



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Making sense of Ulster's troubles



Terrorism promoted ecumenical gatherings such as here in Omagh following the republican bomb which killed 30 people in August 1998.

Part two of a special article on the spiritual and moral direction of our country. — It is only as you shine the lamp of God's truth upon the events currently taking place in Northern Ireland that you can bring any order or meaning to what is happening to our land. Last month, our article began with the statement : "In essence, we are travelling back down the road up which our forefathers, during centuries of struggle, laboured." We wish to follow on from that point.

If you consider the process of creation in Genesis chapter 1, and retrace your steps from the "very good" of verse 31 to verse 2: "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters," you will see an illustration of what is happening in our land.

I. We are seeing the demolishing of good governance, social decency and moral propriety which flourish under the gospel of Jesus Christ.

As it was with the image in Nebuchadnezzar's vision in Daniel chapter 2, there is a decline today from the peace and stability, enjoyed substantially in this land in previous generations, to increasing anarchy and lawlessness. The image Nebuchadnezzar saw had a head of gold but the materials of the image deteriorated down to its feet which were composed of "part of iron and part of clay," verse 33. Order is well on its way to being replaced by disorder in our land. In our lifetime, we have seen an Ulster, characterised by stability, rectitude and decency, transformed into a moral wilderness where the young, the weak, the frail and the elderly are daily under attack. Murder, rape and robbery are daily occurrences. We have a situation that bears all the marks of that depicted in Genesis 6: 11. "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence." As a ministerial student in the 1960s, I frequently visited around the Shankill Road in Belfast. What a different place it was then to now with its criminal gangs, drugs and terror! Then it was a place marked by gospel open-air meetings and a reverence for the things of God. The changes evidenced there now present a microcosm of the changes Ulster as a whole has undergone.

II. The source of this change may be traced to the churches.

Ulster's descent into disorder began with the corrupting of the pulpits by modernistic theology and the ecumenical agenda for reunion with Rome. Lawlessness in the streets began with lawlessness in the pulpit. How often I have heard the pleadings of clerics for those from within their own churches to cease from riot and disorder but all to no avail. Why should the people listen? Was it not these same ministers who taught them to rebel against God's Word, the very foundation of all law and order? These are prophets of deceit indeed.

Fire-raiser

A recent major forest fire in USA, which destroyed millions of acres of trees and cost the



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US economy \$millions, was started deliberately by a member of the Forestry Service. A fire fighter had become a fire-raiser! The guilty person faced a very severe penalty when brought to court. If it were deemed a punishable offence for a man to promote lawlessness and rebellion against God, the prisons of Northern Ireland would be filled with clerics and priests and many a pulpit would lie vacant and silent this weekend! Continued in next issue.