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### A step forward or a leap backward

House of commons' vote on sodomite marriage



' . . . **this is an important step forward for our country.**' - David Cameron, Prime Minister and leader of the Conservative Party.

'**We will look back on today as a landmark for equality in Britain.**' - Nick Clegg, Deputy Prime Minister and leader of the Liberal Democrats.

' . . . **this Bill is about one thing—fairness.**' - Maria Miller, the Minister for Women and Equalities who moved the motion for the government.



The debate last night in the House of Commons demonstrates clearly the character of the leadership this nation endures. What fools dominate the Westminster Parliament!

The decision made last night does not take England and Wales forward but backward. Backward to the days of darkness out of which the Word of God, defied and discarded last night, delivered us in times past.

This is a not a step toward justice and fairness. Rather it is a trampling of truth and righteousness underfoot.

The just and fair views of those who perceive sodomy as it is characterised by God in His Word are today classified at best as archaic and at the worst as unlawful.

The whole thinking and direction of the nation have been determined by the demands and actions of a tiny minority of individuals whose deviant views are ushering the nation toward a confrontation with God and His judgment.

We are a nation utterly adrift from God and the morality of the Word of God. The casting away of the Bible does not dethrone God or remove Him from His position as King of kings and Lord of Lords, Revelation 19:16. Rather, it brings closer a manifesting of His sovereign power over nations and a display of His righteous judgments against them.

What happened in the House of Commons has been noted in Heaven. "The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men," Psalm 11:4. The Lord will give His verdict on last night's events soon enough.

### History

We may know something of just what that verdict will be by a consideration of the history of the nations who ventured upon such a path as that chosen last night by the Westminster Parliament. A divine summary of that history is given us in Romans 1:24-32.

"Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. 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. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without under-



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standing, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

To a large degree, silence has reigned over professing Christendom regarding these things. There has been no Elijah-like figure to thunder against the iniquities of David Cameron and his political allies as they have championed this wickedness. This is to the shame of Church of Christ. It is also a sign of the judicial abandonment of the nation to its folly by God. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD," Amos 8:11. "Therefore night shall be unto you, that ye shall not have a vision; and it shall be dark unto you, that ye shall not divine; and the sun shall go down over the prophets, and the day shall be dark over them," Micah 3:6.

There have been voices raised and the message of godly protest has been proclaimed in the land, and for that we are thankful and we salute those who raised their voices and cried aloud. However, all will agree that such protests were not heard or considered by the populace.

### **Bereft**

Never has the United Kingdom been so bereft of spiritual leadership! We need say little about the pathetic bleatings of apostate Christendom in the United Kingdom. The 'Church' is made up of religious organisations which over the last 100 years have embraced and endorsed every devil-inspired innovation (if at the first some within its ranks feebly objected to such) and right gladly divorced itself more and more from the holy commands of God set forth in His Word. The established churches have led the nation as did the priests in Jerusalem, some 2000 years ago, in rejecting the true Saviour of men and His message of redemption, and now the 'Pontius Pilates' of civil government have agreed to put to death the nation's professed allegiance to the Bible.

That is the reality of last night's decision.

Evangelical Protestantism has been rarely heard and a lot less regarded on this whole matter. I believe the lethargy of the people of God generally stems much from an ignorance of the true significance of the nation embracing and ratifying sodomy.

Just where does such an event feature in the divine purpose for this nation? That is a matter little considered and even less understood.

It is as it was in the days of Noah. The wickedness of mankind prompted a response from God. "And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them," Genesis 6:5-7. God's response was not just one of judgment but was a case of God in wrath remembering mercy. The judgment would be delayed for 120 years during which time a warning would be sounded. "And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years," Genesis 6:3. For that 120 years opportunities would be granted to men to heed the message of Noah and note the warning that the building of the ark set forth and repent of their sins and turn to God in faith.

As the years went by and the warnings were ignored, the people became blind to the approaching storm of judgment. "For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away," Matthew 24:38-39.

Is that not the spirit of today?



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## Few Noahs

There are few Noahs with a knowledge of God's mind and a voice to declare the approaching storm. Only the vaguest notions of the teaching of the Bible on 'the end times' are possessed by God's people, including preachers. Just last night I received an email in which were stated some views regarding the second coming of Christ. Notions such as, 'there is something to be said for all the various views of the millennium' and 'for this reason I don't nail my colours to any particular mast' were expressed. There was a welcome given to the view of those who do not 'take Revelation too literally . . .' Such confused thinking is inexcusable amongst those who have the Word of God in their native tongue. It is a confusion which stems from listening to the opinions of men and not the Word of God. What God says, it is believed, must not be taken 'too literally'!

Herein lies the source of today's confused and spiritually emaciated Christian.

## First advent

When the Saviour came in His first advent, there was a similar state of ignorance and confusion. "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not," John 1:10-11. Only a few were expecting Him, even though His prophets had given precise details of when He would come. Representative of the few were Simeon and Anna, Luke 2:25-38. How did they know that the time was near for the Saviour's manifestation? The Holy Scriptures told them. It told them with less detail than that with which the Lord has provided His Church today, regarding His second coming and yet confusion and disinterestedness reigns.

## How can this be?

For this reason, the events of last night will be a '7-day wonder' even for many Christians. But not for those who are engaged in 'rightly dividing the Word of truth'. They will see such an event as another harbinger of the approaching Day of the Lord and that is how the Saviour would have it to be.

In Numbers 25, there is pictured for us an event of similar moral tones as last night's decision. Abominable immorality had been introduced to the camp of Israel as a result of a defiance of God's Word and a mingling amongst the ungodly Moabites and an adopting their wicked practices.

"And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel," Numbers 25:1-3.

The significance of these occurrences was not lost on Moses and the true believers in the camp.

"And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation," Numbers 25:6.

There were those who wept at the happenings which were so rejoiced in by others, blind to the consequences of their sin. They wept at the place of intercession, the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

There is a need today for such weeping and praying as the nation in its ignorance and frivolity stumbles down the road to hell.

## What of Ulster?

The decision in Westminster changed the law for England and Wales but believers in Northern Ireland cannot be complacent. After all, sodomy has been subsidised for a number of years by public funds administered by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister at Stormont. In last night's vote, all the DUP MPs voted against the legislating for sodomite marriage but it must be borne in mind that it was the decision



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of the DUP to enter a power-sharing administration back in 2007 that resulted in the funding of sodomy in Northern Ireland. A poll published in today's Belfast Newsletter indicated that two thirds of those taking part were in favour of sodomite marriage in Northern Ireland. Doubtless, a campaign for such legislation here will be mounted and it should be remembered that the support for sodomite funding back in 2007 will have paved the way and prepared the thinking of people for the bringing in of such law.

### **Watchfulness**

We are called to WATCH for those signs that will herald the approach of Christ's return. Last night there was the posting of a further sign of the times and the downgrade of the world into the morass in which it will be wallowing when Christ will come "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day," 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10.

Dear Christian, heed your Saviour's command to vigilance and understand the significance of such events as that taking place last night in London.

"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh," Matthew 24:42-44.

"But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him," 1 Thessalonians 5:1-10.

**Ivan Foster.**

**6th February 2013.**