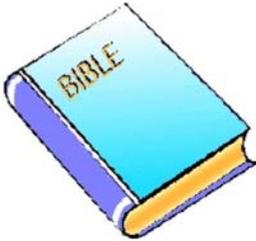




## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

“Ruled by those that hate us!”



A people who turn their back upon God's Word will pay a heavy price for their folly. The history of Israel is one in which the crime of trampling the privileges, granted by God and maintained at great cost by previous generations, is fully recorded and the punishment that followed painfully declared. Psalm 106 charts the downgrade of Israel's national fortunes as a result of disobedience to God. Let no one be in doubt about the real source of the troubles in Northern Ireland. They stem from the people being persuaded to turn from the doctrines of the

**Bible to the doctrines of men. That process began in the early part of the twentieth century in the mainline Presbyterian and Church of Ireland denominations. Methodism followed very soon afterwards.**

The departure was signalled for all to see with the formation of the World Council of Churches and its programme of radical theological realignment, as was indicated in its early declaration that it was dedicated to the reversal of the trends of the Reformation. Its agenda of reunion with Rome was repeatedly denied by clerics, anxious to head off any mass exodus from the pews by those members of these denominations, still loyal to Christ and His Word.

### **Lying Shepherds**

Their deceptions were received by a majority, though many hundreds separated and sought to witness for Christ outside the camp of ecumenical apostasy, paying the heavy price, both in reproach and financial outlay, that is entailed in building a network of congregations and the necessary accommodation. Despite the evidence of God's blessing upon the separatist movement in Northern Ireland, best represented by the Free Presbyterian Church under the leadership of Dr. Ian Paisley, many chose to believe their ecumenical leaders and stayed in the apostate denominations and silently watched the betrayal of the gospel.

### **Harvest of Sin**

It is that betrayal which has brought upon us the evident judgment presently taking place. I do not believe that anything else can account for the tragic and catastrophic chain of events in Ulster over the last 35 years. What happened to Israel, and to many other peoples and races since then, has happened to us. *Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions. Therefore was the wrath of the LORD kindled against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance. And he gave them into the hand of the heathen; and they that hated them ruled over them. Their enemies also oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their hand. Many times did he deliver them; but they provoked him with their counsel, and were brought low for their iniquity,* Psalm 106:39-43. However, there is hope in the following verses of that psalm. May God pity His people in this land and enable them to heed these words. *Nevertheless he regarded their affliction, when he heard their cry: And he remembered for them his covenant, and repented according to the multitude of his mercies. He made them also to be pitied of all those that carried them captives. Save us, O LORD our God, and gather*



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*us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto thy holy name, and to triumph in thy praise. Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the LORD, Psalm 106:44-48.*

### **The Task That Awaits Us**

It is not politics and posturing but prayer that will save us. It is not reforms and referenda but repentance that is required. The activities of government must continue and it is proper that they do so, but our salvation will not come from them but from God in answer to prayer. It is to that sacred task God's people need to turn their energies.