CAN WE EXPECT A BREATH OF REVIVAL AMIDST THE APOSTASY OF THESE LAST DAYS?

"For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again . . . through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant," Job 14:7-9.

Rev Ivan Foster (Rtd)

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A five-fold study preached in
Kilskeery Free Presbyterian Church
July 19th, 29th & August 2nd
Rev Rev Ivan Foster (Rd).

The purpose of the messages was to show that the age in which the Saviour ministered at His first advent was very like the days in which we live. Therefore our hoping and praying that He will move again in revival power amidst His people, in a time of great apostasy, is not a vain hope.

(Free copies of this article may be had from
Rev I Foster (kilskeery@gmail.com)

(Part 1)

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: and on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: and I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: and it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved," Acts 2:17-21.

In response to a comment emailed to me by one who read an article I had mounted on 'The Burning Bush' website,

regarding the corruption all too evident within our local politicians, I replied with these words.

"Any age of apostasy is an age in which 'Judas' appears!! The Antichrist will be the personification of duplicity."

Shorty after I pondered my own words and was made to realise that I was saying that the days of the Saviour's ministry, during His first advent, were days of apostasy!
I had never thought of those times in that manner before but as I now considered more carefully what I had written, I recognised that what I had stated was very, very true!

It serves to remind us that we are to constantly "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me," John 5:39.
It is in them alone we can discover the "pearl of great price" Matthew 13:46. Men dig in the earth for precious stones, silver and gold. Let us turn over the pages of the Bible and search for eternal treasure!

To begin our first study of this subject please consider:

THE PECULIARITIES OF THE DAYS OF THE SAVIOUR'S EARTHLY MINISTRY.

1. In the days of the Saviour's first advent the land had been without a prophet for just over 400 years. The brief ministry of John the Baptist, who was then followed shortly after by the Saviour's ministry, broke that 400 year drought. That indicated there had to be great darkness and ignorance in the land!

This is emphasised in the 4th chapter of Matthew.
“Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; the people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,” Matthew 4:12-17.

‘The region and shadow of death’

Here is the terrible spiritual state of the land when the Saviour came. “The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.”

2. The ordinances of God had been abandoned and corrupted. The Levitical priesthood was utterly unfaithful and the temple worship defiled.
“And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves,” Matthew 21:12-13.

Priests’ response to Christ

The response of the priests to the Saviour indicates their corruption.
“And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David; they were sore

displeased," Matthew 21:15.
The priests were the chief instigators of the Saviour's crucifixion.
"But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus," Matthew 27:20.

3. It has to be remembered that the Saviour's ministry took place under the political dominion of the 'last' of the four great kingdoms which would rule over the 'prophetic earth'.
Those four kingdoms were Babylon, the Medes and Persians, Greece and finally Rome.

Rome

"And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise," Daniel 2:40.
There is to be a resurgence of that fourth kingdom at the close of this age. Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that it would be in the days of that fourth kingdom that Christ would return.
"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. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure," Daniel 2:44-45.

Rebellion

The 'spirit of rebellion and apostasy' centred in these four kingdoms and although there was a change of the dominating

nations — from Babylon to Medo-Persian Empire, to Greece, to Rome — the kingdoms remained the same in essence of spirit.

Thus it can be said that "in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom." God's kingdom shall break "in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold" , the great kingdoms of earthly rebellion.
What a breaking that will be!

"Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth," Daniel 2:34-35.

The extent of this destruction indicates that it was not the emergence of the Gospel kingdom, initiated at Pentecost, that will bring about the complete destruction of these kingdoms. No, it is a reference to the Saviour's millennial kingdom.
"And the seventh angel sounded; (the last trumpet) 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.
The earth will be brought into submission to Christ's authority. "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.

4. The crucifixion of the Lord Jesus was the ultimate in man's rebellion against God!

"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," Acts 3:13-15.

Devil's desire

They did what the devil had been seeking to do since his fall into sin — the killing of Abel, of the male children in Egypt, of the slaying of the children by Herod, the attack of the devil in the Garden of Gethsemane — All were but occasions when the devil sought to thwart he purpose of God in Christ.

