty God is growing cold. Since the 1950s the devil's evil and unclean spirit forces are growing more insidious and destructive towards our Christian civilisations. Covenant nation Britain has been faithful in carrying out Our Lord's commands:

Matthew 28:18-19: "Then Jesus came to them and said, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Britain **has** done this for over 400 years – taking the Gospel and

Empire to all covenant nations and many territories. Jesus predicted this:

Matthew 24:12-14: "Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

It is on my heart thus to focus on spiritual perception. I remember a true report* on perception:

"In Washington, DC, at a Metro station in 2007, a man with a violin played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time approximately 2,000 people went through the station, most of them on their way to work. After about

3 minutes, a middle-aged man noticed that there was a musician playing. He slowed, stopped for a few seconds, and then hurried on to meet his schedule.

About 4 minutes later the violinist received his first dollar. A woman threw money in the hat and continued to walk. **At 6 minutes** a young man leaned against the wall to listen, then looked at his watch and started to walk again.

At 10 minutes a 3-year-old boy stopped but his mother tugged him along hurriedly. **At 45 minutes** the musician played continuously. Only 6 people stopped and listened for a short while. About 20 gave money but continued to walk at their normal pace. The man collected a total of \$32. **After 1 hour** he



finished playing. No one noticed and no one applauded. There was no recognition at all.

No one knew this, but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the greatest musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written, with a violin worth \$3.5 million. Two days before, Joshua Bell sold out a theatre in Boston where the seats averaged \$100 each to sit and listen to him play the same music.”

This is a true story. Joshua Bell, playing incognito in the DC Metro station, was organised by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about **perception, taste and people’s priorities.**

If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world, playing some of the finest music ever written, with one of the most beautiful instruments ever made...How many other things are we missing as we rush through life?

This is a wonderful article on perception – true insight. It’s all to do with knowing – with knowledge. Knowledge deals with the insight or discernment of what is certain – what is real.

Remember this wonderful truth from Jesus:

Mark 4:11-12: “He told them, The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables so that they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!”

This truth has to do with blindness – spiritual blindness. I have very

low vision. Physically I am legally blind, but I can ‘see.’ Jesus is teaching that many people can physically see but are they able to spiritually ‘see’ – that is perceive? Also, they may physically hear but do they spiritually understand? Holy Scripture has much to say about spiritual blindness.

In c. 701 BC the prophet Isaiah recorded: *“This is what the Lord says: Where is your mother’s certificate of divorce with which I sent her away? Or to which of my creditors did I sell you? Because of your sins you were sold; because of your transgressions your mother was sent away” (Isaiah 50:1).*

Almighty God sent His unfaithful people into captivity but would redeem the faithful: *“For your Maker is your husband – the Lord Almighty is his name – the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth. The Lord will call you back” (Isaiah 54:5-6).*

Jesus came to save His people now and eternally. I believe a Scripture which teaches perception and knowing is Jesus’ transfiguration – knowing His Glory: *Mark 9:2-4, 7-10: “After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ... Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him! Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what*

they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what ‘rising from the dead’ meant.”

Jesus was bringing the Old Covenant truth into the reality of the New Covenant truth about His Mission to help Peter, James and John to perceive and understand. He wanted them to overcome spiritual blindness and ‘see’ His glory. When Jesus came in His second nature – His humanity – He demonstrated His divinity but left His Glory aside. Now He reveals His Glory. Moses represents the Old Covenant Law – the lawgiver. Elijah represents the prophets of the Old Covenant. And now Jesus makes it clear who He is. The Apostle Paul records: *“In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven” (Hebrews 1:1-3).*

From Holy Scripture we remember that following Moses was Joshua – ‘a deliverer’ making the exodus a reality. His Hebrew name means ‘the Lord saves.’ On the mountain we see Moses standing with a ‘new deliverer,’ an eternal deliverer whose Greek name Jesus means ‘the Lord saves’ (*Matthew 1:21*). We see a new exodus by a new Joshua – Jesus Our Saviour. And we see Elijah with Moses and perceive a new Elijah.

Malachi 3:1, 4:5: “See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to

his temple; the messenger of the Covenant, whom you desire, will come, says the Lord Almighty. See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes.”

Matthew 11:11-15: “I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. He who has ears, let him hear.”

The Father’s voice (*Mark 9:7*) would have been remembered by Moses as he was told the same words about 1400 years before, in *Deuteronomy 18:15*: “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him.”

Coming down the mountain the disciples were perplexed over Elijah’s presence but realised John the Baptist was the ‘new Elijah’ ministering in the power of Elijah. Will our covenant nations repent and truly return to orthodox faith in Jesus?

The Apostle Paul records: “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate. Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of

God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe” (*Romans 1:18-21*).

The kingdom of God on earth has been revealed in all the Glory of Jesus. Covenant nation Britain is blessed for the mission to ‘the nations’ over the past 400 years, thus all covenant nations are blessed, blessed by perceiving and understanding Jesus is Saviour.

Note: *Isaiah 61:1-3*: “The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the blind, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion, to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendour.”

And compare to: *Matthew 11:2-6*: “When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else? Jesus replied, Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.”

John in prison is John the Baptist. The perceiving and understanding is not ours! **It is wisdom from the**

Holy Spirit given to us because we have been given by the Father to the Son for eternal salvation in His Son Jesus. (*John 5:24, 6:37, 39, 17:2, 6, 24*) My definition of wisdom is pragmatic – simply actions in Jesus that will be guided by the Holy Spirit to be **successful now and eternally**.

