

The Burning Bush—Online article archive



Dr Paisley and Martin McGuinness in New York Stock Exchange, Dec '07

The cry of the merchants

Chief amongst the mourners who bewail the fall of Babylon, Antichrist's commercial and political capital, will be the merchants who grew rich through its business enterprises.

"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," Revelation 18:15-17.

It must never be forgotten that the kingdom of Antichrist will be ostensibly a commercial empire. The moral wickedness that lies at the heart of Antichrist's purposes is concealed at the first beneath the cover of commerce.

"And I said, What *is* it? And he said, This *is* an ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, This *is* their resemblance through all the earth. And, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead: and this *is* a woman that sitteth in the midst of the ephah. And he said,

This *is* wickedness. And he cast it into the midst of the ephah; and he cast the weight of lead upon the mouth thereof. Then lifted I up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came out two women, and the wind *was* in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork: and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heaven. Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah? And he said unto me, To build it an house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base," Zechariah 5:6-11.

The woman, specifically referred to here in Zechariah's prophecy as "wickedness", is hidden within the ephah, a pot commonly used as a commercial measure. She is not merely concealed but is constrained within it by the heavy lead lid.

THE WICKED

When Paul referred to the "Wicked" or the "Lawless one" in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-10, he indicates that there is a power restraining the advance of the spirit of wickedness. "And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time," verse 6. The word

"withholdeth" means to hold back or detain. The restraining power is of course of the Lord.

The devil's plan of wickedness is under the sovereign superintendence of the Lord and it can only unfold as the Lord permits. There is a time for the revealing of antichristianity but that time is in God's hand. Not until that time decreed from eternity will the devil be able

to advance his cause in the last days.

Signs of the nearing of that time will be seen first in the rise of commercialism and its close links with false religion and apostasy.

BAIT



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Here in Ulster, the abandoning of former views on the terrorism of the IRA and the political principles those views gave rise to, has been accompanied by an emphasis upon commercial advancement and success. Indeed, the hook of power-sharing with the Provisional IRA was baited with financial incentives.

Let it be stated clearly that the Word of God exhorts to diligence and earnestness in all our business affairs. Such passages as Proverbs 22: 29 and Romans 12: 11 spring to mind. "Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men." "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord." However, as with all the activities of the believer, there must be a subjection of our business activities to the will of God. His law must govern our commercial labours. We must never neglect our duties toward God in our pursuit of business success nor violate any of His laws in order to enrich ourselves. We must observe the laws of God on Sabbath observance as well as honesty and uprightness of conduct. "Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men," 2 Corinthians 8: 21. Our Heavenly Father's business must ever be the Christian's first business even as it was with the Saviour. "And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" Luke 2: 49.

Back in the Autumn of 2006, the powers that be at Westminster threatened to close down the Stormont Assembly and cut off the substantial incomes of the MLAs if they did not quickly agree to a power-sharing deal of some sort.

The power-sharing arrangement worked out at St Andrews between the DUP and Sinn Fein/IRA in October 2006 was sold to the Ulster loyalist electorate during the run-up to the finalising of the deal as the gateway to economic success. The figure of £1bn was the price demanded by the DUP for a power-sharing package we were told. The "Observer" newspaper of March 11th, 2007, headlined the story so: "Negotiations aimed at gaining an aid package worth £1 billion for Northern Ireland could propel Ian Paisley into a historic power-sharing government with Sinn Fein."

Another newspaper, "The Irish Examiner" of March 10th, 2007, carried a similar line.

"Dublin and London last night launched a carefully concerted pincer movement intended to 'bribe and bluster' Ian Paisley into power-sharing. With final results from the Belfast Assembly poll confirming the DUP's dominant position at Stormont, the party was set to fill four of the 10 Northern ministries if devolution is restored. Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and British Prime Minister Tony Blair put on a united front as they demanded movement from Mr Paisley in a joint statement which heralded two weeks of intense negotiations certain to go to the wire of the March 26 deadline to re-establish power-sharing.

The two governments put in play the twin-track tactic of 'bribing' the DUP into devolution with the offer of billions of extra investment in the North directly linked to devolution, and the threat of portraying the party as abandoning its supporters by allowing Stormont to be shut down if no deal is reached."

Well, we all now know that the bribery worked on even those who right up to the last moment were vowing they would never sit down with Sinn Fein/IRA! Large salaries as MLAs and Committee chairmen counted more than principles or honour with some.



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INVESTMENTS

Since the setting up of the Stormont DUP-Sinn Fein/IRA power-sharing executive, the air has been filled with talk about £millions in investments, resulting in greater employment and increased wealth for all! High profile visits to the USA by leading DUP and Sinn Fein/IRA personnel have been followed by press announcements of yet further investments. Nearer home, Dublin has been quietly feeding the greedy amongst various loyalist and unionist organisations. All of this "investment" comes with a price tag.