He fail in all his attempts, even when it might have appeared for a time that he had succeeded.

He failed to kill Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane because the father answered to Saviour's prayer.

"Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared," Hebrews 5:7.

In the end the devil stirred up the blind Jews to kill their Messiah. This, in the purpose of God, accomplished the redemption of His elect and utterly frustrated the schemes of the devil!

But this illustrates for us the awful spirit of apostasy which dominated the land of Israel in the days of the Saviour's first advent.

Days of a mighty revival

And yet in those dreadful days it is recorded that "God

anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him," Acts 10:38.

"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name," John 20:30-31.

"And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen," John 21:25.

The miraculous feeding of the multitudes gives us an indication of the numbers reached by Christ during His first advent.

"And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full. And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children," Matthew 14:19-21.

"And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full. And they that did eat were four thousand men, besides women and children," Matthew 15:36-38.

These verses are indications of the crowds that gathered to hear the Saviour. Add the women and children and you can at least double, if not treble, those figures.

These are scenes of 'revival blessings' and yet it was a day of

apostasy! Thus I believe that we can expect the Lord to bless His people in the very near future and that for a number of very good reasons.

(END OF THE FIRST MESSAGE)

CAN WE EXPECT A BREATH OF REVIVAL AMIDST THE APOSTASY OF THESE LAST DAYS? (Part 2)

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: and on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: and I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: and it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved," Acts 2:17-21.

As I said in my first message on this subject, the matter came before me as a result of a comment that I made to a brother who emailed me in response to an article posted on 'The Burning Bush' website about the corruption and deceit very evident amongst our local Unionist politicians.
I pointed out to him:

"Any age of apostasy is an age in which 'Judas' appears!! The Antichrist will be the personification of duplicity."

That comment brought about a realisation that the Saviour's ministry during His first advent took place despite the nation being in apostasy!
I am seeking to enlarge upon this conclusion and in our second study we will:—

GIVE CONSIDERATION TO THE PRINCIPLE WHICH UNDERLIES THE REACTION OF GOD TO THE DEVIL'S ACTIVITIES.

"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him," Isaiah 59:19.

This reaction by the Lord to the actions of His enemies was repeatedly seen throughout the days of the Old Testament, e.g. Pharaoh, Goliath, Rabshakeh, Belshazzar, etc.

1. The Lord has never permitted the devil complete freedom to blaspheme and deny His Person. Evidence of this is recorded in the Bible from the very beginning.
When Adam and Eve were deceived by the devil into doubting the truth of God's Word (Genesis 3:3-5) it is recored that, "The LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel," Genesis 3:14-15.

There is the first promise of a Redeemer and what it was He would suffer in overthrowing the devil. "It shall bruise thy

head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."
It has always been the purpose of God to oppose and overthrow the devil, and in so doing, advance the Gospel kingdom of His Son.

Calvary

Christ's death at Calvary is central to that purpose. There the Saviour redeemed His people from under the thraldom of the devil, settled for ever the debt of their sins, into which they were provoked to commit by the devil, and broke the devil's power.

Consider these verses.

"Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out," John 12:31.
"Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged," John 16:11.
"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it," Colossians 2:14-15.
"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage," Hebrews 2:14-15.
"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil," 1 John 3:8.

The destruction of the devil and his works has been central to the purpose of God in Christ.

2. This truth was further displayed in the judgment of the flood in Noah's day! "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," Genesis 6:5.
The Lord responded to that universal rebellion, just as He will do in the very near future to the increasingly universal apostasy of this age. Only this time instead of water it will be FIRE!
"And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them," Genesis 6:7.

Return of Christ

Paul speaks of the return of Christ in these fearful words.
"Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; and to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day," 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10.
Yes, the Lord has ever answered the challenges mounted against Him by the devil and continues to do so!
We can therefore expect to see the Lord responding to the wickedness of our day!

3. Whenever godly men successfully opposed and defeated the agents of the devil, it was by the power of God. Remember David's words when challenging Goliath.

