

CHRISTIAN WATCH

A PROTESTANT BIBLICAL WITNESS

*"And what I say unto you
I say unto all, Watch"*

NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2009

To all Members of Christian Watch

Dear Friends,

We again greet you in the blessed name of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and trust you continue to prove His goodness and mercy. How often we are more conscious of our troubles and afflictions than we are of the Lord's mercies towards us. It is good for us to daily consider and acknowledge before the Lord and our fellow beings that, *"He has not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities"* Ps 103:10 and also *"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not"* Lam 3:22. It is certain that those people who live closest to the Lord, and consequently experience the comforts of His presence, have nothing to fear, however dark and difficult the days may be. We may have to suffer persecution for standing firm for our Christian faith, as some are already experiencing in various countries, including more recently, the UK and the USA. However, the Lord is, and will always be, faithful to His promises, even unto death and for the comfort of His people has said, *"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: (a specific time determined by God) be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life"* Rev 2:10. What a glorious prospect there is for those who faithfully serve the Lord whilst here on earth. The late Isaac Watts composed the following verse in anticipation of this:

There shall I bathe my weary soul
In seas of heavenly rest,
And not a wave of trouble roll
Across my peaceful breast.

There are many national and international issues of concern which we would bring to your attention, but it is important that we consider everything that is taking place in the light of the holy and unerring Word of God. For example, the reason for the present economic situation, men fail to identify, but those who have a knowledge and understanding of God's Word can clearly see that it is the Lord's judgement, because of the terrible evils, which are increasingly prevalent. In the book of the prophet Hosea chapter 4, the Lord addressed Israel saying, He had a controversy with them, because there was no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. He then continued to name specific evils and the terrible judgements He would bring to pass. The same words apply today, because we are told, *"no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation"* 2 Peter 1:20. It is profitable to follow the reading of Hosea chapter 4 with a prayerful study of 2 Peter Chapters 2 & 3 which not only warn, but also exhort us to *"beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness"* Chapter 3:17.

The European Union continues to impose its laws upon its member countries without allowing the democratic process to take place. For example, it now requires that data relating to every website we visit and every email we send, be recorded and stored for future reference. This was to be included in the Queen's Speech last November, but it was shelved following criticism by the then Director of Public Prosecutions and also a number of civil liberties groups. However, in order to meet the deadline of 15th March 2009 - as stipulated in the EU Directive - the Government are planning to use the process of a Statutory Instrument to pass it into law, this is not normally debated by Members of Parliament.

The facts with regard to the Lisbon Treaty are not generally known because of the Government strategy to keep us in the dark. Consequently, a Member of our Committee, Mr Anthony Busk, has researched the current situation and we include his findings under the heading, **THE LISBON TREATY – FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW.**

A further important point with regard to the European Union is the cost of our Membership. At present our net contribution is considerably more than £4bn per annum and is expected to increase to at least £10bn by 2013. These amounts do **not** include costs relating to the Common Agricultural Policy, the Common Fisheries Policy or the cost of the United Kingdom's compliance with the EU's regulation and directive projects. When these are added together the annual cost of the UK's membership of the EU is estimated to be in excess of £65bn. These facts are a further confirmation of the Lord's righteous anger and judgements against our once favoured nation, because of our rejection of His commandments.

The devil uses every means at his disposal to oppose real religion and one that is increasingly evident is the influence that Muslims are having upon our national authorities, resulting in the religion of Islam being given priority over Christianity. This was recently admitted by the BBC. There are radical Muslims whose ambition it is to transform society to comply with shari'a law and eventually, to Islamise the world. Some of these are willing to use violence and terror to achieve this objective. We need to be fully aware of the facts, and consequently we include an article under the heading, **WHY NOT ISLAM?** by Dr. Alan C. Clifford, which initially answers the question and then explains the sacred alternative, **WHY JESUS CHRIST.**

The invasion by Israel of Gaza has caused a lot of debate and criticism of the leaders of the Jewish nation and mainly without the full facts being understood or considered. One of our Christian Watch

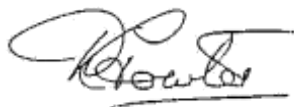
Members, Mr. Andrew Hope Hall, decided to attend a protest rally in London, as a fact finding mission, and has produced for us a very interesting report, which we include under the title, **GAZA INVASION PROTEST.**

None of our rulers can realistically assess the ultimate consequences of the present economic situation. However, there is One in the heavens who does know and - having brought it about by way of judgement, because of national and international wickedness - is in complete control of all that is taking place. We read in Psalm 2:4 "*He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.*" In confirmation of the foregoing, we include a remarkable sermon under the title, **OUR PRESENT CALAMITY**, preached by the late Mr. J. W. Tyler in 1973. In it he identifies so much that is applicable to the present turmoil in our own nation and in the world at large. In his concluding remarks, Mr. Tyler emphasises the importance of the Lord's judgements and chastenings being recognised and these having a gracious effect, instead of the rebellion we would have by nature. He quotes the text, "*hear ye the rod, and who hath appointed it*" Micah 6:9. May we be given grace to identify the Lord's chastening and correction, as it affects us personally, as confirmation of His love for us. "*For whom the Lord loveth He correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth*" Proverbs 3:12.

