



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### **"A weapon of mass destruction . . . approved by Tony Blair and George Bush"**



A sermon preached in Kilskeery Free Presbyterian Church on Lord's Day 23rd February 2003 by Rev. Ivan Foster.

**"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways;**

**by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not," 2 Peter 2:1-3.**

**The foundation and structures of the kingdoms of this world is hypocrisy. Every day brings us examples of this sad truth. But every so often events take place which particularly underscore this fact. The looming crisis in Iraq is just such an event.**

Tony Blair and George Bush would have us believe that they are so concerned about the activities of Saddam Hussein and his links with terrorism that his removal, through war, as leader of that country, is justified.

None would argue with the classifying of Saddam Hussein as a despot and a mass murderer of his own people of the worst kind nor that his fall would be advantageous for his country and for the world in general.

However, it is particularly galling for us here in Northern Ireland to hear Tony Blair and the United States' government railing against him and denouncing his links with terrorism in the light of both governments' promotion of IRA leaders and their cause here in Northern Ireland, even to the overthrowing of proper democratic processes and the enforcing of structures which favour terrorists.

The stance of Tony Blair and George Bush against Saddam Hussein is the very opposite to that which they have adopted toward Sinn Fein/IRA. Successive British and American governments have promoted, financed and armed the IRA while at the same time repeatedly hindering the democratic processes whereby the people of Northern Ireland sought to resist IRA terrorism. Murderers such as Adams and McGuinness would not hold the positions they presently do without the aid of British and American money and influence.

This is hypocrisy on a grand scale!

In the scale of world politics, Gerry Adams may not rank with a Saddam Hussein but that is not how God measures men's guilt. The spirit by which Saddam Hussein has gained power and dominance over the people of Iraq is exactly the same spirit by which Sinn Fein/IRA has gained power in this land. Lies, deceit and criminal activities have formed the basis of



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both Saddam Hussein and Sinn Fein/IRA regimes. Both have engaged in the murder of their enemies and of their own people in order to achieve their political ambitions.

On the other side of the debate about war in Iraq are to be found such as the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams and the Roman Catholic Cardinal of England and Wales, Dr. Cormac O'Connor. They say that the moral grounds for war with Iraq have not been produced. Again, there is hypocrisy here.

These two men would claim to speak in God's name yet both men head up the most virulent crusade against God and His Truth the world has ever seen! The modern ecumenical movement, with its overthrowing of Biblical creeds and standards within the churches of the Reformation involved in it, and its embracing of Roman Catholicism as part of the Church of Jesus Christ, is, from a theological point of view, on par with the deceit and betrayal that underpin the activities of a Saddam Hussein. Everything these two church leaders stand for is against God and His Word! Far from being God's spokesmen, they are God's enemies.

Blair, Bush, Williams and O'Connor are supporters of a religious philosophy which is utterly destructive and wreaks havoc on the lives and eternal souls of men. Few realize it, but the dreadful iniquities of Saddam Hussein are minimal in comparison to those wrought as a result of the propagation of that religious philosophy espoused by these four men. My warrant for saying this is God's Word.

### Word of God

In the portion before us, Peter makes reference to an ancient plague which has ever afflicted the people of God and the world in general — the preacher of a false gospel. The consequences of an assault upon a people by these evil "pedlars of lies" are more dreadful than the havoc wrought by the worst of men's weapons of mass destruction. Peter makes plain that the harvest that follows the sowing of the lies of false prophets is that which was seen before in the damnation of [1] the rebellious angels, verse 4; [2] the old world in the days of Noah, verse 5; [3] Sodom and Gomorrha, verse 6. What a poison this is! What a weapon of mass destruction is here depicted! The greatest weapon that man may invent can, at its worst, kill only the body. That which lies at the heart of the ecumenical philosophy which Blair, Bush, Williams and O'Connor all embrace, will damn both body and soul in hell! I repeat — what a weapon of mass destruction this is! Consider what Peter says.

