

The

Covenant Nations



VOLUME 5, NUMBER 9, 2022



Seventy years have been determined
for His Anointed upon the
Throne of His Glory



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The Covenant Nations

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▲ The world's first gold sovereigns ever to be minted with platinum gold: Royal Mint

◀ COVER PICTURE:

Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, as His Regent, is unique in the history of the Davidic Throne 'in our midst.' *Matthew 25:31* (King James Bible), reads: "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon **the throne of his glory.**"

Photo: GOV.UK

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

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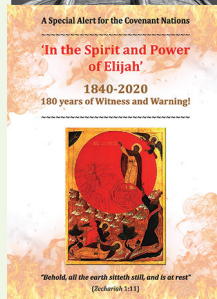
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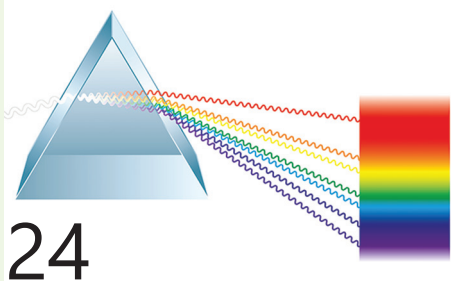
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Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in the articles are generally well-researched and considered. However, they do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.

This strip of gold is part of the Staffordshire Hoard found by a metal-detector user in 2009 in a field. Its inscription in Latin is from *Numbers* 10:35,

“Rise up, O Lord, and may thy enemies be dispersed and those who hate thee be driven from thy face.”

It is interesting to note that these words are also used in the second verse of the National Anthem,

“O Lord our God arise,
Scatter our enemies,
And make them fall!”



EDITORIAL

A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS

Elizabeth II and The Platinum Jubilee

For the first time in the thousand year history of the British Monarchy we are celebrating a Platinum Jubilee of the reigning Monarch. In her letter to the nation on the 6 February, the 70th anniversary of her accession, The Queen signed herself as “*Your Servant, Elizabeth R.*”

At the time of her 90th birthday, when she had already become the longest reigning monarch in British history, Bible Society, with others, published a very significant tribute for Her Majesty under the title *The Servant Queen and the King she serves*, written by Mark Greene and Catherine Butcher, with a Foreword by Her Majesty.

The title of the final Chapter 9 asked “**What kind of example do we expect our leaders or our bosses or our Queen to set?**” Opening with the statement:

“In 1952, as the Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Fisher, helped the Queen prepare for her role, he told her that she was “God-called to exert a spiritual power and lead her subjects by her personal example.”

The chapter concluded as follows:

“The reality is that Elizabeth has consistently, winsomely and publicly honoured the God she serves and has been an extraordinary example of joyful, persevering, life-affirming, generous hearted, unstinting, wise service on behalf of others.

Six months before her Coronation, Elizabeth asked the people of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth to:

Pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn

promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life.

God, it is clear has answered those prayers. And we owe him and her enormous gratitude.”

Seventy ‘remarkable and faultless’ years later, the Archbishop’s comments in 1952 have proved prophetic. Yet, indeed, when The Queen has given Royal Assent to decisions that have proved to be against our destiny of leading the nations in peace – as in the case of Britain submitting to the Treaty of Rome by joining, then leaving, the supranational EU after 47 frustrating years – it was because she was, *at law*, “Deceived in her Grants,” by her Ministers who betrayed her as “The Queen-in-Parliament under God.”

On Accession Day, Sunday 6 February, 2022, *Sunday Worship* on BBC Radio 4, came from Westminster Abbey, the community of which marked the Queen’s Accession, after which the comment was made that HM The Queen, in her Christian faith, saw her position as leading the nation under God being “**likened to that of ancient Israel as a light to the nations.**” The Scripture references in the Old and New Testaments, or covenants, being thus:

“I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles” (Isaiah 42:6); “A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel” (Luke 2:32).

On that Accession morning, The Queen was in the foothills of Mount Kenya in the Southern Hemisphere.

She and her husband, Prince Philip, had spent the night in Treetops Hotel, a tree house made of Royal Cedar wood. Nothing in that sense could have been more significant, than she, on that day, was to begin the longest reign in the history of Britain’s Royal House *and in direct succession from King David of ancient Israel*, recorded by the royal line of the kings of Ireland and Scotland and confirmed by the *Declaration of Arbroath 1320*.

This is not a romantic fable, but the literal history of the covenant made between God and His people Israel that he would not fail to preserve the royal succession of David’s line:

“Therefore now, Lord God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel; so that thy children take heed to their way, that they walk before me as thou hast walked before me” (I Kings 8:25); also again in the prophets:

“For thus saith the Lord; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel” (Jeremiah 33:17).

With Queen Victoria, a Diamond Jubilee monarch, there has now been a **double witness** to the near approach of the Lord Jesus Christ to take up the Throne of David “in our midst;” two outstanding reigns by women separated by a century of age-end tribulations. They represent the woman of Israel being prepared for *remarriage* according to the prophet Jeremiah: “*Again will I build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel*” (31:4) that being *both kingdoms*, Israel and Judah “**as at the first**” (33:7).

NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY & THE KINGDOM'S GOOD NEWS

On 9 September 2015 an extraordinary landmark was reached for this island nation when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II became the longest reigning monarch in British history. But this year is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee – 70 years on the throne. It is thus a very suitable time to consider kingdoms.

Churches rightly proclaim the eternal kingdom of God, but temporal kingdoms on earth also have their place in this world particularly amongst the national life of Israel which includes the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic Peoples. In these respects it is well to remember that the public ministry of Jesus and His disciples was taken up with teaching the Gospel of the Kingdom.

“These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 10:5-7).

What is this Gospel of the Kingdom all about, has it a temporal aspect we should take note of in this our day?

Sovereignty in the world today

At the present time there are about 30 monarchs in the world, Her Majesty the Queen being one of them. Some are mere figureheads, whilst others have different levels of authority, so how does the current Queen Elizabeth compare with the

others? In many ways she is unique in reigning over about 16 states and countries including the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and numerous other places such as islands, about eight of which are in the Caribbean. In total it is a very large area of the world's land mass compared with that ruled over by other monarchies.

The throne in Britain and its Origins

Britain has the oldest surviving monarchy in the world. Since King Egbert of Wessex (802-39) gained power over the whole of England there has always been a King or Queen reigning except during the Commonwealth Period (1649-60) but even then there were still people alive in the line of succession. The Westminster Abbey Official Guide (Jarrold and Sons, 1971 p.98) had this to say about the Stone upon which sovereigns are crowned:

Tradition identifies this stone with the one upon which Jacob rested his head at Bethel, *“And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it” (Genesis 28:18).* Jacob's sons carried it to Egypt and from thence it passed to Spain with King Gathelus, son of Cecrops, the builder of Athens. About 700 BC it appears in Ireland, whither it was carried by the Spanish King's son Simon Brech, on his invasion of that island. There it was placed upon the sacred hill of Tara, and called Lia-Fail, the 'fatal' stone, or 'stone of destiny,' for when the Irish kings were seated upon it at coronations the stone groaned aloud if the claimant was of royal race, but remained silent if he was a pretender.

The tradition of how a sovereign is crowned in the United Kingdom is unique compared with monarchies elsewhere. It is not surprising that this throne has endured so many millennia considering God's

The Servant Queen and the King she serves

WITH A FOREWORD BY
Her Majesty
QUEEN ELIZABETH II

A tribute for Her Majesty's 90th birthday

promises to the House of David, repeated through several prophets,

“And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever. According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David” (II Samuel 7:16-17).

“I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah” (Psalm 89:3-4).

“Thus saith the LORD; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season; Then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the priests, my ministers” (Jeremiah 33:20-21).

Why was there a monarchy in Israel?

When the People of Israel, after coming out of Egypt in the second millennium BC, were first formed as a nation they had no sovereign leader because God Himself was their head. However, even while they traversed the Wilderness God made provision for temporal kingship over them. *“When thou art come unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me; Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother” (Deuteronomy 17:14-15).*

This highlights several things to remember in connection with the monarchy.

- At Sinai, though surrounding

nations had a secular sovereign, Israel’s king was God. But after they had possessed the Promised Land, for a while God withdrew temporarily from direct government of them and appointed Saul, and then David and his descendants, as viceroys until Jesus comes to reign.

- When a secular sovereign was granted to Israel, the people had no choice in the appointment (i.e. Who it was). So it is with the monarchy in the UK today, it is hereditary.

- The First Book of Moses prophesies *“The sceptre shall not depart ... until Shiloh come ...” (Genesis 49:10).* That is, there will be a transition when that happens. (Shiloh is a name referring to Jesus Christ.)

The Monarchy today and how it governs

Interestingly there is actually an organisation that offers to trace whether you are a descendant of King David and they supply a list of 150 common surnames of people who might descend from him, which include Cohen, Bach, Bernstein, Fuchs, Goldman, Spire, Winkler etc.

Queen Elizabeth I specifically eschewed the title ‘Supreme Head of the Church of England’ for that of ‘Supreme Governor’ in order to make clear that she had no divine or overall power. This concept still prevailed during the Commonwealth period in England when Cromwell governed (protected) under God. To add weight to the idea of governing under God, sovereigns are instructed in accordance with the following teaching.

“And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites” (Deuteronomy 17:18).

In order to show this in operation these days the Sovereign receives an already printed copy of the Bible.

How do things stand with regard to future coronations?

Her Majesty the Queen is currently 95 years of age which urges the question in many minds of what sort of coronation might her successor have? In this respect there has been rumour and criticism of her heir, Prince Charles, having beliefs incompatible with his mother’s. Claiming to be Defender of Faiths and Defender of Faith have been examples attributed to views he has expressed. So can he qualify for the position of Supreme Governor of the Church of England, one of the offices he would hold and could he be enthroned by a coronation of that denomination?