Finally, we thank you for your prayerful and financial support. We consider there is so much more we should be doing in these dark and solemn days - if time and other resources were available - to oppose the many increasing evils by the proclamation of God's holy and sacred Word. We would remind those who have not yet renewed their subscriptions for 2009, that these are now overdue.

We wish you the Lord's blessing.

Yours in His service,



David Crowter

Management Committee

Mr D Boyd; Mr M Brockes (Hon Treasurer/ Co Secretary); Mr A Busk; Mr D Crowter(Chairman);
Mr I Henderson; Mr R Jupp; Mr D Lawson; Mr M de Semlyen; Mrs J Cummins (Secretary).

THE LISBON TREATY – FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

WHY WORRY?

It has been argued by the Government that there is a great difference between the Constitution rejected by France and Holland, and the new constitution, or Lisbon Treaty as it is now called. However, it is virtually the same. Continental political leaders confirm this. For example, Margot Wallstrom an EU Commissioner said *“it’s essentially the same proposal as the old Constitution”*.

At a stroke this Treaty if ratified by all member states will undermine the UK’s whole concept of Parliamentary democracy. This country would become a Dependent State of the European Union, where the political centre of gravity shifts almost completely from Westminster to Brussels. Acceptance of the EU constitution will increase EU controls over our affairs in an ever closer union process, where complex treaty legislation will be embedded deep into our political and economic structures, and be virtually irreversible. The Church too will not escape its area of interests.

SOME CRITICAL AREAS

1. The legal establishment of a fundamentally different European Union in the constitutional form of a Federal EU State. Member states, including the UK, would become provincial or regional states within this new Union, with the EU’s Constitution and laws becoming superior to national constitutions and laws. Primacy already exists whenever the EU issues regulations and directives for member states. Already 70-80% of UK government legislation is dictated by Brussels. It would be the end of the UK’s position as an independent sovereign State in the international community of States (Arts.1 and 47 TEU; *Declaration No.17 concerning Primacy*).

2. The Creation for the first time of formal state citizenship of this new EU, with obedience to its laws and loyalty to its authority. This would be over and above our obedience and loyalty to the Queen and British Constitution and laws. We would retain our British citizenship, but it has to be subordinate to EU Federal citizenship. This is normal for citizens of Federal States such as Germany, the USA, Switzerland, Canada etc. (Art.9 TEU).

3. The abolition of our historic Constitution and with it the freedoms and liberties contained therein. For example, Magna Carta, the Declaration and Bill of Rights, our Law, Trial by Jury, Habeas Corpus, and the presumption of innocence until proved guilty. In their place would come the continental system of justice known as Corpus Juris, and the return of arbitrary powers of imprisonment.

4. The hand over to the EU of the power to make laws binding on member states. 32 new policy areas will be affected within the UK. These include crime, justice, policing, public services, immigration, energy, transport, tourism, sport, culture, public health, and the EU budget.

5. The giving to the EU Court of Justice the power to decide our rights as EU citizens. These would include the right to life, the right to strike, the rights of the child, the right to fair trial etc. The UK’s long, Common Law traditions would be abolished, with most of our historic rights and liberties swept away.

6. The Treaty will be self-amending. This clause will allow the EU to seize additional powers without any further treaties or agreements. Most of the remaining policy areas where the unanimity requirement still exists will be converted to majority voting, whether or not it is in the UK’s interests, without the need for new EU Treaties or referendums (Art.48 TEU).

7. The amendment of the existing treaties to give the EU Court of Justice the power to rule on the UK’s company tax rate if it decides that this causes a *“distortion of competition”* in the EU internal market (Art.113 TFEU). The Lisbon Treaty would also give the EU the power to impose its own EU taxes directly on the UK and other member states for the first time (Art.311 TFEU).

8. The Treaty becomes an Instrument of Government. Historically all national constitutions provide a framework of law, but the EU Treaty of Lisbon, actually **makes** law, and contains a rolling legislative programme. It is in effect nothing less than an instrument of government of the UK.

9. The further militarisation of the EU, requiring Member States *“to progressively improve their military capabilities”* and to go to the defence of other Member States in the event of war (Art.42.7 TEU).