"And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him. And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel," 1 Samuel 17:41-46.

Every overthrowing of the devil and his emissaries was a demonstrating that God rules over all and contending with His enemies in His unchanging purpose!

4. Such overthrowing of the devil and his schemes has resulted in times of peace and blessing for God's people. The devil initiates rebellion against God and a rejection of His Law and that ALWAYS brings grief, misery and suffering!

"And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years. . . . And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD," Judges 6:1, 6.

Prayer - Peace!

Their crying brought deliverance and with it blessing and peace under the leadership of Gideon.

"So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands. And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon. And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled. And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host: and the host fled to Bethshittah in Zererath, and to the border of Abelmeholah, unto Tabbath. And the men of Israel gathered themselves together out of Naphtali, and out of Asher, and out of all Manasseh, and pursued after the Midianites, . . . And they took two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb; and they slew Oreb upon the rock Oreb, and Zeeb they slew at the winepress of Zeeb, and pursued Midian, and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side Jordan," Judges 7:19-23, 25.

Some 500 years later

Isaiah the prophet, when prophesying of the victory of Christ over the Antichrist at His return in power and great glory, used the victory of Gideon as an illustration of Christ's coming victory.

"Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD of hosts, O my people that dwellest in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrian (*a Scriptural title of the Future Antichrist*): he shall smite thee with a rod, and shall lift up his staff against thee, after the manner of Egypt. For yet a very little while, and the

indignation shall cease, and mine anger in their destruction. And the LORD of hosts shall stir up a scourge for him according to the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb: and as his rod was upon the sea, so shall he lift it up after the manner of Egypt. And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing," Isaiah 10:24-27.

Thus every victory of the Lord over the devil in the past — that of Gideon and Moses, which are here referred to and also His victory — were but foreshadowings and foretastes of the final victory of Christ when He returns to put down all apostasy and rebellion!

5. This is specifically mentioned in Isaiah. "So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him. And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD," Isaiah 59:19-20.

Not only do you have here the principle and practice of the Lord's reaction to the attacks of the devil but here is a prophecy of the nature of God's reaction in the last days`.

The verse 20 indicates the times of this particular response of the Lord. "And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD," Isaiah 59:20.

This is a reference to the return of Christ and it is THE time of the lifting up of Christ's standards against the devil and his defeat.

(END OF THE SECOND MESSAGE)

CAN WE EXPECT A BREATH OF REVIVAL AMIDST THE APOSTASY OF THESE LAST DAYS? (Part 3)

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: and on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: and I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: and it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved," Acts 2:17-21.

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I am seeking to enlarge upon this conclusion.

THERE ARE CLEAR PROPHECIES OF REVIVAL IN THE LAST DAYS.

Just such a prophecy forms our text for this series of studies.
"And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh."

1. Let us first of all identify just when the 'last days' take place. This special period of time is frequently mentioned in the Bible.
The very first mention is in Isaiah, who really was given a wonderful revelation of future times. He was, as it were, the forerunner of John the apostle and what he was shown and which is recorded for us in his book, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass," Revelation 1:1.

Here is Isaiah's mention of the "Last Days", in chapter 2:2-3.
"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."

This is a reference to events after the return of Christ and that

which will take place at the last trumpet being sounded. “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.

That which Isaiah depicts of the nations hastening to Jerusalem to learn God Word is a time also spoken on by Habakkuk. “For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea,” Habakkuk 2:14.

It is to be noted that the first mention of the last days refers to the return of Christ and the setting up of His earthy kingdom.

Ignored and Denied

Is it not sad that such an event is denied or at best, ignored, by most preachers today! We ought to be like Isaiah and teach our people of that coming time of glory and blessing!

2. The references just given refer to the conclusion of the last days, but when did they start? I certainly believe that we can deduce from Peter’s words on the Day of Pentecost, that he believed that the “last days” had begun.

“But <u>this is that</u> which was spoken by the prophet Joel; and it shall come to pass <u>in the last days</u> . . .” Acts 2:16-17.

