

Better or worse

Will Labour fix our foundations?



On 27th August Sir Keir Starmer gave a speech in Downing Street in which he told the nation: "Things will get worse before they get better."

He went on to say that 'this project (the new Labour government) has always been about fixing the foundations of this country.'

I sent him a letter, enclosing copies of Light for the Last Days and '[10 Signs of the return of the Messiah](#)' saying:

'In your recent speech you said, "Things will get worse before they get better." Unfortunately, before they get better, they will get much, much worse. Then

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they will get better when Jesus returns. For details of how this will work out please read the enclosed magazine and booklet.'

Why did I say that things will go from bad to much, much worse, before they get better? Two reasons:

1. The prophecies must be fulfilled

(Matthew 26.56). Whoever finds themselves in a position of power in any country in the world today will be faced with situations prophesied in the Bible for the last days of this age. These are uniformly bad situations: 'perilous times' (2 Timothy 3), 'wickedness increasing' 'wars, famines, pestilences, earthquakes, persecutions' (Matthew 24.3-14). This will lead to a time of unique tribulation on earth (Matthew 24.15-31) and the rise to power of a dictatorial world system. (Revelation 13).

2. The foundations have been destroyed

In Psalm 11 we read 'If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?' As far as Britain is concerned, the social moral and spiritual foundations which underpinned our society have already been destroyed by the rejection of Christianity. The Labour government will not be able to repair these foundations and will contribute to the process of destroying them.

What about the government?

Three months after its massive election win, the Starmer government is already in a bad place, accused of breaking manifesto promises and bringing in policies which will have the opposite effect of that

intended. There are fears that this will a greater economic and social crisis than the one they inherited from the Tories.

In this article I want to look beyond the political issues to some of the spiritual issues, especially concerning the foundations of our society. The Bible tells us that in principle we should obey the government: **Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities.** Romans 13.1-2. Paul's description of government in Romans 13 is an idealised picture of what government should be not what it generally is. It should be a 'terror to evil' and a rewarder of good works. For this reason, he says we should obey the government and pay our taxes (Romans 13). He also says we should pray for the government (1 Timothy 2) so that we can live 'a godly and peaceable life', with freedom to practice our faith.

We should obey the government when it is requiring us to do things which are acceptable in the sight of God, but not when it is telling us to do evil. Good government will not interfere with freedom of religion, but bad government will. The most extreme bad governments, like Hitler's Nazis or Stalin's Communists, end up punishing the good and rewarding the evil as they persecute Christians and Jewish people.

Democracy has a much better record of preserving freedom of conscience than dictatorship, but it too is open to corruption and manipulation by evil forces. Right now, many see the democratic nations of the west in danger of being taken over by antichristian forces. Bible prophecy indicates that at the end of the age there will be an evil world government under

the control of one known as the beast or antichrist who will be empowered by the devil (Revelation 13).

Will the new Labour government save us from this fate, or drive us closer to it? To answer this question, we must look not just at political issues, but also spiritual ones.



What's wrong with Britain?

The basic reason for the problems facing Britain, and the nations in the western world, is the rejection of the true God and biblical values. The prophet Isaiah, writing around 2700 years ago, warned that his society was provoking God to judgement for this reason: **'Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity ... They have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked to anger the Holy One of Israel, they have turned away backward. ... The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faints. From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but bruises and sores and raw wounds; they are not pressed out or bound up or softened with oil.'** Isaiah 1.4-8

The prophet compares the condition of his nation to a sick body from head to toe. Its head, the controlling influence of the body, is injured, therefore not functioning with

sound judgement. Its heart, the emotional, spiritual realm, is afflicted, causing the whole body to malfunction. From the top people running the country to the people at the bottom of the social pile, it is a diseased and wounded body. No remedies are being applied to heal this body, so it is just rotting away. A body that carries on in this way is going to die, unless it can find healing from this diseased condition.