10. The alteration in the balance of power for control of this new Union. By basing EU law-making primarily on *population size*, the Lisbon Treaty would **double** Germany's say on the EU Council of Ministers from 8% to 17%. France's say would go from 8% to 13%, Britain's and Italy's from their current 8% to 12% each. (Art.16 TEU)

11. The creation of the post of a Permanent EU President. Currently EU policy direction is influenced by the rotating member states presidency every six months. The impact of a permanent EU president would be to remove major policy initiatives away from member states, and institutionalise these in one person. Giscard d'Estaing has conceded the EU president will have powers similar to the US president.

Member states would no longer have the independence to set their own foreign policy. Using new powers through the new majority voting clause that is proposed, this EU minister would represent member states at international meetings, and be given the right to initiate an EU wide foreign policy irrespective of individual states foreign policy position.

12. The replacement of democracy with authoritarian control. Although it is an EU Parliament with Euro MPs, they are not representative of the British electorate. The system only allows for the selection of political parties or groups under a selected list of candidates, thus you cannot vote for an MEP personally. In addition this 'parliament' is not empowered to initiate legislation, which is the **sole prerogative** of the unelected and unaccountable EU commission, via proposals from the Council of Ministers

13. The challenge to the authority of the Church. Although the maintenance of religious freedom is within the Treaty, its laws and directives will be expected to apply to *all citizens*. Therefore if a church's attitude and teaching is contradictory to new legislation imposed from Brussels, there will be the authority, ultimately through the European Court of Justice, to enforce compliance irrespective of Parliament's wishes. For example there is the contentious issue of so-called 'thought crimes', where individuals or bodies could claim to be 'offended' with statements directly quoted from Scripture that they do not agree with under their 'human rights'.

In recent years the British Government attempted unsuccessfully to legalise such rights for Muslims and homosexuals, which were defeated through the Lords. If passed it would have led to confrontation with Bible believing churches under the criminal and civil law¹. With the new Treaty, if the Commission were to propose similar legislation, and this was approved by the Council of Ministers, the UK Government would be forced to comply, regardless of the political party in power.

TO CONCLUDE

The proposed constitution treaty is authoritarian. Its intention is to bring the UK and other member states into a unitary state 'The United States of Europe' with full economic and political union, but without the democratic accountability of the USA. In recent history atheistic, cruel and oppressive regimes dominated Europe, and the EU Constitution (Lisbon Treaty) will set in place a centralised government structure that could eventually see freedoms fought for in the Second World War totally undone.

Anthony Busk
CW Committee Member

¹ *Undeterred by earlier defeats, the Government recently included a clause in the Coroners and Justice Bill 2009—clause 58—that if successful will remove the free speech clause won through the Lords. It will negate the freedom of Christians or others who wish to communicate in any form their belief that homosexual sex is sinful. Clause 58 was inserted only in the final version of the Bill, without notice to anyone who might not support its inclusion.*

WHY NOT ISLAM

The Inauguration of President Barack Obama is an alarming development. Behind his seductive charm and eloquent rhetoric lurks a dark and dangerous agenda. His speech should alert all who dimly perceive the world-wide Islamic threat. Yes, he challenged terrorists, but he also proposed cooperation with the Islamic world. Does he not realise that in one sentence he betrayed the 'free world'?

1. WHY ISLAM IS NOT PEACEFUL

It is undeniable that Islam's global jihadists - some quietly, others violently - are plotting the overthrow of all we have known for centuries. They are preparing for 'USAistan' and 'UKistan' in no uncertain terms! Tragically, our secularist Governments - which Islam aims to subjugate and replace in any case - are playing dangerous games by ignorantly distinguishing between militant and moderate Islam. The only difference between moderates and militants is between those who keep their mouths shut and those who don't! Western Governments and other secularists are deluded by the deceptive mantra 'Islam means peace' (reinforced by the early, pre-abrogated *Sura 2: 256* and the frequently misquoted *Sura 5: 32*). But it means nothing of the kind! The Arabic word for 'peace' is 'salaam', the Hebrew equivalent being 'shalom'. No, 'Islam' means 'submission', submission to Allah. The only sense in which the *Pax Islama* could mean 'peace' is when tribute-paying non-Muslims are silenced by conquest and reduced to a state of dhimmitude or 'second class' citizenship. To properly use Sir Iqbal Sacranie's deceptive expression (used to shield Islam from its critics after 7/7) 'the *Qur'an* is perfectly clear', it states: 'Make war on them: ... Fight those who believe not in Allah ... Nor acknowledge the religion of Truth, (even if they are of the People of the Book, i.e. Jews and Christians), until they pay the *jizyah* with submission, and are utterly subdued' (*Sura 9: 14, 29*).

2. WHY MUSLIMS ARE NOT ISLAMIC

Yes, you have read it correctly. Muslims are not really Muslims. They are properly called 'Muhammadans' - followers of their prophet Muhammad. The god they claim to submit to (the true meaning of 'Islam') is in reality the ancient pagan moon god of Arabia. For all their protestations against 'idolatry', their crescent moon symbol of Allah may be seen on every mosque. This imagined god is not to be confused with the living God who has uniquely revealed Himself in Jesus Christ.

