



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

### Playing the two ends against the middle

If the thinking of the British government of the WW 2 era was as muddled and confused as is today's political leadership, then we today would likely still be living under Nazi rule!

There is a measure of 'befuddlement' in political life today that is unsurpassed by anything history can produce!

There is a simple reason for this! Despite the presence of Oxford and Cambridge graduates galore within parliament and doubtless brains aplenty, there is hardly an ounce of gumption between them all.

WHY? The answer is simple. When it comes to that wisdom whereby we walk in a path of peace and prosperity, mankind is utterly lacking!

Those who believe and embrace the Bible will find the 'path of life' for it is revealed there for all to enjoy who will trust the Author of it - the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore," Psalm 16:11.

Sadly, our nation - its churches, its politicians and its people have, to a very large degree, abandoned the Word of God.

The name of the Lord is totally absent from any statement issued by national leaders, secular or religious. Never once has there been a call for a seeking of God in prayer.

And yet, the Bible tells us: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land," 2 Chronicles 7:14.

The healing of the land spoken of there in that verse specially refers to one of the judgments that God sends upon a wayward, disobedient people - "pestilence", see verse 13.

This passage identifies the source of the present pandemic - God's judgment, and also the means of it being lifted - a seeking of God in repentance.

Happy would our nation be if it had leaders who heeded the words spoken by David on his death bed to Solomon his son who was about to take up the leadership of Israel.

"He charged Solomon his son, saying, I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man; and keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself," 1 Kings 2:1-3.

If the defiant absence of any seeking of God continues we can but realise that things are going to get worse rather than better, no matter what measures the government puts in place.

The old, much loved hymn sets out our only hope!

Sing we the King who is coming to reign,  
Glory to Jesus, the Lamb that was slain;  
Righteousness, peace then His empire shall bring,  
Joy to the nations when Jesus is King.

*Come let us sing: Praise to our King,  
Jesus our King, Jesus our King:  
This is our song, who to Jesus belong:  
Glory to Jesus, to Jesus our King.*



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

All men shall dwell in His marvellous light,  
Races long severed His love shall unite,  
Justice and truth from His sceptre shall spring,  
Wrong shall be ended when Jesus is King.

All shall be well in His kingdom of peace,  
Freedom shall flourish and wisdom increase,  
Foe shall be friend when His triumph we sing,  
Sword shall be sickle when Jesus is King.

“Even so, come, Lord Jesus,” Revelation 22:20.

Knowledge and fear of the Lord then shall be  
As the deep waters that cover the sea;  
All things shall be in the splendour of spring  
And all harmonious when Jesus is King.

Kingdom of Christ, for thy coming we pray,  
Hasten, O Father, the dawn of the day  
When this new song Thy creation shall sing,  
Satan is vanquished and Jesus is King.

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### The devil, as ever, playing the two ends against the middle!

The present ‘Coronavirus’ controversy has witnessed numerous voices all shouting out their notions on the rights, the wrongs, the cause, the cure, the reality and the mythology of the coronavirus.

Recently, in London’s Trafalgar Square, a reported 15,000 people gathered to protest against the view that there is a pandemic. Rather, they would claim, the whole thing is an invention of the Government in order to bring in restrictions and laws designed to enslave the nation and bring about a totalitarian regime here in the United Kingdom!

Similar views have been voiced in various countries such as the United States of America.

#### Pillars!!

Leading the protestors here in the UK are such noted pillars of wisdom as former Labour leader Jeremiah Corbyn’s brother, Piers and David Icke.



**Piers Corbyn being arrested at a similar protest earlier in the year**

Piers Corbyn has even less wit than his brother and the character of David Icke may be gauged by the fact that in 1991, having been counselled by a psychic, he announced that he was a “Son of the Godhead”!! He went on to announce his claims that an inter-dimensional race of reptilian beings called the Archons (or Anunnaki) have hijacked the earth, and that a genetically modified human-Archon hybrid race of shape-shifting reptilians known as the Babylonian Brotherhood, the Illuminati, or the “elite”, manipulate global events to help keep humans in constant fear. The Archons feed off the “negative energy” this creates.

There you have it! Whatever ‘it’ is!!

effects of the virus!!!

All this might suggest that both Icke and those who follow him, have been infected by the Coronavirus and are suffering the sad

However, more seriously, the situation is a typical situation that the devil delights to create and thus throws people into confusion and set them against that which is for their good by convincing them that black is



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

white and right is wrong!

