

CHRISTIAN WATCH

A PROTESTANT BIBLICAL WITNESS

"And what I say unto you

I say unto all, Watch"

Mark 13:37

NEWSLETTER

January 2015

January, 2015

To all Christian Watch Members

Dear Friends,

“In the beginning, God.....” what a wonderful way to commence this New Year of 2015 – *“in the beginning, God....”* *“Behold, all things are become new “(2 Cor. 5 v 17) – a New Year! Another twelve months have run their course, never to be repeated. The old year’s joys and sorrows are no more. Its hopes and aspirations are gone forever. The hymn reminds us that ‘time, like an ever-rolling’ stream, bears all its sons away.’ We are quickly passing through time on our way to eternity – ‘only one life ‘twill soon be passed; only what’s done for Christ will last.’*

For some, the hopes and aspirations of the past year have been amply fulfilled. They can say with gladness that it has been a good year. For others, it has been a year when they realised their fears and trials. They may not, as Queen Elizabeth II did a few years ago, describe the year as *annus horribilis*, but they may confess it has been a difficult year. Now, however, we begin a New Year – with fresh hopes, challenges and aspirations. Let us discard the baggage of the past year and approach the new with joyful trust in the goodness and grace of the Lord. This is a good time for personal stocktaking; a time to examine our lives; a time to remember that, as followers of Christ, we must give account to Him. Paul said that, on our conversion to Christ, *“old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*

Throughout this year, let us prayerfully consider our Christian faith and practice. What wealth lies in the future at our fingertips! May we learn how to count our blessings in the midst of trial and thank the Lord for them. If we do, we shall arrive at the end of this year praising God for His great goodness and grace. He blesses us *‘from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year (Deut. 11 v 12).*

As we reflect upon our present blessings, let me give you a brief update on the Ten Commandments Project. Mr. Nick Gibb M.P. (Minister of State for School Reform) has written to our Chairman, David Crowter, in the following terms:-

‘The Government firmly believes in the importance of religious education (RE) in developing children’s knowledge of the values and traditions of Britain and other countries, and to foster understanding among different faiths and cultures. That is why RE remains compulsory at all Key Stages and why schools have a duty to teach a broad and balanced curriculum. Local authorities are responsible for drawing up locally agreed syllabi that must be followed by maintained schools without religious designation. These syllabi should be broadly Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain. Schools with religious designation can develop their own syllabi according to their Trust Deeds or the tenets of their faith.

Your passion for your work is evident. You might wish to talk to individual Head Teachers or local authorities, who will be able to make informed judgments about what will work best in their schools.’

We thank God for the prayerful and financial support for this venture and trust that the Lord will bless our endeavours to His glory.

In this current Newsletter, we have included a lengthy, open letter entitled **Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin** – written by David Skinner in December, 2014. Mr. Skinner outlines the rapid erosion of this once great nation of ours, making particular reference to a speech by the Chief Constable of Manchester, Sir Peter Fahy, in which he condemned Christians who uphold values that were once enshrined in our laws.

The text, of course, appears in the Book of Daniel – at King Belshazzar’s feast. Mene – God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it - and Tekel – thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. How we rejoice today that our God is Sovereign – “*that He frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish*” (Is. 44 v 25).

Isaiah 53 is a well-known Bible passage, where the sufferings of the Lord Jesus Christ are recorded. A message by Thomas Manton – **God’s People Are Known By Their Desires** – based on this passage - outlines the difference between Christians and the men of the world. If there is an earnest and strong yearning after Him, it will be manifested by a holy impatience in the want of Christ and a holy indignation at anything that would rival His affection. Let us be known as God’s people because of our desires and to say with the prophet of old that we are thy servants and “*the desire of our soul is to Thy Name..... With my soul have I desired Thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within will I seek Thee early*” (Is. 26 v 8-9).

Following some doubts expressed about the authenticity of a Newsletter article in our last issue concerning the Biblical exodus and the alleged discovery of artefacts, Michael Young (one of our Christian Watch members), has penned a report entitled **Mount Sinai Is In Arabia**, which we are pleased to include for your interest and benefit. If you wish to study this matter further, please contact him direct at the address given.

News Items include a report from Lord Harries of Pentregarth – **Koran should be read at Prince Charles’ Coronation says top Bishop**. We can hardly be surprised at the apostasy in the Church today when such an influential figure loses confidence in the claims of the Christian faith. Let us just remind ourselves of a vital part of the Coronation Oath which, presumably, Lord Harries disapproves:-

Archbishop to the Queen:

Will you to the utmost of your power maintain the Laws of God and the true profession of the Gospel? Will you to the utmost of your power maintain in the United Kingdom the Protestant Reformed religion established by law? Will you maintain and preserve inviolably the settlement of the Church of England, and the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government thereof, as by law established in England? And will you preserve unto the Bishops and clergy of England, and to the Churches there committed to their charge, all such rights and privileges, as by law do or shall appertain to them or any of them?