3. WHY THE WEST MUST SHUN ISLAM

So, Muslims need rescuing from Islam! At the same time, the West needs rescuing from Islam! To implement this twin rescue mission, two directives must be pursued:

1. Reliable information must be made available to community, educational, church and political leaders about authentic Islam. The loveless concept of Allah; the incoherence of the *Qur'an*; Islam's appeal to the baser instincts of human nature; the degradation of women involving female circumcision and forced marriages; honour killings; the killing of apostates, its bloody jihadism and a fallaciously-promised erotic paradise for suicide bombers (murderers not martyrs); all these features must not be hidden. In responding to the growing threat, Western Governments are failing to face reality. The distinction between moderate and militant Islam misses the point that *the religion itself is the source of the problem*. Indeed, no other religion on earth can claim to match the violence of the Islamic agenda. Seemingly-benign Muslim communities will always be breeding grounds from which their more militant members can recruit jihadists.

2. With sensitive yet courageous compassion, Christians must use all proper means to evangelise Muslims. In the process, there must be no concessions to liberal as well as Muslim denials of the deity and grace of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and only Saviour of the world. In short, the case for the pure, life-transforming faith of biblical Christianity must be courageously made. On the religious education level, the RE component of National Curricula must 'put the record straight'. Teachers must stop pretending that Jesus and Muhammad are on a par and that the *Holy Bible* and the *Holy Qur'an* teach similarly-positive values. Without denying that too often Christians have failed to demonstrate the compassionate virtues of its Founder, the true character of Muhammad's programme and its devastating dictates must not be hidden from our children. Yes, the Christian Gospel forbids and condemns hatred and violence. The same cannot be said of the message of Muhammad. The children of Western schools must learn the difference between the mercy of the Sermon on the Mount and the hatred of the *Hadith*. The children of Muslim citizens must also be exposed to the purity of Christ and not the poison of Muhammad.

WHY JESUS CHRIST

With a continuing and growing assault on our Christian heritage, never was there a greater need to get to grips with the truth of the Bible text: "Never man spake like this man" (*John 7: 46*). This was the response of amazed men who heard Christ. What truths explain their astonishment?

1. NO MAN EVER SPOKE LIKE JESUS CHRIST

And why? He was no ordinary man. He was perfect and sinless. He is the 'God-man' (*Matthew 1: 23*); 'God manifest in the flesh' (*1 Timothy 3: 16*); the Eternal 'Word made flesh' (*John 1: 14*).

Thus, He spoke words of truth, purity, love, kindness and compassion. He spoke with divine unction, grace and authority. No one else, before or since, ever spoke like Him. He is Creator, King, and Lord of the Universe.

On the other hand, Muhammad was an ordinary man. He was imperfect and sinful. He spoke words of error, impurity, hate and cruelty.

2. NO MAN EVER LIVED LIKE JESUS CHRIST

His life backed up His words. In lip and life, He was perfectly consistent. He brought blessing, healing, comfort and joy to people. His many miracles confirmed His deity.

His tender touch declared the compassion of God. He liberated women from the abusive treatment of selfish men. He rejected violence as a method of spreading His message. No life has ever been lived to match the life of Jesus Christ.

On the other hand, Muhammad's life contradicted many of his more noble sayings. His life is not a good example for 'private character'. His claims cannot compare with Christ's. Spreading his message by the sword, he brought violence and bloodshed to those who refused to submit to his 'Allah'. He humiliated women. His tenderness was reserved chiefly for his own sexual indulgence and his stomach (according to wife - one of fourteen - A'isha).

3. NO MAN EVER DIED LIKE JESUS CHRIST

While His life and preaching angered the religious establishment of His day, nothing could justify the hatred directed at Him. He was guilty of no sin. Expressing God's mercy to us hell-deserving sinners, Jesus, Saviour of the world, died for our sins.

He died, 'the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God' (*1 Peter 3: 18*). In His agonizing crucifixion, He breathed nothing but love and kindness to His enemies. Such dying! Such love!

On the other hand, Muhammad died, burdened by his own guilt. Sadly and tragically, his death did not terminate his cruel conquests. Others perpetuated his vicious legacy.

4. NO MAN EVER BLESSED THE HUMAN RACE LIKE JESUS CHRIST

His impact on history is not just the effect of a perpetuation of His memory. Jesus rose from the dead! He lives! The Gospel is the greatest blessing the world has ever known! It has brought forgiveness, love, joy and peace. Christ has mended broken hearts and lives. He has given hope to those in despair. Through Him, the light of heaven has dispelled the darkness of death.

He has liberated individuals and nations. The Gospel has delivered people from ignorance, slavery, poverty and degradation. All that is truly good, noble, pure and beautiful comes from Him (even if apostate believers - crusading Roman Catholics and deity-denying Protestant Liberals - have corrupted His truth). Christ's resurrection influence continues still where He is accepted, trusted and served.

