

## 549 The Banner of God's Truth

Within the UK news headlines in recent days two individuals have been given a prominent place: Nigel Farage, a loved or loathed 'Marmite' figure, has been "exited" by his bank, his account being closed because of his political views, despite the bank wriggling round the truth for some weeks; and Andy Malkinson has just been released as a free man, having served 17 years in prison for a rape he did not commit, for which the DNA evidence proving his innocence was there from the start. Should he eventually get compensation – by no means a certainty – he will apparently be required to pay a chunk of that money to the Prison Service for his "board and lodging"! "You couldn't make this up, could you?".

These two cases, while differing in detail, carry the same disturbing message, that basic institutions in the country, such as banks, the judicial system, the police and the Home Office (and presumably more besides) can be incompetent, arrogant, "woke", self-protecting or downright corrupt. Is this sad truth not a further consequence of the British State in its various functions moving wilfully further and further away from our Judeo-Christian Scriptures and heritage since 1945?

Looking further afield, to extreme temperatures and rampant forest fires, some apparently started deliberately, interestingly we have heard biblical references to "like a biblical catastrophe" and "like Armageddon". So on the one hand Almighty God Himself has been "exited" from public discourse, while on the other a vague biblical knowledge still exists among some news reporters, with particular regard to catastrophes and judgments!

One further trend is also relevant for us here. This is the rapid move towards a cashless society, when, after the State had introduced a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), every financial transaction would be, and could only be, made by card and/or digitally. This means that "Big Brother State" would have 100% knowledge of how we spend our money, 100% control over our money, and 100% ability to block or take our money away if we are deemed to have the wrong views or lifestyles. Nigel Farage describes such a situation as a "Chinese-style social credit system", with the State in complete control of everything and everyone. (Thankfully we know that such a State and its officials would still be under the authority of Almighty God, which they would discover one day to their cost; eg., Hebrews 4.13; 9.27). Biblically, we see how such a CBDC scenario paves the way for Revelation 13.16b-17, set in the 7-

year tribulation that is to come on the earth, when all must have “a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads, and that no man might buy or sell, save that he had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name”. Clearly, by our still using cash as much as possible, we can at least retain some privacy and slow down the CBDC juggernaut.

Let God the Father’s Christ-redeemed people be well aware of what is going on, and of where things are heading. The old Bible-based norms within society are fading fast, with Christian faith and discipleship increasingly in the liberals’ “cross-hairs”, to be attacked, smeared and silenced, notably at present by the so-called “LGBTQ+” lobby. Truly we can say to the Lord in these turbulent days, – “Thou hast shewed thy people hard things: thou hast made us to drink the wine of astonishment” (Psalm 60.3, KJV).

But that Psalm continues – “Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah” (v.4). By God’s grace, the “them” of that verse now applies, through Christ, to us, and the “Selah” basically means - “Now pause and reflect”. Yes, we pause and reflect that that God-given, metaphorical “banner of truth” is now in our, Christian, hands, to be waved and displayed as it were as boldly as are those numerous “Gay Pride”, 6-coloured rainbow flags with which we are now frequently confronted. (Those 6 colours are a “give-away” as to the origins of that truncated rainbow, for, as E W Bullinger points out in his book “Number in Scripture”, scripturally the number 6 is the number of imperfection, standing for Man without God and Man without Christ).

So, whether we care to or not, and whether it is easy or not, we are to raise “the banner of God’s truth” with which we are now entrusted. Let us know God’s Word as thoroughly as we can, both displaying it as a banner and wielding it as “the sword of the Spirit”, with courtesy, clarity and conviction under the Holy Spirit’s prompting (egs., Isaiah 55.10-11 / Ephesians 6.17 / Hebrews 4.12).

Psalm 60 ends thus – “Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man. Through God we shall do valiantly: for he [it is that] shall tread down our enemies” (vv.11-12). Yes indeed, for those enemies are first and foremost God’s enemies, and hence, while He mercifully honours any efforts of ours, it is from Him, through Christ, that those victories shall surely come (I Corinthians 15.57-58).