The prophet saw a rejection and rebellion against God at all levels of society. The rot also applies to the religious leaders, who have abandoned the true teaching of the Word of God and compromised with idolatry and foreign gods. As a result, God rejected their religious services as so much hypocrisy, a waste of time:

'To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?' Says the Lord. 'I have had enough of burnt offerings ... bring no more futile sacrifices ... I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting. ... When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood.' Isaiah 1.11-15

This is God's verdict on Israel in Isaiah's day and Britain in our day. The Synod of the Church of England has decided to bless homosexual partnerships, something which God cannot bless because it goes against God's moral law. This institution which for centuries has been foundational in the spiritual life of the nation is now tearing itself apart as its leaders depart from true Christian teaching. God rebukes these leaders and aligns them with Sodom and Gomorrah: **'Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom; give ear to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah.'** Isaiah 1.9-10.

Genesis 19 tells us what was going on in Sodom and Gomorrah, the cities which were destroyed by the judgement of God for their great wickedness. Sexual immorality, especially aggressive homosexuality was imposing itself on the people, and led to this judgement falling.

In the 1960s sexual revolution, society began to throw off the restraint of biblical commandments about sex and the priority of family values - one man married to one woman being faithful to each other. In 2013 David Cameron's Conservative government passed the bill legalising homosexual marriage in 2013. This conflicted with Bible teaching on homosexual acts being against God's law (Leviticus 18.22, Romans 1.18-32). The Bible teaches that marriage is the relationship between a man and a woman, sanctified and ordained by God, for the purpose of bringing children into the world (Genesis 2.24, Matthew 19.1-6, Ephesians 5.22-6.4).

Now we have schools teaching children about sex with no values based on the Bible, saying that homosexuality and heterosexuality are equally valid and also telling children they can change sex if they don't feel comfortable in the sex they were born into. If you question this you may find yourself in trouble with society, even with the law. On current form it looks like the Labour Government will increase the promotion of the LGBT agenda, with its assault on true Christian values.

The social conditions in the nation

Back in Isaiah we read how the prophet connects the departure from God with the desperate condition in the nation: *'Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire; strangers devour your land in your presence; and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers. ... The faithful city has become a harlot! It was full of justice; Righteousness lodged in it, but now murderers. Your silver has become dross, your wine mixed with water. Your princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves; everyone loves bribes, and follows after rewards. They do not defend the fatherless, nor does the cause of the widow come before them.'* Isaiah 1.7-23.

In Britain today, we see a general state of social decay, as the country loses the core values, culture and stability that it was once built upon. We see also growing violence in society, with random knife attacks and senseless killings, prisons full with nowhere to put criminals who are now being released early. In many areas of Britain people's lives are blighted by anti-social behaviour, noise, vandalism, low level violence and aggression, shop lifting and damage to property. If you report this to the police, they will probably do nothing, but you are likely to face threats, intimidation and violence from those responsible. There are constant reports of corruption in high places and neglect of the vulnerable by those with power, like the recent Post Office scandal and the Grenfell Tower fire.

Isaiah wrote *'your silver has become as dross'*. The Hebrew word for silver is כסף kesef which is also the ordinary word

for money in Hebrew. The cost of living crisis has left many people struggling to pay for food, rent, heating and so on. The Labour government is currently blaming the Conservative government for leaving behind a 'black hole' in the economy which they hope to resolve by raising taxes in the coming budget. Now many commentators are warning that the policies pursued by Labour will increase the economic problems facing the nation. Andrew Neill wrote in the Daily Mail 'Labour is already sowing the seeds of its own destruction. How on earth does indulging the unions and driving out wealth creators deliver growth?' Labour's plans for workers' rights will make life difficult for small business, already burdened with more red tape, making it harder for employers to operate and make a profit. As a result many may go out of business.

There is also the global problem which may be coming down the road to hit all nations in the not too distant future. UK debt now stands at £2.3 trillion, US debt at \$33 trillion. These figures are rising every hour. Global economic turmoil is threatened especially as the BRICS nations, the economic alliance led by Russia and China, are attacking the dollar as the world's reserve currency with measures that could bring its value crashing down. Japan's economy (the world's fourth largest) is in trouble and Germany (the economic powerhouse of the Eurozone) is in decline due to the cut off of oil and gas from Russia. All of these factors threaten a global financial crisis coming which could destroy the value of our money and for which no government, right wing or left wing, has any answer.

