

CHRISTIAN WATCH

Issue 59

A Protestant Biblical Witness

Sep/Oct 2025



'And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.'

Mark 13:37



GOD'S DECREES

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 17; Psalm 31:11, 15

Sovereign Ruler of the skies.
Ever gracious, ever wise;
All my times are in Thy hand,
All events at Thy command.

His decree who formed the earth
Fixed my first and second birth;
Parents, native place, and time,
All appointed were by Him.

He that formed me in the womb,
He shall guide me to the tomb:
All my times shall ever be
Ordered by His wise decree.

Times of sickness; times of health;
Times of penury and wealth;
Times of trial and of grief;
Times of triumph and relief;

Times the tempter's power to prove;
Times to taste the Saviour's love;
All must come, and last, and end,
As shall please my Heavenly Friend.

Plagues and deaths around me fly;
Till He bids, I cannot die;
Not a single shaft can hit,
Till the God of love sees fit.

Ryland

IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

Letter from the Chairman	4
Wake up, Britain! <i>Voice for Justice</i>	7
Finding Grace in the Eyes of the Lord <i>Rev. Stephen Holland</i>	11
Good works <i>J. C. Philpot</i>	15
The Preciousness of the Lord's Day <i>Thomas Watson</i>	16
News and Current Affairs	18
Christ's Second Appearing <i>George Swinnock</i>	22
The Red Sea <i>B. A. Ramsbottom</i>	24
Yes, Jesus Knows! <i>Poem by Edith L. Hennessy</i>	27



Christian Resources Exhibition

Sandown Park, Esher, KT10 9AJ
15 — 16 October 2025

Please visit us on STAND M5

(Some articles may not necessarily reflect the opinions and beliefs of Christian Watch but are included for information only and not as an endorsement.)

Dear Friends,

Is flying the national flag an act of rebellion? In a campaign spreading throughout the country, ordinary people are putting up flags on street lamp-posts and telegraph poles. Maybe you've seen them in your own area! Some are being removed by Local Authorities, but is it not incredibly moving that ordinary people are reacting to the betrayal of the ruling classes who do so little to resolve the crisis of thousands of illegal immigrants freely entering our shores and tolerate the flying of Palestinian flags – flags of a nation that does not even exist! A nation that cannot understand the patriotism of its own people is a nation cutting its own throat! (See *the article entitled 'Wake up, Britain' in this Newsletter*). It is surely the primary duty of any national Government to protect the interests and well-being of its own citizens. It is difficult to comprehend the mindset of those in authority who have accepted – and even collaborated with – those who have 'invaded' our country. Treaties such as the 'European Convention on Human Rights' and the 'UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees' should be scrapped as they were compiled in the chaos which existed in Europe following World War 2 and they no longer have any relevance some 80 years later.

Recent news headlines have been dominated by tariffs and taxes. There is nothing new in this. In the late 1970s our nation experienced what was described as 'the winter of discontent'; in the 1980s there was the upheaval of the miners' strikes; a few years later there was the credit crunch and then the cost-of-living crisis – and now we face uncertain times again. There are many uncertain things in this world! The Scriptures underscore that truth when they remind us that we ought not to '*boast ourselves of tomorrow, for we know not what a day may bring forth.*' Things change – and sometimes very quickly.

However, God does not change! He is the same, yesterday, and today and forever. His Gospel is solid and steadfast for it is forever settled in Heaven. His Gospel is solid and steadfast and rests upon the unchangeable Christ. The promises of God are unshakeable and we can stand upon them, knowing that God will not fail. These are the things that really count in life, death and eternity. This passing world will soon be done – the question is – where will you spend eternity? Only those who know Christ as Lord and Saviour will be with Him in glory for ever; all others will be separated from Him in Hell.

There is no point in living for this world, for it will pass away – it is vital that we are born again and live for Christ. I quote from A.W. Pink (English Baptist Pastor in the USA, Australia and England in the 20th century). He says:

“In view of the appalling conditions now existing in almost all of the “churches”, what is the duty of the real child of God? Are you willing for Scripture to answer that question? If so, none need remain in any doubt as to the Divine Will in the matter. Exodus 23:2 – *“Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil.”* Ephesians 5:11 – *“Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”* 2 Corinthians 6:14 – *“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers.”* Then take heed....where you attend! If you cannot find a place where Christ is magnified, where His presence is felt, where the Word is ministered in the power of the Spirit, where your soul is actually fed, where you do not come away as empty as you went – then far better to remain at home and spend the time on your knees, feeding directly from God’s Word and reading that which you do find helpful unto your spiritual life.”