On the other hand, Muhammad died, to rise no more, except to be judged by Christ when He returns. His tomb is not empty. His legacy is ignorance, cruelty, fear and oppression. The continued influence of his teachings is a threat to all that Christ represents.

In conclusion, the case for Christ and against Muhammad is compelling in every respect. Assessed by every test that may be devised, there is simply no competition. So let us all respond as did the men in our text! May we all acknowledge, believe, trust, love and surrender to the incomparable Christ. May we all rejoice in Him, and seek to make Him known throughout the world.

I am well aware that many in the secular West desire Christ no more than they desire Muhammad. Therefore, I must warn them. Even if they never suffer from some jihadist atrocity, they will stand before the judgement seat of Christ, when He returns to judge the world in righteousness (see *2 Corinthians 5:10*).

If you are a Muslim, renounce Muhammad, and come to Christ! Then, everything I have tried to express will become wonderfully and experientially true. I encourage you all to trust and serve Him with me. Amen!

(Slightly

Abridged)

With acknowledgements to **Dr Alan C Clifford**. Norwich Reformed Church.

GAZA INVASION PROTEST

Report by: Andrew Hope Hall, LLB Hons Law, Worcester, CW Member

One thing I have found over the years is the lack of information people have in various areas. I have seen a need in the international and national geo-political sphere for more information to be discovered and shared with the Christian community in our Protestant Reformed fold. It is good to learn and to understand something of how the 'other side' thinks and operates and to share this with our brethren who only see what the media tells them. Matthew 10:16 is my inspiration for this. "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves; be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."

In conjunction with my postgraduate studies in journalism and my self-imposed work in the Christian field, I take the opportunity to investigate and look for myself in all sorts of political and religious arenas when the opportunity arises. To this end and by various means I have also developed useful contacts in many areas of society.

One such opportunity arose when I was requested by a third party (for various reasons) to attend a demonstration over the Israeli invasion of Gaza a couple of weeks ago. I duly went to the pick-up point outside Carrs Lane Church in Birmingham where a number of coaches came to take us to Hyde Park, London. This demonstration was the second London event this year and included a march past the Israeli embassy.

Hundreds turned out, braving the frosty weather and smothered in woollen hats and coats and the latest badge of demonstrator zeal - keffiyah scarves. This is the Palestinian scarf now seen worn by any person who thinks they are anything in the socialist-liberal world of politics.

There were members of Socialist Workers Party, Socialist Revolutionary Party, Respect and Stop The War Coalition who were helping organize the coaches and planning the day. I spoke to one young man who was clearly ecstatic about the turnout and said, "I am really excited! We've got three times as many coaches as we had last Saturday - it's going to be really big!"

We departed at 08.30hrs - all the coaches full. The majority of passengers were Muslim. Then there were the members of the various organizations mentioned. I sat next to a man who said he was a consultant for an NHS Public Health department.

The journey was broken by various announcements and handing out of an unending supply of leaflets. An organiser got up and, using the coach PA system, taught a variety of slogans which everyone chanted with great enthusiasm.

We reached Hyde Park in late morning and the passengers filed out of the coach on Park Lane and unfurled their banners and made their way to Speakers' Corner where a pre-march rally was taking place. Amongst a sea of posters were banners of a variety of organizations from diverse parts of the country.

I chatted to one of the women from our coach who said, "I am glad to see people like you coming as we obviously don't want to be seen as just an Islamic march."

The march began at about 1.30pm and made its way slowly out of the park and into Bayswater Road. I was probably in the first quarter of the march. All the way different groups were chanting slogans such as "In our thousands, in our millions, we are all Palestinians."

At one point the march slowed as a group stopped to burn an Israeli flag. Many gathered around this and broke into chants. Then I saw why they felt necessary to do that – the presence of television cameras. I wondered how much violence in the world might actually not occur if cameras were not around.

The streets near the Israeli embassy were sealed by the Police. Elements of the crowd hurled jeers and abuse at them – and all they were doing was ensuring that the march passed peacefully.

Nearing the Embassy itself the march slowed down almost to a standstill. I saw one woman lying between the barriers, having collapsed. A Policeman stood over her, concerned for her well-being while waiting for medical help. This seemed to be a signal for some people to scream abuse at the constable in the most offensive way. From the hate in their faces I saw that they had not come for peaceful demonstration but to stir up trouble. What a dichotomy – here they were demonstrating against what they perceive as hatred and violence, while themselves panting after violence with a lascivious eagerness.

People were hurling shoes at the gates of the embassy. One white teenage lad looked to his parents for approval then hurled a full bottle of soft drink. I thought that if that had hit someone on the head it would have caused serious injury and wondered how these parents – who obviously think themselves liberal – could be comfortable at allowing their son to commit violence. It has long been my experience both here and in Africa that the liberal appears soft and kind to whatever is the subject of their support but when their views are challenged they become transformed into ravening wolves, even more fascist than those they call fascists.