The second **News Item** is a letter sent by our brother in Christ, Donald J. Morrison, to the Highland News in Scotland. Although the letter makes depressing reading, we thank God that He has raised up a man to stand in the breach and to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ. Pray for Mr. Morrison in his work for the Lord in Scotland.

In closing, I would appeal for your support, if you are able, for the Christian Heritage Centre in the West Midlands. Lectures are held throughout the year and the Exhibition is a great encouragement to those interested in the history of our nation – and church history in particular. The next lectures are as advertised – on 28th February, 2015 – and you are most welcome.

Yours in the Saviour’s Name,

Ian R. Henderson

Ian R. Henderson,
Vice-Chairman

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MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN

Open letter by David Skinner (22 December, 2014)

Britain is past saving. Within half a century, though still wearing the threadbare clothes of a past glory, it is now the rotting carcass to which all the displaced persons of the World, who neither share our values or morality, are invited to feed.

Within the last two years, we have been presented with macabre scenes of the leaders of our nation, the Royal family, the Head of the Church of England and the leader of our Government bowing the knee to those who are determined to destroy our nation, through the systematic deconstruction of marriage, the dismantling of family, the destruction of unborn babies (totalling 8 million since abortion became legal in 1969) and the degrading of any survivors of this genocide, i.e. children, by destroying within them any sense of boundaries or categories in the moral and natural world - thus making them even more vulnerable to paedophiles [1]. Our nation is set on self-destruct.

One of our erstwhile poets described our land thus:

*“This royal throne of kings, this sceptred isle,
This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,
This other Eden, demi-paradise,
This fortress built by Nature for herself
Against infection and the hand of war,
This happy breed of men, this little world,
This precious stone set in the silver sea...”*

Is it possible that within a generation or so the name England will be erased not only from maps but from the memory of our own grandchildren?

But not content with imposing the will of the gay and Muslim tyrants on to the British people and the Commonwealth, the three pillars of our nation, the Royal Family, Church and State, are determined to export our depravity and decay to the rest of the World [2].

In order to apprehend the scale of all this we need to switch off the TV and open our eyes to what is happening within our cities. Let Manchester serve as a warning of the shape of things to come.

In 2013, the Chief Constable of Manchester UK, Sir Peter Fahy, addressed the Annual General Meeting of a Christian organisation, Maranatha. His talk was entitled, “Do not judge and you will not be judged.”

He first reminded the Christians that the Conference Centre, in which they were sitting, was one and the same in which he addressed the Gay and Lesbian Police Association before they marched in Manchester Gay Pride. He said,

“Festivals like Pride are actually against intolerance. We are not saying that everyone has got to be gay. We are not endorsing a particular life-style, but it is saying that we all need to stand together against intolerance and against hatred.”

Claiming to be a Christian, he disarmed his audience by taking as his text the words of Jesus Christ “Do not judge and you will not be judged,” which he interpreted repeatedly as “live and let live.”

He implied that the job of the police had “progressed” from the days of Queen Victoria, where there had existed a clear distinction between good and evil and the only concern was to

protect the public from robbery and violence, to one more suited to the complexity of the 21st century where morality and truth were relative - no longer black and white. His job description appeared to be micro-managing people's life-styles in order to create a more tolerant, inclusive and diverse society.

After spending a long time talking about not judging people who engage in vandalism, theft and violence, but rather seeing them as victims of society, he turned his attention to those whom he regarded to be the real threat to society, the dangerous extremists who insist on rocking the boat and making a nuisance of themselves by manifesting so-called prejudice, homophobia and Islamophobia. Without spelling it out to the audience, he was speaking of Christians who uphold values that were once enshrined in our laws and the Coronation Oath. In one set move he morphs Islamic terrorism and extremism with a Christian's insistence on moral purity, justice and truth. And yet the leaders of Maranatha treated him as a brother in the Lord, not once challenging his hypocrisy and distortion of Scripture [3].

In a recent article in the Guardian, he gave a veiled threat that if the public will not police themselves and root out these extremists living in their own communities, then the police will have no choice but to step in and use whatever force is necessary to silence them [4], as is already happening in France [5].

For all his tolerance, non-judgementalism and "live and let live," he and the Manchester Gay Police Association have taken an active role in mocking and inciting hatred of Christians who demonstrated against the procession of extreme nakedness and depravity in Manchester Pride [6].

Whilst the Christians bend over backwards to show deference towards him, he in turn bends over backwards to give the gays "what they want whenever they want it" [7] whilst in contradiction to what he had said to Maranatha, re-assuring Muslim leaders that the police are only interested in tackling old-fashioned robbery and theft and not interested in what Muslims are thinking or being taught in their mosques, madrasas or universities. Indeed, he shows more concern for the health and welfare of radicalised Muslim youth beheading Christians in Iraq and Syria, than for their victims [8].

