



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

The future for the new Northern Ireland administration



I think that the candid Ulsterman or Ulsterwoman who wishes to see the fall of the undemocratic Trimble-led administration, will readily acknowledge that, on the horizon of human opposition to it, there is no evidence of anything that seriously threatens its continuance. Whatever efforts are made by those within the Northern Ireland Assembly and the new coalition cabinet, who are opposed to this political monster, there appears to be little that can be done to destroy it.

To bring it down from within requires a sabotaging of the whole work of the new administration and I do not think that its opponents within the cabinet plan to do that. To make a success of the departments allocated to those who are opposed to the administration will serve to strengthen the new set-up rather than weaken it.

What is to be done then?

I think every Christian who would see God's blessing upon our country needs to face up to the fact that Northern Ireland is no longer Protestant.

It repeatedly and decisively has rejected the Word of God for ecumenical union with Rome. The majority of members of the Church of Ireland, the Methodist and the Presbyterian churches, including those who have voted against the "Peace Agreement," have for the last 30 years gone a whoring after Romanism.

Such religious endeavours have very serious political ramifications. These must be taken into account by those who would know God's will for our land. Judah sought after the gods of Babylon and was delivered into the hands of Babylon as a judgment. Whatever a country sows it reaps. For years, Ulster has been hypocritically saying "NO" to Dublin while saying "YES" to Rome. Blindly, it seems, Protestants have cried out against the British government's attempts to bring about Dublin's direct rule in Northern Ireland, while at the same time they supported and followed the activities of their church and political leaders as they daily strove for union with Roman Catholicism. For years, every bomb attack and terrorist atrocity were turned into an ecumenical triumph and the chief targets of terror went along with it.

It stands to reason that the growing acceptance of a common "Christianity" will undermine opposition to Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland being united, especially in the light of our common membership of the EC. Such rejection of historical Protestantism, which we call Bible Christianity, can be followed only by God's judgment. The liberties and blessing of Protestantism, so despised by this present generation, will be taken away and the land will taste life under that system it so much admires -- popery. That is what happened to Judah and it is what will happen here. David Trimble is like Zedekiah, a fool of a king who presided over the defeat and captivity of Judah. Trimble will preside over a land upon which the judgment of God will undoubtedly fall. Trimble and his supporters may, like Zedekiah, predict good times ahead but he will see his little kingdom fall.



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The spiritual environment our fathers enjoyed, in the days of the evangelist, W P Nicholson, and in the 60s and 70s, favoured the gospel very much. The reverencing of the name of the Lord, Sabbath observance, the regard for God's Word by the people generally, greatly aided the advance of the cause of Christ. The embracing of ecumenism brought an inevitable end to such advances. Spiritual stagnation is everywhere. A wilderness is rapidly replacing the gospel garden that Northern Ireland once was.

But though judgment may bring an end to the political liberties granted to our forefathers, it does not mean the end of the gospel kingdom of Christ. Cromwell's Commonwealth may have passed away and dark times for believers ensued, nevertheless, God intervened after the remnant of faithful believers were tried and purged and triumphed through grace. We may see the same again. There is a need for reformation and purging today. If such is denied then we will but ensure that the affliction will be more severe.

I recall speaking at a welcome home rally in the old church at Coleraine in 1966, following the 3-months imprisonment imposed upon Dr. Paisley, Rev. John Wylie and myself. In prison, I made a point of studying the book of Jeremiah. At the Coleraine rally, I said something that has remained with me down through the years. The basic message of Jeremiah was a call to the people to accept the judgment that God was sending to them for their disobedience and rebellion. He was called a traitor by the so-called "loyal patriots" of Jerusalem who claimed his message was one of surrender. I remember saying to the people, "What if we ever have to preach such a message to an Ulster that has refused to heed the warnings of God?"

If there is no province-wide repentance and turning to God from ecumenism and popery, then that day has come and with it the judgment of God upon this land that the Free Presbyterian Church has consistently warned of. Ulster has forfeited the blessing of God. Whatever the future holds, we must look to God to grant us grace to be faithful to Him and His Word and to humbly submit to His providence.