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In or Out? The European Debate



Both pro-EU and anti-EU spokesmen have referred to this debate as the most important for a generation! If they but understood, it will prove to be the most important decision the nation has ever taken in its long and colourful history, so filled with highs and lows, advances and retreats, shame and glory.

1. THE NATION WAS NEVER LESS PREPARED FOR MAKING SUCH A CHOICE

How well prepared is the nation for such a decision? Sadly, it has never been less prepared to decide upon a course to take which will have eternal as well as temporal consequences.

In the past, or at least in the last 500 years, the nation has had the BIBLE to act as its compass and guide and there have been godly men to proclaim fearlessly its TRUTH about the issue that faced the nation.

In a recent news article I read of the Queen recalling how her father, King George VI, prayed for the nation and called for a day of prayer on Lord's Day, May 26th, 1940.

The result of that national humbling before God has gone down in history as the "Miracle of Dunkirk"!

Whatever our views of the nature of the "Christianity" of the leaders of Church and State in 1940, there were thousands of genuine believers across the United Kingdom who assembled on that day and humbled themselves before God, confessed the sins of the nation and asked the Lord for His mercy and deliverance.

There will be no call for a day of prayer at this time of national decision-making and that for the simple reason that the nation no longer believes in the God of the Bible or the Bible of God!

Church leaders have openly rejected the veracity and the historicity of what orthodox Christianity believes is the inspired, inerrant Word of the Living God.

When "Christendom" abandons the Bible, we are not surprised that governments follows suit. Schools and Colleges have swallowed this denial and the gospel of Christ has been derided and scorned before millions of pupils over the last 60-70 years!

The idea of seeking God in prayer or consulting His Word for guidance at this time of deciding upon the future direction of the nation would be considered laughable by the majority of citizens, for they have long since abandoned the Bible-believing faith of their Protestant forebears.

Consequences

It is fearful to contemplate the consequences of such folly.

The Bible clearly directs us to consult God's Word and to trust His counsel.

"Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass," Psalm 37:5.

"Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah," Psalm 62:8.

"They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever," Psalm 125:1.

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding," Proverbs 3:5.

"He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered," Proverbs 28:26.



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"Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength," Isaiah 26:4.

These are but a few of the words of counsel given us in God's Word. Sadly, none of these will be consulted or heeded in the run-up to June 23rd!

Devil's masterstroke

The devil, as ever, has laid the ground most cunningly for what will be the beginnings of his masterstroke! Having removed the Scriptures from the nation's psyche, he has rendered it blind and helpless. What he ever has sought to do on the individual he has now accomplished on a national scale. "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them," 2 Corinthians 4:4. Light is barred from those who are blind. So it is with our nation. The eyes of the nation, the Word of God, has been stolen away through the means of liberal, modernistic, ecumenical 'false prophets' peddling the devil's lie for decades. To change the metaphor, the ground is now ready for the sowing of the tares!

What is at work today is that 'spirit of delusion' to which Paul refers in 2 Thessalonians 2:10-11. "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." A judicial blinding by God befalls any people who reject the TRUTH of God. This our nation is guilty of and must suffer the inevitable consequences.

2. BEING ROBBED OF THE BIBLE AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE FUTURE IT PROVIDES, THE NATION IS NOW RIPE FOR LEADING INTO THE WILDERNESS OF ANTI-CHRISTIAN APOSTASY

It is sadly true that many Christians have been greatly misled regarding what the Bible teaches about the future. All too many are led to believe that the Bible has nothing specific to say about events in Europe and the Middle East just prior to the Saviour's return. For them, the Antichrist has come and is now present in the earth. He is the Pope or is it the system of popes!? It is asserted that there is nothing more to happen prophetically until the Lord returns.