Perhaps Lilly Allen could change the words of her vulgar karaoke song to express hatred of anyone who criticises the Muslim pride parade of Ashura which is the counterpart to the violence displayed by homosexuals with their sado-masochism and bondage. No doubt Manchester Police force will in time be protecting those engaged in the most appalling scenes of depravity on the streets of Manchester as the police do at the Folsom Leather Fair in California [9]. Many times, Sir Peter Fahy claimed that the World was getting better and denied that society was becoming more violent and losing cohesion. He claimed that violent crime was dropping and that Muslims and the rest of society are living in harmony. With this level of denial, it is little wonder that he is presently under investigation for covering up child abuse and corruption [10].

But worst of all is that a Christian organisation with a fine history and track record of defending Christian morality and values should give him a platform for spouting his anti-Christian and anti-traditional British values.

But behind them all are those sensitive, rarefied, delicate and exotic plants being raised in ecclesiastical hothouses who, from the safety of their genteel Cathedral closets and remote from reality, are fuelling the moral and spiritual disorder, destabilisation, degradation and destruction of our nation [11].

Allow David Carson, Pastor of Zion Tabernacle Church, Chester to give a paraphrase of Peter's message not only to our nation, but more importantly to church leaders, such as the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, who either deliberately lead children astray or remain silent in the face of the Tsunami approaching us [12].

2 Peter 2 :6 ff,

“...if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)..... They are like unreasoning animals, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like animals they too will perish.....Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight..... With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning..... For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of the flesh....They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for “people are slaves to whatever has mastered them....“A dog returns to its vomit,” and, “A sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud.”

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- [1] i) Elly Barnes and Schools Out <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GxYlXRCvJ8>
ii) Liam Nolan, convicted sex offender and gay head teacher of Perry Beaches School, Birmingham http://www.dudleynews.co.uk/news/local/1450887.Man__58__fined_for_sex_act_with_headmaster_at_park/
iii) <http://www.christianvoice.org.uk/index.php/sex-offender-head-leads-stonewall-school-campaign/>
- [2] i) David Cameron celebrating gay marriage www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMBfjWR6dg4#t=11
ii) The Queen forcing Commonwealth countries to sign up to depravity and degradation. <http://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/queen-to-sign-new-charter-backing-equal-rights-for-gay-people-across-commonwealth-8528587.html>
iii) Shirley Richards: a brave Caribbean attorney <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Siljmj9kIds>
- [3] <http://maranathacomunity.wordpress.com/2013/11/23/maranatha-lecture-2013/>
- [4] <http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/dec/05/peter-fahy-police-state-warning>
- [5] Le Manif Pour Tous <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9CZmSyOsLwg&feature=youtu.be>
- [6] i) Manchester Gay Police Association mock and jeer Christians <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zr1pCMzUsSk>
ii) Peter Fahy and the Manchester Police support this appalling karaoke [WARNING OBSCENE LANGUAGE] <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sWaTGLmppg>
iii) Sir Peter Fahy leads Manchester police in YMCA gig and cavorting https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_FxOg-zv1Us
iv) Drag queen whips up crowd to boo Christians <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITkWjD7oQRY>
- [7] Fascism of gay rights <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vdimMX2GyM>
- [8] Sir Peter Fahy being interviewed by Muslim <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bnw-cqxfFW8>
- [9] i) Muslim Ashura <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXUcZ9XD0m4>
ii) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zS5bl-9aEzE>
iii) Prince Charles defender of faith <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLJAKp1pU00>
iv) Homosexual sado-masochism and bondage - Boy George <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJUdnhQ8PYE>
v) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JroP1HSN2IM>
vii) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rs501UzGvc>
viii) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVqaq7VpMkU>
ix) Folsom Street Fair http://www.zombietime.com/up_your_alley_2008/part_1_blurred/index.php
- [10] Sir Peter Fahy under investigation. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-28755375>
- [11] Feminism and homosexuality
i) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XldItUoFOYo>
ii) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljhExkEh4Hw>
iii) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6al-fnllNg>
iv) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00bqcs2>
v) Lesbian Vice-Chancellor of Winchester University proudly denying the complementarity of gender <http://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/culture/religious-studies/video-interview-catholic-bishop-elizabeth-stuart>
vi) [COURTESY OF ALL THE ABOVE: WARNING DEEPLY OFFENSIVE] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKUQI9RAD60>
- [12] The Manchester Police Force cross the line <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJkNrHzSBTM>

GOD'S PEOPLE ARE KNOWN BY THEIR DESIRES

By Thomas Manton on Isaiah 53

We are taught the difference between God's people and carnal men. To God's people, Christ is all their desire; to carnal persons, there is nothing desirable in Him. It is good to observe their several verdicts of Him. "To you that believe He is precious, but to them that be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, and a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence." To the world, He is base and ignominious: "A worm and no man, a reproach of men, and despised of the people." To the spouse, He is glorious and full of allurements: "Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into Thy lips." To the world, He appeared deformed and contemptible. "Many were astonished at Thee; His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men;" but quite contrary to the spouse: "My beloved is the fairest of ten thousand." The Hebrew word signifieth an ensign-bearer. In the world's view there is no form nor comeliness in Him: He is without beauty, but to His spouse He is "altogether lovely."