### I. THE DANGER THE APOSTLE WARNS OF.

It is the sowing of the seeds of error under the guise of preaching the gospel. The Lord permits such to happen for a very good reason. "Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul," Deuteronomy 13:3. The threat of such false teachers should make us more studious of God's Word, 2 Peter 1:19. How diligent God's people should be in their study of the Bible in these evil times. Note the descriptions of the culprits.

**1. They are false believers.** They deny the Lord that bought them, verse 1. They profess to be among those redeemed by the blood of Christ. The word bought is the same word



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translated redeemed in Revelation 5:9. "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation." But while professing to be redeemed by Christ, their message denies Christ. Ecumenism has a message which claims to centre on Christ but rather His person and work are denied. Christ's divinity, incarnation, miracles, atonement, resurrection and return in visible glory are largely denied by those within the camp of ecumenism. The Romish doctrine of "salvation by works" is sounded out in virtually every pulpit within the ecumenical denominations. Where it is not, there is heard, not the trumpet blast of truth but an apologetic whimper from one who knows that he is within a movement which dishonours God.

**2. They are false teachers.** The word simply means liars. "I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars," Revelation 2:2. I have called individual ecumenical ministers "liars" and some have thought me very impolite and uncouth for doing so. How happy I am to be in the company of the Holy-Ghost-inspired Peter!

**3. They are false guides.** They encourage people to imitate them, to walk in their steps for that is the meaning of the word follow in verse 2. "And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of." But they are following them down the road to eternal ruin. The Lord Jesus leads those who follow Him to everlasting life but these lead their followers to everlasting damnation!

### II. THE METHODS THE ENEMY EMPLOYS.

They are deniers of Christ. Under the guise of preaching Christ they deny Him.

**1. They mix truth with error.** ". . . they promise them liberty . . ." verse 19. They sow the tares AMONG the wheat. They do not, as we see in the parable the Saviour told in Matthew 13, set out to uproot the wheat but effect their evil scheme by sowing lies amongst the truth. Poison is bad but poison sweetened and disguised by sugar is far more dangerous.

**2. They employ holy terminology.** They teach the lies of hell in the language of heaven! "For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple," Romans 16:18. "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works," 2 Corinthians 11:13-15.

**3. They profess much love.** How much we hear of "love" from the ecumenists! What a zeal they appear to show for all things "holy"! "They zealously affect you, but not well," Galatians 4:17. A false zeal about a false gospel!

**4. They employ craft and cunning.** Verse 1 — privily. They are like cheating merchants, verse 3, promising much but delivering less than nothing. Jude also mentioned them and their creeping ways! "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old



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ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ," Jude 4.

**5. They are highly successful.** "And many shall follow their pernicious ways," verse 2. The Saviour emphasised the success of false doctrine in Matthew 7:13. "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat." This "success" will cause many to despise the true gospel.

### III. THE CONSEQUENCES FOR DECEIVERS AND DECEIVED.

Their teaching is "damnable heresies." It will bring damnation upon all who preach it and receive it. What mass destruction this entails!

**1. How repeatedly Peter refers to this dreadful conclusion.** In verses 1, 2 and 3 and throughout the chapter he highlights it. This is but a reflection of the emphasis the Bible lays upon the dangers of the false prophet and the terrible havoc his evil influence can work.

**2. Hell is the consequence of false doctrine.** One of the clearest results of the impact of false doctrine is the decline in any belief in hell. It is simply a word that falls from the lips of millions as a curse and expletive. But there is a hell and it is to it false prophets are leading their people. Biblical history provides the proof of this fact. "God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell," verse 4.

**3. The matter is dreadfully certain.** Judgment may appear to linger and God to slumber but judgment will come. "Whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not," verse 3. Remember, "God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell . . . and spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person . . . and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrhah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly," verses 4-6. This is the conclusion that comes of following a Williams or an O'Connell. It is to reap the dreadful consequences of faith in the devil's lie. be sure "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" 2 Corinthians 13:5.