Prioritising LGBT rights over Christian rights to believe and free speech – we would remind the Prime Minister that the UK is a

Christian country. Our laws and culture are founded on Christian belief. We would therefore like to be told why - when there are so many challenges facing our country – the Government prioritises and promotes minority interests at the expense of the majority. Christians have the right to freedom of speech and the right for protection to uphold and practise their faith.

Yours in His service,

Ian Henderson

Ian R. Henderson
(Chairman)

P.S. Christian Resources Exhibition – if you are in the area, Christian Watch has a stall at the Exhibition at **Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey** on **15th and 16th October – Stall M5**. This is the 40th anniversary year of the CRE and if you are able, please stop and make yourself known to us. We would love to meet with you.



WAKE UP, BRITAIN!

From: **Voice for Justice UK's Newsletter**
(newsletter@vfjuk.org.uk)

It's been an odd summer. Over August there have been increasing reports of people in towns, cities and villages across the UK flying Union Jack and St. George flags from lamp posts and across streets – which, as often as not, have been removed by local Councils who, while seemingly perfectly happy to have LGBTQ+ and pro-Palestinian flags flown, will not allow any demonstration of support for nationalism. Similarly, flags of St. George painted on roads and roundabouts have also been rapidly removed by Councils – allegedly in the interests of public safety, although those same Councils appear to have no problem with daubing rainbow flags across the streets during 'Pride' month.



Meantime, up in Dundee, a young girl named Sophie was reportedly driven to defend her sister from sexual predators with a knife and axe, only to be arrested by the police for carrying an offensive weapon, while the immigrant perpetrators allegedly went free. The story appears to have been suppressed by mainstream media, but nevertheless, and perhaps unsurprisingly, in its wake, many – both here and abroad – have been asking why the State is so apparently unwilling to protect our children from sexually predatory migrants?

Set all this against the backdrop of increasing protest at the billions of pounds being spent lodging illegal immigrants in upmarket hotels and providing them with benefits, while rates of sexual crime committed by foreign nationals continues to soar and you can perhaps see why there appears to be a growing climate of unrest which indeed is being immeasurably exacerbated by the increasingly evident deprivation of the white working class, whose cries for justice and a Government that protects their best interests seem largely to be ignored.

What are we to make of all this? How is it our hitherto peaceful, prosperous and law-abiding country is being riven by so much political and cultural unrest? Why are we seeing violence increasing on our streets? Why is our economy on the point of collapse? And what hope is there of any of the issues being resolved?

Let's be honest. However you look at it, the situation appears grim. Whether it's increasing taxes, moving illegal immigrants out of hotels, imposing ever-greater restrictions on freedom of movement with low traffic zones, or whatever...none of the policies currently being put forward hold out hope of uniting and bringing peace to the country. In fact, they may well make the situation worse, because what we are seeing is the outworking of a spiritual battle between good and evil, between God and the Devil – and to have any hope of success the problem must be tackled at source.

A little bit of history: For around 1,500 years, Britain has been a Christian country, with our laws, society, literature, architecture...all alike founded on Christian values and belief. Many today try and discredit that history, casting the social reforms of our forebears and attempts to spread the Gospel as nothing more than evil colonialist exploitation; but this is a deliberate distortion of the truth. Yes, we have never been perfect and, as a nation, we have surely made mistakes, but it is our commitment as a people to Christ and our attempts – inadequate as they might have been – to follow His commands, that have in the past made our nation great and, while we have kept faith, throughout that time God has protected and delivered us from all attack, whether that be threat of invasion, internal unrest, plague or even financial collapse. ***While we have kept faith with God, however imperfectly, He has watched over us.***

However, over the last century, that has been broken. We have increasingly rejected any idea of obedience to God, instead falling hook, line and sinker for the lie that we are in control and that we can have and do whatever we want. Duty, faithfulness, honesty...our responsibility towards others...all these values have been slaughtered in unholy sacrifice on the altar of Self. Where once we put the nation of King and country first and prioritised the needs of others – especially children – over those of our own...now we exalt and seek only personal gratification, tell ourselves all the while that in accepting the excess and even perversion of others, we are simply being tolerant and inclusive and upholding diversity. Throughout all of this, the Church, seeking to remain relevant in what it brands a cultural shift, has stood quietly by, saying nothing.

Hypocrisy!