Refute

It is not my purpose to give a detailed refutation of that view in general but it is most difficult to see how such a notion squares with the clear statement given us in Revelation 13:8. "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him (the Antichrist or Beast), whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Now, a detailed study of this chapter, which gives us the clearest details regarding the Antichrist, will throw up many insurmountable difficulties for the thesis that the Pope is THE Antichrist. I emphasise 'THE' because I believe that, as John says, "now are there many antichrists," (1 John 2:18) and the long line of popes have all been antichrists but, again as John says, "ye have heard that antichrist shall come," - there is a future ANTICHRIST of whom the former antichrists have been but forerunners.

Book of the revelation

But back to Revelation 13:8. John, by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, says that the Antichrist, the Beast, is worshipped by all on the earth, I believe this to be the Roman or prophetic earth, "whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

Now is it the case or has it ever been the case with any pope? Not for one moment do I believe that the popes have been worshipped by all the non-elect in the region defined as 'the earth'! I don't believe that every Roman Catholic has such a regard for the pope that it can be defined as 'worship'! In recent days there have been all too many Roman Catholics ready to criticise and contradict him very openly!

One of the earliest uses of this word 'worship' in the New Testament is found in Matthew 2:11. It serves to



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give us the core meaning of the word. "And when they (the wise men) were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh." Whatever reverence is paid to the pope by his followers I don't think it can be claimed that it equals the spirit of homage shown by the wise men to Christ. Matthew 4:10, 14:33, 15:25 and John 4:24 are but a few of the other examples which help us to understand the depths of this word 'worship'.

Gymnastics

Exegetical gymnastics are required to get round the very obvious contradiction between what is taught here by God and the interpretation that those who promote the claim that the Pope is THE Antichrist.

To me the obvious conclusion is that since by no means can it be claimed that "all that dwell upon the earth" are engaged in worshipping the present Pope or any of his antecedents, these popes have not been the PERSON spoken of in Revelation 13.

That person is yet to come!

Muddying the waters

This muddying the clear waters of prophecy and hiding from the minds and hearts of God's people that which God would have us understand, along with the devil's robbing men generally of the Word of God, these two things have made this nation ripe for the making of the most disastrous decision on June 23rd!

I have made reference to that view which sees the pope as the fulfilment of Bible prophecy of the Antichrist. I differ with that view most radically and I long to see it recognised as false and abandoned by all Christians as such.

I have long held the view that there is no advocate of what it is the Bible teaches about the end times, more effective than time itself. I think there are those who hold a contrary opinion to mine who will bear out that I have often ended a discussion with the phrase, "Time will tell." And of course, it is entirely true! The unfolding of events will, like the removing of dirt and grime which has accumulated on the canvas of a masterpiece, reveal the glory, the beauty, the TRUTH of what the artist's paint brush communicated to the canvas! So it is that the Bible's canvas has been marred and its truth concealed and obscured by the false views that have been arbitrarily imposed upon God's truth.

We are not called upon to attempt to 'interpret' God's Word but simply to believe what God says.

The events taking place before our eyes in Europe, the Middle East and in that religious realm called 'Christianity' must surely begin to focus the attention of God's people on the exegesis proffered since the days of the apostles, and indeed, since the dawn of time, and which is today called: Historic Pre-millennialism. A literal unfolding of prophecy is taking place before the eyes of Christians - if they are not blinded by falsehood and deception.

Anyone interested in a literal exposition of the Bible's prophetic teaching can access many useful items of literature and audio recordings at the Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony [website](#).

I am fully convinced that the passing years will demonstrate a literal unfolding of the building of the 10-kingdom domain of Antichrist, stretching across the borders of the old prophetic or Roman earth. In other words, we are talking about an empire stretching from the borders of Scotland to the ancient eastern limits of the Persian empire. Furthermore, I believe we have in the present EU the embryo out of which that great evil confederation will emerge.

It will not be long until the truth of this view is proved or disproved. I have no doubt as to what the judgment of time will be!