I Corinthians 2:6-11: “We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we speak of God’s secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him – but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.”

All covenant nations and territories have been taught these truths through the faithfulness of the ministry of covenant nation Britain over the centuries through the liturgy of the *Book of Common Prayer 1662*.

Blessings

DR GRAHAM WHELAN

Minister Emeritus

Australian Christian Churches

*author not known

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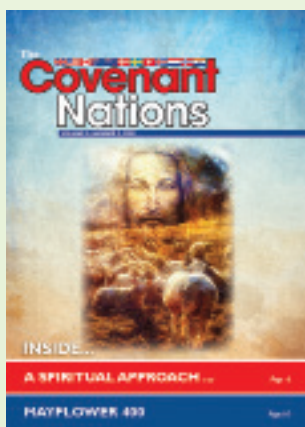
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THE HARBOURMASTER

I don't think that in my lifetime I have ever witnessed such an all-pervading sense of fear and dread which affects the whole world, caused, not only by the Covid 19 pandemic, but by the frequently reported signs of climate change and global warming.

Natural disasters are fairly frequent occurrences and, while devastating to those immediately concerned, they are usually localised and limited in their effects. Aid in many forms is readily available and quickly dispersed to those in need. The pandemic, on the other hand, seems to be world-wide in its scope. There have been similar pandemics in the past, but these have passed into history and life has gone on much as before. So it is hoped that the same thing will happen again when Covid 19 ceases to be a problem. People hope that it is another plague which will just run its course, for there is no known cure.

Another concern and issue of the moment is the harm being caused to our environment, and to wildlife in

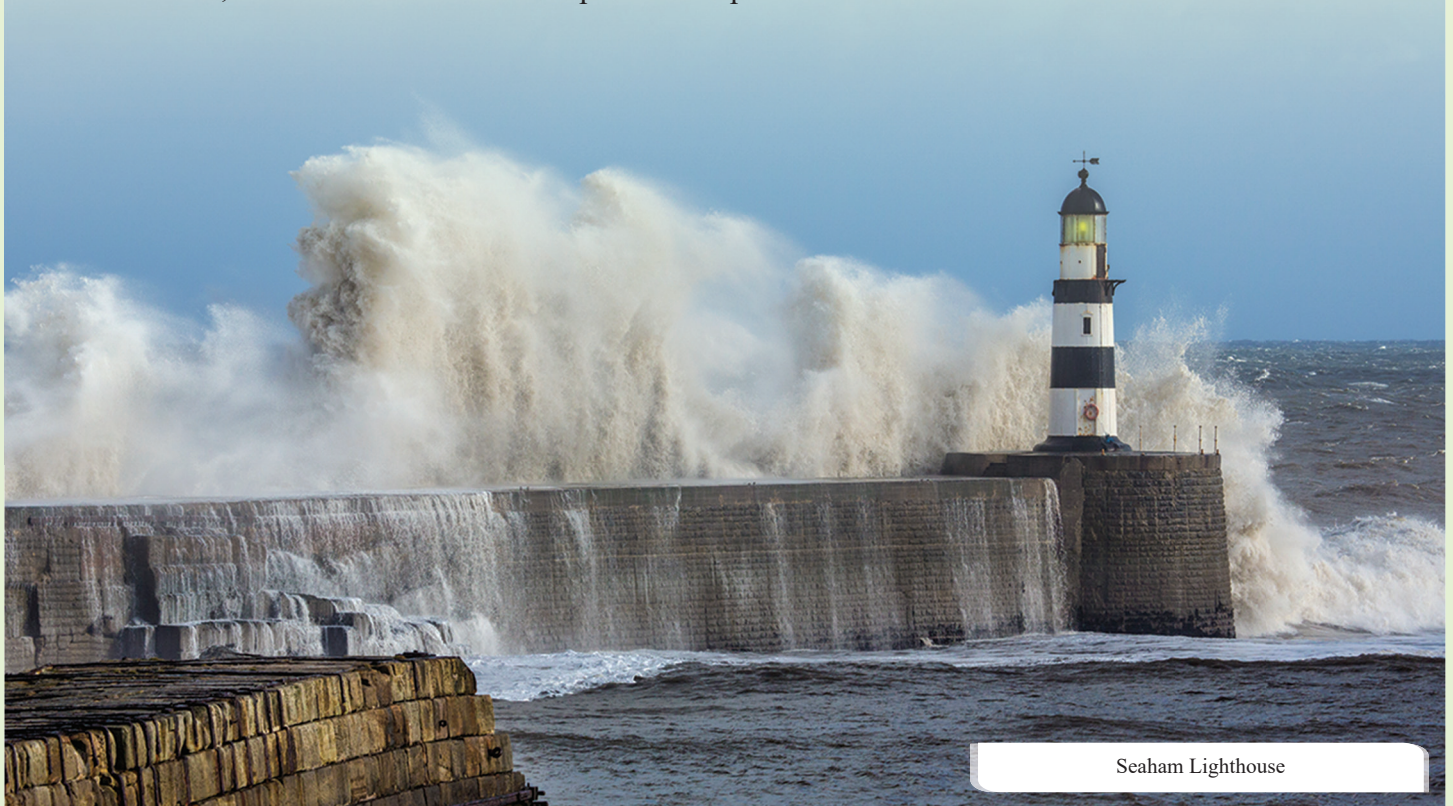
every continent of the world, due to nondegradable plastic waste. While plastic has proved to have many beneficial uses in numerous areas of our lives, the problem of its safe disposal was clearly not foreseen. Therefore, it has now become a burden to us and to our environment. It is hoped that research into more environmentally friendly materials will provide a solution to that particular hazard.