Well then, you see here is the true differencing note between us and the men of the world, whether we see anything in Christ why we should desire Him. And it is both an inclusive and an exclusive mark. Some marks are inclusive; that is, if a man find them in him, he may be sure he is in Christ; but if not, he is not to determine he is out of Christ. As the eminent and vigorous workings of holy graces, they do not take in every state of Christianity; they do not take in the infancy of grace. Other marks are exclusive; that is thus, they knock off the fingers of pretenders, and serve to show a man out of grace, but not in. As frequenting of the ordinances, a care of duty; if a man doth not these things, he may be sure he is none of God's; though he cannot be sure he is of God because he does them.

But now this is a mark that is inclusive and exclusive too. It is inclusive, for if your desires be to Christ, no doubt He is yours. It is a true mark, and a mark that is compatible to the weakness of grace. It is a true mark, for God looketh at the heart more than to the duty: "My son, give Me thy heart," and desires are the chiefest part of that. Desires are most genuine and suitable to the judgment and determination of the soul. They are a mark in which God's weakest servants may comfort themselves. Those that fail in other things are not wanting in desires. However, they may have many defects in their carriage and in their duties, yet they are sure their desires are towards Him. If they cannot be much in duty, they will be much in their desires and valuations of Him. Peter, that durst not appeal to his own conscience for other things, dareth appeal to God's omniscency for this: "Lord, Thou knowest all things: Thou knowest that I love Thee." And the people of God often vouch this: "The desire of our soul is to Thy name" (*Isa. 26:8*): "Thy servants, who desire to fear Thy name" (*Neh. 1:11*). Therefore it is comfortable, and it is convincing too, and also exclusive.

Wicked men feel no desires; they have some slight wishes, carnal and weak ones, but they have no serious desires, nor true volitions. Balaam may wish to die the death of the righteous, (*Num. 23:10*). So they may desire Christ out of some general conceit of happiness: but they do not desire Christ for holiness. So there is no beauty in Him why they should desire Him. They do not desire Him as seeing beauty in His ways. "Lord, evermore give us this bread." When Christ said He was the Bread of life, those that would not come to Christ would fain have the Bread of life. Nay, Heaven itself is not really desired by wicked men; it is true, they may desire it in a carnal way, as a Turkish paradise, and such a place of delight as the Koran sets forth; but not as it is in itself, to enjoy God and Christ, and more grace, and to be free and undisturbed in respect of prevailing sin and corruptions.

Those that desire Christ truly, desire Him not for ease (the spirit of the world may do that), but from the beauty and excellency they find in Him and in His ways. His service is of a high and honourable nature and therefore they desire it. So that you see here is the note of trial, and the

main difference, viz. a desiring of Christ for the rare beauty and perfections that are found in Him. Do you? then try yourselves by this note. But that you may not deceive yourselves in this matter, I will give you a few notes. I will not speak anything of the cause of desires. A high value and price set upon Christ, and seeing rich beauties in Him, of that I shall enlarge in the next verse. I shall only treat now of the effects of this desire. If it be earnest and strong after Him, it will be manifested by the following points.

1) A holy impatience in the want of Christ.

When we strongly desire a thing, the heart fainteth under the want of it. Amnon was sick for Tamar (*2 Sam.13:1-4*). And the spouse was sick of love for Christ (*Cant. 5 v. 8*). The soul languishes with a holy desire of the sense of His mercy, with a longing after pardon and grace, and quickening, and life and what is to be found in Christ. They can find no rest in themselves till they do enjoy it. "*As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so doth my soul pant after Thee, O God.*" This is the most implacable impression that can be upon the body; the creature cannot be quiet till it be quenched. Now of all creatures, the hart is the most thirsty by nature, and the thirst is mightily increased when it is hunted. And mark, it is the she-hart, "The she-hart panteth after the water brooks." As the she-hart panteth when chased, such a rage of thirst was there in his soul till it were satisfied with God and refreshed with the comforts of Jesus Christ. Search then for such a restless and strong desire; try if there be such an ardency and earnestness upon your affections that nothing can satisfy but Christ and you cannot be quiet till you have Him. Was your heart never chased into a panting for the spiritual water brooks? Some are haunted so by the ghastly apprehensions of God's wrath that they have no ease and no rest. It is a certainty that all that love Christ are chased into panting; they have such a sense of their sins and miseries that their souls are put into an earnest expectation of the mercies of Christ.