By our wrong choice - and silence in the face of sin - we have brought

the nation under judgement and while we have slept in this quagmire of self-serving delusion, we have allowed toxic belief systems, designedly hostile to our culture, heritage and beliefs, to take root and grow strong. Belief systems whose goal, by stealth, is to take over – and God has allowed their ingress because of our sin.

The blunt truth is that for the UK now to survive, it is urgent we recover and once again stand on our Christian faith and that we seek to uphold, fearlessly and without compromise, justice and truth. The Church especially must recover its vision and voice and once again take a lead – and those entrusted with Government must submit to God and serve the people, not themselves.

God's faithfulness: From 1939 to 1945, Christian Britain fought the war to end all wars. After Europe fell and before the US entered the battle in 1941, we stood totally alone against the tyranny of Nazi Germany – and defeat seemed inevitable. Over the course of that bloody conflict, some 384,000 soldiers were killed in combat, while a further 70,000 civilians lost their lives in the blitz.

Against all the odds – and led by Churchill, who refused to give in - we chose to fight. Seven times the King called the nation to prayer and seven times we were *miraculously* delivered. Without that prayer, Britain would almost certainly have been annihilated, but God protected and delivered us and, by His grace, we won!

God has not finished with the UK, but to receive blessing, **we must repent.**

Only Christ can save us.

FINDING GRACE IN THE EYES OF THE LORD

A sermon preached on Genesis 6:8

Rev. Stephen Holland

It has rightly been said that there are only two types of people in the world – saved and lost, redeemed and unredeemed, those on the way to Heaven and those on the way to Hell; or we could say: those who have found grace in the eyes of God and those who have not. In our passage we find one who had received grace – and his name was Noah. By grace we mean God's free favour and acceptance. It is God giving to the sinner what we do not deserve; or as one has put it: God's riches at Christ's expense. Noah was not the only one to receive grace. His father Lamech (5:29) was a Godly man who looked to the Lord. Contrast that with another Lamech (4:18-24), who was the first to have more than one wife and a godless murderer who sang about his crimes.

The Corruption

As in the world today, Noah's day was corrupt with sin and evil: "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (6:5). Man's behaviour and relationship with God has not improved at all since Noah's time. In spite of all the technological advances made in society, man has not bettered himself at all. We still murder, kill, steal, fight, lie and maintain our rebellion against God. That state comes about as the problem of evil is not to be found outside of ourselves – upbringing, circumstances, social conditions and the like - but exists within. See Jesus' words in Mark 7:21-23. Outward circumstances only provide excuses for bad behaviour.

Though God is very patient with mankind in his rebellion against Him, He is not indifferent to our sin. Nothing escapes His all-seeing eye.

Even so, shortly after Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden, God gave a promise (Gen. 3:15). That promise, the first in the Bible, was to send a Saviour to rescue man from the punishment of sin and wrath. Even today, people ask: 'Why doesn't God do something about the evil in the world?' The answer to this is twofold. Firstly, He once did – by drowning all but a tiny remnant of mankind by the great flood in the days of Noah. Yet, secondly, He has also provided a Saviour to rescue sinners, as in fact was pictured by the ark that Noah built. While man's sin is his own doing, the Devil is ever seeking to undermine the fulfilment of Genesis 3:15, though he knows his time is limited and that he is doomed.



The Condemnation

Who controls the world and all that is in it? Is it the Devil? Is it mankind? Or is it mere chance and fate? The Psalmist says: "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein" (Ps. 24:1). He never shares His glory or power with another. Notice in Genesis 6:7: "I will destroy man whom I have created." Note the 'I' – "I will destroy," "I have created." He created man and He can destroy man. A man who creates a painting, no matter how valuable it becomes to others, can destroy it if he so chooses. Do we deny God that very right? God was about to destroy the whole earth through water. Some may question how a loving God could do such a thing. Yet it is because He is love that He so acted – for He loves justice and righteousness and hates evil.

You will notice that God is thorough in all that He does – He destroys the whole earth. Is He wrong in doing that? By no means. God was patient and long suffering. He sent them warning for one hundred and twenty years. He sent a preacher, Noah, to warn them. He was a preacher of righteousness. Did they listen? No, they did not. God sees all sin – in word, thought or deed. None can, or will, ever escape. Not one escaped outside of the ark. The only ones to escape were Noah and his family – eight in all. Yet the judgment witnessed in the days of Noah was only a small foretaste of what is to come at the end of the world for all who die without trusting in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Those *in* Christ shall be spared. Those *outside* shall be damned for eternity.