Another matter of concern is how much might political correctness be allowed to intrude upon a virtually timeless liturgy based upon large portions of history and scripture? It is difficult to pre-empt this question’s answer. Certainly there will be pressure to make it as inclusive as possible whilst preserving the richness of the traditions that have surrounded previous ceremonies. Though it has been assured that the Stone of Scone will be returned to England for the service, where it will be held and the nature of the service is not set in stone. Quite clearly there is strong precedence that the Abbey at Westminster, The Collegiate Church of St Peter, should continue to be the setting for the event. When it comes to Coronations the remit for the service has been in the hands of the Dean (presently The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle), advised of course by the Chapter, Archbishops and others of senior note. Strictly speaking the Abbey is a ‘Royal Peculiar,’ that is it belongs to the monarch and does not come under the jurisdiction of a bishop. However, the rules relating to Peculiars have recently been revised which could mean a change.

The line of succession

Official lines of succession have

largely been in place since 1701 but in 2013 a new Parliamentary Bill was passed which could have a profound effect on future sovereigns. The important parts of this law are these.

1. In the past, women, even if they were the first born, have been superseded by their brothers in succession. With the new law the Sovereign's first child is allowed to become monarch, regardless of whether they are a boy or girl.

2. The new act will also allow the future monarch to marry a Roman Catholic.

3. As well as changes to succession, the bill will also remove a requirement dating back to 1772 for descendants of George II to seek permission to marry from the monarch, replacing it with a requirement for the first six people in the succession to seek the sovereign's consent.

This Succession to the Crown Act 2013 came into force once it was approved by all 15 Commonwealth countries where the Queen is head of state. In fact the legislation was agreed in principle at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Perth, Australia, in October 2011. In reality it raises two important issues, first concerning primogeniture, the second, a Protestant sovereign.

Primogeniture

In actual fact biological sex has not been an issue for inheritance in Israel since the daughters of Zelophehad queried their rights.

"... thou shalt surely give them a possession of an inheritance among their father's brethren; and thou shalt cause the inheritance of their father to pass unto them" (Numbers 27:7).

As our throne is hereditary the new Bill does not make a problem though it will be a break with recent tradition.

Will there continue to be a Protestant sovereign in future?

Early in this millennium Prince

Charles spoke of becoming 'Defender of Faiths' in an attempt to embrace other religions in Britain. At the time this caused some controversy within the Anglican Church. Be that as it may, it now seems that he has compromised, because in 2008, on his 60th birthday, he spoke of taking the title 'Defender of Faith' to reflect Britain's multicultural society. That may well place him in a better position when as a new monarch he takes the role of Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

When the 2013 Succession Bill became law the BBC's explanation of the new law was, 'The current prohibition on the monarch being a Catholic will remain in force.' As things currently stand that of course has to be the case because the Supreme Governor of the Church of England must be a communicant member of that denomination. At present then, the status quo looks preserved.

What sort of powers does the Sovereign still have?

In reality the responsibilities are quite extensive and include these.

- Head of State,
- Head of the Armed Forces,
- Head of the Commonwealth,
- Supreme Governor of the Church of England,

• Patron or President of hundreds of organisations,

• The Sovereign's head appears on our currency and postage stamps (perhaps surprisingly so since the 'Royal Mail' is no longer a government body but is now a Public Limited Company). It is worth noting that it is said that in 1987 the Queen made it clear she did not want the Post Office privatised. So much then for the government of the time's respect for Her Majesty's wishes!

In addition to the foregoing roles Her Majesty has other important duties which arise largely in accordance with her Coronation Oath whereby she,

- opens and prorogues each session of Parliament,
- gives her assent to all Bills passed by Parliament,
- dissolves Parliament on the advice of her Prime Minister,
- opens and prorogues the General Synod of the Church of England (the Third legislative body of Parliament) largely dealing with ecclesiastical law.

The Queen and an increasing national liberal attitude

In recent years there has been much concern about legislation passing through Parliament, as well as previous EU encroachment upon the affairs of the nation and its effect in eroding the Sovereign's powers.

This raises the question of whether the Queen has herself given in to liberal ideas? Thus people ask if the Queen has agreed to these things and if not, why has she permitted them? Are they not contrary to the Coronation Oath she swore? The answer to this to some extent surely lies in the wording of the oath which asks,

'Will you solemnly promise and swear to govern the people of this United Kingdom according to the statutes in Parliament agreed on, and respective laws and customs of the same?'

That is, she governs according to what Parliament agrees, rather than she herself dictating policy to them. Note that there is a subtlety here that some people find hard to grasp and find rather disheartening.

The Royal Prerogative

Some people would claim she has abrogated her duty and ask why does she not exercise her Prerogative to block certain bills? Historically the last sovereign to exercise the Prerogative in order to refuse assent to a Bill was Queen Anne in 1704. Prior to that time, the seventeenth century, Stuart kings relied heavily

on prerogative powers to govern without the sanction of Parliament and could,

- disband the army,
- pardon offenders,
- issue passports,
- declare war,
- exercise the right to print the Bible.

In spite of these now largely historic powers, the fact is that if Her Majesty exercised her prerogative it would cause a constitutional crisis because it would challenge the Government's authority, which in effect, might well dissolve it. Then, as in past history, the Sovereign would find themselves with the responsibility of governing the country, rather than delegating that task to Parliament. Some may think that would be a good thing, but just consider the consequences?

In reality the Queen does not give her assent to Bills but this is handled by her Commissioners who are all Privy Councillors meaning that several Government ministers have the power to exercise the Prerogative (on behalf of the Sovereign). So that in effect, though the Queen is Head of State, she side steps the issue of being to blame for legislation she does not personally agree with – she reigns through her ministers. When things are going agreeably that is a good system but at the present time, maybe it does not serve the nation as well as it might.

Relationship between Britain's Throne and the Kingdom of God

During Israel's early days as a nation whether in Church or State, the Lord God exercised His kingship. In our day the Sovereign, as Supreme Governor of the Church and Head of State, also does this but in a far lesser way. It is by giving an example of and reflecting the greater glory to come. Rather than this process being left to our imagination, here is a real life situation giving us some sort of picture of Christ's coming

reign, albeit seen 'through a glass darkly.' So while the theocracy is in abeyance, David's successors reign, as sovereign but vice regent – indeed they are ruling princes in Israel!

The Kingdom's Good News

We may have some chance of grappling with the concept of the United Kingdom, but the biblical 'Gospel of the Kingdom' is not well known, either in the Church where it should be, nor amongst people in general. In a way this conclusion should surprise Christians because of the many places in scripture and in our prayers where the subject of the kingdom occurs.

- In the Lord's prayer we pray **'Thy kingdom come ... for Thine is the kingdom ...'**

- At Nativity time the words of the angel Gabriel are usually repeated, *"He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end"* (Luke 1:32-33).

- *"These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, **The kingdom of heaven is at hand**"*

(Matthew 10:5-7).

- The kingdom was specifically mentioned between the Crucifixion and the Resurrection, *"... there was a man named Joseph, a counsellor; and he was a good man, and a just: ... he was of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God. This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus"* (Luke 23:50-52).

- Jesus frequently preached the Gospel of the Kingdom (100 times in the Gospels compared with a mere 40 for the word 'love'). In addition a handful of times, the words actually record that Jesus 'preached' the 'Gospel of the kingdom.'

Bearing these many examples of the kingdom in mind, it is hardly surprising that the disciples were anxious about when the kingdom would come. In fact it was close to their minds when they asked Jesus just prior to the ascension, *"... Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?"* (Acts 1:6).

Very likely they were looking for a power to overcome the Romans who oppressed them but Jesus says all power can come to them by the Holy Spirit. Likewise today though we may feel overwhelmed with ungodliness about us and look urgently for the coming of the heavenly kingdom, Jesus tells us that the same power of the Holy



Spirit is also there for us to call upon in our day, *“And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth”* (Acts 1:7-8).

That is to say, the message is to change our priorities from looking for an easy way out at the present time to powerfully witnessing and placing emphasis on looking for the Second Coming of Christ, which is yet future.

The Gospel of Salvation v the Gospel of the Kingdom

When one considers the amount of scriptural teaching about the kingdom it is surprising that too often one hears churchgoers saying that the Gospel of Salvation is more important than the Gospel of the Kingdom.

The fact is that the concept of the ‘Gospel of Salvation,’ or even that exact phrase, are not found in scripture whereas the ‘Gospel of the Kingdom’ is found many times. That is not to demean the concept of Salvation as a necessity but it is not ‘Good News’ as such; it is an event, a happening, a being born again. After that comes a new life, and part of that life is to learn of the kingdom which previously was not appreciated in its depth. In short, Salvation is a personal thing, but the Gospel of the Kingdom is for all to share in.

What should be done about the Kingdom at this present time?

There are a number of factors to consider here.

First, in answer to the Pharisees’ demand to know when the kingdom of God would come he answered, *“... behold, the kingdom of God is within you”* (Luke 17:21).

This statement on its own is somewhat mystifying until it is looked at in its context. The answer is actually sandwiched between two sections of text about sin, forgiveness, faith, and service in which He instructs his disciples using several worked examples such as healing a leper, a blind man, ministry to children, dealing with a ruler. Thus the inference is that at the present time we are to show the kingdom of God by the way we live. After all, is that not what Her Majesty’s commitment of service to the nation is all about.

On a national basis, there is a need to acknowledge the fact that Jehovah is king and that the House of David is His appointed (anointed) representative in Israel for ever. On the basis of historical and prophetic evidence the nearest fit to that House of David amongst the nations at the present time is found in Great Britain and the

original Commonwealth of nations. That is, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and so on. As mentioned previously, the continuing ancestral line of their Head of State is the oldest in the world and some notable genealogical charts show it stretching back to David who ruled about 1000 BC in the Holy Land.

If the foregoing be so, then these people should acknowledge the fact amongst themselves and preach to the other nations that they shall find peace and prosperity under the flag of the kingdom and under the rule of the Throne of David. At one time this was the message that many missionaries carried overseas. It is not preaching the rule of Britain, but preaching the rule of Jehovah through His appointed agency of Britain. In this way then, it is a means to prepare the world for the coming of our Lord and King Jesus Christ.

