

## **459 Truth is fallen in the street**

Last week, in response to the recent brutal killing of Sir David Amess, we concentrated on the stark clash between Islamic teachings and the ways, laws and “values” of western, post-Christian democracies. Yet in spite of this clash, Islam, along with many other God-denying pressure groups, is steadily advancing in such societies.

In Isaiah Chapter 59 we read some very old, yet still very apt, words of truth, given to us by the Lord God concerning His covenant people the Jews. In this passage His people are, as so often, being deeply sinful – iniquities, sins, defilement, lying, injustices, vanity, mischief-making, violence, bloodshed: truly, “the way of peace they know not” (from 59.2-8, KJV).

The inevitable consequences come next – no judgment or justice, no light but darkness – “we grope for the wall like the blind ... we stumble at noonday as in the night ... we roar, we mourn, we look for, but do not find” (from vv.9-11). In the midst of all this sinfulness the people fully realised their transgressions, their “lying against the Lord and departing from our God”, so that indeed, “truth is fallen in the street, and equity (fairness) cannot enter ... truth faileth” (from vv.12-15).

Unfortunately we are living in a similarly sinful situation today. We too see that “truth is fallen in the street”, since, for example, the torrent of information poured forth from politicians, the media and the internet, cannot be simply received as plain truth. As we sift the “truth-wheat” from the “falsehood-chaff” in the major issues of the present day, we must be “discerning of spirits”, with our “senses exercised to discern both good and evil”, in the light of God’s Word (from I Corinthians 12.10 / Hebrews 5.14b, KJV); for falsehoods have always done well by masquerading as truth.

One such concern, about to burst forth upon us with wall-to-wall fever-pitch coverage in the media, involves “climate change”, “global warming” and COP26. Two basic claims are constantly presented to us as Established Truth regarding this subject – (1) The earth is getting warmer, and (2) Human behaviour is responsible. These two claims are then followed by the many “Therefore’s” as to what we must all do to stave off disaster.

Now there may well be some truth in these claims, but there may well be also some truth on the other side! - that any global warming is cyclical, natural and normal, with human activities actually having little effect on the overall situation. For instance we learn that the Maldiv Islands in the Indian Ocean, long stated to be at great risk of being submerged due to rising sea levels, have apparently “gained land area over the past 20 years” (Steve Milloy, of JunkScience); that April to September 2021 has been the coldest Antarctic winter on record (an average of -61.1°C at the Amundsen–Scott South Pole Station). Regrettably scientists who point out such examples tend to be vilified, de-funded and edged out.

On the This Week page of our website, [www.fsmins.org](http://www.fsmins.org), is an excellent 43-page pdf “Anthropogenic Global Warming”, written by Don Batten of Creation Ministries International (CMI, [www.creation.com](http://www.creation.com) – a first-class website) – thorough, careful, scriptural, technical; this pdf is free for you to download and is a very useful counterbalance to the tsunami of words about to burst forth from COP26 in Glasgow. And if in debate on these issues our minds go blank, we can always make known Genesis 8.22 which just about “says it all” anyway!

So we return with relief to Isaiah 59 and to the Lord Himself – (who we can expect to be totally ignored at COP26: “environment”, “nature” and “Mother Nature”, Yes; “creation” and “Almighty God our Creator”, No). Yet - “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened ... the Lord saw, and it displeased him that [there was] no judgment (and) no intercessor ... According to [their] deeds, he will repay, fury to his adversaries ... So shall they fear the name of the Lord (from west and east) ... When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. And the Redeemer shall come to Zion” (from vv.1,15,16,18-20). His covenant with Jacob shall be “from henceforth and for ever” (v.21end).

Praise God, the “Redeemer coming to Zion” concerns the Lord’s visible return in glory at the end of the “great tribulation” (Matthew 24.21,29-31), those terrible years of judgment which are to follow the “rapture” of the true Church (I Thessalonians 1.10; 4.13-18; 5.9 / I Corinthians 15.51-52), and which precede the millennial kingdom on earth with Christ reigning in Jerusalem (Matthew 25.31ff / Revelation 20.1-6).

We can be quite sure that the Lord God our Creator will have His way in all things, in fulfilment of all His gracious promises and brushing aside the wilful denials of His very existence (Exodus 3.13b-14 / Deuteronomy

6.4-5 / Psalm 2 / Romans 1.18-23). Meanwhile we are to be - those intercessors (Isaiah 59.16); the sifters of Truth from Falsehood in the light of God's Word and of the evidence around us; and the holders-forth of "the glorious gospel of Christ" (II Corinthians 4.4).

What privilege. What responsibility.

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