But climate change and global warming potentially pose a long-term threat to our very existence and way of life. It is not like a local disaster in which outside aid can restore life to a semblance of normality to the survivors. It is not like a pandemic, which is hopefully of limited duration and leaves untouched the more fortunate in the population. The climate change we are being warned about affects the whole world and for an indeterminate length of time.

The reported signs of climate change are the melting of some glaciers and of the polar ice-caps. Another is the

reported rise in sea temperatures. Yet another is the change in weather patterns, more violent storms, heavier rainfall in diverse places. The scientists who are studying these natural features and the changes they are observing are very keen on making their predictions based on computer modelling. They feed all their observational test data into a computer and this electronic machine digests all this information and produces a resultant scenario which they accept as a portrayal of our future, if we have one! As with the pandemic, in this potentially serious situation we find that experts don't always agree; with the consequence that the public and general population are left in confusion by their conflicting and oft-changing prognostications.

How appropriate, then, are the words of our Lord when, in His prediction of world conditions in these last days, He foretells of the: "...*distress of nations with perplexity...*" This is a most apt description of our situation today. Our men of science cannot achieve



Seaham Lighthouse

consensus; our political leaders are likewise divided; the whole country is perplexed and in despair as they watch the crew of this 'ship of state' keep changing tack in their vain attempt to reach a safe harbour in which to anchor.

Is there such a harbour? It is surely in the Word of God. But our captain and crew cannot see it because they are lost in the fog of their own false course plotting. And they will not find it until they plot the true course on their political chart. Meantime they just tie us in knots with every varying prediction of doom and gloom. All that melting ice will raise sea levels by several feet, they say. Coastal towns and villages will be inundated and become uninhabitable, they predict. Temperatures will rise to dangerous levels and threaten all life. In a Google search I find that sea levels have risen slightly but not everywhere, and in some areas of the world there has been a slight fall in sea level. Average temperatures have also risen by a small amount over the past century but, as yet, not of any significance.

So, as we know where the harbour is let us look inside and see what is in prospect for us. In the first chapter of *Ecclesiastes*, in verse 7, there is an interesting observation concerning a natural feature of our world. The writer clearly views it with some awe: "*All the rivers run into the sea yet the sea is not full.*" How remarkable, indeed. How many rivers are there in the world? The Amazon, the Nile, the Ganges, the Mississippi, the Danube and a few thousand more. All that water going into the sea, water by the millions of gallons doubtless beyond measure, "*yet the sea is not full.*" In other words, its level has not really changed and not changed in thousands of years. So, if the sea level is not rising where is all that water going? The writer tells us "...unto the place from whence the

rivers come thither they go again." Couldn't be clearer. The water came from the vapour clouds in the sky. How does it get back up there? by evaporation, there is no other way.

However, there is now this additional water from the great mass of melting ice, due, presumably, to that slight rise in sea temperature. Possibly it might affect the sea level by a marginal amount, perhaps enough to be measured, but this is not certain. The Harbourmaster is, of course, aware of the situation, and the minor rise in sea temperature will increase the rate of evaporation, thus compensating for the additional melt-water and, doubtless, maintain the sea level at its present position.

But now there is additional moisture up in the earth's atmosphere and ready to descend on us once again. So we might look again into the harbour and see if there is any more information that will enlighten us on that potential problem. Turning to *Isaiah*, chapter 35 and verse 1, we find that the Harbourmaster has plans in place to have flowers growing in what, at the moment, is just desert. Climate change but as a blessing rather than a curse.

The prophet, in this chapter, is continuing the account of that critical time when God moves decisively to bring an end to the works of the Devil and the threat of his evil forces to destroy God's Kingdom. In the previous chapter this critical time is declared to be the Day of the Lord's vengeance, an end of the age prophecy, when the salvation of the Kingdom is accomplished through God's power and intervention to bring about the destruction of all opposition to His plans. It is a truly dramatic situation, with the display of God's awesome power being visible to all. It will have an impact on the natural world too, restoring it to a stable and trouble-free habitation for many creatures. So chapter 35

continues the description of this regenerated world: "*The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.*" The following verses go on in similar descriptive language, listing the blessings of this regenerative process and ending in the final verse with these words: "*The ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*" Hallelujah!

When we come to chapter 41 we are now in that part of the prophet's message which covers the years of Israel's history after the captivities. They are in a weak condition and in need of God's help, which He, being strong, can give them. In verse 13 the situation is clearly stated: "*For I, the Lord thy God, will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee; Fear not, I will help thee.*" Then, in verse 18 we read of further Divine aid: "*I will open rivers in high places and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water and the dry land springs of water.*" Verse 19 "*I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah (acacia) tree and the myrtle and the oil tree. I will set in the desert the fir tree, the pine tree and the box together.*" Deciduous trees and conifers, all trees which require a reasonably temperate climate and a regular supply of water. When we consider these predictions of wilderness and desert areas supporting vegetation this necessitates the precipitation of rain in suitable quantities. At present, the climatic conditions there are such that this never occurs. However, when we read in *Joel*, chapter 2 verse 23, and *Amos*, chapter 4 verse 7, to give just two examples, rainfall is not accidental or sporadic but controlled, God seeing to its distribution in accordance with His will.