2) A holy indignation

Passions usually serve and accompany one another. If there be a holy desire, there will be a holy anger. And this is at two things:

- a) *At anything that would rival affection.*
- b) *At what would hinder the enjoyment of the object.*

At anything that would rival Christ in the affection. There is a scorn that anything should come into competition with Him, that we should have so much as a thought that anything were worthy but Christ; "*I count all things but loss and dung that I may win Christ.*" Any outward excellency in comparison of Him is but as dog's meat. It thinketh the worst name good enough for anything that shall come in competition with Him. And in such a case gold is not gold, but dog's meat, honour is not honour, pleasure is not pleasure, but all is dung and dog's meat. You know in a natural way things have their due respect from us, till they be compared with what we dearly love and prize; then no term is bad enough for them. So here, the soul doth even abhor the thought that Christ and other objects should be compared. It is worthy of your observation to see how the saints do abominate the thought that anything should be supposed to satisfy them without or beside Christ. "*There be many that say, Who will show us any good? Lord lift up the light of thy countenance upon us.*" O Lord, do not think we are of that strain. It is the many, the men of the multitude, that think so; they speak as if they would not own such an unworthy thought, nor entertain any resolution to prostitute their desires to any sensual good. If they should have all things else, it is irksome to them to think they should contend as Austin crieth out, "Thyself Lord, Thyself Lord." They are angry with themselves if any pleasing thought should arise any other way, any vain conceit, that they should be happy apart from God and Christ. It is an excellent saying of one. They had rather mourn for God than delight with Him. All those comforts are irksome to them if they have not Christ with them. Try then, is there such a zealous indignation against false thoughts in your comforts? In what case do you think yourselves? "Happy is the people that is in such a case." If that be a thought that is pleasing to your mind, it is a good sign. A man is angry with that which cometh between him and his desires. If your desires are to Christ, you will be angry with your perverse heart that keeps you from Him. When a man desireth to sin he is angry with God because He cometh in with His law and steppeth between us and our desires "*The carnal mind is enmity against God,*

for it is not subject to the law, neither indeed can be.” So when the desires are set upon Christ, a man is angry with himself that he is so weighed down with the flesh that he cannot enjoy such full communion with Him as he desires. “For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened.” And as David crieth out, “Woe is me that I sojourn in Mesech, that I dwell in the tents of Kedar!” They are angry with their own base hearts, that still there is such a strangeness between them and Christ.

“Be still, and know that I am God”

Psalm 46:1

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide;
In every change, He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy Heavenly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
To guide the future, as He has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
His voice Who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,
And all is darkened in the vale of tears,
Then shalt thou better know His love, His heart,
Who comes to soothe thy sorrow and thy fears.
Be still, my soul: thy Jesus can repay
From His own fullness all He takes away.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord.
When disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love’s purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Be still, my soul: begin the song of praise
On earth, be leaving, to thy Lord on high;
Acknowledge Him in all thy words and ways,
So shall He view thee with a well pleased eye.
Be still, my soul: the Sun of life divine,
Through passing clouds shall but more brightly shine.

Author unknown

Subscription Renewal Reminder

Subscriptions for 2015 are now due for payment. If you have not renewed already, please either renew online www.christianwatch.org.uk or send a cheque to Christian Watch Resources – address on back cover.

CW Note: November/December Newsletter

News Item 1 - "Red Sea Archaeologist discover remains of Egyptian army from the Biblical Exodus."

It has been brought to our notice that there are serious questions concerning the authenticity of the above article. Following this, one of our Members has kindly supplied us with what appears to be a more accurate account (below) of where the actual crossing by the children of Israel occurred. The important factor is that the Lord made a clear way for His chosen people to overcome what appeared to be an impossible situation for them. May we remember that it is the same God today who has the same ability and who is able to manage all our problems and concerns for us. May we each have faith to commit our ALL to Him.

(David Crowter, Chairman)

"Mount Sinai is in Arabia"

(Apostle Paul)

By: **Michael Young**

It seems that Paul's unequivocal statement in his letter to the Galatians (4:25) that Mt. Sinai is in Arabia has been overlooked by most of the Christian church until the last twenty years or so. This has led to many misconceptions as to the location of the Holy Mountain from which God spoke to the children of Israel and gave Moses His majestic Commandments. This has in its turn also led to Bible scholars postulating any number of possible places where the Israelites crossed the Red Sea.

The News Item published in the last issue of the CW Newsletter regarding a claimed recent discovery of the remains of an Egyptian army of the 14th century BC in the sea off Ras Gharib and the assertion that this must be the site of the Israelites' dramatic crossing of the Red Sea must be challenged. It needs to be stated that, even if the report is genuine, this is definitely not the authentic site of the Israelites' crossing - since the Bible record does not support such a location. In fact we know that the crossing was actually across what is now called the Gulf of Akaba.

Resulting from this discovery is the fact that the traditionally assumed location of Mt. Sinai, in the Sinai Desert, is also incorrect; the actual Mount of God being in north west Saudi Arabia, near the border with Jordan. At 8,400ft., Jebel al-Lawz is not only the highest mountain in the area, but importantly has a blackened top covering several square miles, just as one might imagine a mountain top covered by the flaming presence of God Almighty (Ex. 19:18) would look. Intriguingly also, a number of other features and artefacts which correspond to the Biblical account have been identified in close proximity, all pointing to this being the authentic area.