Thus the last days is a lengthy period that had begun at Pentecost and would continue on into the days following the return of Christ.

Think about

It is something that everyone should think about! ‘Last days’ are frequent in our experience. Our school just had the ‘last day’ of the final term before the summer holidays. Even they, the holidays, sadly, shall have a ‘last day’!

More importantly, each one of us shall have a last day on this earth. We shall breathe our last and enter eternity. That is a

day we must give thought to and prepare for.
How we are when we enter eternity determines the eternity we enter!
“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him,” John 3:36.
Here are two very different eternities. There is one of “everlasting life” and there is another when “the wrath of God abideth” on the individual.

Contrast

There cannot be a greater contrast than these two eternal states!
The difference is decided upon by whether or not we “believe” or we “do not believe” on Christ the Son of God.
To believe on Christ is to accept what he says of His purpose amongst men. Paul teaches us that “Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,” 1 Corinthians 15:3.
Those referred to as ‘believers’ there are those who have embraced the Gospel message and rely solely upon the shedding of Christ’s blood as an atonement for their pardon and forgiveness of sin.

They do **NOT** rely on their church-going or their acts of kindness and charity toward others. These things cannot pay for our sins. It is like trying to pay for our debts with counterfeit money. Such is worthless just as our works are without value when it comes to pay for our redemption!
“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost,” Titus 3:5.

Prepare

Yes, we must prepare for our ‘last day’ and our leaving of this world by embracing Christ as offered to us in the Gospel.

“Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David,” Isaiah 55:1-3.

3. We are told that the world, as happened in the days of Noah, will increase in wickedness as the last days progress.

Paul states: “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come,” 2 Timothy 3:1.

The Greek word translated “perilous”, *khal-ep-os*, appears in only one other place in the New Testament.

“And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding **fierce**, so that no man might pass by that way,” Matthew 8:28.

The word “fierce” in this verse is the same Greek word as is translated “perilous” in 2 Timothy 3:1.

It describes the actions of two men “possessed with devils”! The word “possessed” indicates that they were under the power and control of evil spirits. Thus they come forward to meet the Saviour in a most hostile manner. Such will be the days at the close of this age before the Saviour’s return.

The Lord Jesus tells us in Luke 17:26, “And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.” What were the days of Noah like? Genesis chapter 6 gives us a very full description of that time, just prior to the world-wide flood.

“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 (*cruelty and injustice*). And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt (*ruined and decayed*); for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth," Genesis 6:5, 11-12.

That is what is what we see happening internationally, over the last generation.

Corruption

Corruption dominates every facet of life, be it ecclesiastical, political, business or domestic! Rebellion and defiance of God and His order is everywhere seen. The sodomite is repeatedly condemned most forthrightly by God. "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," Romans 1:26-28.

And yet they parade their depravity with pride on the streets of the nations, applauded by fools and families!

Abominated by God

That which is repudiated and abominated by God, has in this generation, been legalised and sanitised by perverted politicians and approved of by religious leaders, to the degree that its is now illegal to speak of them using the language of God\s Word.

One day both the defiant legaliser and the breaker of God's law, will stand before the 'Judge of all the earth" and hear His damning condemnation!

4. I believe we can expect to see the same mercy as was displayed in the ministry of Noah displayed again. As the world hastened downward in Noah's day, the Lord showed mercy and enabled His servant to preach for some one hundred and twenty years.

Hear what Peter says of that time. "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: by which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water," 1 Peter 3:18-20.

What Peter tell us is that in mercy God waited and held back the judgment of the flood while, by the Holy Spirit, Christ preached unto those who are now dead and in 'prison', awaiting the final judgment, and that through the preaching ministry of the prophet Noah.

Likewise

In like fashion, God shows "longsuffering" today toward the brazen wickedness that has spread throughout the whole world as it had in the days of Noah..

Peter informs us of this.

"But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering **to us-ward**, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the

works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness," 2 Peter 3:7-13.