The Comfort

The Heidelberg Catechism, in its first question and answer, says:

Q. *What is your only comfort in life and in death?*

A. *That I am not my own, but belong – body and soul, in life and in death to my faithful Saviour, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood - and has set me free from the tyranny of the Devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the Will of my Father in Heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.*

This cannot be put in a better way. There may be many false comforts that people invent, but all will prove empty in the end. God Himself provided only one sufficient Saviour - and He only accepts one atoning sacrifice for sin. Never follow the popular trend because it is the 'in' thing. Tomorrow it will prove wrong.

As Scripture says: "In wrath remember mercy" (Hab. 3:2). This has to be the cry of every sinner. Mercy is God not giving us what we

deserve. If He gave us what we deserve, we would all be in torment in Hell. You may have many comforts in this world, but whatever they are, and no matter what joy they bring, it will all finally come to an end. Then what have you? If you have not the Lord Jesus Christ, you have absolutely nothing at all. On the other hand, if you have Him, you have all that you need. He is truly the Friend of sinners. He is one who will never leave nor forsake His own children. All will meet this great and Holy God one day. It will either be as the Friend of sinners, or the Judge of sinners – pouring out His undiluted wrath (2 Thess. 1:8-9).

The Continuation

If God had not spared Noah and his little family, the world would have come to an abrupt end. It was His mercy that prevented the world's total destruction. Yes, God's wrath is terrible and frightening. We should fear Him who can destroy both soul and body in Hell (Matt. 10:28). It is a healthy fear that keeps one away from the flames of a burning house; it is likewise a good thing to fear God; but never let that fear keep you away from coming to Him. Let it drive you into His arms. Yes, in this sense God is saving His people from Himself. Surely God gets more glory in saving a lost sinner, than condemning the unrepentant one; and He will have the ultimate glory.

The world was saved in the days of Noah so that Genesis 3:15 would be accomplished and fulfilled. The waters did not so destroy the world that it would be no more. As the Apostle Paul would go on to say: "But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound" (Romans 5:20). God's grace, His undeserved kindness, is greater than the most wicked of sins. That grace will not just restore the sinner in God's eyes, but it will one day restore the whole Heaven and earth, to create new beginnings. Never look to this world as if there is nothing else. Look beyond this world to the world to come. Happiness is not found in a fallen world, but in a living Christ.

GOOD WORKS

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

Ephesians 2:10

J. C. Philpot

Good works, properly so called, spring out of the inward operation of God's grace. By making the tree good He makes the fruit good (Matt. 12:33). He works in us first the will to do that which is good and then He gives us the power. He thus works in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure (Phil. 2:13). Under the operations of His grace, we are transformed by the renewing of our mind to prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God (Rom. 12:2); and as this will is sought after - to be known and done - good works follow as the necessary fruit.

All those acts of love and affection, of kindness, sympathy and liberality towards the Lord's people; all those instances of self-denial and willingness rather to suffer than to do wrong; all those proofs of disinterested desire to do all the good we can according to our means, position and circumstances of life; all that striving after and maintaining integrity and uprightness of conduct in all matters of business and trust; all that strict and scrupulous adherence to our word, even to our own injury; all that Christian fulfilment of our relative duties and the social relationships of husband and father, wife and mother, which the Scripture has enjoined – in a word, all those works which by almost unanimous consent are called 'good' by men, are only really and truly good as wrought in the heart, lip and life by the power of God.

