

551 Broken Cisterns and a Trojan Horse

It is now two years since the shambolic withdrawal of western troops and thousands of desperate civilians from Kabul in Afghanistan, after the Taliban had taken over the country within a few weeks. Those scenes of chaos and horror in and around Kabul airport remain a terrible testimony to the jaw-dropping incompetence of western politicians, headed up by President Joe Biden and his staff. Twenty years of western “blood and treasure” had been poured into that broken country in a bid to bring peace, democracy and “progress”, all of which efforts were seen to lie in the dust in those chaotic weeks of August 2021.

Now Gordon Brown, a former British Prime Minister and currently serving as the United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education, (what wonderful job titles they dream up!), is demanding that “the West” should take tough action against the Taliban rulers of Afghanistan, especially over their treatment of women and girls. Mr Brown’s words are merely the latest example of western incomprehension of both genuine Islam and its keenest adherents.

As we are well aware, the West, loosely termed ‘Christendom’ in years gone by, has long since replaced that outworn title with trendy new values under the banner of ‘Liberal, Secular Democracy’. Those are the values with which the West sallies forth to see off its various opponents, such as Russia, China and those states actively loyal to the Islamic Faith. To quote from that Kansas State prayer from last time, “Heavenly Father ... we have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values. We have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and called it pluralism ...”.

Those words of Jeremiah 2.13 also come to mind, scripturally referring to the apostasy of Israel, but just as relevant today for once-Christian, now God-rejecting, nations: “For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, [and] hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water” (KJV). Are not the much-vaunted Liberalism and Secularism on which the West now relies two such mere “broken cisterns that can hold no water”? – as a glance round any society produced by these broken cisterns so clearly displays.

In these Reflections we occasionally mention Islam when relevant, as is the case once again just now with Mr Brown’s naïve utterances on the second anniversary of the Taliban take-over. Limited space prevents much detail here, but let us be reminded of some key features of this

Faith. True Islam, as found in core teachings of the Qur'an and the Hadiths, teaches superiority, arrogance and violence towards "non-believers", notably Jews and Christians, (still seen as the "crusaders"), as the historic "track record" of Islamic conquest so clearly demonstrates. "Allah" is very far from being simply Almighty God under a different name, and Jesus is downgraded to being a revered prophet now surpassed by Mohammed (so, John 3.16-18,34-36 applies). Arising from this sense of superiority is the permission, even duty, to lie to and cheat any opponents to gain temporary advantage, and then to swoop if and when circumstances allow. This is just what has happened in Afghanistan since 2001, and the West fell for it "hook, line and sinker", and still does.

Thankfully for the rest of us, most Muslims are not that devout, preferring to get on with their lives while observing basic Islamic behaviour as required. But the Taliban are not like that at all! They will stand firm on their beliefs while speaking soothing words of intent so as to wring out of the West yet more cash, aid and equipment. It works!

Another facet of the relationship between Islam and the West concerns the ongoing, apparently unstoppable, mass immigration into Europe, mostly from Islamic countries with many arrivals being unvetted. These migrants, (some of whom of course are in genuine need, but which ones?), take great risks and at great expense to get to "the West", to enjoy the benefits of living in such Christian-shaped countries. At the same time no secret is made of the desire for Islam to take over these countries as time goes by, simply by higher birth-rates and the ballot box. Here is a Trojan horse in our midst, growing in numbers and influence year by year.

All this points to a great impending clash yet to come between Almighty God and His various challengers, just as is scripturally foretold, notably in Revelation Chapters 4-19 concerning the approaching 7-year tribulation. Before then Christ's Church is to be removed (eg., I Thessalonians 1.10), for which we must prepare and warn others. And meanwhile, with any Muslim neighbours? – we are to offer steady prayer, cautious friendliness and courteous realism, for they too need Jesus Christ as Lord, just like everyone else (egs., John 5.23-24; 6.40,44,47; 20.27-28 / Romans 3.20-28).

Mercifully the likes of the Taliban will not have the victory. That victory is won by Christ, and is given by God the Father to all who believe in Him (I Corinthians 15.57-58). Yes, "Jesus Christ IS Lord!"

© August 2023 Faithful Sheep Ministries – www.fsmins.org