In chapter 43 there is more of the

same. Look first at verse 18, which states: “*Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.*” Israel is being chided for not remembering what God had done for her in the past, not being grateful for His care and concern for their survival and wellbeing. At that time the people were still aware of their identity and their history. But time moved on and in the generations which followed, that awareness would fade, as is confirmed by Paul’s statement that: “*...blindness in part is happened to Israel.*” Two thousand years on again and we find that, in general terms, the knowledge has been lost to our memory. It is by God’s grace that research into ancient writings, manuscripts and material artifacts has revealed the evidence of our nation’s past links with the lost tribes, so that our identity is now being made known once again. Although it is there, many years and centuries of embedded false information and instruction impedes its general acceptance. It is like a voice crying in a modern spiritual wilderness.

Then we read in verse 19: “*Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the*

wilderness and rivers in the desert.” When we think of wildernesses and deserts several areas of the world come to mind which fit such a description. The Sahara Desert in northern Africa is perhaps the most familiar area where vegetation is almost non-existent. Central Australia is a vast and largely arid land, with no real agricultural potential. The Gobi Desert is another barren area of land. Only one tenth of the world’s land surface is actually under cultivation.

In the new age to come, then, will we see these areas all “*blossom as the rose*”? It will require vast amounts of fresh water to bring about such a dramatic change in the ecology of these great wilderness spaces. But the Harbourmaster has His forward planning in place for He has that additional vapour moisture, which I referred to earlier, available for distribution in accordance with His will and purpose. Such thoughts, of course, may seem slightly speculative, but they are not a denial of the power or sovereignty of God, just a human perspective on what might be possible. For one is ever mindful that, as the angel said to Mary, at the prospective virgin birth of our Lord, “*For with God nothing shall be impossible*” (Luke 1:37).

So, at the end of this age, we can expect to see great changes taking place, as we read, for example, in the prophecy of *Ezekiel*, chapter 11, where we are told about the coming restoration of Israel, and the transformation which will be seen in the Kingdom; a new spirit within the people, their stony hearts replaced with hearts of flesh, a return to the keeping of the statutes and ordinances of God (vs.18-20). The same transformation is spoken of by the prophet Jeremiah, in chapter 31: “*I will put my law in their inward parts and write it in their hearts...*” (vs. 31-36). These are great promises, tremendous words of hope and encouragement in these critical days of fear and despair. They are further backed up by the assurance given in *Micah*, chapter 4 verse 4, in which the prophet foresees this future time free of anxiety and despair: “*...but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree and none shall make them afraid.*”

The harbour of the Word of God is, indeed, a place of refuge, a safe haven and the Harbourmaster is clearly in complete control.

ALFRED BROWN

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

There are many dangerous people among us. They must be found and eliminated.

That is the opinion and judgment of the world.

Who are these people? Who is such a threat to the current world order? Who challenges the powers and rulers of the nations?

Those who stand on the Rock of our Lord Jesus Christ; who fear God not man and who live according to the scripture “*love the LORD thy God with all thine heart and with all thy soul and with all thy might.*”

Are you a dangerous person? If not, why not?



DEMOCRACY – VOTES COUNT

Only if they give the ‘Right’ Answer

Following the Presidential Election in the USA, politicians at Westminster from the government side and the opposition benches, issued statements urging the Americans to respect democracy and accept the result of the election. The Foreign Secretary added to the call to respect democracy by calling for fresh elections in Belarus. These statements were immediately followed on Monday 9th November by the unelected House of Lords, again voting down provisions to aid Brexit. In view of the attempts by many of the politicians over the past years since the EU referendum, to deny the democratic wish of the British people to leave the EU the advice given to the Americans would be laughable if it were not so serious. Unfortunately ignoring the electors wishes seems to be becoming a habit at Westminster, consider the case of the Cayman Islands.

The Cayman Islands are governed as a British Overseas Territory; the population is around 68,000 who are almost all Christians. The Caymans have a National Assembly with two members of the Assembly being directly appointed by the Governor who in turn is appointed by the British Government. The remaining Assembly members

are democratically elected by the Islanders. The National Assembly rejected the British Government’s policy legalising same sex marriage in the Caymans, however the Governor was instructed to implement this regardless of the view of the Assembly. The Protestant Christian Newspaper, *The English Churchman* published correspondence on the issue and urged readers to contact their Members of Parliament, the Prime Minister and the Foreign Office in support of the Cayman Islanders. The reply issued by the Foreign Office on behalf of the minister responsible, Baroness Sugg reads like a head teacher’s report of an errant pupil and states that the government are ‘disappointed’ with the resolution of the Assembly. No doubt they were equally ‘disappointed’ with the EU referendum result.

The treatment meted out to the democratic wish of the Caymanians is further compounded in that over the summer months British history and culture have come in for much criticism. White Britons were told that they were privileged; that their heroes were really villains and that the British Empire was an evil that the current generation needed to atone for. Apart from a few exceptions no voice from

Government has sought to put forward a more measured view of the past and to defend the positive achievements of British people over the centuries. The narrative of this new view of British history has taken root and all sorts of institutions are reportedly re-evaluating their policies. From the Government re-educating senior civil servants, the British Library culling their shelves of books now deemed unacceptable, businesses making restitution for the past, even the National Trust and the Armed Forces are all taking this matter seriously. In view of the fact that the Cayman Islands, being a former British slave colony and Cayman Islanders being black descendants of slaves, one would think that the British Government would grab this opportunity to put a line under Britain’s colonial past by respecting the democratic wishes of the Islanders.