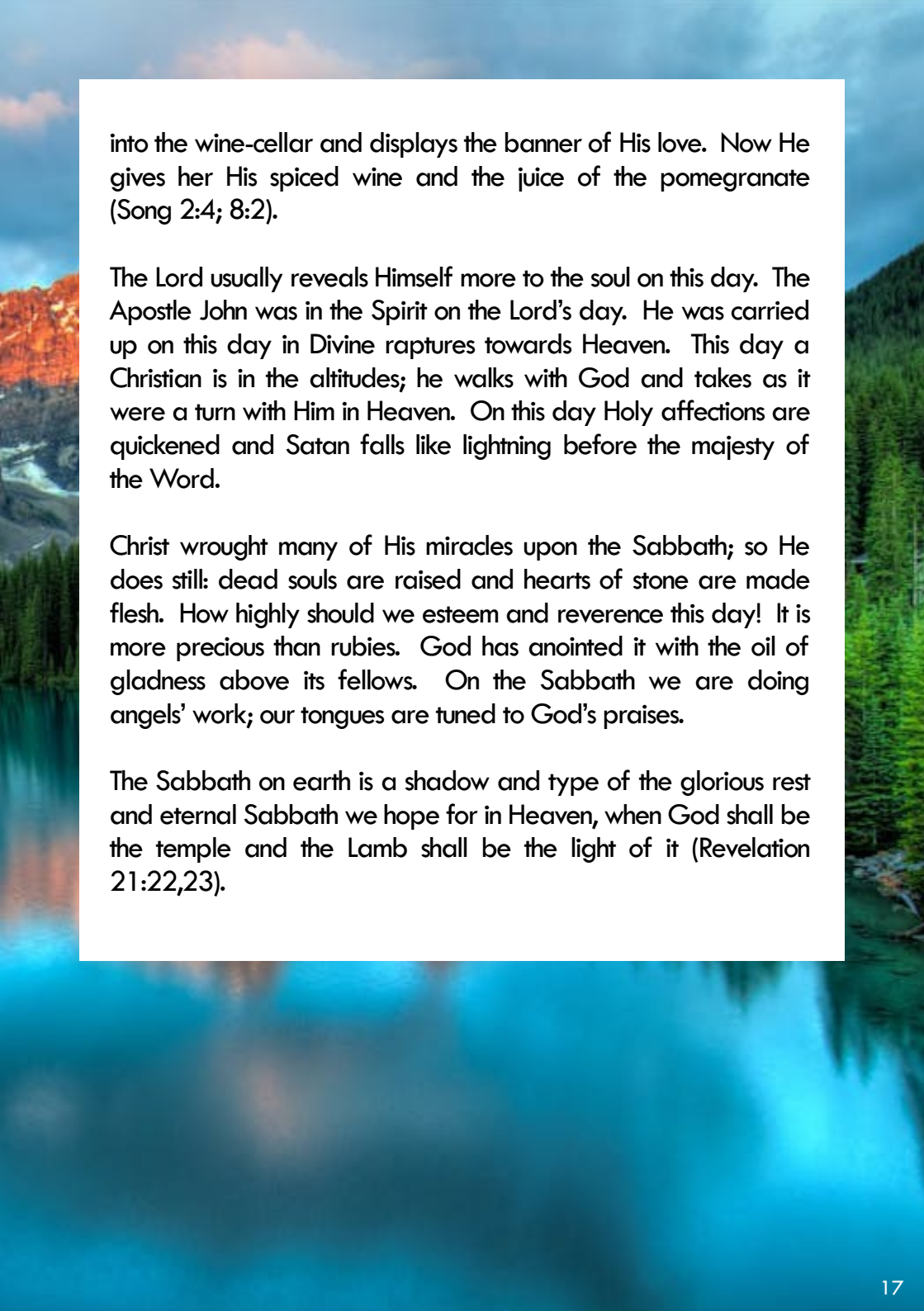
THE PRECIOUSNESS OF THE LORD'S DAY

Thomas Watson
(c. 1620 – 1686)

We should hold the Christian Sabbath we now celebrate in high veneration. The Jews called the Sabbath - 'The desire of days - and the queen of days.' This day we must call a "delight, the Holy of the Lord, honourable." Metal that has the King's stamp upon it is honourable and of great value. God has set His royal stamp upon the Sabbath; it is the Sabbath of the Lord and this makes it honourable.

We should look upon this day as the best day in the week. What the phoenix is among birds, what the sun is among planets, the Lord's day is among other days. "This is the day which the Lord hath made." God has made all the days, but He has blessed this. As Jacob got the blessing from his brother, so the Sabbath got the blessing from all other days in the week. It is a day in which we converse in a special manner with God. The Jews called the Sabbath 'a day of light.' So on this day the Sun of Righteousness shines upon the soul.

The Sabbath is the market-day of the soul, the cream of time. It is the day of Christ's rising from the grave and the Holy Ghost's descending upon the earth. It is perfumed with the sweet odour of prayer, which goes up to Heaven as incense. On this day the manna falls, that is angels' food. This is the soul's festival-day, on which the graces act their part. The other days of the week are most employed about earth, this day about Heaven; then you straw, now pearl. Now Christ takes the soul up to the Mount and gives it transfiguring sights of glory. Now he leads His spouse

The background of the page is a scenic landscape. On the left, there are steep, rocky mountains with some greenery. A river flows through the valley, reflecting the sky. The right side of the image shows a dense forest of evergreen trees. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall color palette is dominated by blues, greens, and earthy tones.

into the wine-cellar and displays the banner of His love. Now He gives her His spiced wine and the juice of the pomegranate (Song 2:4; 8:2).