Isaiah also spoke about a situation in which *strangers devour your land in your*

presence. There are a number of levels in which we can see how 'strangers' / foreigners have devoured this land. As a result of the Industrial Revolution Britain became an economic powerhouse, with factories producing all manner of goods, exported around the world through the British Empire. Now it's nearly all gone. The mines, steel works, shipbuilding, clothing and textiles and the factories have closed down with their products now made in China or somewhere in Asia and imported from abroad. Much of what remains in Britain has been bought by foreign investors, so it's not only no more 'made in Britain' but no more owned by Britain. Labour wants to take this further in its



pursuit of net zero carbon emissions, closing down North Sea oil production, making us dependent on others for our energy needs. The wind turbines, electric cars and solar panels needed to achieve net zero will also be made mainly in China. As a result, we become dependent on foreigners, who may or may not give us what we want, and may impose conditions which will be harmful to our society. Added to this we have AI (Artificial Intelligence) coming in to take away a number of jobs, which can now be done by machines and robots in place of humans.

Then we have the situation caused by mass immigration. This is hard to speak about, because if you say anything negative about it you may be accused of being racist and 'far right' or even a Nazi sympathiser, which I am emphatically not. I have worked most of my life in multi racial situations as a school teacher and now the pastor of a multi racial church. I recognise that many people who have immigrated into this country have made a positive contribution to our society.

However mass migration and progressive Islamisation have now become a major problem right across Europe, causing a breakdown in social cohesion. With this goes a fear that the culture, history and Christian foundation of our society is being undermined and replaced. Left wing and Liberal forces have championed the cause of multiculturalism, which has become a channel for attacking the traditional values of society. Multiculturalism means we must accept all cultures and religions as equal and therefore cannot require those coming in to adapt to the culture of the host nation.

After the recent race riots in Britain, Melanie Phillips wrote: "Multiculturalism is not the template for a tolerant society. Tolerance of other cultures and ethnicities should be a given in any civilised country. Multiculturalism, by contrast, is a doctrine which says all cultures must be deemed to have values that are no better or worse than any other. Multiculturalism therefore makes it impossible for a western society to require new arrivals to conform to its precepts such as equality for women, freedom of speech and tolerance of minorities.

For years, some of us warned that the wilful destruction of British and western culture, the deliberate concealment of what was happening and the denigration and harassment of anyone who objected would not only destroy social cohesion but risked a violent backlash from neo-Nazis, thugs and agitators of various stripes (and the rise of "populist" politicians) alongside ordinary people who had simply had enough. That's what we're now seeing playing out on the streets of Britain. Neo-fascists and other thugs and agitators may be piggy-backing on such tensions; but this social disaster now under way is owned by the west's entitled liberals, whose arrogant disdain for the culture they have so wilfully ruined knows no bounds."

Authentic Christianity is opposed to racism and violence against minority groups. But we are also opposed to elements of the anti-racist groups, especially when allied to the Islamist or the far-left agenda. In order to push their agenda, the left have created the bogeyman of the far right and labelled those who question them as far right or fascist. Some of them may be, but there are a growing number of people, who do not take part in riots, nor push hatred of immigrants, but who are saying 'enough is enough' when it comes to illegal immigration and the imposition of multiculturalism. You cannot keep bringing in thousands of people every year, with different values and culture from our own and hope to integrate them and provide for them without harming the interests of the people who have lived here for generations.

As a result Britain has lost its core values culture and stability that it was once built upon. In particular we see that

Islam has a goal to replace Christianity as the dominant religion, which it aims to do by 2050 by immigration and a high birth rate. A film entitled 'How Islam is quietly conquering Europe without firing a shot' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r2xzv7XvKtK> shows how this is happening across the continent, as major cities are being Islamised, creating parallel societies where Islamic laws and customs dominate every aspect of daily life.

Muslim migrants have flooded into Europe, some fleeing the chaos of Islamic states but also as economic migrants. They are not leaving their beliefs behind. Many not only seek refuge but to fulfil the religious obligation of 'hijrah' the migration for the cause of Allah, which is viewed as a highly meritorious act in Islam.