Mission

The Lord is currently on a 'mission of mercy'. Although there is a crying out for judgment by the depravity and sins of mankind, God is not willing that any of **US**, His elect, should perish in the judgment. Please note of whom Peter is writing , US! This is constantly and wrongly applied to sinners generally. This verse is speaking of God's patience toward His elect.

That little term, **us-ward**, is so often overlooked. Yet it proves that God is "longsuffering to us-ward". During the 120 years of Noah's preaching I have no doubt that many of God's elect were gathered into His Kingdom, died and went to be with him, before the flood came. It was for their sakes that the Lord was "longsuffering" and patient

Today

So it is today. That explains the 'delay' in the Saviour's return. Please remember the words of Matthew 25:5. "While the bridegroom tarried."

The Lord in mercy tarries in His coming and lengthens the opportunity of ungodly men to "flee from the wrath to come."

We, as Christians, should seek to act as did Noah and use the time of delay to preach Christ to sinful men.

Sadly, all too many are failing to do that but rather adopting the ways of this evil generation.

(END OF THIRD MESSAGE)

CAN WE EXPECT A BREATH OF REVIVAL AMIDST THE APOSTASY OF THESE LAST DAYS? (Part 4)

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: and on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: and I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: and it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved," Acts 2:17-21.

As I said in my first message on this subject, the matter came before me as a result of a comment that I made to a brother who emailed me in response to an article posted on 'The Burning Bush' website about the corruption and deceit very evident amongst our local Unionist politicians.
I pointed out to him:
"Any age of apostasy is an age in which 'Judas' appears!! The Antichrist will be the personification of duplicity."

That comment brought about a realisation that the days of the Saviour's ministry, during His first advent, were days of apostasy!
I am seeking to enlarge upon this conclusion.

WE ARE GIVEN A CLEAR PICTURES OF THE PERIOD JUST PRIOR TO THE SAVIOUR'S RETURN.

1. One such picture is found in Matthew 24:15. These are the words of the Lord Jesus Himself. He has just been answering the double question asked of Him by His disciples.
"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Matthew 24:3.
The next verse begins: "And Jesus answered . . . "

WHY????

Why is it that many preachers are of the opinion that the events of the future are concealed and hidden and the study of prophecy is non-profitable for the child of God?
The Saviour was very ready to answer the "when" and the "what" of His disciples.
I believe He is still of that mind!

As we come to chapter 25, please note that the Lord had just been speaking of His return in the form of a parable, designed to induce "watchfulness" amongst His people, verses 44-5.
Then as we come to the opening verses of chapter 25, they begin with the word, "THEN". Chapter 25 deals with the days just prior to the Saviour's return.

2. Note the spirit of that day. "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish," verses 1-2.
The church is divided between true believers and mere professors of faith in Christ.
Are we not entering upon such times today? The reason for this is first of all the 'easy-believism', defined as the view that a person can achieve salvation through a simple, one-time

mental assent or verbal prayer, without the need of true repentance of sin or a genuine transformation of life and a yielding to the rule of discipleship under Christ as Lord and Saviour.
Consequently, there has been an accepting into public membership of the professing Church of Christ, those who are not at all truly regenerated by the power and grace of God.
They are the foolish virgins who "took their lamps, and took no oil with them." There was not the means of shining forth the light of God from within them! 'Oil-less lamps' are all too common today!

Even though there will be those who are truly saved, they, in common with the mere 'professors', will surrender to carelessness and indifference and cease to act in obedience to Christ's command to 'watch'! BUT, "While the bridegroom tarried, they ALL slumbered and slept," verse 5.
There will be little distinction between the true believer and the mere pretender at the close of this age!
Again I ask, are we not seeing just such a prevailing attitude and likeness to the worldly amongst the professing people of God today?

Pulpits

I blame the pulpits of today for this dreadful slumber for the pulpits of late are asleep regarding the glorious truth of the return of Christ! What is preached in many case sounds more like 'snoring' than it does like the preaching of former times!!