The Lord usually reveals Himself more to the soul on this day. The Apostle John was in the Spirit on the Lord's day. He was carried up on this day in Divine raptures towards Heaven. This day a Christian is in the altitudes; he walks with God and takes as it were a turn with Him in Heaven. On this day Holy affections are quickened and Satan falls like lightning before the majesty of the Word.

Christ wrought many of His miracles upon the Sabbath; so He does still: dead souls are raised and hearts of stone are made flesh. How highly should we esteem and reverence this day! It is more precious than rubies. God has anointed it with the oil of gladness above its fellows. On the Sabbath we are doing angels' work; our tongues are tuned to God's praises.

The Sabbath on earth is a shadow and type of the glorious rest and eternal Sabbath we hope for in Heaven, when God shall be the temple and the Lamb shall be the light of it (Revelation 21:22,23).



Why does the Universe Exist? – The Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland's 'Young People's Magazine', September, 2025 – article in 'Looking Around Us' section by Rev. K. D. Macleod.

Scientists are in a race to discover why our universe exists, a news article on the BBC website tells us. One team are setting up sensitive equipment in a vast cavern, 1 500 metres below the surface, in the US state of South Dakota. Protected from the outside world, the equipment is intended to detect tiny changes in sub-atomic particles called neutrinos. The other team are Japanese scientists, who are several years ahead.

The teams hope to solve a scientific problem: the present theory of how the universe came into existence cannot explain the existence of



the planets, stars and galaxies. Both teams are building detectors to study neutrinos and anti-neutrinos in the hope of finding answers to their problem.

“We are poised,” one of the scientists say, “to build the detector that will change our understanding of the universe with instruments that will be deployed by a collaboration of more than 1400 scientists, from 35 countries, who are eager to answer the question of why we exist.”

The article explains the thinking of the scientists: “When the universe was created, two kinds of particles were created: matter – from which stars, planets and everything around us are made – and, in equal amounts, anti-matter, matter’s exact opposite. Theoretically the two should have cancelled each other out, leaving nothing but a big burst of energy. And yet, here we...are.” Matter does exist. The use of the word ‘created’ at the beginning of this paragraph has no reference to God; it just means *came into existence*. Sadly, far too many scientists working in such areas of study are desperately keen to keep God out of their thinking.

Clearly, scientists do have a problem as they admit; but if all they are looking for is an explanation of how the universe came into existence, a great deal of money could be saved – and a huge amount of time of many scientists could be put to a much better use. (We do accept that there may be other good reasons for investigating the neutrino; to discover why particles such as the neutrino and the anti-neutrino do not cancel each other out may indeed be useful and lead to further discoveries.)

All the investigators have to do to find out how the universe came into existence is to find a Bible, open it at Chapter 1 of Genesis and read its first words: “In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth.” God made it for His glory; and to find out more about how

God is glorified through creation, one should go on reading the Bible.

A scientist from Sussex University told the writer of the BBC article that “the discoveries in store will be ‘transformative’ to our understanding of the universe and humanity’s view of itself.” Indeed, there may be discoveries that change the scientific understanding of sub-atomic particles, but can they transform our understanding of the human race?

The basics of what we know about ourselves comes from the Bible. There we learn that God created the first human beings, Adam and Eve, as a perfect couple, but that they fell into sin and, as a result, we are all sinners. What we need to know, more than anything else, is what will take us to Heaven: to receive what the Bible tells us about Jesus Christ and what He has done for sinners like us - and to trust in Him to deliver us from sin and from a lost eternity.

The Christian Foundation of the Nation

A Report of the 2025 Protestant Truth Society Lecture in Parliament by Duncan Boyd. PTS Magazine, July/August, 2025.

On the evening of Tuesday, 20th May, the Rev. Dr. Joe Boot, President of the Ezra Institute, spoke in Parliament for the Protestant Truth Society on the subject of ‘The Christian Foundation of the Nation’. The sponsoring MP was James Allister KC, the member for North Antrim.

Dr. Boot spoke on the existential crisis facing the British Nation and how the only solution is a return to the Christian faith and a recognition that the best basis for our law and government is God’s law revealed in Scripture.

Dr. Boot explained that a culture is religion externalised. The culture of a nation and the laws it passes will reflect its underlying beliefs and convictions. Britain has largely rejected the Christian faith which was the bedrock of its laws and morals. The confusion and degeneracy that we see is a terrible result. He stressed the importance of Biblical law and took us back to Alfred the Great who, in the ninth century, based English common law on the Ten Commandments. This tradition of Christian statesmanship continued through Oliver Cromwell, John Owen, William Wilberforce and many others – all of whom believed that God’s Word is the best basis for our law and government. He pointed out that when Jesus commanded His disciples that their light should shine before men, He went on to affirm that not “one jot or one tittle” should be removed from the law until all was fulfilled (Matthew 5:18).

