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The United Kingdom is currently facing a very difficult and dangerous period in its history: profound political and economic uncertainties, social breakdown, terrorism threats and wanton violence come to mind, set within an angry, divided and hostile atmosphere that is fanned by incessant media coverage, press leaks and the “Wild West” of social media.

How we need to intercede for God’s mercy on this country. We appeal to Him solely on the grounds of the presence here still of some “righteous ones”, God’s faithful praying remnant, as we follow the precedent of Abraham who “stood yet before the Lord” (18.22b, KJV) before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18.16-33).

The reasons for our present parlous state are numerous and complex, but one fundamental cause stands out starkly: the steady, deliberate distancing of this society from its Christian, Protestant, Biblical roots, by British governments since the 1960s, (aided most unfortunately by the repeated granting of the Royal Assent in contravention of the Queen’s Coronation Oath). Not surprisingly the ugly chickens of liberalism and its fellow travellers have grown very large over the years and now dominate every hen coop that we have.

Regrettably the Christian churches of our land have been utterly feeble in resisting this growth, caused to a considerable extent by that acceptance of evolution at the expense of Biblical authority which we have recently been considering. We now find ourselves floundering in a fearful mess of our own making, with politicians shouting at each other as usual while trying to persuade us and themselves that they are in control of events and know what to do.

Now the long-established decision-making system we use in this country is of course “parliamentary democracy”. This system is paraded within western countries as being the finest political system of all, producing many benefits for the people wherever it is applied, and obviously there is some truth in this. In Britain for example, with our “first-past-the-post” system, political power is transferred, and then exercised, simply, clearly and peacefully – blessings won at great cost by our forebears which we must never take for granted.

And yet at the same time, as many have recognised including most famously Sir Winston Churchill, democracy does have serious flaws. It is very good at keeping the peace due to its clarity and simplicity, and we thank God that it does; but, because it is steered only by “what the majority choose” (which in Britain usually means in the House of Commons alone), and because it is prone to lobbying and manipulation, democracy is very bad at choosing the Right over the Wrong, the Good over the Bad, and the True over the False.

Hence many laws are passed based on what the politicians believe are, or should be, the wishes of most of the people, with the hope that in turn the people will gratefully re-elect the governing party who gave them these “goodies”. The list of such liberal, anti-Biblical laws passed in Britain since the 1960s is long, involving for example capital punishment, divorce, abortion and homosexuality, this latter having

led to the recent, extraordinary claim by the politicians that they have now “redefined” marriage on behalf of us all.

These democratic flaws are exacerbated by the actual voting numbers involved, for a majority very rarely is a majority! Most British governments gain power by receiving the votes of only about 20% of the total population, and in the 2016 EU referendum the momentous decision was taken (as it happens, to leave) by about 26.5% of the population; 24.5% voted to remain, leaving the other 49% not involved in the decision at all.

What does all this mean for Bible-upholding Christians in a sinful, troubled society that has so clearly lost its way? In next week’s Reflection God willing, we will consider the principles the Lord has graciously provided in His Word for the proper governance of peoples and nations, and discern within those principles democracy’s rightful God-given role.

For now, may our Christian eyes remain wide open, our Christian ears remain attentive to the Holy Spirit, and our Christian voices remain raised in pleading prayer for our nation, its leaders and its peoples - “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4.16 KJV / and eg., Matthew 22.15-22, 34-40 / Romans 13.1-14 / I Timothy 2.1-6, Philippians 4.4-8).

Praise God, the Lord’s ways are far more sure-footed than the much-vaunted democracy of these days: “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” (II Chronicles 7.14): true for God’s chosen people Israel then, and true for any nation now whose leaders and people will once again humbly seek, honour and fear Almighty God, whose name is still I AM THAT I AM (Exodus 3.14).

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