Perhaps before offering advice on democracy to the USA, Belarus or anywhere else in the world, our and the Cayman Islanders lords and masters would be well advised to implement democracy in territory under their own jurisdiction first.

CHRIS RICHARDS

This article first appeared in *The Realist Bulletin*, December 2020

THE GATES OF ISRAEL

In *Genesis* chapter 22 we read the famous account of the seventh manifestation of God to Abraham, and of the testing of Abraham's faith in the command to sacrifice his son Isaac. This is known to biblical scholars as the "Akedah," or binding of Isaac. Abraham prepared to comply with this Divine request until his hand was stayed by the voice of an angel of the Lord. The Expositors Bible Commentary refers to this event as "the supreme act of Abraham's life."

Abraham's faithfulness was then rewarded in an absolutely tremendous blessing that has been strangely ignored in most of our modern pulpits. We read, "*And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed*

shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice" (*Genesis* 22:15-18).

This was a very significant blessing, for Keil and Delitzsch Bible Commentary says, "Jehovah swore by Himself (cf. *Hebrews* 6:13), a thing which never occurs again in His intercourse with the patriarchs; so that subsequently not only do we find repeated references to this oath (*Genesis* 24:7; *Genesis* 26:3; *Genesis* 50:24; *Exodus* 13:5, *Exodus* 13:11; *Exodus* 33:1, etc.), but, as Luther observes, all that is said in *Psalms* 89:36; *Psalms* 132:11; *Psalms* 110:4 respecting the oath given to David, is founded upon this."

The Pulpit Commentary adds that this prophecy is "a repetition and accumulation of the promises previously made to the patriarch concerning his seed (cf. *Genesis* 12:2, *Genesis* 12:3; *Genesis* 13:14-16; *Genesis* 15:5; *Genesis* 17:1-8), with the special amplification following—and thy seed shall possess (i.e. occupy by force) the gate of his enemies."

Unger's Bible Dictionary tells us,

"Gate: (generally the rendering of Hebrew *sha'ar*, opening, and Greek *pule*, from *pelo*, to turn), the entrance to enclosed grounds, buildings, cities, etc."

In the classic old B.I. work, "The Geography of the Gates," originally published in 1880, author Philo-Israel stated, "Some years ago we were pondering over the passage in *Genesis* 22:17, which has since become so important a factor in our Identity, wondering what could possibly be the force and meaning of the [Hebrew] word *Sha'ar*; or Gate, in the sentence in question; and for some time we pondered in vain. The words, nine in number, are quite unambiguous, and apparently incapable of a Spiritual signification, taken in connection with the context. They are these: 'Thy seed' (Abraham's) 'shall possess' (seize hold of, acquire, and keep) 'THE GATE of his enemies' (that is, of Israel's enemies). The question was, what was meant by the words, 'The Gate'? It was clearly to be once the possession of the enemies of the Hebrew race, long after the date of the original grantee." (p.9)

Thomas Coke (1747-1814), the first Methodist Bishop and Father of Methodist Missions, wrote, "Possess the gate—He who is possessed of the gates is possessed of the cities, and, these surrendered, becomes master of all the country; so to possess the gates is to possess the cities and countries of his enemies." What people have historically possessed the gates, the cities and sea-lanes, in countries around the world? The people who match the prophecy must be Abraham's descendants.

However, the gates were given to Israel for a Divine purpose, as the Lord declared, "*I will also give thee*



Gibraltar, gate to the Mediterranean

for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth” (Isaiah 49:6). Philo-Israel remarked, “Our missionary operations, which deal with ‘all the nations’ and ‘all the families of the earth,’ depend on Israel’s possession of the gates. For, without the latter, our nation could not have had the influence or the power to force the Gentile nations and the great heathen world to listen to our Gospel message...And how should we perform the role of the liberators of the slave if we had not had ‘the Gates’ throughout the world? These give us the maritime supremacy, and the naval power, which has thrown the police of the ocean highways into our hands, and constitute us, as Israel, par excellence those set apart ‘to let the oppressed go free, to break every yoke, and to undo the heavy burdens.” (ibid. pp.14-15).

A leading B.I. expositor of the past, Oxonian, in his book, “Verse By Verse,” has this to say concerning *Genesis 22:17*, “The gate of His enemies. This is in the Septuagint—the Bible used by our Lord—“the cities of those who are contrary.” “Cities” because he who possesses the gate holds the town, and the nation that holds the keys of a country dominates that country. “Contrary”—*hupenantios*—not the usual Greek word for enemy, but used of all who are opposed or contrary in habits and characteristics; not merely, therefore, those nations who are active enemies but those whose laws and customs are in principle different to those of the multitudinous seed to spring from Abraham.”

Oxonian continues, “In the Hebrew word rendered ‘enemies’ there is the still further thought of ‘envy.’ ...If there be one nation so situated towards the rest, with its power unshakably planted in their midst, that nation is ‘the seed’ of Abraham. If, further, that dominant nation

is not merely ruling the world but giving it the Word of God and the Gospel of his love in Christ, is it not in very truth ‘that seed’? In order to be able to do this it must hold vantage points all round the world as keys of the different countries whom it is to subject for Christ.”

Reformation scholar, John Calvin, spoke concerning the importance of the marks of Israel: “Thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies. He means that the offspring of Abraham should be victorious over their enemies; for in the gates were their bulwarks, and in them they administered judgment... the victory is promised, not to the sons of Abraham promiscuously... For unless we retain some mark which may distinguish between the legitimate and the degenerate sons of Abraham, this promise will indiscriminately comprehend, as well the Ishmaelites and Idumeans, as the people of Israel.” Calvin recognized that the modern Jewish people include the descendants of the Ishmaelites and Idumeans [Edomites], and it is those who fulfill the marks of Israel that are the “legitimate...sons of Abraham.”