The Speaker reminded us that in the Coronation Oath Act of 1688 the Bible was central to the promises our Monarch made before God - and that those promises are of the utmost seriousness. He went on to state that the British Protestant Constitution is the most explicitly Christian Constitution in the world. It provides a vision for a society which is ultimately answerable to God.

Dr. Boot affirmed the central importance of preaching the law when preaching the Gospel. The Apostle Paul does not drive a wedge between law and Gospel. The law leads us to Christ (Galatians 3:24). If we do not preach the law of God, how can people know that they need the grace of God? He concluded by saying that the only alternative to the despair of our decaying culture is a return to Christ through His law and Gospel.

The meeting was well attended and the lecture is available on the PTS website (<https://protestanttruth.com>).

CHRIST'S SECOND APPEARING

George Swinnock (1627 -1673)

We read of the appearing of Christ at **that day** (1Pet. 1:7; Col. 3:4). He was veiled, and hid, and obscured, when on earth, but then He shall be revealed and discovered to the whole world: "When the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from Heaven" (2 Thess. 1:7). And it will be a glorious revelation: "Looking for ... the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Tit. 2:13).

In this world He appeared as the Son of man, as one born of a woman and in the form of a servant; but then He shall appear as the Son of God, as the only begotten of the Father and as the Head of principalities and powers and as the Heir of all things. "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall reward every man according to his works" (Matt. 16:27). He shall come in the glory of His Father, i.e. in that glory and honour which is proper and peculiar to the Divine nature.

At His first appearing, a weak, mortal man was His harbinger, to prepare His way before Him (Matt. 3:3,4); but at His second appearing, a mighty, immortal archangel shall be His forerunner and go before Him: "For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God" (1Thess. 4:16). At His first appearing He was accompanied by a few poor fishermen, but at His second appearing He shall be attended with His mighty angels (2 Thess. 1:7); with all His holy angels (Matt. 25:31); with the thousand thousand that are before Him and the ten thousand times ten

thousand that minister to Him.

At His first appearing He came as a Servant to minister unto others and to be abased: He came riding upon an ass (Matt. 21:5); but at His second appearing He shall come in the clouds of Heaven as His chariot (Matt. 26:64), to be glorified in His saints and admired in all them that believe; and then He shall appear as a Lord; some think it is therefore called the Lord's day (2 Pet. 3:10).

At His first appearing, He appeared wholly as a Saviour and Redeemer. When He appeared to the world, the philanthropy - or kindness of God to man - appeared (Tit. 3:4), and "the grace of God that bringeth salvation...appeared" (Tit. 2:11); but then He shall appear as a Judge, full of fire and fury and wrath against His enemies. The Kings and captains and nobles will call to the rocks to fall on them and to the mountains to cover them from the wrath of the Lamb, when that great day of His wrath is come (Rev. 6:16,17).

At first He appeared in the likeness of sinful flesh (Rom. 8:3); He was numbered among the transgressors; the Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all (Is. 53:6). He was called a Samaritan (John 8:48) - and one that had a devil (John 10:20); a winebibber and a glutton, a friend of publicans and sinners (Matt. 11:19); a traitor against Caesar (John 19:12); one guilty of blasphemy against God (Matt. 26:65); a conjuror, and one in compact and covenant with the Devil (Matt. 12:24); but His second appearing will be without any likeness of sinful flesh, or imputation of sin by God, or reputation of a sinner among men: "And unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Heb. 9:28).

THE RED SEA

An address by B. A. Ramsbottom

Reading: Exodus 14:1-16

God's leadings are very mysterious – not mysterious to God, but most mysterious to us. This chapter began with such a clear word of direction; it could not have been more clear. The Lord told them not only the way they had to go, but the place where they had to encamp and where they had to settle and He gave such details so that they did not mistake the place. The instructions were so detailed, so careful: "Before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baal-zephon." Now there could not be any more clearer instructions than this - and yet when Israel did as they were told, implicitly obeyed, it seemed that this very spot where they were camping was to be the place of their destruction. How mysterious the Lord's dealings as they found Pharaoh pursuing them, the Red Sea before them, shut in on either hand! There they were in this place where there was no escape, but God Himself had clearly sent them there.