What will the Kingdom of God be like in the age beyond the present?

- According to scripture the only nation in the world over which God made himself king is Israel. At first this might be questioned but remember this, those of the first resurrection shall reign with Him (see *Revelation 20:6* as well as the Epistle authors who wrote of this such as *II Timothy 2:12*).

- In a world where many long for peace, this is He that will eventually bring in peace and union to the earth. Surely we have a duty to give a glimpse of the Kingdom in our limited way but He will lift these things of the Kingdom to a higher level than we currently know.

- It will not just be respect as may be shown to sovereigns reigning in a temporal tense, but He Himself will be the object of worship.

- In the Developed



world today much is made of values and equality but the coming Jehovah will be administering eternal values to all those born in the likeness of God.

- Praise God that in recent years average life spans have been increasing, yet illness still plagues us. Happily though, He will be attending to the health of His people and will be the focus of eternal life.

- There are also the matters of State and activity of those within the Kingdom. First, since He is risen from the dead and as scripture prophesies, He will be amongst the people. There He will direct their activities and governance.

In short, the dual administration of Church and State will be going forward in principle as now but upon an altogether more exalted level. Today's monarchy is a precursor, towards the greater event, "*The sceptre shall not depart ... until Shiloh come; ...*" (*Genesis 49:10*).

So there will be a time to come when there is a transition from a secular to a divine monarchy. This is when Jesus as God will dwell in the midst of His people and be the object of their love and worship.

Christ offers a perfected kingdom to the Father

Some churchgoers these days think that the Church will be the agent that perfects the world in order to offer it to Christ when He appears. That is not so, for the truth is that the world is presently a corrupt place and scripture makes clear it will not improve until Christ appears. It is He who will then perfect the world (His kingdom) which He will then offer to His Father.

"Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death"

(*I Corinthians 15:24-26*).

Is there a link between the so called Gospel of Salvation and that of the Kingdom?

Yes there is and this is brought out clearly by the apostle John, "... *Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ... Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God*" (*John 3:3 & 5*).

Conclusion

I have taken the liberty of concluding with the following succinct letter Ian Bradley, (author of *God save the Queen - The Spiritual Dimension of Monarchy*, Darton, Longman and Todd, 2002), wrote to *The Times* (22 November 1997) following the service in Westminster Abbey marking the 50th anniversary of the marriage of the Queen and Prince Philip.

"In all this talk of a Royal Family more in touch with public opinion, we are in danger of missing the essential nature and purpose of monarchy.

The monarchy is not a democratic institution, still less the creature of popular opinion, but rather a divinely instituted symbol and mystery. At their coronations, our kings and queens are anointed in a ritual which has its origins in Old Testament times and underlines the spiritual nature of their calling. They are thereafter accountable first and foremost to God and not to a fickle populace so easily manipulated and swayed by the mass media. Their role may not be to lead public opinion, though in deep and subtle ways they can both express the mood of the nation and also exert a powerful example, but most certainly they are not there to pander to it.

We need to think much more about the religious basis of monarchy and the exercise of its spiritual function. In the case of our present Queen, it has been expressed in a sacrificial commitment to duty and public service and a sure and steadfast Christian faith fortified and nourished through regular churchgoing. In the case of her eldest son, who I fervently hope will be our next King, it may well take a different

form, in keeping with his declared desire to be a defender of faith and his deep sensitivity to spiritual issues.

The Royal Family were clearly engaged in and deeply moved by Thursday morning's service at Westminster Abbey. Many of the courtiers and commoners attending it, by contrast, were caught by the television cameras chattering, giggling or maintaining a sullen silence through the great hymns of the Christian faith.

They might care to reflect on the message of those familiar words which rang through the Abbey as the Queen and Prince Philip left. God will save the Queen, not public opinion and certainly not the media."

In his book Ian Bradley concludes by saying,

"I chose to end that letter with the first line of the national anthem, which I have also used for the title of this book, because it speaks so clearly and strongly of the spiritual dimension of monarchy. Like other aspects of royalty and religion, 'God save the Queen' is not much in favour nowadays. It is often drowned out at football matches, has been dropped by a number of universities for graduation ceremonies and is dismissed by Jeremy Paxman in his book *The English* as 'that dirge-like glorification of the monarchy whose job it is to unite the disparate parts of an increasingly tattered political union.' Fewer and fewer people bother to stand up even on those increasingly rare occasions where it is still played in public places.

I am delighted to say that when it was struck up at Buxton Opera House on the opening night of the 7th International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival in July 2000, the entire audience rose to their feet and sang, but then I fear that will only serve to confirm everything that the apostles of Cool Britannia think about fans of Gilbert and Sullivan. I also have to confess to being delighted to read (in *The Daily Telegraph*, of course) that on the opening day of the Conservative Party conference in October 1999 a reporter who remained seated during the National Anthem was hit over the head with a briefcase by an outraged Tory peer."

PAUL BOYD-LEE

The British Israel Bible Truth Fellowship

WAKE UP, AUSTRALIA!

‘OUR GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE’ (*Hebrews 12:29*)

The message for today is “Our God is a Consuming Fire.” Our God in whom we trust and hope, is also to be feared, yes, He is love but there is another side to His character: God has wrath against sin (*Hebrews 10:27 & 31*).

Luke 17:26-29

“And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.”

On these two occasions when the earth was filled with violence and had reached utter depravity and God’s spirit no longer pleaded with man then came His command: build an ark (Noah); flee the city (Lot).

But you might say “that’s a biblical story, historically did it happen?” Well, the location and circumstances of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, a scene of smouldering, smoking desolation has been unearthed by archaeologists at Tall

El-Hammam in modern-day Jordan, whilst a mud formation resembling Noah’s Ark was discovered on the mountains of Ararat, Turkey in 1991 (*Genesis 8:4*).

Today in the absence of any well-regulated government it is easy to imagine what evils might arise when men having no fear of God do what is right in their own eyes. As Christians the midnight cry is now in our hearing, the dramatic signs amid the “*distress of nations, with perplexity*” (*Luke 21:25*) indicate that we are in the last days before the coming of the Lord.

The Power of the state v our Christian culture

Australia’s ‘zero Covid’ policy has become a trap – ‘**Fortress Oz.**’

“Australians have a reputation for rugged individualism, grit and competence. But when it comes to the pandemic, we have seen another side to my country: insecure, anxious and frozen by the fear of death from Covid. A recent global poll found that Australians more worried about the virus than any other western country. They have been scared witless by the hysteria of politicians, chief medical officers and the media” Alexander Downer. (Australian Foreign Minister from 1996 to 2007 and

High Commissioner to the UK from 2014-2018).

The blueprint for the current violence against lockdowns in the states of Australia can trace its roots back to revolutionary China. The little Red Book titled *Quotations from Mao Tse-tung* is the *New Testament* of the Communist Chinese. Over 400 million copies have been distributed in China. It is used, evangelistically, all around the world and has been the inspiration for many revolutionary movements.

War and Violence

To Mao, war and violence are virtuous. He does not take the attitude that war is an unfortunate necessity to achieve an objective, but that war is good because of the effects it has on the participants who survive. He states this quite definitely in *Quotations of Mao Tse-Tung*, “Revolutionary war is an anti-toxin which not only eliminates the enemies’ poison, but which also purges us of our own filth.” He teaches the doctrine of the therapeutic value of violence and war; that war is purifying.

Life under Australian lockdowns

We are witnessing riots on the streets involving Australian citizens demonstrating against the draconian lockdowns forced upon them by state

Premiers, drunken with the same powers that the Stasi police had in East Germany. Simply recall what transpired in Germany in the 1930s when parliamentary democracy was trashed as the Nazis used the pretext of a national emergency to push their despotism. Clive James once said **“The problem with Australians is not that so many of them are descendant from convicts but that so many are descended from prison officers.”**

Comrades in Arms

Victoria’s emerging dictator, Daniel Andrews, went beyond his state powers (*ultra vires*) and signed the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which enabled Chinese companies, controlled by their communist party, into Victoria’s infrastructure and construction programs. Fortunately, the Commonwealth Government of Australia used its Foreign Affairs powers to veto this agreement as it would allow China too much surveillance and influence over our domestic affairs.

Victorian ‘dictator Dan’ shows his true colours with the Pandemic Management Bill