The likelihood for such a locale is obvious when one realises that the land of Midian, which is where Moses had his first encounter with God at the burning bush - in the vicinity of the Mountain of God - was there. He had married one of Jethro's, the priest of Midian's, daughters - and this was where he was undoubtedly heading with the newly liberated Israelites in accordance with God's command (Ex. 3:12).

The mis-identification of Mt. Sinai no doubt is due to the early Christian aesthetes who, ignoring Jesus' instructions to His followers, withdrew from the world seeking a life of holiness through solitude. And in days when travel and knowledge was so limited - and even the Bible was a closed book for most - a tradition of this being the actual mountain of God soon took on a permanence which is wholly unwarranted.

Credit must go to the Bible archaeologist, Ron Wyatt who, as a result of his research in the area, beginning in 1978, suggested Jebel al-Lawz as the authentic Mt. Sinai and the beach at Nuweiba on the west shore of the Gulf of Abaka as the correct location of the Red Sea crossing - one

assumes previously ignored by Bible scholars because the Gulf of Akaba (part of the Great Rift Valley) is up to one mile deep. Yet, unsuspected all the time, at this particular point only, it has been discovered that a sand bar a mile wide, yet only about 20 – 30 feet below the sea, stretches all the way across the Gulf: wide and deep enough to engulf a pursuing army, yet within the possibility of a miracle even for the more sceptical believer! The writer has never seen his theory published anywhere, but we know that ordinary variations of atmospheric pressure can raise or lower the sea level significantly. So how about the very weight of the Lord's presence as He hovered over His people simply displacing the water at that place for His people to make a safe and easy crossing?

Following Ron Wyatt's original proposal of Jebel al-Lawz, support from other prominent Bible archaeologists, such as Bob Cornuke and Lennart Moller has followed. One excellent video, "The Exodus Revealed"* , covers the exciting undersea discoveries by a team led by the last mentioned, undertaken in 2000. This video is extremely informative, covering the whole story of the Exodus and the various theories as to the actual route taken and possible crossing places in a Biblically supportive manner.

A major reason for this location not being better known among believers is of course Saudi Arabia's hostility to all things Jewish and Christian. After Wyatt's initial announcement of his discoveries, the Saudi authorities immediately closed off the entire area on the grounds of it being an area of archaeological or scientific interest. Therefore, very few visits have been allowed and no real freedom for Bible archaeologists to visit, has been granted. Anyone unwise enough to raise the authorities' suspicions of trying to gain access may be immediately arrested, charged with offences against the State and thrown out of the country.

Admittedly, the view that Jebel al-Lawz is the actual Mt. Sinai has been challenged by some Biblical scholars, both on the grounds of the Biblical record as well as more circumstantial 'evidence' such as the likely progress of the Israelites in their flight to freedom across the desert. But on the basis of all the evidence produced to date, the writer sincerely believes Jebel-al-Lawz to be the authentic location. (Talking of archaeologically-intriguing mountains, there is another interesting mountain in the north of the Sinai desert...but that must be the subject for another article!)

* Copies of this excellent DVD, in all region format are available at a price of £14.50 from:
Mr. Michael Young, CEng, MIMechE, MCIPR, Holyland Horizons, 9 Station Road, Meldreth, Royston, Herts. SG8 6JP (Tel: 01763 260570). (Cheques payable to 'Holyland Horizons')

The Ten Commandment Project

Up-date

We are pleased to inform our Members that following our receipt of an encouraging letter from Nick Gibb MP, Minister for School Reform, we are now proceeding with the implementation of this project. Our first mailing to schools in the Central Bedfordshire area is due to commence early February, GW. We are sending a large TBS poster of the Ten Commandments, together with a write-up entitled 'Why the Ten Commandments', kindly written for us by Graham Chewter (Deputation Speaker for the TBS) - who is experienced in communicating with school children – together with an accompanying letter.

If any of our Members feel inclined to take this information to their local schools, please let us know and we will supply the package of information.

Finally, we emphasise once more the importance of prayer for this project. We ask our Members to join with us in seeking that the Lord will use this material for His own honour and glory and the good of the younger generation.

NEWS ITEMS

1. Koran should be read at Prince Charles' Coronation says top Bishop: MailOnline by Steve Doughty - 29 November, 2014.

Prince Charles's coronation service should be opened with a reading from the Koran, a senior Church of England Bishop said recently. The gesture would be a 'creative act of accommodation' to make Muslims feel 'embraced' by the nation, Lord Harries of Pentregarth said.

But critics attacked the idea, accusing the Church of 'losing confidence' in its own institutions and traditions.

Lord Harries, a former Bishop of Oxford and a leading C of E liberal thinker, said he was sure Charles's coronation would give scope to leaders of non-Christian religions to give their blessing to the new King.

The former Bishop of Oxford, who continues to serve as an assistant Bishop in the diocese of Southwark, made the suggestion about the Koran during a House of Lords debate. He told Peers the Church of England should take the lead in 'exercising its historic position in a hospitable way'.

He said that at a civic service in Bristol Cathedral last year authorities had agreed to a reading of the opening passage of the Koran before the beginning of the Christian ritual. He said: 'It was a brilliant creative act of accommodation that made the Muslim High Sheriff feel, as she said, warmly embraced but did not alienate the core congregation.'