Historically, hijrah was the migration of Muhammad and his followers from Mecca to Medina, a pivotal event that led to the expansion of Islam. Today, hijrah serves as a strategy for populating and dominating new lands, in line with Islamic teachings. As the Qur'an states, 'Whoever emigrates for the cause of Allah will find on the earth many locations and abundance' (Qur'an 4:100). Muslims are encouraged to settle in non-Muslim countries to spread Islamic influence and establish sharia (Islamic) law. This is not just migration; it is an ideological and religious act of conquest.

Western liberals and Marxists have encouraged this process, with a constant downgrading of European history and culture. Left wing dogmas such as the Critical Race Theory and Cancel Culture are being imposed on our youth in schools and universities, portraying traditional British society as evil and racist. This assault

on the cultural foundations of our society originates in the political left, so the Labour Party in government will not reverse it.

This has a negative effect on Christianity. The dominant culture that has existed in these islands for much of the past two thousand years is influenced by Christianity, some good and some not so good. True Christianity has influenced many social reforms, including the abolition of slavery. It also became the basis of many of our laws, influencing our judicial system, education system, culture and the media. We also see how Christian missionaries in the 19th century took the Christian faith around the world, causing Christian churches to be planted worldwide. Britain took a leading role in this endeavour.

Now the diversity agenda teaches that we should be ashamed of all this. We should not assert the primacy of the Christian faith as the basis for the laws and values of this country and influence upon our history and way of life. We must teach that all gods are equal. We cannot say that there is one God and one mediator between God and humanity, Jesus Christ, (1 Timothy 2.5). However Jesus said '[I am the way the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father but by Me](#)' (John 14.6).

The Bible says that the '[gods of the nations are but idols](#)' (Psalm 96.5). Under the covenant with Moses, Israelites were forbidden to worship such gods. The New Testament also forbids Christians to join worship of God through Jesus Christ with idols (1 Corinthians 8). If we believe this is true then we have a problem when it comes to multi-faith and multi-cultural issues. The Quran denies the central Christian message that Jesus is the Son

of God, equal with the Father, who died for our sins and rose again from the dead to give forgiveness and eternal life to all believers. According to 1 John 2 this is an antichrist teaching.

We also cannot accept the teaching of yoga which so many westerners now use for exercise and spiritual development. At its heart yoga points to the Hindu teaching of discovering god within you through meditation and yoga exercises. The Bible teaches that within us we find a sinful human nature which we need to be set free from by repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus and inviting Him to come into our lives from outside of ourselves.

Islam and Hinduism, and westernised versions of yoga and New Age contradict teaching of Bible. That doesn't mean we should hate Muslims and Hindus. Even if we see a hostility to our faith, Jesus told us to love our enemies! But it does mean we can't submit to their religious claims and put their religions on the same level as biblical faith in Jesus Christ. Either what we believe is true or what they believe is true. But they are not equally true.

All this is causing a serious undermining of the biblical foundations of the nation. Clearly such foundations do not matter to Sir Keir Starmer and his government. In fact Starmer has shown an instinct to defer to Islam and is considering bringing in laws on Islamophobia which will make it illegal to criticise Islamic practice and belief. If this happens it will further restrict our freedom to preach authentic Christianity and to defend the faith against those who attack it.

