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Democracy versus God

- Democracy may be defined as “popular government by the will of the people.”
- Given that the will of man is fallen and depraved as a result of Adam’s transgression, it will be easily seen that a clash with the mind and will of Jehovah is inevitable.
- The final conflict in this world will be between the will of the people and the will of God.

Evidence of that war is written large in the affairs of the nations of the earth. Daily, legislation is proposed and enacted that is in total defiance of God, the Creator and Governor of all. “For the kingdom is the LORD’S: and he is the governor among the nations,” Psalm 22:28, KJV.

A recent manifestation of that defiance was seen here in Northern Ireland in a response to the news that Sinn Fein’s attempt to have sodomite marriage legalised would be opposed by the Democratic Unionist Party, its partner in in the power-sharing government based in Stormont, Belfast. There would undoubtedly be those within the DUP membership who would still have a conscience about such moral issues, even though for political expediency they agreed to enter a coalition with the party which espoused IRA terrorism.

A news article of Monday, 29th April was headed: **“Amnesty International warn of gay marriage legal challenge”**.

The article reads as follows:

“Amnesty International has warned of a likely legal challenge if Northern Ireland is left as the only part of the UK without marriage rights for same-sex couples.

A debate about the issue is due to take place at Stormont on Monday.

The DUP has tabled a Petition of Concern ensuring that the motion would need to command a cross-community majority to succeed.

A similar motion was defeated by the assembly last October.

Patrick Corrigan, Amnesty International’s Northern Ireland programme director, said: “States may not discriminate with regards to the right to marry and found a family, on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

“That obligation is clear in international law. This means that marriage should be available to same-sex couples in Northern Ireland just as it appears it soon will be in other parts of the UK.

“Should politicians fail to act, there could be a straightforward legal challenge on the basis of inferior treatment of same-sex couples in Northern Ireland with regards to the right to marry and found a family.”

Mr Corrigan believes such a legal challenge seems likely and would appear to have strong grounds for success.

DUP Chief Whip Peter Weir confirmed the party has tabled a Petition of Concern on the motion which has been tabled by Sinn Fein.

Mr Weir said: “It is only a few months since the assembly last debated this issue and views were clearly expressed at that time.

“It has been made very clear that same-sex marriage will not be introduced in Northern Ireland and



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the DUP is tabling a Petition of Concern to ensure that this motion will not be carried.”

Mr Corrigan of Amnesty International says that the “obligation is clear in international law. This means that marriage should be available to same-sex couples in Northern Ireland just as it appears it soon will be in other parts of the UK.”

Thus ‘International law’ is elevated above the Law of God and makes the teachings of God’s Law unlawful when it differs from the law of man

As already stated, such a conflict is the outcome of man’s fallen nature. The Shorter Catechism states the matter like this:

Q18: Wherein consists the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell?

A: The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell, consists in the guilt of Adam’s first sin, the want of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called Original Sin; together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it.

The proof texts quoted are worth considering and remembering.

“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous,” Romans 5:19, KJV.

“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one,” Romans 3:10, KJV.

“And you [hath he quickened], who were dead in trespasses and sins,” Ephesians 2:1, KJV.

“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me,” Psalm 51:5, KJV.

“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are [the things] which defile a man,” Matthew 15:19-20, KJV.

Paul states that the “carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be,” Romans 8:7, KJV. The mind and will of the unregenerate man is set against everything that is of God. That being so, it is clear that conflict, unremitting and ceaseless, between God and ungodly man is inevitable.

The history of mankind given us in the Bible is one of reoccurring hostility toward the will of God. Every step man took was in defiance of God and were it not for the sovereign over-riding of man’s folly, mankind would have utterly perished under the wrath of God long ago.

But over and above the schemes of man is the outworking of the eternal will of God. “For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding,” Psalm 47:7, KJV.

Paul states the matter so: “In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will,” Ephesians 1:11, KJV. God has a purpose for an elect people whom He will save out of sin and bring to everlasting glory through the grace and sufferings of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary and that purpose, though opposed by the devil and all his agents working through the depraved will of man, will succeed.

