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THE UNRAVELLING OF SOCIETY!

"We see not our signs: there is no more any prophet: neither is there among us any that knoweth how long," Psalm 74:9.

I have just turned away from the lunchtime news with a heavy heart and a fresh awareness of the immeasurable mess our nation is in!

In truth, in recent times, every news broadcast and media outlet has borne testimony to the same dire diagnosis. There is no longer any good news and what is deemed such by the media is but further evidence of the utter corruption at the heart of society.

1. OUR NATION BEARS ALL THE MARKS OF A NATION DEVASTATED BY A PLAGUE.

What Ezekiel was shown describes the moral state of our land. "The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, and caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry," Ezekiel 37:1-2.

What is even sadder and is but further evidence of the moral degradation of our times, in that there are few who see it so! All too many see many of what are evidences of utter indecency and decay as but marks of advancement and the embrace of enlightenment!

- This day, a prince of the Royal Household has been 'sacked' by the Queen from all public duties due to the scandal in which he is inextricably involved and which centres upon the horrific activities of a convicted paedophile!
- This day, a former First Minister of Scotland is appearing in court to face a total of 14 charges at the High Court in Edinburgh. The charges are of sexual assault against 10 women! He is innocent until proved guilty, but I think that it says something when such a prominent person can be charged with such offences!
- We have a Prime Minister in the United Kingdom who is considered a serial adulterer! What a state of affairs when the nation is made to rely upon the word, the wisdom, the discretion of a man who could not keep his promises, his undertakings and his commitments to those with whom he entered a relationship!
- The nation has endorsed some 51 years ago, the murder of the unborn. Abortion is counted as much part of the 'British way of life' as our postal service and bin collection! In that time, 8.7 million babies have been aborted, legally murdered in the womb of their mothers! That far exceeds the toll of innocent Jews slaughtered by the Nazis in World War 2! That horror is now being forced upon Northern Ireland which was relatively free of such a crime until the Westminster Government imposed it upon us last month!
- Society today has adopted the lifestyle of Sodom and Gomorrah of old, the cities God destroyed in the outpouring of His wrath. "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly," 2 Peter 2:6. That which was deemed an utter taboo but a few short years ago has been embraced by our society and enshrined in law so that it is an offence to speak of it as does the Lord!

From the embracing of this abomination have sprung many other indescribable offences practices which have eroded the meaning of the Biblical definitions of the Male and Female. One political party, the Liberal Democrats, has called for the right of persons to deem themselves 'male or female' without the assent of any medical authority and that all areas reserved for either male or female be open and accessible to those persons whatever their self-proclaimed gender may be!

- Marriage is generally considered a thing of the past, an outmoded anachronism! Many children are born



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outside of marriage. It is common for a mother to have children fathered by a number of men. What this will lead to in the future with regards the birth of children to parents who may, unknown to them, have a common ancestry, is too horrific to contemplate.

- The treatment of children today is atrocious and harrowing. Strangers snatch them away to torture and abuse them. Parents physically and mentally mistreat them to decrees that even the ungodly are horrified. Institutions created and staffed by those supposedly looking out for their care and wellbeing have become places of untold miseries for the young, marring, scarring them for the rest of their lives!
- The streets of our cities and towns, aye, and the lanes of our countryside have become the playgrounds of hooligans and thugs, murderers and vandals, for whom the spilling of human blood and the ending of a life is but an entertainment and a social activity!
- Those guilty of the most heinous crimes have been embraced by society and elevated to positions of esteem and power. IRA terrorists here in Northern Ireland are a case in question! IRA murderers and bombers have been exalted to high office here in Northern Ireland and been enthusiastically accepted, often by those who declared them *personae non gratae* but a few years ago! Indeed, despite the failure of the recent scandalous 'power-sharing' with terrorists arrangement in Stormont, the Democratic Unionist Party is all-too ready to link up again with the party that partnered the IRA terror machine! People from virtually every walk of life here in Ulster have been calling loudly for this to happen, and that quickly!