The early church was filled with a lively spirit of 'waiting' for the return of Christ! For instance, it was so with the believers in Rome.
"And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within

ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body," Romans 8:23.
It was also true of the Corinthians, despite their many ills.
"Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: so that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ," 1 Corinthians 1:6-7.
Those to whom Peter wrote his epistles, were also contemplating the truth of Christ's return.
"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God?" 2 Peter 3:11-12.
Paul indicated to the Hebrew believers to whom he wrote, that such waiting and looking for Christ's return, was the right disposition for the true Christian to cultivate.
"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation," Hebrews 9:28.

First Generation

I could add many other verses which indicate a 'wide awake spirit' amongst the first generation of believers. Sadly such 'wide-awake' watchfulness is absent today amongst the people of God and, as we are told by the Saviour, will deepen and spread.
The reason is, I repeat, the failure of the pulpit to follow the example of the prophets and apostles of old. The apostles were not only evangelistic but they expounded the prophetic Scriptures as well!

If we are to be like the apostles and the prophets, we must keep the return of Christ in power and great glory ever before the people to whom we minister.
"But those things, which God before had shewed by the

mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began," Acts 3:18-21.

More important still, if we would follow the example of the Saviour, then we will use the prophetic Scriptures to counter doubt and despair amongst God's people in this evil day.
"Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself," Luke 24:25-27.

Malaise

If we are to preserve our people from the malaise of the two on the road to Emmaus and the sinful careless slumber of the believers portrayed in Matthew 25:5, then we must preach up the Scriptures which tell of that glorious event!

3. Please note that the Saviour will interrupt this sleep just before He returns. "And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps," verses 6-7.
The true believer WILL BE awakened and will return to their first love and first duty.
They arose and "trimmed their lamps" and went out to welcome the soon to return "Bridegroom" and, being "ready went in with him to the marriage."

Oh yes, I believe that the Lord will return to an awakened and revived and ready Church, doing that which was ever the will of God for them.

4. We are given another picture of the days just prior to the Saviour's return. This is found in Revelation chapter 6.

That this chapter is detailing events just before the Saviour's return can be determined from the closing verses of the chapter.

"And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; and the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. 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?" Verses12-17.

Armies of Antichrist

Here are the armies of Antichrist crying out in despair as they realise that their futile attempts to overthrow Christ are about to end in damnation under the wrath of the Lamb!

What horror is to be heard in this cry as deceived men realise, with total terror, that they had taken the wrong path, trusted in the wrong person and are now about to pay the eternal price for their folly.

Many others too

Of course, let it be stated plainly, it is not just the followers of

Antichrist who will one day awaken to this dreadful fate. It will be the lot of decent church-going men and women, Protestants, Roman Catholics and those of every religion, who trusted in their RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES and rejected the call to embrace the Gospel message of Christ by faith, who will also find themselves coming to this unspeakably awful fate!

In earlier verses in this chapter we see future scenes in heaven in which we are permitted to witness the saints slain by the Antichrist, but who are now in glory, calling upon the Lord.
"And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled," Revelation 6:9-11.

Vengeance

Do not let anyone tell you, Christian, that it is wrong to desire God's judgment upon those who give themselves over to wicked defiance of God and who take out their hatred of the Lord upon His saints.

Here are the redeemed in heaven who were "slain for the word of God", crying out for vengeance against their murderers!
Furthermore, they are told to be at rest for soon vengeance will be visited upon their enemy.

Purpose

It was to take such revenge upon His enemies and the enemies of His saints that Christ is coming again.
But I would have you take note that the Lord in His wisdom, will permit many of His saints to suffer in those final days for the words of comfort to the martyrs in heaven include this: " . . . they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."
There will be those who will gain the martyr's crown in the closing days of this age.

5. There is one other picture I would have you take note of. It too is in the Book of the Revelation.
"And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two

prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.
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 11:3-15.

Let me briefly point out some matters in these verses.

(1). ***When these two witnesses will prophesy***. Verse 3 gives us the period that is also referred to in verse 2 in another format, as to the time when "the holy city" is trodden down of the Gentiles. It is the time when the final assault upon Jerusalem is made, just prior to Christ's return. (See Zechariah 14:1-30)
It is the very time of the ascendency of the Antichrist YET, the Lord will have His witnesses ministering right on the 'Beast's' doorstep!