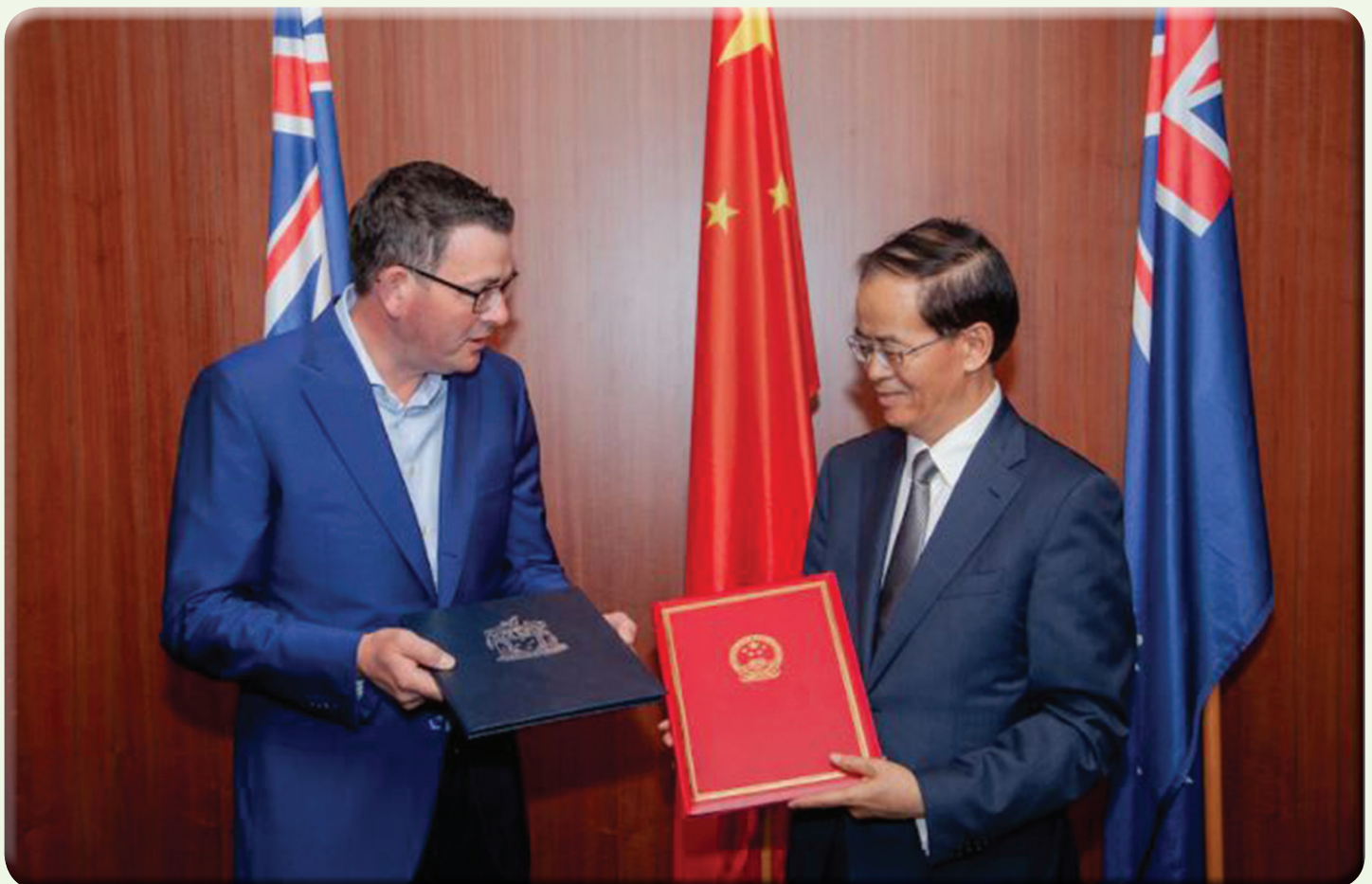
This Bill, which could have been lifted from Mao’s little Red Book, had its second reading speech delivered in the Victorian Parliament on Thursday 28th October 2021, it passed both houses and was assented to on the 7th December 2021, giving Premier Andrews unprecedented powers. Victorian opposition leader Matthew Guy has called the Bill the *Permanent Pandemic Bill*, as “the most extreme” pandemic legislation of any state or territory in Australia. Mr Guy said: “placing so much power in the hands of one person ... would be unprecedented.” (The Bill was tabled just after Melbourne broke the world record of 267 days in lockdown overall).

Premier Gladys Berejiklian also locks down NSW

Many of the lockdowns have been imposed whilst State Premiers refuse to recall their parliaments, a matter that did not escape Professor

David Flint. An Australian legal academic Professor Flint, has also foreshadowed our concerns over the lack of due process in reference to public health orders and draconian lockdowns when he stated:

“It is truly extraordinary that what was the most draconian lockdown in the history of this state was effected by Health Minister, Brad Hazzard sitting in his office, signing a law described as a mere Order under the Public Health Act. This sort of thing is being done today without any of the controls which were once normal procedure. Anything of this magnitude should always be approved by the Cabinet. Then senior ministers should put them to the Governor in the Executive Council. The Governor of NSW would first want to know what power she had and if there were any conditions on the exercise of the relevant power, whether they had been fulfilled. And since she was being asked to do this on health grounds, the Governor would surely be entitled to see the health advice that supported



Premier Daniel Andrews and Chinese Ambassador to Australia

this conclusion” (*The Daily Telegraph*, Friday 30th July 2021).

The door is shutting for our detractors. In 2020, during the lockdowns, church doors were shut, the state is convinced that the church is unnecessary, outdated and a waste of time. Add to this the widely followed teachings of atheists such as Richard Dawkins, the late Stephen Hawking plus the anti-theist Christopher Hitchens and others, is it any wonder that the church is viewed the way it is? If there is no God, why attend?

The very foundations of Australia’s social order are being shaken by a spirit of lawlessness never known by some of our generation.

State law versus God’s law

Abortion on demand: Exodus 21:22-23, “If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman’s husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life.”

Same Sex Marriage laws: Romans 1:26-27, “For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also

the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.”

Wherever there is an attack on the organisation of society there is an attack on its religion.

The Duty of a Christian Government

In the original statute given to man, God stated clearly, “*Whoso sheddeth man’s blood by man shall his blood be shed*” (*Genesis 9:6*). This was amplified through a statute of judgment at Mount Sinai which made it obligatory upon the nation of God’s people to administer it throughout all their generations: “*So these things shall be for a statute of judgment unto you throughout your generations in all your dwellings. Whoso killeth any person, the murderer shall be put to death*” (*Numbers 35:29-30*).

On reflection during my many years of prison ministry I saw a prisoner’s guilt of conscience replaced by the lawless dogma of rehabilitation. This came just after Ronald Ryan, the last murderer to be hanged in Australia on the 3 February 1967. Prior to this, those I counselled wish they had died by hanging rather than live under the constant guilt of their crime. Rehabilitation cancelled

that guilt thus the upsurge in rape, murder and other serious offences.

The Vow of the Clergy

The official teaching of the Church of England is in the 39 Articles of Religion, ratified by Royal Authority of Parliament, which will be found near the end of the Church’s handbook, **The Book of Common Prayer**. Article 37, of the Civil Magistrates, says: “**The laws of the Realm may punish Christian men with death, for heinous and grievous offences.**”

Charles H. Spurgeon (1834-1892) “*The doctrine of grace has been put by in the lumber chamber. It is acknowledged to be true, for it is confessed in most creeds; it is in the Church of England articles, it is in the Confessions of all sorts of Protestant Christians.*”

Spurgeon stated “That **The Book of Common Prayer** containeth in it nothing contrary to the word of God.” (*The Forgotten Spurgeon* by Iain Murray).

The Book of Common Prayer is an affirmation of our national faith. It is designed with the purpose of bringing us to the knowledge and love of the God of Israel and our Redemption. At the same time it is designed, also, to bring the whole of mankind to the knowledge of the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A Commination

This service contains special prayers for use on the first day of Lent. They are Israel prayers. After referring to the discipline which attained in the Primitive Church at the beginning of Lent, the minister says: “It is thought good, that at this time (in the presence of you all) should be read the general sentences of God’s cursing against impenitent sinners, gathered out of the seven and twentieth Chapter of Deuteronomy.”



For years I had advocated that the Church in Northern Ireland use imprecatory prayer to remove the terrorist leadership from Stormont Parliament, yet the power from God was never harnessed to do so. From Scripture I found the answer, in *Acts 19*. The story of *Demetrius* and those making a living from silver shrines for the worship of goddess *Diana* is told. In Northern Ireland many were writing about the wickedness of Sinn Fein/IRA and its commanders Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness who like the silversmiths in *Acts* were being paid handsomely for their TV appearances, radio interviews and using their journalistic skills of analysis in the day-to-day wrestle with a brutal regime that is hell-bent on murder and maiming the innocents within the borders of the six counties of Northern Ireland. Prayers were answered **when in December of 2016 the prayer of commination** was exercised in relation to **Martin McGuinness** commander of the IRA who died suddenly on **21 March 2017**. Like the murderous cells he set up during his terror campaign against the British and the peoples of Ulster did his own body cells turn against him?

The Prayer of Commination

The ancient Church of England, in its *1549 Book of Common Prayer (revised in 1562)* should be a reminder that the *Prayer of Commination or denouncing of God's anger and judgments against sinners* legitimises God's condemnation upon the forces of evil:

"Brethren, in the primitive Church there was a godly discipline, that, at the beginning of Lent, such persons as stood convicted of notorious sin were put to open penance, and punished in this world, that their souls might be saved in the day of the Lord; and that others, admonished by their example, might be the more afraid to offend."

In *II Corinthians 10:4* we are told that *"the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds"* and that *"the gates of hell shall not prevail against us"* (*Matthew 16:18-19*). Yet the dreadful scenes of carnage in Northern Ireland conflict with our understanding of Scripture.

Praying Against the Persecutors

Yet despite the fact that **90 of the 150 Psalms include imprecations** (prayers invoking God's righteous judgment upon the wicked) such prayers are rare in the average Western church. However, amongst the persecuted churches these prayers are much more common.

"Amidst the burned-out churches and devastation of Marxist Angola, I found the survivors of communist persecution – including the crippled and maimed and widows and orphans praying for God to strike down the wicked and remove the persecutors of the Church. I was shocked – yet it was biblical (Even the martyrs in Heaven pray "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until You judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" (*Revelation 6:10*))." (*Praying for Justice* by Dr. Peter Hammond; see full article, page 16).

The Westminster Confession of Faith

Rev. A. A. Hodge, D.D., formerly Professor of Systematic Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, in his commentary expounding the Westminster Confession, justifies force against corrupt governments when he states on page 299:

"When the civil government has become so radically and incurably corrupt that it has ceased to accomplish the ends for which it was established, when that point has unquestionably been reached, when all means of redress have been exhausted without avail, when there appears no prospect of securing reform in the government

itself, and some good prospect of securing it by revolution, then it is the privilege and duty of a Christian people to change their government – peacefully if they may, forcibly if they must."

Finally, as we confront the battle in front of us, let us look to the National Anthem of the United Kingdom for inspiration. It reminds us who protects **Australia** – one of Almighty God's Covenant Nations.