That principle of hospitality can and should be reflected in many public ceremonies, including the next coronation service.'

Lord Harries' suggestion comes more than 20 years after the Prince first said he would prefer to be seen as 'Defender of Faith' rather than be known by the Monarch's title of 'Defender of the Faith'. Charles said in 1994 he 'always felt the Catholic subjects of the Sovereign are equally as important as the Anglican ones, as the Protestant ones.'

'Likewise, I think that Islamic subjects, or the Hindu subjects, or the Zoroastrian subjects of the Sovereign are of equal and vital importance.' In 2006, the Prince made known that he wanted a multi-faith coronation that would be more 'focused and telecentric' than his mother's in 1953.

However traditionalist Christians condemn Lord Harries's idea.

Simon Calvert of the Christian Institute think-tank said: 'Most people will be amazed at the idea that a Christian leader would consider the use of the Koran at a Christian service in a Christian Abbey. People are just so disappointed when senior Church of England figures lose confidence in the claims of the Christian faith.'

Andrea Minichiello Williams, a member of the C of E's Parliament, the General Synod, and Head of the Christian Concern pressure group, said: 'At a time when we are looking at what British values mean, we cannot have values in a vacuum. British values stem from our Christian heritage. We cannot pretend all religions are the same, or have the same benefits and outcomes for the nation.'

Douglas Murray, Associate Editor of the Spectator, said if Muslims were included in the coronation service, there must be room too for Hindus, Sikhs and atheists.

He added: 'If there were to be a reading from the Koran at the coronation, surely as a matter of reciprocity, all mosques in the UK should have prayers for the King and the Armed Forces every week at Friday prayers.'

The following letter appeared in the Highland News in December, 2014 and is reprinted with the kind permission of Donald J. Morrison, (the Home Mission worker for the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), based in Inverness.

2. LETTER TO HIGHLAND NEWS - Concerning the state of the Church in Scotland by Donald Morrison, Inverness (9th December, 2014).

Dear Sirs,

After reading the report over 'gay revs' on the front page of Highland News (4 December), certain things that are hard to say have to be said. We say them with deep sorrow and a heavy heart. For many it is known already, but the truth has to be formally recorded about the Church of Scotland. The national Kirk is an ungodly institution run by godless, and graceless, men and women. The Kirk is both a disgrace and a sinful blot on our nation's spiritual landscape, and shame on it. The scandalous evidence of its reputation is in the public domain for all to see. Instead of being a light in the midst of darkness, it has blackened the nation by approving of practices which a holy God, and His unchanging Word, condemns and abhors.

Let us set the record straight here. Nowhere in the Bible does God approve of a homosexual relationship and neither does a holy God let sinful man re-define marriage. Scripture clearly tells us that the Rev. Scott Rennie should not, because of his immoral lifestyle, be in the Christian ministry. A manse and a pulpit is no place for a man who unashamedly disregards God's Word and Divine law and who has no love for the truth. The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Homosexuality and Christianity can never approvingly co-exist beside one another. It never has and it never will. This is absolute truth as recorded in the Bible and Divine truth cannot be edited.

And when the Church of Scotland says and thinks otherwise, and it quite clearly does, then it is guilty of hypocrisy and religious sacrilege. In their approval of relationships which are depraved, ungodly and unbiblical, then God's damning words of judgment are pronounced upon the hierarchy of the church. He regards them, not as true Christians but as "traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God...men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith" (2 Timothy 3:4&8). This is God's verdict, not mine, and what solemn condemnation it is. He will not be mocked, when church commissioners dare to poke fun at all that is sacred and "change the truth of God into a lie" (Romans 1:25).

In Highland News' report we were reminded how the Kirk continues to defy and undermine the Word of God by asking Presbyteries to vote on whether to allow congregations to appoint 'gay' ministers! The folly of putting God's law up for a vote, especially in a morally compromised church, is nothing less than demonic. The church is not a political entity and ought to know that the Bible, the Word of God, is its operating manual and no law is paramount to that. Who does the Church of Scotland think it is when it freely gives Presbyteries and Congregations the opportunity to vote on whether they should accept 'gay' ministers? Any church that brazenly, and bizarrely, fancies it can decide on what is acceptable or unacceptable in the perfect Word of God has lost its very right to be called a church. Not only is it an apostate church, it is also a synagogue of Satan.

While we salute the Inverness Presbytery, and 49 of its members, for rejecting the proposals, we deeply lament that there were 13 presbyters who didn't. These individuals, who clearly have no respect for the truth of God's Word, should be removed sine die from all church courts until they repent and believe the Gospel. This, in fact, is what is desperately needed more than anything else, both in the heart of the Church of Scotland and in the heart of every other Scottish church that has turned its back on God's Word: repentance and reformation.