The right foundation

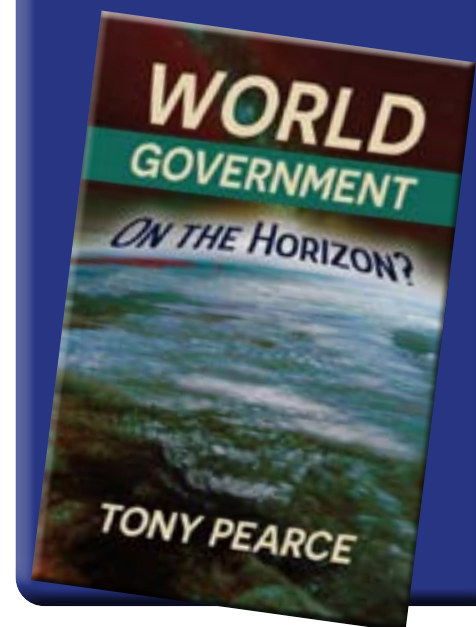
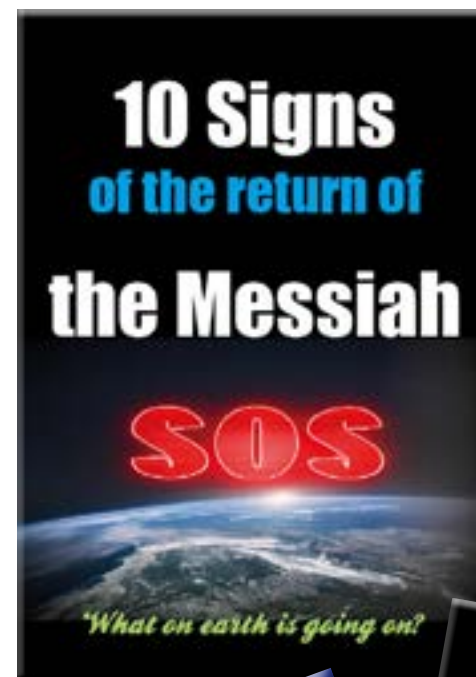
God tells Israel: 'Unless the Lord of hosts had left to us a very small remnant, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been made like Gomorrah.' Isaiah 1.9

The 'remnant' here speaks of the true believers in the Lord whose lives are built on the foundation of faith in God and stand firm for His truth in the midst of a corrupt society. If you take away their influence, that society will end up being destroyed by God as happened to Sodom and Gomorrah. In Genesis 18 God speaks to Abraham and warns him of the coming destruction of Sodom. Abraham pleads for mercy for the city. God says if He can find a godly remnant of ten faithful people in the city, He will preserve it. In the event He could not find even ten and so the city was destroyed.

To become part of this remnant people Isaiah tells people to repent and turn to the Lord: "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, learn to do good; Seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; But if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword"; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Isaiah 1.17-20

Those who do this should build their lives on the foundation of faith and obedience to the Lord, as Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount: "Therefore whoever hears

these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." Matthew 7.24-27.



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The Hope of Israel



The Israeli national anthem is Hatikva, meaning 'The Hope.' The words were written in 1886 by Naphtali Herz Imber, an



הַתִּקְוָה

כָּל עוֹד בְּלִבְּךָ פְּנִימָה,
נֶפֶשׁ יְהוּדֵי הוֹמִיָּה.
וּלְפָאֲתֵי מִזְרַח קְדִימָה
עֵין לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפִיָּה.
עוֹד לֹא אֶבְדָּה תְּקוּמָתוֹ,
הַתִּקְוָה בֶּת שָׁנוֹת אֲלֵפִים,
לִהְיוֹת עִם חֶפְשִׁי בְּאֶרְצוֹ,
אֶרֶץ צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם.

English poet originally from Bohemia. The melody was written by Samuel Cohen, an immigrant from Moldova. In English:

"As long as the Jewish spirit is yearning deep in the heart,
With eyes turned toward the East, looking toward Zion,
Then our hope - the two-thousand-year-old hope - will not be lost:
To be a free people in our land, the land of Zion and Jerusalem."

The fulfilment of this Zionist dream began to come to pass with the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 and the re-unification of Jerusalem after the Six Day War in 1967. Israel's victories in wars against much larger and better equipped Arab armies were seen by some Jews and Christians as evidence of God's favour coming on Israel and the ancient prophecies of the Bible being fulfilled. In the book of Jeremiah 31.10 we read: "Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd does his flock.'"

Ezekiel 36.24-28 prophesies the regathering of the Jewish people from worldwide dispersion to the land of Israel as the first stage of a process leading to the spiritual restoration of Israel: For

I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do

them. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.