(2). ***The miracles that these witnesses perform by the power of God, reminds us of the ministries of Moses and Elijah***. "These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will," verse 6.
I suggest, but do not insist upon, that we may consider these

two witnesses to be Moses and Elijah returned to this earth to carry out their final witness.

(3). Note the prevailing spirit of the last days of his age!

"And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth," verses 7-10.

Faithful preachers will not ever win 'personality contests' or be well thought of. Rather they will be a source of torment to the ungodly. How wrong are those Free Presbyterian ministers who seek the 'smile and the well done' of the ungodly today! As a result they are silent with regards the carrying out of an essential part of their ordination oath.

Minister's oath as set down in the Book of Church Order

7. Will you maintain with all the strength God shall give you the position on Biblical separation from apostasy as taken by the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster in 1951 at the time of its secession from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland?

8. As God helps you will you expose and resist the continued apostasy from Christ manifested within Irish Presbyterianism, Methodism, Episcopalianism and other visible church bodies; exhorting God's people to obey the teaching and commandment of 1 Timothy 6: 3-5?

The murder of the two great servants of God will be a source of rejoicing and a cause for celebration amongst the ungodly. “And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth,” verse 10.

Thus, mankind has not altered since the day men “killed the Prince of life” (Acts 3:15). The two men will suffer the same fate as their Master in the same city. “And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified,” verse 8.

Man has not changed in his nature, despite the rubbish spouted by modernists and liberal preachers and the utterly hare-brained evolutionists.

The ungodly in this world have not moved on from the days of Calvary, despite the saving and sanctifying Word of God having been preached throughout the nations since that time and is even now, ever more accessible via the internet in lands where Gospel missionaries are banned!

What of you?

How is it with you today? Are you of the spirit of those who stood around the cross and mocked? Are you of the spirit of those, yet to come, who feasted and rejoiced at the death of the two witnesses?

Perhaps your rejection of Christ and His Word is not as brazen as those I have just mentioned, but it is still just as real!

Hell awaits those who quietly turned their backs on the Saviour just as much as it awaits those who howled out their hatred and despising.

You can only be saved from hell by embracing Christ by faith and standing with Him.

(END OF FOURTH MESSAGE)

CAN WE EXPECT A BREATH OF REVIVAL AMIDST THE APOSTASY OF THESE LAST DAYS? (Part 5)

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: and on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: and I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: and it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved," Acts 2:17-21.

This our final study. As I said in my first message on this subject, this matter came before me as a result of a comment that I made to a brother who emailed me in response to an article posted on 'The Burning Bush' website about the corruption and deceit very evident amongst our local Unionist politicians.
I pointed out to him:
"Any age of apostasy is an age in which 'Judas' appears!! The Antichrist will be the personification of duplicity."

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Saviour's ministry, during His first advent, were days of apostasy!
I am seeking to enlarge upon this conclusion. Here is our final study.

ON THE SUBJECT OF REVIVAL, WE HAVE SET BEFORE US IN HOLY SCRIPTURE MOST GLORIOUS FUTURE TIME OF REVIVL FOR THIS WORLD.

Times of revival have always been times when God is pleased to reveal His presence and power amongst His people in a most wonderful way.
The Psalmist put it like this:
"Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth," Psalm 110:3.

The Lord said to Moses, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; and I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites," Exodus 3:7-8.

1. Revival has always begun with the prayers of God's people. Such prayers have often been provoked by a sense of affliction and bondage into which their backsliding and sin has brought them and it is in essence the Lord coming down to bring His people forth out of bondage and into the glorious Gospel liberty of the children of God!

2. Every revival is but a foretaste of the heaven that awaits us as the redeemed of God. "Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates: That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth," Deuteronomy 11:18-21.
The honour given to the Word of God as demanded of the Lord in these words, will only be seen in a day of blessing. Indeed, it is the honouring o God's Word as here commanded that brings us "the days of heaven upon the earth"!

