

509 “Another nice mess!”

Laurel and Hardy’s catch-phrase of “another nice mess!” is an apt description of the current, extraordinary political scene in Britain. In response we do our best to consider whatever is going on through the lens of God’s Word, truly “a lamp to our feet and a light to our path” (from Psalm 119.105).

A summary of recent events will suffice here: political chaos, about-turns, sackings, resignations, cliques, plottings, contradictions, and talk of a “globalist, Remoaner coup” against Brexit; plus now the Prime Minister’s resignation and yet another Conservative leadership contest. The nation’s reputation for sense and stability has been thrown away, while grave global threats continue.

Yet only six weeks ago when the Queen died, there was a profound outpouring of gratitude to her across the nation, with a surge of national pride and unity. The subsequent period of mourning for her, planned for so long by “the Establishment”, was excellently carried out, earning respect from around the world, and bringing to the fore our unambiguous Christian, Protestant Constitution. How quickly have things changed.

So a key question now arises: does this political chaos suggest that, at the very least, we are experiencing divinely-sent warnings to this wayward nation, over the need to change its ways rapidly if it still has any God-fearing sense? Based on the frequent scriptural precedent of “national obedience leads to divine blessing” and vice-versa, the next question then to be asked is: IF the current chaos does indicate the Lord’s strong displeasure with this nation, then on what possible grounds could that divine displeasure be focussed?

For a start, and mentioned at times in these Reflections when relevant, British governments have for decades steadily replaced our solid, constitutional Christian foundations with trendy liberalism and secularism. Stable marriage, the nuclear family, and births within wedlock have been swapped for sexual promiscuity and confusion, cohabitation, births out of wedlock, marital breakdown, broken families and damaged offspring. As a consequence, and now egged on by the internet and social media and so on, have come higher rates of divorce, abortion, alcoholism, drug addiction, homelessness, self-harm and suicides. We can hardly expect the Lord God to applaud such a situation.

Abortions are running on average, so we are told, at over 500 abortions per day in this country. This vile practice surely merits the Lord God's severest judgment, yet it seems to be regarded as the mark of a modern civilised society! We remember the Lord's words to Cain - "the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground" (Genesis 4.10b). Divine judgment is due on this.

The Welfare State, with its worthy but limited intentions in 1948, has led steadily to the diminution of personal responsibility, and is now saddled with eye-watering, un-fundable costs across the board. Every part within it constantly demands more tax-payers' money, leading to an ever-larger State role in people's lives. Is this really how the Lord desires a society to be run?

Mass immigration, both legal and illegal, and of late overwhelmingly from Muslim-majority countries, may well bring some economic benefits as is claimed. But the presence of members of several different "world Faiths", now in our midst in growing numbers, is a further reason for the political downgrading of this nation's Christian heritage. All Faiths are now to be granted equal respect, but does Almighty God do that??! He knows, and by His grace so do we know, that the truth-credentials of the Judeo-Christian Faiths far outweigh any rival claims to divinely-revealed truth.

As we clearly saw after the death of our late Queen, constitutionally we remain a Christian society, and the scriptural guidance we are given, from the example of how Israel was to treat in-comers, can still be applied today. Genuinely needy in-comers are welcomed, on the understanding that they fit in with the laws and customs of the host nation, but clearly this fitting-in is not happening now in several areas of this country. Is the Lord in part not allowing the current political, social and economic chaos as a clarion call in divided, post-Christian Britain, to return as a nation to Him?

Finally we must mention with shame the general feebleness of the Christian churches over the decades in stemming the tide of godlessness that is now swamping us. For whatever reasons, clearly the watchmen have largely failed (eg., Ezekiel 33.7-11).

Regrettably but of necessity, this Reflection gives reasons for the Lord's displeasure with this nation. Our reaction of course is to be one of deep repentance, as we earnestly plead with the Lord for His mercy upon this

sinful nation, as Moses had to do so often on behalf of the children of Israel (eg., Exodus 32.7-14).

By God's grace in these wild days, may we be "blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye – we - shine as lights in the world; holding forth the word of life ..." (from Philippians 2.15-16a, KJV).

For when the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ is finally established on this earth, thankfully "another nice mess" will become a thing of the past.

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