God Save the Queen – verse 2:

*O Lord our God arise,
Scatter our enemies
And make them fall;
Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish tricks,
On Thee our hopes we fix,
God save us all!*

PAUL L OWENS JP

Sources:

Western Civilization is destroyed by Pietism & Lawless Dogma In The Spirit and Power of Elijah The Book of Common Prayer - Our National Liturgy by Alfred W. Faith, Covenant Publishing
Articles of Religion
The Prayer of Commination
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PRAYING FOR JUSTICE

The Imprecatory Psalms

To those of us involved in ministering to Christians suffering persecution, the imprecatory Psalms are a tremendous source of comfort. Those of us who are fighting for the right to life of the preborn, or battling social evils such as pornography or crime, are beginning to appreciate what an important weapon God has entrusted to us in them. This study will help inspire and guide the prayers of your family and congregation.

When I first encountered the prayers for judgment in the Psalms, I was quite at a loss to know how to respond to them. Prayers such as: *“Break the arm of the wicked and evil man; call him to account for his wickedness...”* (Psalm 10:15) did not seem consistent with the gospel of love which I had accepted. Yet Psalm 10:15 was clearly motivated by love for God (*“The Lord is King forever and ever; the nations will perish from His land”* 10:16, and *“Why does the wicked man revile God?”* 10:13) and by love for the

innocent who suffer (*“You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted; You encourage them and You listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed, in order that man, who is of the earth, may terrify no more”* 10:17-18.)

Nevertheless, I grew increasingly uncomfortable reading such graphic prayers for God to judge the wicked as: *“Pour out your wrath on them; let Your fierce anger overtake them”* (69:24); *“Break the teeth in their mouths, O God... let them vanish like water... let their arrows be blunted... The righteous will be glad when they are avenged, when they bathe their feet in the blood of the wicked. Then men will say, Surely the righteous still are rewarded; surely there is a God who judges the earth”* (58:6-11).

Certainly, I wanted God to be honoured and yes, I was deeply distressed by the prevalence of evil – but could I actually pray for God to *pour out His wrath* on the wicked?

How are these Prayers to be Prayed?

The Scriptures make it clear that these prayers are not to be prayed for our own selfish motives, nor against our personal enemies. Rather they are to be prayed in Christ, for His glory and against His enemies. The psalmist describes the targets of these imprecations as: those who devise injustice in their heart and whose hands mete out violence (58:2); those who *“boast of evil”* and *“are a disgrace in the eyes of God. Your tongue plots destruction, it is like a sharpened razor, you who practice deceit. You love evil rather than good, falsehood rather than speaking the truth”* (52:1-3); *“They crush your people... They slay the widow and the alien;*



they murder the fatherless” (94:5-6); “With cunning they conspire against Your people; they plot against those You cherish” (83:3).

To those unrepentant enemies of God, the psalmist declares: **“Surely God will bring you down to everlasting ruin” (52:5); “Surely God will crush the heads of His enemies... of those who go on in their sins” (68:21).**

And the purpose of these prayers for justice is declared: **“Then it will be known to the ends of the earth that God rules...” (59:13); “to proclaim the power of God” (68:34); “Who knows the power of Your anger? For Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due You” (90:11).**

Yet despite the fact that 90 of the 150 Psalms include imprecations (prayers invoking God’s righteous judgment upon the wicked) such prayers are rare in the average Western church. However, amongst the persecuted churches these prayers are much more common.

Praying Against the Persecutors
Amidst the burned-out churches and devastation of Marxist Angola, I found the survivors of communist persecution – including the crippled and maimed and widows and orphans praying for God to strike down the wicked and remove the persecutors of the Church. I was shocked – yet it was biblical. (Even the martyrs in Heaven pray **“How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until You judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?”** Revelation 6:10).

The initiator of the communist persecution in Angola was Agostinho Neto. Described as a *drunken, psychotic, Marxist poet*, Neto had been installed by Cuban troops as the first dictator of Angola. He boasted that: *Within 20 years there won’t be a Bible or a church left in Angola. I will have*

eradicated Christianity. Yet despite the vicious wave of church burning and massacres, it is not Christianity that was eradicated in Angola but Agostinho Neto. Neto died in mysterious circumstances on an operating table in Moscow.

Persecutors Judged

In Romania I learnt of a series of remarkable incidents recorded of God judging the persecutors of the Church in answer to prayer:

A communist official ordered a certain pastor to be arrested. The next day the official died of a heart attack.

Another communist party official ordered that all the Bibles in his district were to be collected and pulped, to be turned into toilet paper. This blasphemous project was in fact carried out. But the next day when the official was medically examined, he was informed that he had terminal cancer. He died shortly afterwards.

Nicolae Ceausescu the dictator who ordered much of the persecution in Romania was overthrown by his own army and executed on Christmas Day, 1989, to joyous shouts of *“the anti-Christ is dead”* in the streets. Many testified that this was in answer to the fervent prayers on the longsuffering people of Romania. **“They were all seized with fear and the Name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honour... in this way the Word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power” (Acts 19:17, 20).**

Another persecutor of the Church who challenged God was Samora Machel, the first dictator of Marxist Mozambique. Samora Machel was a cannibal who ate human flesh in witchcraft ceremonies in the 1960s. He pledged his soul to Satan and vowed that he would destroy the Church and turn Mozambique into the first truly Marxist-Leninist state in Africa. Thousands of churches in Mozambique were closed, confiscated, *nationalised,*

claimed and padlocked, burnt down or boarded up. Missionaries were expelled, some being imprisoned first. Evangelism was forbidden. Bibles were ceremonially burnt and tens of thousands of Christians, including many pastors and elders, were shipped off to concentration camps – most were never seen again.

Blasphemer and Persecutor Judged

A month before his sudden death Samora Machel cursed God publicly and challenged Him to prove His existence by striking him (Machel) dead. On 19 October 1986, while several churches were specifically praying for God to stop persecution in Mozambique, Machel’s Soviet Tupelov aircraft crashed in a violent thunderstorm. The plane crashed 200 metres within South Africa’s boundary with Mozambique. Amidst the wreckage, the Marxist plans for overthrowing the government of Malawi were discovered and published. Not only had God judged a blasphemer and a persecutor, but He had also saved a country from persecution.

The Power of Prayer

In the months leading up to the first multi-party elections in Zambia, many churches fasted and prayed for God to remove the 27-year socialist dictatorship of Kenneth Kaunda. This was done on 31 October 1991, when Fredrick Chiluba (a man converted to Christ whilst imprisoned for opposing Kaunda) was elected president of Zambia and covenanted to make Zambia a Christian country.

It is recorded in history that the wicked Mary, Queen of Scots, declared trembling and in tears: ***I am more afraid of John Knox’s prayers than of an army of ten thousand.***

May we Pray the Imprecatory Psalms?

Martin Luther pointed out that when one prays: ***“Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done”*** then *he must put all the opposition to this in one pile and say: Curses, maledictions and disgrace upon every other name and every other kingdom. May they be ruined and torn apart and may all their schemes and wisdom and plans run aground.”*

To pray for the extension of God’s Kingdom is to seek the destruction of all other kingdoms, e.g. *Daniel 2:44: “The God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed... It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.”*

Advance and victory for the Church means defeat and retreat for the kingdom of darkness.

There is a life and death struggle between two kingdoms. The Church cannot exclude hatred for Satan’s kingdom from its love for God’s Kingdom. God’s Kingdom cannot come without Satan’s kingdom being destroyed. God’s will cannot be done on earth without the destruction of evil. The glory of God demands the destruction of evil. Instead of being influenced by sickly sentimentalism which insists upon the assumed, but really non-existent, rights of man – we should focus instead upon the rights of God.

The Blessings of Obedience and the Curses of Disobedience

The imprecatory Psalms are fully consistent with the law of God: ***“If you do not carefully follow all the words of this Law, which are written in this book and do not revere this glorious and awesome Name - the Lord your God - the Lord will send fearful plagues on you and your descendents. He will bring upon you all the diseases of Egypt that you dreaded and they will cling to you. The Lord will also bring on you every kind of***

sickness and disaster not recorded in this Book of the Law until you are destroyed... because you did not obey the Lord your God... so it will please Him to ruin and destroy you. You will be uprooted from the land you are entering to possess” (Deuteronomy 28:58-63).

The Church of Jesus Christ is an army under orders. Scripture constitutes the official dispatches from the Commander-in-Chief. But we have a problem: those who are called to pass on those orders are refusing to do so. How then can we expect to be a united, effective army? Is it any wonder that the troops have lost sight of their commission to demolish the strongholds of the kingdom of darkness? If the Church does not hear the battle cries of her Captain, how will she follow Him onto the battlefield?

Pastors are commissioned to pass on the orders of the Church’s Commander, never withholding or changing His words. One whose job is to carry dispatches to troops in wartime would face certain and severe punishment if he dared to amend the general’s orders. The pastor’s charge is of greater importance than that of a courier in any earthly army. There’s no place for the dispatcher to decide he doesn’t agree with his Commander’s strategy.

When Jesus Christ sent seventy-two disciples on a preaching mission, He told them to proclaim the coming of God’s Kingdom (*Luke 10:9*), that is, to announce that people must submit to God’s rule in their lives. Jesus instructed them to pray for peace on any house they approach, assuring them that if anyone rejected it, the peace would return on the disciples (verse 5). But we must consider what He said they should do if their message were rejected, that is, if the hearers persisted in rebellion against God’s rule, ***“But when you enter a town and are not welcomed,***

go into its streets and say, Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The Kingdom of God is near” (*Luke 10:11*).

What would be the result of that denunciation? I tell you; it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom (on which God sent fire from heaven in judgment for its wickedness) than for that town (verse 12). Immediately Jesus added curses on Korazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum for their rejection of His message (verses 13, 15).

He then explained to the disciples the great authority He had given them: ***“He who listens to you listens to Me; he who rejects you rejects Me; but he who rejects Me rejects him who sent Me”*** (verse 16). This is the fundamental basis for calling down God’s curses on anyone: his persistent rebellion against God’s authority expressed in His Law and the ministry of His servants.