I was walking next to the NHS consultant and was startled to hear him say with some considerable smugness that, "I think we might see bottles filled with petrol being thrown before too long." I got the impression by the grin on his face that he would have relished seeing that.

We eventually passed the Embassy gates and reached the point on Knightsbridge where the final rally was to be. I listened to a few speakers such as Lauren Booth (Tony Blair's sister-in-law). I left before George Galloway (Respect) spoke and returned to the coach to warm up. I clashed with Galloway on his slot on Talk Sport Radio on a Friday night two years ago on the subject of Zimbabwe (he thinks Mugabe is a fine fellow) and had no desire to listen to him again.

On reflecting on what I had seen that day, I understood that there were some people demonstrating out of genuine concern for the civilian deaths in Gaza – there were even Jews against the Gaza invasion attending. Many attending were there because of their overtly anti-American and virulently anti-Jewish stance. Some, plainly, used the march to vent their hatred of British Police – and by extension (I strongly felt) Britain itself.

As for me, having seen what I saw that day, my respect for the Police rose a great deal. They maintained such fortitude and discipline in the face of such provocation and had to deal with violence

occurring later on in the march (some 200 were arrested after smashing shop windows, wrecking a Starbucks and other acts of violence).

For those who condone such behaviour at marches I say this - no law-abiding person with any claim to moral decency would find such behaviour on their doorstep acceptable just as they would find the 10,000 rockets fired on Israel since 2001 unacceptable. The issue of civilians being killed and wounded in Gaza is horrible, but then so are the terrorists who hide amongst them.

From a Christian viewpoint, it was clear that there was something more than just human hatred going on there. Yes, we are told that the heart is desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9) and while many will go along with violence or evil or ignore it just to be comfortable, there are those - as with Judas Iscariot - that the devil has entered into. There - but for the grace of our Holy and all powerful God - go we.

Did I get what I needed for my investigation and research? Yes I did. It confirmed a great deal of what I had studied in Patrick Sookhdeo's books (in particular Global Jihad). I hope this will provide those of you who read it with a different set of eyes to that of the UK media. Perhaps it will even give you a clearer idea of what is afoot today. There are many other spheres that we must be aware of, for there are those wolves who are even now lobbying for yet more evil legislation in our Parliament with the sole desire - to destroy the bride of Christ in Britain and to trample on the name of our Lord God Almighty and to spit upon the holy word of God. Can you feel the hot breath of these wolves down your neck?

What can we do? Firstly - prayer, prayer, fasting and prayer (Matt 9:15, Acts 14:23, 1 Cor 7:5). Reading the word of God and meditating on it day and night (Joshua 1:8, Psalm 119). We are to stand up and speak out or to support those people and organisations (see below) who do so (Matthew 5:1-16). We are blessed with a number of good organisations in this country and some of those are lobbying in parliament or helping besieged Christians with legal help. Christian Concern for Our Nation, The Christian Institute are two. Others are standing up for the truth of the word of God in the face of abortion, evolution and sexual sin (which includes adultery, fornication and homosexuality). Others still are preaching the gospel in the streets to people whose feet never grace the doorstep of a church. Reformation Ireland, Protestant Truth Society, Open Air Mission, to name a few. Others, like Christian Watch warn of the looming merger with Europe and submission to Rome. I could add other organisations but am sure readers are aware of them. Is the work in vain? No - we are only to do the will of our Father, following the example of our Saviour. If it was Christ's desire to do the will of his Father, then it must be ours (Matt 7:21; Matt 12:50, John 5:30). In Revelation 3:5 and Psalm 37 encouragement can be found for us in the dark time that is looming on this land. Praise the Lord for He is mighty and powerful to save.

OUR PRESENT CALAMITY

Sermon preached by the late Mr. J. W. Tyler at Zoar Chapel, The Dicker, on Lord's Day morning, 16th December, 1973

Text: "He causeth it to come, whether for correction, or for His land, or for mercy" (Job 37:13)

Elihu here by the Holy Ghost leads our thoughts and spirits to the great, supreme Ruler of the universe, the King of kings, and Lord of lords - to Jehovah Himself, in relation to His kingship of the universe and as relating especially to the inhabitants at any time of this planet. It is a remarkable word because it is so highly relevant in the present calamitous situation of the world. It applies largely to the western world, our own beloved land and the inhabitants thereof.

You will notice how he introduces the word: "He causeth it to come." There are three categories; the first

– “whether for correction.” If it is so at present, all our ills are great blessings, because correction is in mercy and love. It does not proceed from fiery, vindictive wrath and anger. It is to put us on the right course to God; to honour Him, serve Him, love Him, so all blessings flow to us through Jehovah Jesus.