Now you know in some of your trials, you come into them through your own sin; you realise you are wandering out of the way and that is why you have come into these things; but Israel was walking in clear obedience to the Lord to the very detail and it seemed they had come to the place of destruction. So think it not strange if you obey God's voice and then things seem to go wrong – and that emphasis on things *seem* to go wrong, because everything here was going right. The Lord was going to bring His people right through the Red Sea and not only so, but at this point, this spot they had come to in such detail: "Before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baal-zephon," that was the very place where the Egyptians were going to be overthrown and that for ever. So although everything

here seemed to go wrong, in reality everything was going right. God makes no mistakes. The great point is to seek the Lord's Will and then to obey; to leave everything else to the Lord. 'Tis mine to obey, 'tis His to provide.'

Now God was Israel's God. They had God on their side and so have you, believer, but you have God on your side as your Father. "Your Heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things." It would be a wonderful thing if we knew more of this spirit of adoption, to view that God is our Father. Then all must be right.

'Your Heavenly Father ever lives,
And all His choicest treasure gives
To you the favourites of His heart,
Nor will He ever with you part.' (W. Gadsby)

And yet here Israel are found in this dreadful situation and they cried out unto the Lord. You say, 'That is good.' Well, the next verse is not so good because they cried out against Moses; but my point here is this: they cried to the Lord, but there was so much sin mixed with their prayers, so much grumbling and so much complaining and so much opposition to Moses. Their prayers really had a lot of sin mixed with them, but God most mercifully, most graciously, answered them. So, if you come to the Red Sea, if you are found "before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baal-zephon," in this spot, this place of trial, of difficulty, with no way of escape, no way of deliverance, may you still be able to cry to the Lord. "This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles." Do not look to your prayers, whether they are good or whether they are poor, but to the blessed Mediator who stands between in all the merits of His finished work, through whom prayer rises to the throne of God acceptably.

There are times in your life when you cannot see any way of escape;

you cannot even see how God can devise a way of escape. So it was here – and those are the times when the Lord works, makes bare His arm, reveals His great wisdom and His mercy. ‘When thou canst no deliverance see.’ They could not do anything, but they had no need to do anything; God did it all. “Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will shew to you today.” God has a most blessed ability to make a way where there is no way, the most blessed example being in the salvation of His people. Who could have devised a way in which guilty sinners could come to that Holy place where sin no more defiles? But the Lord made a way. You will prove this, when you can see no deliverance and when you can see no way, that God will make a way – and it is when you come there. It seems to me, if I read this aright, that the Israelites had to go forward and it was only as they actually began to step down into the Red Sea that the water divided. At least, that is how I read it; and you will find sometimes you have to go forward before the way is made clear.

God could have told them what He was going to do; He could have told them why they were going to encamp before Pi-hahiroth, but He did not. There would not be much prayer if you knew that trial which is before you tomorrow or next week, that everything is going to end right. There would not be much prayer, so the Lord keeps you in the dark to humble you at His feet, to keep you begging, knocking, asking, seeking, pleading. Sometimes it is a going forward in the dark, but the very moment when you need the Lord, then the waters of the Red Sea divide.

This God is still the same. Perhaps some of you say - “This God is our God for ever and ever” - but what do we need? This same Almighty arm to be put forth for us in mercy in spiritual things and in providence and, beloved friends, His arm “is not shortened, that it cannot save.”

YES, JESUS KNOWS!

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you."

(1 Peter 5:7)

Every bit of grief and sorrow,
Jesus knows;
All the dreading of tomorrow,
Jesus knows;
All thy sadness and thy sighing –
Faded hopes around thee lying;
All the burden of thy crying;
Jesus knows.

All thy bitter disappointments, Jesus knows;
Crosses – that are "His appointments,"
Jesus knows;
Do not cloud thy days with worry;
Take the cross He bids thee carry –
Not for long His aid will tarry;
Jesus knows.

Doubts and fears that so oppress thee,
Jesus knows;
Vain regrets that will distress thee,
Jesus knows;
Lonely hours from loved ones parted
Loss, that leaves thee broken-hearted,
And those tears that memory started,
Jesus knows;

Yes, thy very grief and sorrow,
Jesus knows:
From this thought sweet solace borrow,
Jesus knows;
He has promised not to fail thee;
Ne'er to leave, nor yet forsake thee,
Oh, to trust in Him completely!
Jesus knows.

Edith L. Hennessay



Christian Resources Exhibition

Sandown Park, Esher, KT10 9AJ
15 — 16 October 2025

Please visit us on STAND M5



christianwatch.org.uk
Registered charity no.
1095108

PO Box 6526,
Leamington Spa,
CV31 9NL