In popular theology, the Jewish people constitute any and all of Israel in the world today, yet they lack many of the most important marks of Israel. Who are the missionary nations that have taken the Gospel throughout the world? Who is doing the work that Israel was prophesied to do?

Although some of the British and American city-gates overseas have been given their independence, our influence remains very strong throughout the world, and our fleets are found in every ocean and sea. It was prophesied of Israel, “*How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles, O Israel! As the valleys are they spread forth, as gardens by the river’s side, as the*

trees of lign aloes which the LORD hath planted, and as cedar trees beside the waters. He shall pour the water out of his buckets, and his seed shall be in many waters, and his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted” (*Numbers 24:5-7*).

Psalm 89:25 also says, “*I will set his hand also in the sea, and his right hand in the rivers,*” again indicating a distinctive maritime people.

The passage under consideration in *Genesis 22* contains yet another wonderful prophecy and mark of Israel. The Keil and Delitzsch Commentary says, “To express the innumerable multiplication of the seed in the strongest possible way, a comparison with the sand of the sea-shore is added to the previous simile of the stars. And this seed is also promised the possession of the gate of its enemies, i.e., the conquest of the enemy and the capture of his cities (cf. *Genesis 24:60*).”

Our Lord evidently had this wonderful and important Abrahamic prophecy in mind and knew who would fulfill it, as Adam Clarke’s Commentary points out: “So *Matthew 16:18*, *On this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*—the counsels, stratagems, and powers of darkness shall not be able to prevail against or overthrow the true Church of Christ; and possibly our Lord had this promise to Abraham and his posterity in view, when he spoke these words.”

Let us all then live up to our high calling as the missionary seed of Abraham tasked with bringing the whole world under the sway of our Lord Jesus Christ!

JORY STEVEN BROOKS

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THE RELIGION OF COMMUNISM

A Preview of the Year 2021 and Beyond?

It has been documented that the violent “Antifa” riots in American cities this past year were founded, directed, and led by Neo-Marxist agitators bent on the overthrow of Capitalist society. The leftist mainstream media, however, continues to insist that it has all been “largely peaceful” even as crowds of rioters attack police and innocents, and burn public buildings including police stations and courthouses. What is their ultimate objective?

The Communist Manifesto, written by Karl Marx in 1848, is the blueprint for socialist agitators even today. Marx wrote, “As the class struggle approaches the decisive hour, the process of dissolution in the dominant class becomes so rapid that a part of it falls away and joins the revolutionary class...Law, morality, religion are in their eyes so many middle-class prejudices...

The task of the proletariat is to destroy all these and other private safeguards, all forms of existing security in middle-class society... It cannot succeed without blowing up all the upper strata of dominant society. The individuals forming the middle-class must be suppressed. The middle-class family will disappear with the disappearance of capital. Patriotism will vanish with it. Communists frankly proclaim that their object cannot be attained without the violent overthrow of the whole existing order. Let the reigning classes tremble at the idea of a Communist revolution. Proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains.”

This is a nearly-exact description of the situation we find rapidly developing in America today, and the political motivation of the liberal elite and their compliant

mobs. Winston Churchill tersely commented, “Lenin was the grand repudiator. He repudiated everything. He repudiated God, King, Country, morals, treaties, debts, rents, interest, the laws and customs of centuries, all contracts written or implied, the whole structure—such as it is—of human society. In the end he repudiated himself.” Yet we in the twenty-first century have apparently not learned the lessons from the past!

The Marxist-inspired repudiation of Western Christian heritage, culture and morals is still with us today and has been aptly termed “the cancel culture.” Cities and states across America have removed statues of Columbus and renamed the holiday intended to honour the European discovery of America; it is now “indigenous people’s day.” Thanksgiving is now being called, “Thanks-taking,” denigrating our founding fathers as a criminal bunch of thieves. The religious motivation and devout faith of the Pilgrims and Puritans is flatly denied. Schoolchildren who are white are being made to feel personally guilty for the supposed sins of their forefathers; just recently liberal media icon Megyn Kelly pulled her young sons out of school in New York City because of the hate being directed at them by the school curriculum. Where will it all end?

Over a century ago in 1911, the late British-Israel writer, G. B. H. Brooke, warned of a spiritual falling away at the end of the age, which presaged what could be called “an age of folly” that would witness the collapse of Western civilization. She warned that she did not want to

Statue of Columbus in Boston, USA



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be accused of “crystal gazing,” but that perilous times were coming.

The Bible indeed warned us in an end-of-age prophecy that a time of tribulation would come: *“Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them”* (Jeremiah 30:7-9).

This prophecy of the coming Messianic David, the Lord Jesus, is clearly to be fulfilled at His return. It will take place at a time of great tribulation but Jacob-Israel will be delivered. The Amplified Version adds in brackets, “the time of Jacob’s [unequalled] trouble.” Rotherham translates, “a time of anguish it is for Jacob.” The Contemporary English Version tersely states, “My people, soon you will suffer worse than ever before...” The old Reformation martyr, John Wycliffe in his English translation of 1394 wrote, “it is a tyme of tribulacioun to Jacob.” It is clear that there is no secret rapture away to heaven that would enable God’s Israel to avoid entering this Great Tribulation!