We need to clearly and forcefully proclaim the war cries of the Prince of Peace. Only then will the Church awake from its lethargy and once again enter the battle. If we fail to pass on the battle cry then a lack of urgency and confusion in the ranks will be inevitable.

Like *Psalms 1*, our preaching needs to clearly show the blessings of obedience and the curse of disobedience. The eternal truth is that **God cannot be mocked**. Whatever a man sows – that shall he reap (*Galatians 6:7*). The curses pronounced on disobedience in *Deuteronomy 28:47-53* were fulfilled in detail in Samaria (*II Kings 6:28-29*) and in Judea (AD 70). The wrath of God upon covenant breakers is real.

The ‘**I**’ of the Psalms is Jesus Christ. The ‘**we**’ of the Psalms includes those of us in the Lord Jesus. The enemies are not our own,

individually, but those of the Lord and of His Church. The Psalms are of Christ as Prophet, Priest and King. They record Christ's march in victory against the kingdom of darkness. As Christ is the Author of the Psalms, so, too, is He the final fulfilment of the Covenant on which they are based. God will answer the psalmist's prayers completely in Jesus Christ on the final Day of Judgment. While on earth Jesus foretold the day when He will say: ***"But those enemies of Mine who did not want Me to be King over them – bring them here and kill them in front of Me"*** (Luke 19:27).

God's Kingdom is at War

A fatal end awaits everyone who refuses to acknowledge and to obey Jesus as King and Lord. Hearing expositions of these war psalms of the Prince of Peace will remind His people that God's Kingdom is at war! The Kingdom of darkness is being overcome by the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, a war in which each local congregation of believers plays a vital part. You must rally your battalion to put on the whole

armour of God, including ***"the sword of the spirit, which is the Word of God"*** (Ephesians 6:17). That battle-readiness also involves ***"pray[ing] in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests"*** (Ephesians 6:18).

Pray for the Persecuted

To deal with the very real hurts and injustices in this world it is necessary for us to pray for God's justice. Those who are persecuted need the comfort of these prayers. ***"Let the saints rejoice in His honour and sing for joy... May the praise of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands, to inflict vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, to bind their kings with fetters, their nobles with shackles of iron, to carry out the sentences written against them. This is the glory of all His saints. Praise the Lord"*** (Psalm 149:5-9).

Spiritual Warfare

Prayer is, in fact, spiritual warfare. One weapon is prayer

for conversion of spiritual enemies; another is prayer for judgment on those who finally refuse to be converted. We handicap the army of God when we refuse to use both of these great weapons that He has given us. It is at all times a part of the task of the people of God to destroy evil.

A Call to Prayer and Action

If you have been guilty of dulling your sword, by neglecting or undermining these Psalms, repent of that sin, sharpen your sword anew and go forth to do battle in the Name and for the Glory of Jesus – until ***"the knowledge of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea"*** (Habakkuk 2:14).

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PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

"But you promised!" The heartfelt cry of disappointment from small children at all times and in all places. The lesson is soon learnt that promises can be, and are, broken.

The Christian life is different. The solid foundation on which our lives should be built are the promises of Almighty God which are fixed and settled.

From the very beginning, His Plan was determined after the Fall and revealed in the pages of Scripture. When confusion and anxiety are filling our minds with thoughts of what might befall us it is thrilling and comforting to remember that ***"By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD"*** (Genesis 22:16).

What did He plan and how is He working it out? That is what we must study and seek to find, praying for the guidance of the Holy Spirit so that we can truly say, ***"For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us"*** (II Corinthians 1:20).

FAITHFUL ELIJAH PRAYS FOR GOD'S AWESOME POWER

The faithfulness of Elijah's prayer in asking Almighty God to overcome the evil crisis facing Elijah is awesome, as will be seen. Jesus' brother James records: "...*The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly*" (James 5:16-17).

Indeed, Jeremiah emphasised the importance of prayer: "*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart*" (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

In Holy Faith the Holy Spirit guides us as the Apostle Paul teaches: "*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express*" (Romans 8:26).

Thus, I pray that all covenant nations – **all True Israel** – are thankful for the dedication of the Editorial Team for their godly wisdom and truth in reporting this current totally evil crisis. The previous Editorials mentioned below are still totally relevant as the crisis is becoming worse as revealed and confirmed by the ungodliness to Almighty God of COP26.

They have defined our crisis. The Editorial Team's thoughts 'In This Day and This Hour'¹ are timely and awesome: "It is beyond question that the integrity of the United Kingdom and the great company of Covenant Nations in all their

aspects have been undermined during the past seven decades... **We are a people in crisis**, desperately looking for positive guidance and **leadership** that will remove us from the deepening quagmire of destruction in a spiritual vacuum." Further, the article²: "The Force in our Midst Defying Almighty God while Christian prelates deny the Power of His Covenant Word" is precisely what I wish to address: "Millions of Christian-thinking and commonsense patriotic people today are being hounded out of their peaceable living by a '**woke**' culture that is undermining the very foundations of society in the covenant nations. This may seem to be a very sweeping statement; it is nevertheless true and is a fact that must be faced by discerning minds as a **matter of priority importance**." The Editorial is true – "the '**woke**' culture is undermining the foundations of society in the Covenant Nations."

I remember Churchill's comments in May 1940 when he defined the crisis then as facing one of the greatest battles in history. He took up his task with buoyancy and hope as he faced the crisis. He asked for Almighty God's help, with King George VI's request for prayers of the Empire, to overcome a monstrous tyranny. There is a monstrous tyranny today as the above references have revealed.

Please bear with the following long passage of Scripture which clearly teaches of Almighty God's faithfulness. It is so important, so critical, to read, believe and rely on Holy Scripture through the power and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Almighty God was totally

faithful to Israel. Remember Elijah and his perseverance in his crisis: "*After a long time, in the third year, the word of the Lord came to Elijah: Go and present yourself to Ahab... Elijah said, As the Lord Almighty lives, whom I serve, I will surely present myself to Ahab today. When he saw Elijah, he said to him, Is that you, the troubler of Israel? I have not made trouble for Israel, Elijah replied. But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the Lord's commands and have followed the Baal's. Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table. So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. Elijah went before the people and said, How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him. But the people said nothing.*

Then Elijah said to them, I am the only one of the Lord's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. Get two bulls for us. Let them choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by fire, he is God. Then all the people said, What you say is good. So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. O Baal, answer us! they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced

around the altar they had made. At noon Elijah began to taunt them. Shout louder! he said. Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or travelling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.

*So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention. Then Elijah said to all the people, Come here to me. They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the Lord, which was in ruins. Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, **Your name shall be Israel.** With the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed. He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood.*

*Then he said to them, Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood. Do it again, he said, and they did it again. Do it a third time, he ordered, and they did it the third time. The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench. **At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again. Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, The Lord – he is God! The Lord – he is God!** Then Elijah commanded them,*

Seize the prophets of Baal. Don't let anyone get away!..." (I Kings 18:1, 15, 17-24 & 26-40).

The above is a long passage of Scripture and totally relevant. We need to read Scripture and pray at all times. Just as Jezebel had killed the Lord's prophets and wanted to kill Elijah, a similar evil faced Thomas Cranmer.

With the assistance of Martin Luther and several Continental reformers, Cranmer changed doctrine or discipline in areas such as the Eucharist, clerical celibacy, the role of images in places of worship, and the veneration of saints. Cranmer promulgated the new doctrines through the Prayer Book, the

Homilies and other publications. After the accession of the Catholic Mary I, Cranmer was put on trial for treason and heresy, he was imprisoned for over two years.

Mary wanted him executed, and, on the day of his execution, he withdrew his recantations, to die a heretic to Catholics and a martyr for the principles of the English Reformation. Cranmer's legacy lives on within the Church of England through the Book of Common Prayer and the Thirty-Nine Articles, an Anglican statement of faith derived from his work. Spiritual revival began with Cranmer and has been encouraged by **the faithful Church in faithful covenant nation Britain (Ephraim) that has**

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"Behold, all the earth sitteth still, and is at rest"

(Zechariah 1:11)

been ministering for centuries, taking the saving Gospel of Jesus to the Empire.

Cranmer was dreadfully treated by Mary I in a similar way that Elijah was treated – and today many evangelical Ministers are ignored. Actually, **Almighty God is ignored!**

The truth above is a type/shadow of the evil today. Are all the covenant nations as true Israel listening? Remember Jesus' brother James recorded: *“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, You have faith; I have deeds”* (James 1:22, 2:17-18).

Further, the deception of the ‘Green movement’ and the spiritual failure of the liberal church is appalling. The attempts to push to a godless global ‘last days’ one-world government shows the rejection of Almighty God and His sustaining and maintaining His creation. This is clearly seen in the greed forcing the fraud of climate change on the world. Australia is blessed with the best coal (anthracite) in God's world. Technology has enabled coal-fired stations to produce the cheapest, cleanest base-load power. Professor Ian Plimer, Australia's leading geologist in his book *Climate Change Delusions and the Great Electricity Rip-off* makes the following comments³ on the deception of human induced climate change:

“Very cold minimum temperatures measured in 2017 by government agencies are expunged from the record or changed to a warmer temperature to show a warming trend.” There is no relationship between measured temperature and CO2 emissions.

Plimer continues:

“The fraudulent ‘homogenisation’ of raw data, the inaccessibility of stored raw data, the deletion of large

volumes of raw data, the opacity of modeling methods, the omission of validation past climate data, the uncertainty of measurement, claims of a consensus and the demonising of dissent all show that climate ‘science’ has nothing to do with science but, rather, is post-modernist political activist thuggery. These historical temperature records may be nigh on useless.

Taxpayers fund climate research and institutions like the Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO and universities. We expect accountability and independent dispassionate information and should not have to pay crippling electricity bills because of fraudulent environmental activism. Attempts to change global temperature or stop global climate change are deluded and are essentially attempts to control every aspect of our lives by unelected opaque organisations such as the UN. Climate change activism is the main weapon of the culture wars to deconstruct Western civilization.”