The USA money has been handed over through the mediation of the likes of Ted Kennedy and other Irish American long-time supporters of Sinn fein and a united Ireland. The money comes with the requirement of the acceptance of the "McBride Principles." These so-called "principles" were named after Sean McBride, a former leader of the IRA. They were once considered with utter repugnance by the DUP leadership but since the money could only be obtained by accepting these principles then the DUP was ready to abandon its former views and protestations without compunction. Naturally, the money offered by Dublin to various loyalist groups can only be obtained by a de facto acceptance of the legitimacy of Dublin's role in Northern Ireland affairs. An article in the "Irish News" of April 24th 2008, entitled "Cash for loyalists if they don't burn Irish tricolour" says it all! Honouring the flag long seen as a symbol under which the IRA carried on its murderous campaigns of slaughtering Protestants for nearly a century, is the price for Dublin's 30 pieces of silver.

However, the canny in Ulster have increasingly been applying a lot of salt to all the hype, especially since Gordon Brown's £millions, promised less than a year ago, did not materialise to the extent anticipated.

But, be that as it may, the expectation of a commercial harvest following acceptance of power-sharing did entice many loyalists into acceptance of the DUP deal with Sinn Fein/IRA.

FAR CRY

This sudden engrossment with money is a far cry from the days when "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" was the guiding light of many within the DUP. It was most disconcerting to read of Dr Ian Paisley saying to an audience of businessmen in Ballymena that his legacy would be creating a stable Ulster upon which future generations could build economic prosperity (*Belfast Newsletter*, 21st April 2008). That is not the legacy he formerly desired to leave to his fel-



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low-Ulstermen and women. It would have been his desire to see a revival of gospel religion and the flourishing of the Kingdom of Christ in his native land.

In the same speech Dr Paisley identified “the enemy” in Ulster. He said he and his DUP colleagues had confronted the need for change and the enemies of Ulster were those who resist change. There was once a day when the enemies of Ulster were the murderers of the IRA. Now, the enemy is those who resist the changes that have come as a result of the DUP making peace with Sinn Fein/IRA.

He told those attending the CBI Northern Ireland’s annual dinner at the end of April that Northern Ireland was determined never to go back to the dark days of the Troubles and the Stormont Executive was already demonstrating the advantages of having devolved government whether it was reducing taxes on businesses, showcasing Northern Ireland around the world or creating jobs through practical co-operation with the Irish Government. “Northern Ireland is no longer in the valley of despair,” the First Minister declared. “We have become a beacon of hope, working to harness all the energy and talent that abounds for the benefit of the people of Northern Ireland” (The Irish Times, 25th April 2008).

How Dr. Paisley can use such glowing terms of the future into which the regime he heads is leading Northern Ireland beggars belief given that he is walking hand in hand with a man who just a few days ago was publicly indicted by a former senior police detective as being fully acquainted with and in agreement with the IRA plan to bomb civilians at Enniskillen and Tullyhommon Remembrance Day services on November 8th, 1988. As a member of the Privy Council, Dr Paisley has access to and is doubtless acquainted with all the secret reports on the activities of Martin McGuinness as a murderous member of the IRA and its Army Council over a period of many, many years. Such knowledge makes his statement all the more inexplicable.

The Enniskillen bomb killed 12 Protestants while the bomb at Tullyhommon failed to go off, otherwise the fatalities would have been even higher with many Protestant school children involved in the wreath-laying ceremony, amongst the dead.

A WARNING

Our article started with a reference to businessmen weeping because of God's judgment on Babylon. Here in Ulster, businessmen are far from weeping. Recently, a businessmen's association in Northern Ireland indicated that they thought Peter Robinson, the DUP Economics Minister in Stormont, was doing a good job. That report made me think of account of Babylon's fall in Revelation 18 and the weeping of the merchants.

The whole slide by unionism down the path long advocated by ecumenism and popery has been greased by money.

Money made it acceptable for the DUP to reverse its stance on power-sharing with murderers.

Money seems to have erased the memories of 30 years of terror and murder and made



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Martin McGuinness an affable companion with whom to share jokes.
Money has made the likes of Ted Kennedy and Bill and Hilary Clinton into friends.
Money has made enemies of all those who shared the principles and doctrines the DUP once held and who now wish to hold fast to those same principles and doctrines.

Christians should bear in mind that it will be the same love for money and desire for worldly pomp which will blind the world to the wickedness of Antichrist and make palatable his devious ways. The desire for present-day comforts will blind many to the eternal dangers in which such a greed places their souls.

The economic promises of Hitler blinded Germany to the hell to which he was leading the nation.

In Ulster, we see in embryo the delusion that can turn the hearts of a people and dull their senses into co-operating with a sworn and implacable enemy bent solely on their destruction.

It is a sad pity that the escatological wisdom of the late James Kyle Paisley was not more widely imbibed and heeded. If it had, I believe that the dark and threatening pattern of the present trends in Ulster would have been recognised for what they are — a foreshadowing of the ensnaring of the world within the web of Antichrist's doomed kingdom of earthly riches and short-lived glory.

Ivan Foster.
1st May 2008