Now, not for one minute do we believe that our government's reaction to this pandemic is utterly and completely right! It does not take one to be a political analyst to see that there is as much confusion on the government site as there is amongst the Trafalgar Square protesters.

From the very beginning, the government has sought to find a middle path between protecting the populace and preserving the economic wellbeing of the nation.

Measures that would have been beneficial to one was harming the other. Throughout the last 6-7 months, we have seen the hand of the 'money-makers' interfering in actions that should have been taken in order to curb the infections. The cries of the booze and catering industries have been heard and heeded by the government and there has been a degree of softening of the restrictions necessary to fight this disease successfully. At present the government is coming under increasing pressure from its own supporters and the 'booze' fraternity to ease back on the restrictions and allow pubs to remain open longer. Money-making and pleasure-seeking will always be more important than giving any consideration to life and to eternity!

As a result of this muddle-headed policy, the nation is in utter confusion with elements of it simply refusing to obey the government imposed restrictions.

Three examples from recent headlines from the BBC news site illustrate this point:

"Covid in Scotland: Police break up hundreds of house parties",

"Covid: Manchester mayor calls for 'urgent review' of 10pm (pub) closures", BBC, 28th September.

Coventry University students (up to 200) 'flout Covid-19 rules in party' BBC, 30th September

As a result of these weakened, curtailed and inadequate measures we are facing another upsurge of the virus which will cost the nation even more than would a full on assault upon the virus when it first appeared.

### The Devil

In the middle of this confusion is the devil! How he delights in such a situation. Here is fertile ground for him to sow his seeds of deceit, fraud and duplicity.

The perfect illustration of the devil acting in this fashion is seen at the crucifixion of Christ.

There you had the crowd that were led by those evil religious leaders who rejected Christ for Who He claimed to be, and on the other side you had those who, at the very least, believed that Christ was indeed the Son of God. "Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God," John 6:68-69.

The rejectors of Christ's claims stated their view in this fashion: "He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?" John 10:20. As a result of these false assertions regarding Christ, "there was a division therefore again among the Jews," John 10:19.

Now such division has been brought about by the devil. The loud and ferocious cries of the opponents of the Saviour cowed those who were inclined to embrace His testimony and greatly crippled their witness on His behalf.

*"But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy*



David Icke



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

*Jesus. The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas. Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified. And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified. When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children. Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified," Matthew 27:20-26.*

The confusion created by the devil and the bitter hatred that he sowed in the hearts of the enemies of the Saviour prevailed against the enfeebled witness of those who believed that He was the Redeemer.

This scene has been repeated ad infinitum throughout history. The upholders of that which is right and true have so often been intimidated into silence and submission by the raucous cries of the enemies of righteousness.

### **Sovereignty**

Now it must be stated that the Lord God in His sovereignty has overruled this rebelliousness to the furtherance of His eternal purpose in grace. This the disciples pointed out boldly to the people of Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. Gone was the the feebleness of past days and the reluctance to bear reproach for the Lord Jesus. They were now men 'full of the Holy Ghost"!

"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 . . . . Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ," Acts 2:22-24, 36.

We can rejoice that all the confusion that the devil stirs up against the cause of Christ will profit him nothing. His wickedness is doomed to utter failure. "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever," Revelation 20:10.

Bless the Lord for this glorious hope of assured victory!

One of the allegations of the Trafalgar Square 'We do not consent' protesters is that the restrictions brought in by the government on people's freedoms and liberties are the actions of a regime bent on introducing a 'totalitarian state'!

Such a view is very widespread in the USA.

Now I do not believe that such is generally in the minds of those in authority. I believe that the various regulations: social distancing, mask wearing and limitation of the numbers who may assemble together or attend meetings are in keeping with what the Bible would teach us about combatting infectious diseases.

One has only to consider the rules God brought in for His people Israel regarding touching that which has died, the separation of the leper and the frequent washing of the clothes and the body to avoid contamination to see the foundation of the basic rules of hygiene.

### **Reaction**

However, when governments are defied they invariably react with a putting forth of power to enforce obedience of their regulations. Out of such circumstances there can develop a situation whereby governments begin to employ increasingly draconian and harsh directives in order to enforce obedience. That in return



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

may well result with even greater resistance by the population with very tragic results.

We see the beginnings of such a confrontation for crowds vacating pubs at the new earlier time of 10.00 pm, instead of dispersing and going home, they are assembling in the surrounding streets in large jostling crowds and simply crowding together in defiance of the government restrictions. Larger fines are threatened against such violations but little or no impression seems to be made upon the people thus congregating in contempt for the restrictions!