What do we have to expect in the events leading up to the time of the end? A favourite scheme of Communists and their fellow-travellers is to use deceptive methods to extinguish our most basic First Amendment right of free speech and expression. Their tactic is to outlaw so-called “hate speech,” by which they mean any words or writings opposing their nefarious plans. In practice, hate speech, of course, never includes their own hateful and violent talk and ideas. In

fact, Communist rhetoric is not only hateful but deadly. In the Communist takeover of Russia, a statistical investigation by Russian Professor Sarolea estimated “that the dictators killed 28 bishops, 1,219 priests, 6,000 professors and teachers, 9,000 doctors, 12,950 landowners, 54,000 officers, 70,000 policemen, 193,290 workmen, 260,000 soldiers, 355,250 intellectuals and professional men, and 815,000 peasants.” (Dawn Magazine, August 15, 1929, p.194). The Fortnightly Review (August, 1929) documented liberty’s decease in Russia, and quoted a returning traveller’s observation that “The country has become one vast prison.”

To moral-minded Christians, the radical’s guidebook—the Communist Manifesto—reads like the ravings of a mad lunatic wanting to destroy existing public peace, security and safeguards, “blowing up” democracy and capitalism, violent overthrow of society, and suppression of all rights and freedom for the servitude of an atheistic dictatorial state supposedly acting for the benefit of the lower classes. Similarly, the modern rioters in Portland and other cities indiscriminately kill and destroy whatever they please seemingly at will, with almost no opposition from the liberal politicians, while proclaiming a supposed moral right to do so. Although Communism claims to be entirely atheist, it in fact substitutes a very definite satanic immoral religion of its own.

Professor Harold Lasky in 1930 wrote concerning this immoral religion and its adherents: “The secret of its strength is the quality and spirit of those who form the Communist party the world over. When I try to explain the character of the Communist party, I am driven back upon organized religion as the only source from which a proper

and fitting analogy can be drawn. I believe that the Communists, taken as a whole, may most fittingly be compared with the great Society of Jesus. The way in which its members are prepared to dare and sacrifice everything on behalf of the Communist party represents one of the most notable developments of modern times. The average spirit in the Communist party is that of the religious devotee, who feels intensely that the more he sacrifices the more certain is his salvation.” (Dawn Magazine, April 15, 1931, p.36).

What can be done to stop the erosion of our religious and political rights and freedom? Over a century ago American President Theodore Roosevelt declared, “Are we to go the way of older civilizations? We cannot be certain of a negative answer, but we can be certain that if we do it will only be by our own act and desert. There is no necessity for us to fall, we can hew out our destiny for ourselves, if we will only have the wit and the courage and the honesty to do it.” The American government establishment is given strictly limited power and authority in the Constitution, and George Washington declared that, “The power under the Constitution will always be in the people.” Yet if the people neglect their civic duties and responsibilities, their freedom will soon be placed in jeopardy. As Thomas Jefferson rightly observed, “All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent.” Let us boldly speak up to defend our rights and freedom. May we be involved Christian citizens exercising our religious rights and freedoms under the Bible and the Constitution!

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WE ARE OUR OWN WORST ENEMY

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh and strength to your bones... My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor detest His correction; for whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights”
(Proverbs 3:5-12).

The Worst Pope and the Most Trouble

When Professor Martin Luther was asked which pope had caused him the most trouble, he replied, *“Pope self – the pope who sits on the throne in my heart. No pope in Rome has caused me as much trouble as I have caused myself!”* When “the Prince of Preachers,” Charles Spurgeon had built up Baptist Tabernacle to over 5,000 members, he was asked, which member gave him the most trouble? Without hesitation, he responded, *“Charles Spurgeon!”* *“You mean you have a member here who has the same name as yourself?”* *“I refer to myself,”* explained Charles Spurgeon. *“No one has given me more trouble than I have given myself.”*

This is true for ourselves personally, for families, for congregations, for denominations, organisations, companies, countries and continents. The worst wars are civil wars. The United States of America lost more men killed in action in the War between the States of 1861 to 1865, than in all the foreign wars it has ever fought, including the First and Second World War, the Korean War, Vietnam War, Iraq War, combined. More South Africans are murdered every year than the number of our soldiers, sailors and airmen who died in the First World War, Second World War and Angolan War combined!

Fratricidal wars, the Wars of Religion, the 30-Years War and the World Wars devastated Europe more than any external enemy could ever have done. All too often, we spend

more time fighting those closest to us, with whom we are in general agreement on most things, than real enemies of the Faith.

Misplaced Priorities and Misdirected Time and Energy

Most Christians spend more time: Publishing scandals than proclaiming Salvation; focusing on differences rather than focusing on Discipleship; most are so busy being ‘fault-finders’ that they are seldom ‘good-finders.’

Most Christians spend more time: Criticising than challenging; complaining than complimenting; backbiting than blessing; slandering than serving; sharing gossip than sharing the Gospel; breaking down than building up; doing mischief than Missions; being more envious than Evangelistic.

The Curse of Selfishness

The middle letter of sin is “I”.
The middle letter of pride is “I”.
The middle letter of lie is “I”.
At the heart of sinfulness is selfishness. We need Christ’s salvation. Hence, the Bible tells us to *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding... Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil”* (Proverbs 3:5,7).

There is a tremendous need for humility, grace, mercy, unity and vision. To keep the main thing the main thing. Life is only 10% what happens to us and over 90% how we react to it. The Scripture warns us not to trust in our own heart. *“There is a way that seems right to a man,*

but its end is the way of death” (Proverbs 14:12).