2. WHILE THERE ARE THOSE TO RAIL AGAINST THE ANTICS OF A PRINCE ANDREW AND A BORIS JOHNSTON AND AN ALEX SALMOND, THERE ARE FEW WHO CRY OUT AGAINST THE EVEN WORSE MORAL PERVERSITIES OF TODAY.

Indeed, that silence is but a further evidence of the depravity imbibed by civilisation generally.

The Ecclesiastics of today have basically gone along with every deviant development injected into our nation's blood stream! Indeed, in many cases they have been the innovators of the moral aberrations!

The legal system has thrown its endorsement behind today's depravities. Decent people are, generally speaking, forced to witness in silence the poisoning of our nation by the permitting of the most ungodly lifestyles, openly practised, with the full sanction of the law. Men may marry men and women may marry women in complete defiance of God. "In transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.

And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter," Isaiah 59:13-14.

3. THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS DEVASTATION IS THE ABANDONMENT OF THE LAW OF GOD.

The Law of God has been abandoned. Who is it would deny this?

The rule of all matters theological and moral used to be: "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them," Isaiah 8:20.

Whether or not Queen Victoria uttered the words credited to her, to the effect: "The secret of England's greatness is the Bible", they are nevertheless absolutely true! All that truly is contributory truly to a 'greatness' within our kingdom has its roots in the World of God!

That being so, the abandoning of God's Word can lead only to the nation's decline into oblivion and nothingness!

So said the Saviour! "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her



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wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord," Luke 13:34-35.

1. This ought to be a distress to the Christian.

"Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake thy law," Psalm 119:53.

"Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law," Psalm 119:136.

"I beheld the transgressors, and was grieved; because they kept not thy word," Psalm 119:158.

2. It was a distress to the prophets and apostles.

"Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!" Jeremiah 9:1.

"That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh," Romans 9:2-3.

It ought to drive us believers to weeping and praying! Irrespective of how wicked we may see those around us to be in their ideas and practices, an awareness of the hell to which they are going should drive us to our knees.

3. It was a distress to the Saviour.

"And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes," Luke 19:41-42.

He wept over the city that was soon to crucify Him! He wept not for Himself and what He would suffer but rather for the city and the nation and what would come upon them for the sin they were about to commit in rejecting Him and His Word.

The dreadful effects of sin and rebellion against God, evidenced daily on our streets, is but the firstfruits of a most appalling disaster coming our way. It is not one of those ridiculous catastrophes so often predicted in the deranged scribblings of the tabloid press. Rather, it is the dreadful judgment that the Lord will direct against the land.

The existence of God is dismissed by all and sundry today, led by those whose opinion counts amongst men. However, God does not cease to be, simply because man denies His existence!

There are three verses in the last book of the Bible, Revelation, which I often contemplate. They are verses 15-17 of chapter 6.

"And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

These are the words of the leaders of the armies of Antichrist who is the man who one day will oppose God and exalt "himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God," 2 Thessalonians 2:4. These military leaders are the followers of the one who claims to be 'God' and who dismisses the existence of the Lord God!

Yet, having sworn allegiance to and claimed to have embraced him for whom he claims to be, they never-



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theless, in that hour when the wrath of Christ is revealed from heaven, say: "the great day of his wrath is come!"

Dismiss God with their lips they may have done, but getting rid of the awareness of His existence from their hearts and minds they could not do! In these words they are owning Christ to be the Judge and the author of the wrath that was about to overwhelm them and all like them who professedly reject Him.

No, the God of Heaven may no longer be regarded amongst the peoples of the United Kingdom but He lives still as Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed long ago. "And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: and all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" Daniel 4:34-35.

To the nation we say as was said to Israel long ago:

"And I also have given you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and want of bread in all your places: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. And also I have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered. So two or three cities wandered unto one city, to drink water; but they were not satisfied: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. I have smitten you with blasting and mildew: when your gardens and your vineyards and your fig trees and your olive trees increased, the palmerworm devoured them: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. I have sent among you the pestilence after the manner of Egypt: your young men have I slain with the sword, and have taken away your horses; and I have made the stink of your camps to come up unto your nostrils: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel," Amos 8:6-12.

The meeting place referred to here was the battlefield of judgment!

Amos was indicating that the day of wrath had come for Israel of old.

Ivan Foster.

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