A wonderful example of God’s overruling providence is seen in the abusive, treacherous treatment of Joseph by his brethren when they sold him into slavery in Egypt. Many years later, as they were faced by Joseph, now the ruler of Egypt, he was able to say to them: “But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive,” Genesis 50:20, KJV. Thus the evil scheming of sinful minds was countermanded by the Lord. And so it has ever been as God accomplishes His sovereign will amongst the nations.



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There have been notable occasions when the will of man has risen up to defy God in ill-famed acts of rebellion. The best known occasions of these are:

The defiance of the whole of mankind in the days of Noah;

"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. . . . The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence," Genesis 6:5,11, KJV.

The wickedness of the men of Sodom and Gomorrah;

"And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know," Genesis 18:20, 21, KJV.

Nowhere was this spirit of rebellion more clearly displayed in history than at Calvary.

"Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. . . . The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; and killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers. But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled," Acts 2:22-24, 3:13-18, KJV.

These incidents are but illustrations of that ongoing conflict between man and his Maker since the fall of Adam. The condensed history of that conflict is found in Romans 1:19-32.

"Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. 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 understanding, 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."

Here we have the unrelenting tidal flow of man's animosity to God and His holy laws breaking and shattering and failing time and again under the overriding providence of God.



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And the battle is not over yet!

This world has yet to see a greater demonstration of man's spirit of rebellion. It will mark the end of this age and the bringing in of everlasting peace and righteousness.

The Psalmist refers to this final conflict in Psalm 2.

"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, KJV.

Reference is made in prayer to these verses by the early believers as they suffered under the persecution of the Jewish leaders, Acts 4:25.

Calvary and the spirit that pervaded the Jewish leadership and nation in its aftermath was undoubtedly predicted by the Psalmist but what the Psalmist was referring to was NOT WHOLLY fulfilled by the events at that time.

This is easily seen in the terms the Psalmist employs. The crucifixion of the Lord Jesus was a very local event. It was not something of which the whole of Israel was aware at the time. I dare say that the people of Jericho would have been ignorant of the events that day in Jerusalem.

The terms employed by the Psalmist suggest an act of universal defiance. Please read again these three vital verses "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." Note the expressions - 'the heathen', 'the people', 'the kings of the earth', 'the rulers'.

Undoubtedly, at Calvary were found the heathen - the Roman soldiers were such but they would have been numbered in mere dozens at the most. The people were there but yet again, it would be a very small representation of the nation of Israel generally. There were in truth no 'kings' present at Calvary and only one, Herod, was linked to the trial and condemnation of the Lord Jesus. We might add Pilate as a representative of Caesar, though it seems to me to be still far from a fulfilling of the comprehensive statement, 'the kings of the earth' in this prophecy of David.

Yes, Calvary was a manifestation of this spirit of rebellion and the early believers rightly saw that to be so but we would be wrong, were we to think that Calvary was the full and final fulfilment of that to which the Psalmist refers.

There is another day of rising up against 'the LORD, and against his anointed.' On that day, KINGS OF THE EARTH and RULERS and HEATHEN NATIONS will rise up to defy the Lord and overthrow His laws and cast away His restraints upon mankind.

That day will be the day of man's open embracing of Antichrist in a wicked alliance against God.

The matter is spoken of in many prophetic passages. "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," Revelation 17:12-14, KJV. Here is a concise statement of the end-time appearance of the SPIRIT OF REBELLION and the triumphant outcome for the Son of God.

Feast your eyes, dear weary saint, upon these words. Here is your victory though at present the cause of God and righteousness seems to falter.

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and



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True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; that ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh," Revelation 19:11-21, KJV.

Democracy, the demands of depraved man, will not gain the ascendancy over the Man of Calvary!

Rather, another will shall triumph, the will of a sovereign God! "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever," Revelation 11:15, KJV.

"All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. For the kingdom is the LORD'S: and he is the governor among the nations," Psalms 22:27-28, KJV.

"Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him," Psalm 72:11, KJV.

"And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising," Isaiah 60:3, KJV.

"And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also. Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you," Zechariah 8:21-23, KJV.

"And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one," Zechariah 14:9, KJV.

"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, KJV.

This is what God has purposed and this is what shall be IN SPITE OF THE VAIN UTTERANCES OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND ALL THE OTHER COHORTS OF HELL.

Ivan Foster.

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