It is interesting that China, Russia and India are not overly enthusiastic with the ‘woke’ COP26 Summit. This ‘woke culture’ is a type/shadow of the evil mentioned at the time of Elijah which was destroying “the foundation of society” then and likewise now.

I am repeating for emphasis my previous *Covenant Nations* article. **History repeats itself.** The previous Editorial on: “...national unfaithfulness.” The decision by Mary I in 1554: ⁴“Significantly it was in November-December 1554 that Henry VIII's Act of Supremacy was repealed, restoring the supremacy of the Pope over the Church of England, which was celebrated by the Feast of Reconciliation as a new holy day.”

Remember history: In October 1517, Martin Luther nailed 95 Theses of reforms to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. By the power of the Holy Spirit Cranmer's

heart was changed.

Cranmer, through the Holy Spirit's inspiration, effectual calling and grace, knew and believed Jesus' words: *“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, **fruit that will last...**”* (John 15:16).

Almighty God has blessed our covenant nations – will we repent and turn to Him as faithful True Israel? Remember Elijah prayed *“O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel...”* We as covenant nations **are True Israel** and heirs of Almighty God's promise: *“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise”* (Galatians 3:26-29).

I pray that the covenant nations will persevere in Holy faith in this evil time, this crisis: *“But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. They said to you, In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires. These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life”* (Jude 17-21).

Blessings

DR GRAHAM WHELAN

Minister Emeritus
Australian Christian Churches

¹ *The Covenant Nations* Vol 5 No 6

² *The Covenant Nations* Vol 5 No 7

³ *Australia's Sovereignty & Unfaithful Governance* by Rev Dr Graham Whelan

⁴ Ibid

WHAT LIES BENEATH –

Is Cornwall set for a Modern-Day Gold Rush?

He owns the cattle on a thousand hills
The wealth in every mine,
 He owns the rivers and the rocks and rills,
 The sun and stars that shine,
 Wonderful riches more than tongue can tell
 He is my Father so they're mine as well
 He owns the cattle on a thousand hills
 I know that He will care for me.

This is a song of Christian faith from the past that seems to stay with us in our thoughts and memory, but which is also true in a very literal sense in respect of the glorious blessings that Almighty God gave to His servant people, when released from captivity in Assyria, as they migrated across Europe to the North Sea fringe and the British Isles and later to the great continent of North America.

A feature article in *The Telegraph Magazine* for 11 September, 2021, entitled “What Lies Beneath – Is Cornwall set for a Modern-Day Gold Rush?” by Harry de Quetteville, reported on the modern-day rush for ‘green gold’ stating that “Deep in the Cornish countryside lies a metal with the potential to make vast fortunes – and turn Britain into a powerful mining nation again.”

He writes that “It is a vast but hidden world. On one side of a ridge the B3274 passes oblivious through green, rural Cornwall. On the other, as far as the eye can see, the land’s verdant skin has been cut away, revealing the entire valley’s milky white flesh, sliced and scarred by the blades of industrial surgeons.

Mining has moulded this landscape for millennia . . . copper and tin mining. That, of course, was the business that transformed the fortunes in the 18th and 19th centuries, before fading in the 20th. But fortune hunters are not done digging in this unique corner of the country. The land has a new treasure to give up: lithium. . . .

Modern diamond-tipped drills are able to recover smooth tubes of rock, the width of a saucer, going down miles. These cores reveal what deposits minerals lie where, how rich and how deep . . . It is these that are the source of men’s excitement, and of mining projects that they hope could transform Cornwall into the seat of a modern-day rush for the new ‘green gold’ on which mankind’s departure from the oil age depends. If they can pull it off, they will transform the region’s fortunes, and their own, and deliver Britain a critical strategic asset in an age of trade spats and resource wars . . .

Light and energy-dense, lithium is the critical ingredient in batteries and, as such, underpins global energy transition from fossil fuels to electricity. Lithium allows us to store

renewable energy to use when it is dark and cold and there is no wind to turn turbines. Lithium lights up our digital world too, with its batteries for lap tops and mobile phones. Above all, lithium batteries power humanities ever-growing fleets of the electric vehicles (EVs) that are replacing petrol and diesel models, sales of which will be outlawed in the UK from 2030. It is an energy transition on a scale the world has never seen before. ‘We need this raw material for the green economy’ says Kathryn Goodenough of the British Geological Society. ‘In the coming decades it’s going to be very important.’

As such, demand is going off the charts. Forecasts suggest that it will increase seven-fold between today and the end of the decade, from about 300,000 tonnes per year to as much as 2,000,000 tonnes. According to Defra figures, Britain imported just over 2,000 tonnes of lithium in 2018, but the country’s requirements are estimated to hit 75,000 tonnes by 2025, just three years from now, the global battery market is forecast to be worth around \$60 billion a year . . .

There is a pleasing circularity to it all [for the covenant people]. After the end of the Victorian mining boom, many Cornish families left to follow the industry elsewhere, in America and Australia. ‘Every mine in Australia has a Cornish man at the bottom of the pit. That’s the old joke’ says Andrew Smith [director of British Lithium], in his Aussie accent. ‘Now it’s coming home.’”



A sample mined by British Lithium during its exploratory work at St Austell.
 Photo: Dave Imms

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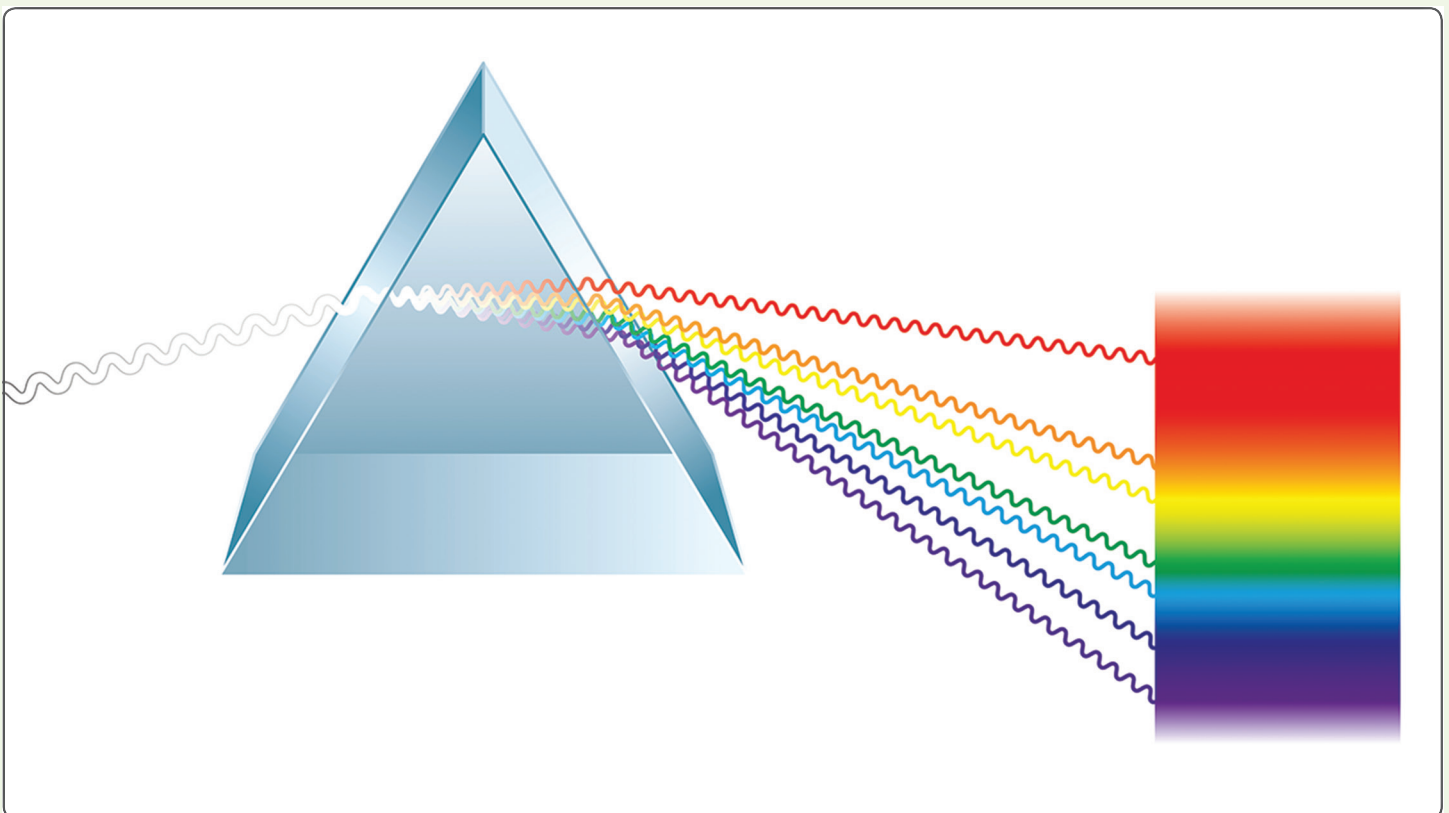
To many people numbers are a source of entertainment, with the frequent hope of gaining financial enrichment via this 'numbers game.' It comes in numerous forms, like the national lottery, the Bingo hall or the popular raffle ticket. It involves the participant in some financial risk, for chance and uncertainty are the hallmarks of this potentially hazardous pastime. The title, above, as an adage, is thought to originate in a fourteenth century game of

dice, with the sixes and sevens, in some combination, proving to be a disaster for the gambler. Not being cognisant of the rules of the game I can offer no further enlightenment other than its modern association with trouble and confusion.

In all God's creation numbers are an integral part of all that He has created. Everything exists and works in accordance with His forward planning and the laws He has incorporated in the design of all

life and substance in the universe. With Him nothing is left to chance for nothing is outwith His control. Times and seasons, life and growth in all its forms, exhibit, under close examination, distinct numerical patterns in individual construct, indicating plan and design rather than random or chance development.