So there are three categories: “whether for correction, or for His land, or for mercy.” I seek your prayers that I may be given wisdom to expound the Word for our profit, and, what is more important, to the glory of Jehovah that His great Name be magnified.

I will begin at this point, and it will be current and topical. It is largely recognised already that only an almighty power and a supreme Being could have brought this nation to the brink of economic disaster in a few weeks. For the time being forget the coal miners, the railmen and the electricity workers. We see today a confluence of vital things that have brought us to the edge of a precipice in a short time. So forget all the secondary part of it. Already a number of thinking people, who would not term themselves Christians, are recognising that an almighty Being and a supreme influence could alone produce this effect in so short a time. So what we face in the western world is the hand of God Almighty. “*He* causeth it to come.” We are beginning to hear the voice of God speaking to us loudly. We have those circumstances and conditions in the mineral resources of this planet and in the rapidly increasing population of the world, and added to this a confluence of trouble. This is therefore expounded by our text: “*He* causeth it to come.”

This means, to spell it out, we are *in*, and likely to come into, a greater measure of adversity. For instance, people who were wealthy six months ago now face bankruptcy. “Riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven” (Prov. 23:5). They find themselves in a trade that has been almost wrecked by trouble in a few weeks. So we are in, and likely to come into, a time of serious adversity. “*He* causeth it to come.” It is the hand of God. It is the voice of the Almighty speaking to mankind, to this nation, to the western nations. God is speaking. Take one thing: we have been wasting that finite mineral, oil, a source of energy for many things – throwing it away in places. Now God has placed His hands on the jugular vein of the West. “*He* causeth it to come.” None of us can escape; we must all feel it. If it is “for correction, or for His land, or for mercy,” it will prove to be in the long run one of the biggest blessings the human race has known. It could well prove to be a wonderful thing for Great Britain.

Let me remind you of one truth. What is the reaction of your mind, being, and spirit to the difficulties that surround us on this planet? If we begin to feel the pinch, what is our reaction? All through the history of mankind, empires have been built up and they have fallen. People have become rich and they have lost their riches; the high and mighty have been brought down. According to the decree of God,

“He raises monarchs to their thrones,
And sinks them if He please.”

Some have said, “It can never come to me.” Some have begun to realise it is an almighty hand, and it can come quickly! It is not a question of governments or human sagacity. It is the hand of God. It is not a matter of the best brains in the world getting together; they will never solve things. It is the hand of God. You will never solve your problems on a human level. That is Humanism, a false, erroneous doctrine. I speak bluntly and affectionately. What is our reaction? What was the reaction of Job, the richest man of the East, the greatest prince of all? One day in rapid succession he received information that he had lost everything. It did not stop at earthly substance; he lost his family, then his health, and he had no comfort anywhere.

This will bring you back, (and I want you to follow as closely as you can), this will bring you back to basic things. What does God mean to you? Or is religion a matter of window dressing? Is God everything to you? If He is, you are capable by grace of bearing the loss of almost everything else. These people, if they do lose all that perisheth, still have their God, and they will still be happy and rejoice. This will analyse the basic things in us. What was Job’s response? He went back to his nativity and forward to his death. “Then Job arose, and rent his mantle” (showing his heart was rent) “and shaved his head” (his glory had departed, his family was dead) “and fell down upon the ground.” He prostrated himself before God. What did he do? Did he start rebelling, repining? No! He worshipped God. He said, “Naked came I out of my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away.” Not easy to say (is it?) only as you have the Lord. He did not mention the fire, the wind, or the Chaldeans, or any secondary cause. He said, “It is the Lord. *He* causeth it to come. All I see is God.” He did not refer to the Chaldeans or the Sabeans, the fire or the wind. “It is the Lord.” This is the position we are in today. It is not the sheiks or sections of industry – before God we stand and He is our Judge – but it is the hand of God.

“*He* causeth it to come.” This is my stance as I begin. Are we where blessed Job was? Are we looking

away from and beyond all created means, all material things, all the complicated developments, and up to God and His throne? "The Lord reigneth." Are we desirous of saying, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the Name of the Lord"? "He causeth it to come." I want to stop before I go further. Not only in comfort and blessing, but in adversity let us pause and seek to worship God. Let us worship Him now, saying, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the Name of the Lord." Are we in that spirit? It is the right spirit; it is the right way. "Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation" (Hab 3:17,18). Therefore now may this congregation worship God in the beauty of holiness.

Now look at the second word: "causeth." I want to examine it because it is the great key to the subject. The first thing to say is, the obvious meaning of "causeth" is: there is an exhibition or demonstration of a divine power. He *causeth*. God is almighty, omnipotent. He *causeth*. "None can stay His hand, or say unto Him, What doest Thou?" (Dan 4:35). He *causeth*. Arms, armaments, statesmen, money, influence cannot in any way affect it. He *causeth*. It is God's power; He is supreme. If we use the couplet in the hymn:

"He that can dash whole worlds to death,
And make them when He please,"

This is a terrifying thought. If you do not know Jesus Christ, think of the awful danger you are in. Terrible danger! There is no refuge only in the Lord. Are you exposed to danger, or in a place of safety?