The physical restoration of Israel began with the Aliyah movement in the 19th century that established Jewish settlements in Palestine culminating in the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. Since then Israel has made amazing achievements, transforming this once barren land into a modern state, with cities, advances in technology, medicine and agriculture, causing the desert to blossom as a rose. Jews from around the world have been regathered to their ancient homeland as prophesied in the Bible. Israel has successfully fought off attempts to destroy it by surrounding Arab armies, and now has a peace agreement with Egypt and Jordan, as well as the Abraham Accords giving peace with the Gulf Arab states. Israeli Arabs have full rights as citizens in the land and those who are happy to live in peace with the Jewish people have benefited from living in the only democracy in the Middle East.

However, the current situation in Israel is one of deep distress and danger. A year ago on October 7th Hamas terrorists broke through Israel's supposedly impenetrable security fence, killing 1139 Israelis and taking 251 hostage into Gaza. The murders, rape and hostage taking was a horrible picture of what might happen if hostile forces overran the State of Israel. Since then, the war in Gaza has cost hundreds of Israeli lives and thousands of Palestinians. Palestinian deaths include Hamas terrorists who embed themselves and their weapons in civilian areas thus

increasing the suffering of the people. Images of destruction and suffering of the people of Gaza have caused people around the world to turn against Israel. This has given rise to increasing hostility to Jewish people living in the diaspora and a rise in world-wide Antisemitism. Demonstrations in many countries have called for an end to the war and even the end of Israel. The chant 'from the River to the Sea, Palestine shall be free' ultimately means replacing the State of Israel with an Arab State of Palestine from the River Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea.



The main threat which Israel faces comes from Iran which has called for the destruction of Israel and is manufacturing missiles and drones to use against Israel as well as working on a nuclear bomb. Iran has built a ring of fire around Israel through its proxy organisations in Gaza, Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq and its own forces operating in Syria. It has supplied Hezbollah in Lebanon with around 150,000 missiles, many of which are capable of reaching the whole of Israel. Since the Gaza war began, attacks from Hezbollah have made much of northern Israel a no go area, with towns and settlements abandoned and about 60,000

Israelis evacuated from their homes, many saying they will never return.

Israel is not powerless in the situation and has very advanced and effective anti-missile systems in place and powerful deterrent forces able to launch against its enemies. However, Israel's resources are not infinite and there is fear that a full scale war between Israel and Iran or Hezbollah would have catastrophic results.

The world's powers, particularly the USA and the UN, are busy trying to work out a peace settlement which aims at a 'two state solution'. This means setting up a Palestinian state alongside Israel roughly on the present territory of the West Bank and Gaza, including East Jerusalem. This is the territory of Judea and Samaria, the heartland of biblical Israel. Israel's government fears this will not lead to genuine peace, but that the Palestinian State would be used as a base to launch more attacks on Israel with the ultimate aim of dismantling what remains of the Jewish state.

Because of all this 'Hatikva', hope is in short supply and many Israelis feel forsaken by the world and even by God. The question is asked 'Where is God in all of this?' Around 2600 years ago the prophet Jeremiah felt the same way and asked the same question: 'O the Hope of Israel, his Saviour in time of trouble, why should You be like a stranger in the land, and like a traveller who turns aside to tarry for a night? Why should You be like a man astonished, like a mighty one who cannot save? Yet You, O Lord, are in our midst, and we are called by Your name; do not leave us!' Jeremiah 14.7-9.

The Hope of Israel and the Messiah

For many Orthodox Jews the hope is that the Messiah will come and bring peace and hope to Israel. Rabbi Kaplan in his book '[The Real Messiah?](#)' puts it like this: 'The Jewish concept of the Messiah is that which is clearly developed by the prophets of the Bible. He is a leader of the Jews, strong in wisdom, power and spirit. It is he who will bring complete redemption to the Jewish people, both spiritually and physically. Along with this he will bring eternal peace, love, prosperity, and moral perfection to the entire world. The Jewish Messiah is truly human in origin. He is born of ordinary human parents, and is of flesh and blood like all mortals.'

There is a logical question we have to ask about this statement. How can a purely human person who is mortal and therefore going to die, bring about 'eternal peace, love, prosperity and moral perfection to the whole world?' This last sentence is a rejection of Yeshua / Jesus as the Messiah and the New Testament concept that the Messiah is Son of God, an eternal divine person.