3. Every Revival is the experiencing of the glorious elevating liberty that only the Holy Spirit can bestow. Revival always results in God's people on the throne!! Revival is ""He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: **the LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them,**" Numbers 23:21.
The Saviour presence brings a deliverance from fear and bondage! "And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord," John 20:20. They experienced the victory of the cross when they saw their Saviour ALIVE and bearing the wounds of the cross!
Oh what joyous victory and liberty the power of the cross brings amongst the saints. We become as those spoken of in Proverbs 28:1. "The wicked flee when no man pursueth: **but**

the righteous are bold as a lion."

4. Every revival is a reminder of what the Lord has planned for this world during the millennial reign of Christ. The millennial age is set before us in many ways in the Holy Scriptures.

As quoted before, it is a time when "The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea," Habakkuk 2:14.

There will be a subduing of the rebelliousness that ha ever marked the ways of mankind since the fall of Adam.

Final Words

Please consider carefully these final words of the prophet Zechariah.

"And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one. All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and from the tower of Hananeel unto the king's winepresses. And men shall dwell in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited. And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth. And it shall come to pass in that day, that a great tumult from the LORD shall be among them; and they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbour, and his hand shall rise up against the

hand of his neighbour. And Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the heathen round about shall be gathered together, gold, and silver, and apparel, in great abundance. And so shall be the plague of the horse, of the mule, of the camel, and of the ass, and of all the beasts that shall be in these tents, as this plague. And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and seethe therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts," Zechariah 14:8-21.

The Lord Jesus shall reign as KING over all the earth and He will not tolerate open defiance of His rule. He will directly punish any who refuse His rule.

Such, to a small degree is the impact of revivals in the past. I recall reading in Dr Ian Paisley's book, 'The Fifty-Nine Revival', how that there was a great reduction in the sitting of courts and the trying of law-breakers, during the time of blessing here in Ulster in 1859. Sinners were subdued. While

they were not all converted, such was the sense of the Lord's presence and power that wicked men no longer felt 'free' or inclined to the same degree to engage in lawlessness as they had aforetime!

Not All

Not every person will be saved during the millennial reign, though millions will be saved, especially the surviving Jews. Those of the Jews that had survived the 'the great tribulation' under Antichrist, were saved in a manner similar to that of Paul's conversion — a direct revelation of the glorified Christ!

I believe that is what Paul meant when he said, during a giving of his testimony: "And last of all he (the Lord Jesus) was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time," 1 Corinthians 15:8.

Paul was not as 'one born late', as might be supposed for he was the last of the men called to be an apostle, but he was referring to himself as a 'premature birth'. He was the first of that future harvest of Jews that will take place at the return of Christ, when they "shall look upon me whom they have pierced"!

"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him," Zechariah 12:10.

"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen," Revelation 1:7.

The Jew - a chief missionary

During his 1000-year reign, the Jew will be a chief missionary for the Lord. Consider these verses which indicate this to be so.

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD’S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem,” Isaiah 2:2-3.

The Saved and the converted Jew will become a a great witness for the Lord in that day!

“Thus saith the LORD of hosts; It shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities: 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 8:20-23.

5. As a final point and one that is very much in the news these days, may I state that the question of who owns the land of Israel will be settled when Christ returns and that most decisively!

“And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be

in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon. . . . In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness. . . .Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south," Zechariah 12:9-11, 13:1, 14:3-4.

Time will end at the conclusion of the millennial reign of Christ which will have been the final glorious harvest of Gospel revival, the greatest time of revival the earth will ever have experienced!
The saints will everlastingly enthroned with their Lord and Saviour and the wicked damned!
"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <u>And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire</u>," Revelation 20:12-15.

Dear reader, if you are not saved but are still rejecting the

Gospel's offer of mercy and pardon through faith in the Saviour, then here is where you will spend eternity!
I plead with you to repent and turn to Christ in faith.

How more merciful can the Lord be than when he takes you by the hand and shows you your latter end so clearly as is stated in the final words I have quoted!

May the Lord be pleased to bless His Word to all who read this publication.

Rev Ivan Foster (Rtd)

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