"*Causeth*." There is an exercise of His omnipotence. He is almighty, so He causeth it to come, and it does come – the very thing He has decreed and sees fit, "whether for correction, or for His land, or for mercy." *It*. He *causeth* what I have been naming: the troubles we in the western world are in, and perhaps the whole human race, because it is not only the reduction of the flow of oil; there is also a serious shortage of food. So while many people are surfeiting, eating perhaps three times more than they should, there is an enormous part of the world population with hardly enough to keep it alive. We are looking on what? Effects. There can be no effect without a cause.

Let us go back basically in the doctrine to the fall of man.

"Sin is the cause of all the woes
The world has felt or seen."

I want to underline for a moment this facet of *cause*. There are effects we are conversant with in the world today and affecting this dear nation. There is a *cause* for effects. Of course, this not only relates to the nation, but to every man, woman, and child; to all in this sanctuary; to the whole church of God, as well as those at present in a state of spiritual death to God. Think of it in this way. What is the cause to produce certain effects on this planet by way of God's judgments: calamitous, adverse dispensations that topple kingdoms, powers, peoples riches? What am I to say concerning the cause? God's character. He is holy, righteous, just, good, and jealous, and He has His laws. His laws govern the human race, and His laws are a manifestation of His character. All through the Bible you have those laws – the ten commandments and many laws of God through the New Testament, teaching us what to say and do and how to live, and basic of all is this: God tells us He is *first*, and our lives must be moulded around this; to put God and His things first, and our souls and eternity and treasure in heaven; and all things that perish well down the list.

What has happened? There is a *cause*. God has been looking on us, and on the human race, and Great Britain, and the western world and the Christian church, and we who worship here. He has been looking at our lives, our motives, our thoughts; and what has He seen? I would solemnly suggest to you He has seen these things, among others: namely, we in varying degrees have almost given ourselves over to idol gods of money, greed, pleasure and licentiousness. We have thought we could flout His laws and get away with it. No! When I say the Christian church, we can come to our denomination. We are not immune. We have followed the idol gods of money and pleasure, and now we have the effects. What are you saying? Through every strata of society there is the same ugly scene, enormous idols. People never have enough money; they are living for it; they are never satisfied. It would be a different scene if God had the firstfruits and a tenth of all out of a pure motive to honour Him. Has He? No! It is self, self, self, more or less. What a god! What an idol! Money! I do not hesitate to say this. God tells us that the love of money is the root of all evil (1 Tim 6:10). It is called the deceitfulness of riches (Matt. 13:22). It wraps round the mind of a human being and he does not realise what bondage and idolatry he lives in. *Money! Pleasure!* God is not unmindful to give us pleasure – one day of rest in seven, and the night for sleep, and the beauties of the firmament, and the earth to look on. With myself many of you have looked on the

enormously increasing flow of traffic on the Lord's Day – pleasure seekers – and you have felt in your very being a certain persuasion that this *must* stop. It *cannot* go on at this pace. You have said to yourself, "What will God do? Will it be sudden destruction?" Already He has known where to touch us. O this god of sensual, carnal pleasure!

So because in Himself God is holy, just, faithful and true, we have the effect. "He causeth it to come." The god of *licentiousness* is another great idol. People have thought to sweep aside all the ethics of the Bible and now "He *causeth* it to come." Undoubtedly, as I said earlier, some who would not call themselves Christians acknowledge they are persuaded that there is a supreme Being and power, and they also acknowledge it may well be we shall go much lower before we rise again.

What I want to say to you this morning is: What is your reaction? Are you saying, "Lord, take away these ills and afflictions so we can get back to where we were twenty-five years ago"? That is not the right way. The right response to God is: "Help me to hear the rod, and who hath appointed it (Mic. 6:9). Favour me to hear the voice of God, to recognise the hand of God and the cause. God is holy and I have sinned. I have not lived as I should. I have carried in my breast these idols for so long. Lord, bring me to Thy feet, give me repentance, grant me cleansing of my life and amendment of my life so I may live according to Thy holy ordinances." When we are favoured to get to His feet, and to cast our idols to the moles and to the bats (Isa. 2:20), and to break off our sins by righteousness (Dan. 4:27), and God is first, and our pleasure is chiefly in Him, and there is a frugal use of legitimate joys, and God has the firstfruits and a tenth, and we are helped to amend our lives, to see there is something more important than the perishing things of time, we may fall on our knees and sue through Jesus' Name for pardon, peace, healing, and for the restoration of blessings and mercies.

AMEN

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