The biblical record reveals that the creation was accomplished in six days and that God refrained from doing any further work on



the seventh day. For mankind that seventh day was to be set apart for rest and refreshment and, I believe, for worship and communion with their Creator. As a husbandman, having the care of the land which produced food for his health and wellbeing, his instruction for that responsible position was to tend the land and enjoy the blessing and benefit of seedtime and harvest for a period of six years. On the seventh year the land was to rest, without cultivation, seeding or harvesting. The abundance of the crop harvested on the sixth year was promised to be sufficient to last over the seventh, fallow year.

This seven year cycle is a timescale which, in numerical terms, applies in much of the Scripture record and content and has a significant influence on all living creatures. The latter begin life as an ova or embryo and have periods of gestation measured in either days or weeks, but always numbered in multiples of seven in each case. It has also been found that the colours of the spectrum are seven in number, visually evident in the rainbow, that Divine token of promise as recorded in *Genesis* 9:13. In sound the notes in the music scale are also seven in number, as was eloquently sung by Maria in the 'Do-Re-Mi' song in the Rogers and Hammerstein musical, *The Sound of Music*. One could go on relating all the instances in Scripture in which the number 7 plays a significant role but, rather than burden the reader with a surfeit of information, I will merely commend the book by Dr. Bullinger, *Numbers in Scripture*, as a comprehensive source for further study.

In Bible study 7 is regarded as indicative of spiritual perfection and completeness. When God had finished His creative work He saw that it was 'good,' complete and perfect. Man was formed on the

sixth day, a perfect human being, made in the image of God. He was not a puppet but was given the gift of free will with the power to think and reason and consider his place and position in God's creation. However, he was formed on the sixth day, one day short of the perfect seventh day, symbolic, it is believed, of his anticipated sinful nature and fall from grace. For sin is regarded as a falling short of God's perfection in purpose and being.

The statement in Scripture referring to the fallen nature of man – "...*the imagination of men's hearts is evil from his youth...*" (*Genesis* 8:21) should be a humbling thought. Yet not one to cause complete despair, for his promised future cleansing and purification has been made possible by that supreme sacrifice performed on the cross by the Lord Jesus Christ, as was foretold in the declaration made in *Genesis* 3:15. The prophetic words regarding the future cleansing of the Kingdom, which come to mind, are those of the prophet Ezekiel. In the 36th chapter the prophet lays before us the scene of the unfaithful kingdom of Israel which has rebelled against God. His great displeasure and wrath at their evil behaviour is clearly justified; yet His promises to their forefathers of future growth and ultimate destiny as His chosen people were to be honoured. God makes clear, however, that He is not doing this as a favour for their special benefit, but for the sake of His honour in keeping the promises He made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Israel is, in this manner, firmly put in her place, recorded here in verse 22 and, for emphasis, repeated in verse 32. In between these there is the prophecy of the cleansing of the kingdom (v 25); a new heart to be implanted (v 26); and a new spirit imparted to return the people to a state of righteousness and obedience to God (v 27). This will bring about

a complete regeneration of the people and a marked improvement in their way of life and in their environment.

This is a wonderful promise of restoration and renewal but one which Israel cannot achieve by her own power and imperfect methods. These have only brought her to her present twenty-first century state of anxiety and confusion, 'all at sixes and sevens' as the saying goes, reflecting her unrighteous condition, associated with the number 6, yet striving vainly by her own efforts to achieve that ultimate perfection, associated with the number 7. Therefore, God, observing her fruitless efforts and aspirations, foresees the inevitable admission of failure by the people, saying "*I will yet be enquired of by the house of Israel to do it for them*" (verse 37).

Their restoration and regeneration will enable the kingdom to fulfill its purpose and mission, to be a witness to the power and faithfulness of an omnipotent and omniscient God, the Father of all mankind in a world which is in thrall to the forces of evil. The number 42 is identified with Antichrist (*Revelation* 13:5), its factors are six and seven.

$$6 \times 7 = 42$$

A partial regeneration took place following the Reformation. For a time the Ten Commandments were honoured by forming the basis of

English Common Law. They had a prominent place in Church doctrine as the foundation of the Christian faith. In numerical terms the number 10 is called a perfect number. So the Ten Commandments were perfect and complete, encapsulating the foundation principles for man's relationship to God and to his fellow men.

The Lord's Prayer contains 10 clauses and is also complete in itself. The first clause confirms God's sovereignty; the second gives honour to His name; the third testifies to the existence of His kingdom; the fourth clause refers to the earth and its subjection to His law. The fifth clause establishes God's grace in the supplying of our daily needs, while the sixth makes way for the acknowledgement of man's sin. The seventh is our plea for spiritual guidance and followed by the eighth clause which contains our plea for deliverance from all evil. The ninth clause is an acknowledgement of God's overruling power and glory and the prayer closes with the tenth clause, an acknowledgement of the eternal nature of God.

However, in these last days of this age the good that came from the Reformation has been wasted in lawless living, epitomised in the parable of 'the prodigal son.' Israel no longer fulfills the mission for which she was created. That mission is spelled out in the words of God declared through the prophet Isaiah, in chapter 43 of his book. In verses 10 and 12 God declares "*Ye are my witnesses....and my servant whom I have chosen*" (10). "*Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God*" (12). A great privilege and a great responsibility. I suggest the fulfilment of that mission was to be achieved in a twofold manner, practical and spiritual. It involved national compliance with the laws contained in the Commandments, Statutes and Judgments, imparted to Moses for his administration of

the temporal life of the people of Israel. The laws contained in the Ordinances were the guide for the spiritual life of the people, with Aaron, the High Priest, designated as the administrator of that spiritual side of kingdom life. When the rituals of animal sacrifice contained in that law were brought to an end at Calvary, the law which Paul described as "*our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ*" (*Galatians 3:24*), the spiritual life of the kingdom became the province of the Christian church, which was established by the Apostles following our Lord's death and resurrection.

The life of the kingdom today remains under these two authorities, Church and State. But in the great 'falling away' of the faith, which was prophesied to occur at the end of this age, these two witnesses, spoken of in *Revelation* chapter 11, have proved to be seriously flawed in each of their spheres of operation and are now effectively dead. The references to Sodom and Egypt in that chapter, verse 8, reflects the moral depravity and idolatrous worship of their respective peoples and point to such similar spiritual degradation to which the kingdom has descended in these last days of this age.

But God is never without witnesses. When Elijah the prophet thought that he was alone in his faithfulness to God, he was informed that there were seven thousand others of whom he evidently had no knowledge. (*I Kings 19:18*). I feel confident that a similar situation exists in the kingdom today, encouraged by two supplementary witnesses I believe God has inspired to counter the falling away which we have sadly observed, certainly in my own lifetime. Although I call them 'two witnesses,' they are at one in belief and purpose, distinctive only in their 'modus operandi,' one being essentially vocal, the other literary. I refer, of course, to the British-

Israel-World Federation and the Covenant Publishing Company. They are accompanied in that ministry by other independent but like-minded witnesses, here in the UK and in Israel lands overseas. The BIWF celebrated its Centenary in 2019 and the CPC will do so this year, 2022. These witnesses have given honour and praise to God for His faithfulness to the everlasting Covenants He made with our forefathers and for the redemption of His kingdom, through the precious blood of our Lord shed for it at Calvary. By their oral and written ministry and testimony they have borne witness to the perfection of Divine order.

These two numbers, 7 and 10, each being symbols of orders of perfection, are seen, by their product, to produce one other significant number, which is 70. Its significance in Scripture terms is its association with spiritual perfection. In *Genesis 24:1* Moses chose seventy elders to help in the design and construction of the Tabernacle, that central focus of worship for the people of Israel. Then, in Luke's gospel, 10:1, we find that Jesus chose seventy disciples to further His missionary work among the people. So it seems appropriate to end this article with this brief reference to this number when it also marks the length of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth's reign in this year. It is worthy of our thanksgiving and rejoicing, for it is surely the answer to the prayer in the National Anthem: "...long to reign over us..." and is the further confirmation of the promise God made to King David of Israel about the continuity of his Royal line. (*II Samuel 7:16*). Finally, there is the additional blessing that she is not afraid to confess her faith in Jesus Christ as her Saviour and Lord, thus a faith and witness for which we praise the Lord.

ALFRED BROWN

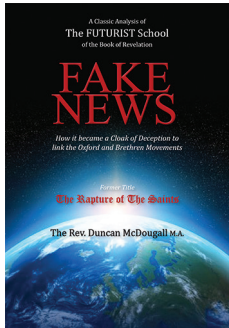
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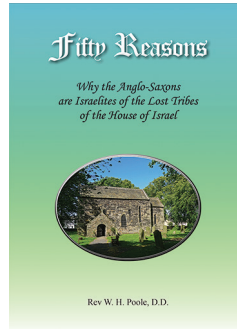


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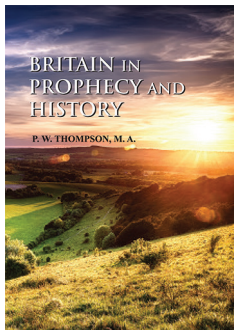
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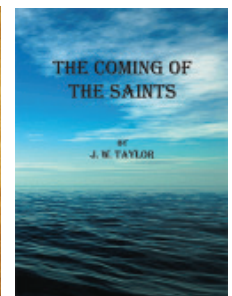
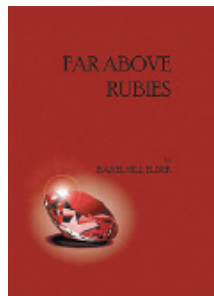
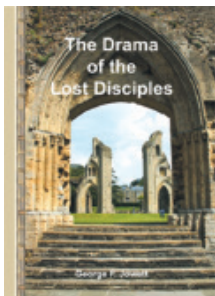
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peculiar treasure”*

Psalm 135:4



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