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"New Wine - But the Old Spirit"

An announcement of what is nothing short of an ecumenical get together in Sligo later this year has been drawn to my attention. I just wish that the person who drew it to my notice had made themselves known for I would have liked to have thanked them for sending me the information.

You can read the pretentious, elaborate and high-tech 'communique' for yourself at the following web pages:



- <https://www.newwineireland.org/summer-conference>
- <https://www.newwineireland.org/summer-conference/speakers>

The introductory announcement states:

"We are called to live lives that count. Lives that count for the Kingdom and for the King. As we call out to Him together – God's Kingdom presence breaks into this world. New Wine Ireland exists to enthuse, equip and resource the local church across Ireland for radical mission that will change this nation."

Overt Aim

That is straight out of an ecumenical pamphlet of 60-70 years ago. The style and methods of presentation are very different, 21st century rather than 20th century, but the overt aims are the same - a uniting of all 'churches'.

Instead of old 'moth-eaten' bishops trying to sound 'hip' there are 'bright young things' looking and sounding as hip as hip can be!!

Covert Aim

The covert aim is also the same. It is the promoting of the devil's end-time, delusional, false church which will be presented to the world as depicted in Revelation 17:3-6.

"So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration."

Evil

The true nature of this 'spiritual luminary' is seen in the titles given her by the Lord and the crimes of which He says she is guilty. "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus."

There is about this 'woman' the evil aura that surrounded the Babylon of old. Here is how she proclaimed herself. "And thou saidst, I shall be a lady for ever: so that thou didst not lay these things to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it. Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children," Isaiah 47:7-8.



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This same pride will festoon that which is spoken of her in Revelation 17, that manifestation of apostasy and lawlessness which will fill the old Roman part of the earth but a short time before the Saviour returns. Hear what is said of the latter-day Babylon just before she is judged.

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow," Revelation 18:4-7.

Is this not the same spirit as was accredited to Babylon of old and referred to in Isaiah 47:8?

As the wise man Solomon said: "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall," Proverbs 16:18. So it will be with the latter-day embodiment of rebellion.

"Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: the merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, and cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men. And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, and cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate. Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her," Revelation 18:8-20.

Allurement



But while God has made known to us in His Word the evil of this system of religion, for that is what the 'Scarlet woman' represents, she is that final manifestation of religious apostasy which will be sited in a rebuilt Babylon. However, plain as her abominable character is presented to us here in God's Word, note John's reaction. What he saw had an impact upon him. "And when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration," Revelation 17:6. The words thou-mad'-zo (wondered) and thos'-mah (admiration) clearly indicate to us that there was that about evil woman, a bewitching enticement which caused John to somewhat lose sight and consciousness of her totally evil character.

Hence the angel's rebuke. "And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel?" Revelation 17:7.

I believe that in the last days will arise the embodiment of religious evil but it will be so swaddled in a cloak of satanic dissimulation and concealment that all but very few will fail to discern its true nature. Instead they



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will be utterly enamoured with it and embrace it. It is stated that, "All the world wondered after the beast," Revelation 13:3. The word 'wondered' is the word thou-mad'-zo, the same word which speaks of John's reaction to the sight of this woman, Revelation 17:6.

All this is in order to press home that this "New Wine" gathering, July 8-13, in Sligo, "Sligo 18" they call it, is but a gathering of those imbued with the spirit of apostasy. They are amongst those worldwide who are mustering at the devil's call and moving toward that revealed to us in Revelation 17:1-6.

Speakers

If you examine the speakers listed for this gathering (See speaker list online) you will see that it is like the pot around which the prophets gathered in the day of Elisha. "So they poured out for the men to eat. And it came to pass, as they were eating of the pottage, that they cried out, and said, O thou man of God, there is death in the pot. And they could not eat thereof," 2 Kings 4:40. There is DEATH in the pot that is being prepared for those foolish enough to come to the feast planned by the 'New Wine' crowd.

Amongst the speakers is the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Elphin, David Dunlop of Windsor Baptist Church, Belfast and Dr Fódhla McGrane of Clonard Monastery (sic), Belfast. Popery is there, presented as part of the Church of Christ and its minions are those put forward as servants of Christ who can help to "enthuse, equip and resource the local church across Ireland for radical mission that will change this nation"!

That, I tell you plainly, is the lie of the devil!

They may have thrown in some 'onions and leeks' like David Dunlop of Windsor Baptist Church, Belfast, and others like him for there are many names listed of whom I know nothing whatever, to give flavour to the 'ecumenical pottage' and so disguise the bitter taste of popery but it is a subterfuge which God hates and therefore cannot work or accomplish any good.

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty," 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.

This whole enterprise is but part of the "New Weird" movement and the latest evolution of the satanic Charismatic Movement of the mid-20th century.

Its objectives are plain - the union of all religions. The method is plain - big, lavish gatherings which appeal to the flesh and at which the party-goer, the night-club devotee etc would feel entirely at home. It is akin to the religious/social gathering organised by the Midianites and by which Israel was snared and brought into sin and under God's judgment, Numbers 25:1-3.

"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.

Oh yes, Sligo will have its eating and drinking and playing but above all it will have its "spiritual whoredom", for that is what engaging in worship with idolators truly is.

So God charged Israel. "Surely as a wife treacherously departeth from her hus-





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band, so have ye dealt treacherously with me, O house of Israel, saith the LORD," Jeremiah 3:20.

This is stated also in the New Testament. "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God," James 4:4.

The whole concept of this "Sligo 18" is worldly. It is man's notion of how to do good in the world, and that by abandoning the Bible and its directions.

Psalms 2 speaks of this spirit.

"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us," Psalm 2:1-3.

This venture is dominated by that wicked desire to break God's bands and cast away His cords and initiate that which pleasing to the flesh. It is Genesis 11:3-4 all over again. Having been told by the Lord to be "be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth," Genesis 1:28, they chose to defy God and pursue their own agenda. "And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth."

That is the essence of ecumenism and of the "Sligo 18" gathering.

It is born of man's pride. Nurtured by man's rebellious spirit. And directed and energised by the great arch-rebel himself, the devil!

CHRISTIAN BEWARE!

Rev Ivan Foster (Rtd)

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