Our Lord taught parables to warn those *“who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others”* (Luke 18:9). *“Therefore, let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall”* (I Corinthians 10:12). *“He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but whoever walks wisely will be delivered”* (Proverbs 28:26).

This is why our Lord Jesus said to His disciples *“... If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his Cross and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”* (Matthew 16:24-26).

The Solution to Selfishness

Selfishness is our greatest enemy. Therefore, the solution is selflessness, self-sacrifice, sacrificial service for our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Seeking first His Kingdom and His righteousness. We need to develop the habit of saying *No!* to ourselves and *Yes* to God. This is the exact opposite of the *“follow your heart,”* false gospel of the world. Our Lord Jesus Christ says: *“deny yourself, take up your Cross, forsake the world and follow Me.”*

DR PETER HAMMOND

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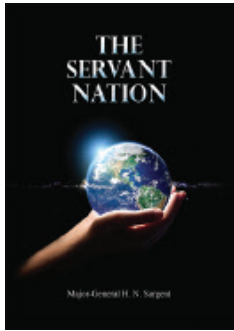
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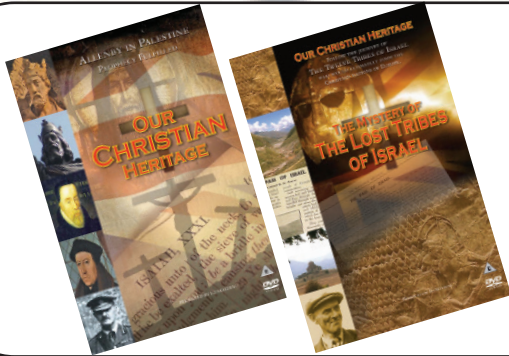
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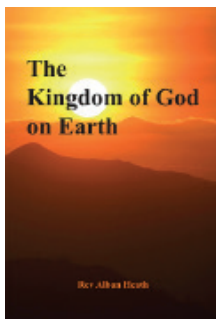
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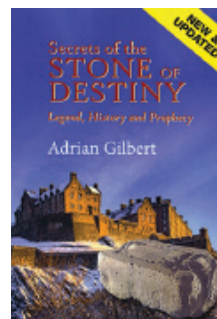


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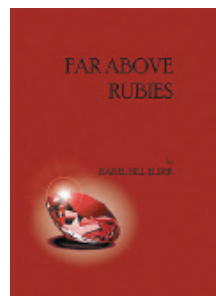
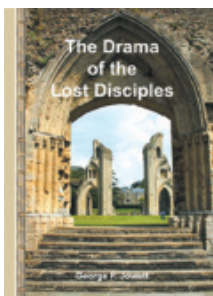
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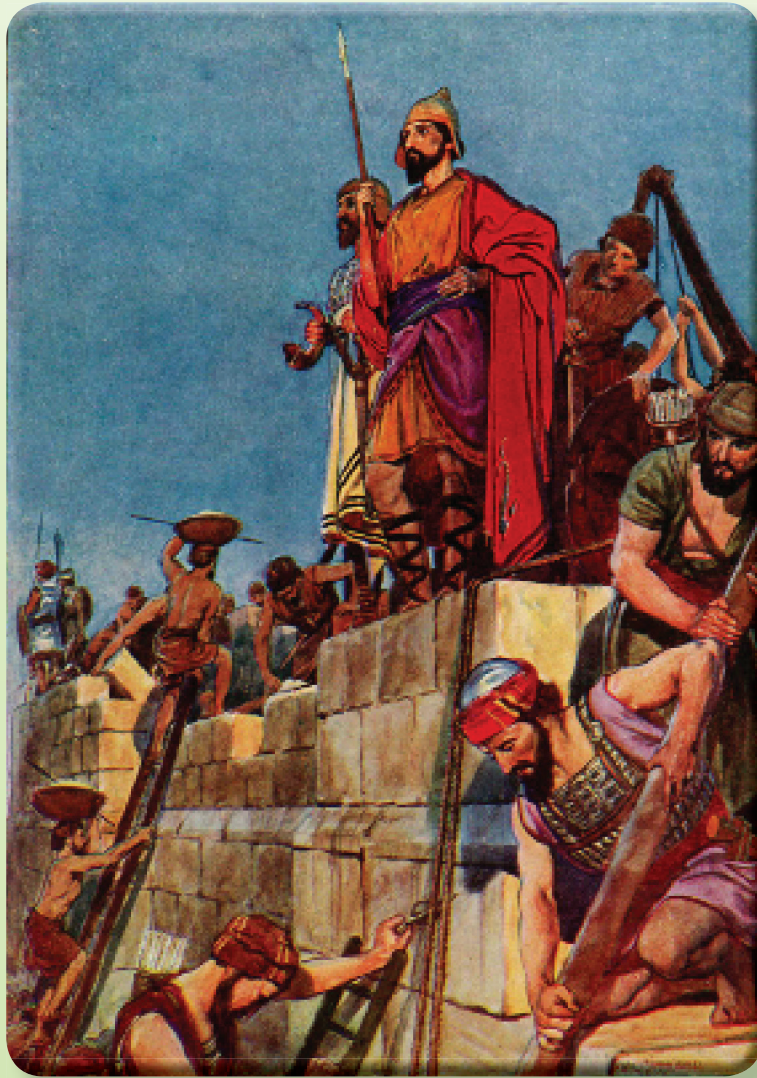
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