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A FEELING RELIGION NECESSARY

By: J. C. Philpot

There is more true religion, more vital godliness in a sigh, cry and groan, in a simple petition put up out of a labouring bosom at the footstool of mercy, than in the presumptuous language of all the hypocrites in the world put together. There is more of the Holy Ghost's work in the conscience of a sinner that goes burdened, exercised, tried and distressed to the throne of grace, and there looks up to a bleeding Jesus and longs after an application of His atoning blood to his conscience, than in all the presumptuous claims that thousands have made with presumptuous lips. In the Word of truth, we have before our eyes the experience of a saint of God, drawn by the hand of the Spirit; here we have the breathings of a tender conscience, the sighings of a broken spirit, the utterance of a feeling heart.

Now, can you find yours there? Look and see whether you can find anything of the experience of the 119th Psalm in your soul. Look at verse 132: "Look Thou upon me, and be merciful unto me, as Thou usest to do unto those that love Thy name." Never mind what people say about you, nor what they say against you; no, nor even what your own heart may say in your own bosom. But can you in honesty, simplicity and Godly sincerity find David's feeling in your bosom? David's prayer in your heart? David's breathings in your breast? If so, God has made you a believer. If so, you are under Divine teaching. If so, David's God is your God; and as sure as David is in glory, so surely will you be in glory too.

But as to a religion that knows nothing of these things, neither sighs, nor cries, nor has breathings, nor groans, nor longings, nor languishings, nor meltings, nor softenings, that feels no contrition, no tenderness, no Godly sorrow, no desire to please God, no fear to offend Him – away with it! Throw it into the river! Bury it in the first dunghill you come to! The sooner it is got rid of the better. Religion without Heavenly teaching and the Spirit's secret operations; without a conscience made tender in the fear of the Lord; without the spirit of prayer in the bosom; without breathings after the Lord; without desires to experience His love and enjoy a sense of His mercy and goodness – all such religion is a deception and a delusion. It begins in the flesh and it will end in the flesh. It is all that man can produce; and as the Lord says, "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God," so fleshly religion cannot. "The flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you," said the Lord, "they are spirit and they are life."

If there be within these walls any who know something of these fruits in your souls, something of this experience traced out by the Spirit of God in your hearts, you are safe, though perhaps you cannot see it yourselves; you are secure, though your hearts may sometimes quake and fear. For the Lord, who has begun the work, will carry it on and bring it to full perfection, satisfy you with a sweet discovery of His grace and love, here and eternally.

From: Sin and Salvation – Selections from J. C. Philpot
Edited by B. A. Ramsbottom

When you find your sins so represented and aggravated to you as exceeding either the mercy of God's nature, or the grace of the covenant, or the merit of Christ's blood, or the power of His Spirit, you may be assured that this comes from Hell and not from Heaven; you may know where it is minted. It is one of the Devil's lies. So also as to the willingness of God to save you. If you think that the Lord is indeed good and gracious, but not to so great a sinner as you; that He is strong and powerful, but not to save you; know most assuredly that this is one of Satan's false whispers. Answer them with, "Get thee hence; thy speech betrayeth thee."

Gurnall

“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom...”

Psalm 90:12

1.

A few more years shall roll,
A few more seasons come,
And we shall be with those that rest
Asleep within the tomb;
 Then, O my Lord, prepare
 My soul for that great day.
O wash me in Thy precious blood,
And take my sins away.

2.

A few more suns shall set
O'er these dark hills of time,
And we shall be where suns are not,
A far serener clime:
 Then, O my Lord, prepare
 My soul for that blest day.
O wash me in Thy precious blood,
And take my sins away.

3.

A few more storms shall beat
On this wild rocky shore,
And we shall be where tempests cease,
And surges swell no more;
 Then, O my Lord, prepare
 My soul for that calm day.
O wash me in Thy precious blood,
And take my sins away.

4.

A few more struggles here,
A few more partings o'er,
A few more toils, a few more tears,
And we shall weep no more;
 Then, O my Lord, prepare
 My soul for that bright day.
O wash me in Thy precious blood,
And take my sins away.

5.

A few more Sabbaths here
Shall cheer us on our way,
And we shall reach the endless rest,
Th' eternal Sabbath day;
 Then O my Lord, prepare
 My soul for that sweet day.
O wash me in Thy precious blood,
And take my sins away.

6.

'Tis but a little while,
And He shall come again
Who died that we might live, who lives
That we with Him may reign;
 Then, O my Lord, prepare
 My soul for that glad day.
O wash me in Thy precious blood,
And take my sins away.

H. Bonar

Providence Chapel, Bell End, Rowley Regis, W. Midlands, B65 9LU

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www.christianheritagecentre.org.uk

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Saturday, 28th February, 2pm – 5pm

*** **Note Change of Date** ***

2pm HUDSON TAYLOR - Derrick Morland

(Oxford Baptist Church)

3pm JOHN BRADFORD - Richard Brooks

(Chesterfield)

4pm An opportunity to look at the Exhibition

Come for All or Part of the Afternoon

Refreshments

For further details or directions: Roland Burrows 01384 637314

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