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3. THOUGH THERE ARE DOUBTS AND FEARS ABOUT WHERE THE EU IS GOING, THESE WILL BE IGNORED BY THE NATION ON JUNE 23RD

It may seem as if I am going out on a limb, predicting the outcome of the referendum of June 23rd. That may be so, but I am convinced from Holy Scripture that England will be part of the Antichrist's domain since it was very much part of the old Roman empire. The fourth empire spoken of by Daniel as featuring in prophecy was the Roman empire and it is to be in existence when the Lord returns and establishes His earthly Kingdom.

Hear the Word of God.

"Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth. This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king," Daniel 2:31-36.

No guesswork required

God does not leave us to guess and speculate as to the meaning of this dream. We are given its exact meaning later in the same chapter.

"This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure," Daniel 2:36-45.

Rome

The fourth kingdom is Rome. It is further described for us in Daniel chapter 7:7-8. "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things."



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Ten horns

Note the reference to 10 horns out of which comes one "speaking great things." The 'horns' are referred to again in Revelation 17:12-14. There they are clearly linked to the Antichrist. "And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful."

Tie this information together and you have four great empires, all of the same spirit and animating principle, that which Paul spoke of. "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work," 2 Thessalonians 2:7.

The last of these empires is Rome and it is that which will still be in existence, in the form of ten toes, or ten kings, and ruled over by the Antichrist, when Christ comes to overthrow his dominion and set up His earthly Kingdom. "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever," Daniel 2:44.

National sovereignty draining away

The whole issue of this debate over the EU is the loss of Westminster's sovereign, legislative, governmental power to the EU. Those who wish to leave the EU are chiefly motivated by a desire to restore to the nation that sovereignty it has progressively lost to the EU.

That in itself tells us in what direction the tide of the EU is running. It is a body of nations very much in subservience to its unelected bureaucratic core.

It is the Antichrist's kingdom in embryo.

Once you lose the Bible's picture of the latter-day developments, then you will be mesmerised by the propaganda and deceits of those engaged in building this empire of evil, and go along with their aims.

Money

The chief feature of Antichrist's kingdom is MONEY! In Revelation 18, the judgment of God falls upon Antichrist's city, Babylon.

"And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies," Revelation 18:1-3.

Note the words: "For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies!" This speaks of the alluring, intoxicating power of wealth and abundance.

Further down the chapter we have the lament of the merchants recorded. "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." Revelation 18:15-19.



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Wealth and abundance is what Babylon will be renowned for.

In the EU debate which is under way, what is the dominant theme? MONEY!

The cry is heard about how much by way of grants and subsidies the country will lose should it leave the EU. Leading that lament is Sinn Fein, the party which has made the business of appropriating grants, subsidies, allowances etc, an art and a science!! They have obtained aid for every conceivable purpose from the rehabilitating of terrorists to the employing a host of over-paid advisers and assistants in Stormont!

Not surprisingly, Sinn Fein has led the chorus of howls and wails at the prospect of the gravy train being detailed and the trough, in which they have had their snouts deeply buried, being taken from them!

Sadly, it is not just republicans who so wail and lament! Many Unionists cry in harmony with them, having long forgotten the blessed Gospel truth, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Mark 8:36-37.

The root of evil

Truly, "the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows," 1 Timothy 6:10. That verse gives us the powerful motive which will move many, I believe the majority, in the EU referendum and it also portrays vividly the outcome for those who choose wrongly - a piercing through with many sorrows.

Woe unto those who cast their vote for the beginnings of Antichrist's kingdom of filthy lucre!

Absalom

This deceitful development has many foreshadowings in God's Word, none clearer than the campaign of deception run by Absalom, the would-be usurper of the throne of David.

"And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him. And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was so, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city art thou? And he said, Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel. And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee. Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice! And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him. And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel." 2 Samuel 15:1-6.

That spirit of deception will, I believe, be at work in the run-up to June 23rd and persuade the nation to vote to stay in the EU. Just watch out for the fawning overtures of today's political Absaloms!!

If I am right, then we will be moving another step nearer the manifestation of the kingdom of the Antichrist and those momentous days of wickedness that will precede the return of our Saviour in Glory.

Ivan Foster.

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