Totalitarianism can easily emerge from such a development as governments increasingly put forth their power against non-compliance.

It is out of such scenarios that dictators have arisen.

### Common Grace

In truth, it is gospel grace alone that exercises restraint upon citizens and governments and keeps both within the bounds that God has laid down for each section of society. The decline of gospel light is very evident today and with governments and the body of society within the world in general being less and less under 'common grace', with that decline, we see little regard by the state and its citizenry to what God has said in passages such as Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Timothy 2:1-4. Both ruler and ruled are to live in step with what God says is their responsibility one to the other.

When God's order is abandoned then anarchy and chaos are the result and good order disappears to the detriment of all.

I think that we see the beginnings of that on the streets of nations which ordinarily have enjoyed a reasonable measure of good order. We have all read about and watched the scenes of disorder in the UK, the USA and many other countries where these issues are being played out.

Such is the work of the devil! "He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it," John 8:44.

His desire will result in the intervention of God in the putting down, without mercy, the wicked rebellion the devil has fomented and in which depraved men have eagerly engaged.

The judgment of God upon the rebellious at the return of Christ will be to the full. Judgment has been visited upon men on many former occasions and that to the end that men might learn the folly of sin. However, when man shows that he is unwilling to take any heed to such warnings then judgment will be visited 'to the full'

*Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup," Psalm 11:6.*

There is a day when wrath will be visited upon men without restraint.

*"And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 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?" Revelation 6:14-17.*

I have no doubt that the day of the fulness of God's wrath will develop out of the growing unrest, defiance and rebellion that are increasingly becoming evident today.



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

### Wrong

How wrong it would be for Christians, most inadvisably, to encourage such ungodly defiance. I have read statements from Christians who inexplicably support Donald Trump and see in this amoral man, whose words and actions must surely cause abhorrence among any who love the Lord, that which they consider positively advantageous to the cause of Christ and righteousness.

Donald Trump, because of his sinfulness can only bring America down rather than make it great!

I read this recently from the pen of a prominent Fundamentalist preacher.

"The Liberals are determined to bring America into utter chaos nationwide and then build what they believe to be the perfect utopia of atheistic socialism and totalitarianism.

It is for this reason that Liberals intensely hate President Donald Trump. His administration has exposed the "swamp" of Washington's Deep State that has worked long to destroy from within this nation, to bring it to its knees, and finally to cause it to submit to the god of socialism and the totalitarianism of communism. It was a miracle that brought Donald Trump into the White House, and it can only be a Sovereign God Who will keep him there for another four years. Despite what we think of President Trump's crudeness and bold candidness, it took a man such as he to confront the lewd, oppressive, immoral, debauched powers that pervade Washington. No other kind of man (in the natural world) could have taken on the political swamp and fake news without his thick-skin rawness. For the first time in American history, today we are witnessing an open display of the powers of darkness vying to annihilate the powers of natural light. And amidst the blatant, alcoholic, demonic corruption that pervades our nation's capital, only God knows the outcome of November's election if providence even permits it to occur."

Now I agree with elements of that statement but I do not agree that is right to create the impression amongst God's people that Trump is God's instrument to confront that wickedness in the USA of which he has been and is a very central part! In many ways, the moral 'swamp' in American society today is the place out of which Trump crawled! He is part of the great apostasy of the last days and it is surely the devil who has deceived many into thinking that God has raised him up to lead the nation back to holiness!

The Lord may have used men such as Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, Pilate, Judas and many others, to accomplish His divine will, but what they did under God, they did inadvertently. They did not claim to be nor were they looked upon by the righteous as God's servants in advancing holiness.

Job said: "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one," Job 14:4. That just cannot be done. Donald Trump is an unclean man and he is but part of the dreadful and increasing apostasy of today. He is not in any way God's answer to that apostasy!

Paul emphasised that truth. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God," Romans 8:6-8.

"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is," Ephesians 5:15-17.

Rev Ivan Foster (Rtd)

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### Footnote:

With a minute or two of my sending out the last article: 'Playing the two ends against the middle!', in which



## **The Burning Bush - Online article archive**

I quote the lovely hymn, "Sing we the King who is coming to reign", my very good friend Mr Stephen Toms, replied with this heart-warming item of information about the hymn.

"That hymn was written by an MP - the Member for Ipswich, but not in the present day!!"

I did know the name of the writer of the hymn but was unaware that Charles Silvester Horne (1865-1914) was for a time a Congregational minister and a Liberal Party member of Parliament.

How different were the times when such men sat in Westminster and boldly and openly professed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.