A similar rejection of Jesus as Messiah is found in Asher Norman's book, '[26 Reasons why Jews don't believe in Jesus.](#)' This states that there are six tasks which the Messiah has to accomplish:

1. Have the correct genealogy by being descended from King David and King Solomon.
2. Be anointed King of Israel.
3. Return the Jewish people to Israel.
4. Rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem.
5. Bring peace to the world and end all war.
6. Bring knowledge of God to the world.

Asher Norman says that anyone who has not done these six things cannot be the Messiah. Therefore, Jesus is not the Messiah. He says that we will know when the Messiah has come when someone has succeeded in doing all of this. He is following the teaching of Maimonides (who lived from 1135 to 1204). He said the Messiah has to show that He is Messiah by completing these tasks. As a result, the Messiah will bring about a renewed world: 'He will then perfect the entire world, motivating all the nations to serve God together, as it is written, I will make the peoples pure of speech so that they will all call upon the Name of God and serve him with one purpose.' Maimonides 'Hilchos Melachim 11.1' from the Mishneh Torah.

For answers to Asher Norman's book '26 Reasons why Jews don't believe in Jesus', go to www.messiahfactor.com 'Answering Asher.'

Can this happen?

We have to say the possibility of anyone of purely human origins managing to achieve this in one lifetime is virtually zero. Much of the world is currently geared up to destroying the state of Israel and would like to see another dispersion of the Jewish people around the world. In the current circumstances, any attempt to rebuild the Temple on the Temple Mount, where the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock now stand, would provoke an all-out attack on Israel from the Muslim world. The level of hatred being built up in the Middle East is so great that it is hard to see how any Jewish man can cause Jews and Arabs to live together in peace. Added to this, the world is being torn apart by great conflicts backed by fearsome missiles and weapons of

destruction, leaving behind enormous human suffering.

Note: The Bible does indicate the possibility of a temporary peace and an attempt to revive Temple worship in the last days of this age. See Daniel 9.27, Isaiah 28.14-22, Isaiah 66.1-6. However, this will be accomplished by the antichrist, the false Messiah and will end in failure and disaster.

In order to create the 'eternal peace and love' that the rabbi speaks of, the Hope of Israel must be more than a great man. He must be one who has the whole power of God at His disposal, as a divine being coming to put right the mess which humans have made of the world.

There are prophecies in the Hebrew scriptures which indicate that the Messiah is more than human, and is in fact divine. For example Isaiah 9.26-27

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Zechariah 14 describes the last battle and the coming of the Messiah to rescue Israel: 'Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives ... Thus the Lord my God will come, and all the saints with You. ... And the Lord shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be—"The Lord is one," and His name one.'

In these scriptures the coming one to deliver Israel from their enemies and rule in the worldwide Messianic kingdom is given the title of divinity, 'the Mighty God', 'the Lord my God'. He has a kingdom with no end. All human kingdoms come to an end eventually. Only the kingdom of God has no end. In Zechariah's prophecy the Lord God comes and stands with feet (and presumably the rest of a body) on the Mount of Olives, bringing an end to the war over Jerusalem and setting up the Messianic / Millennial kingdom. The text uses the strongest possible terms used in the Hebrew Bible for God and indicates that the one who appears on earth at this time possesses the fullness of divinity.

The New Testament makes this claim about the person of Jesus of Nazareth, Yeshua ha Mashiach: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. John 1.1-3 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1.14

The 'Word' is the one through whom God made the world, who is defined as being with God and being God. He is the one through whom all things were made, by speaking things into being by His Word. Then John tells us that He became flesh and dwelt among us, meaning He took on human form but still possessed the essential nature of God, with His glory veiled or hidden during His life on earth (Philippians 2.5-11). At one point the disciples did see Jesus with His glory unveiled at the transfiguration in Matthew 17.1-9.

This one will return at the end of days, with His glory unveiled, coming to earth at the time of the last battle over Jerusalem (Armageddon) to bring an end to war and set up the Messianic kingdom, prophesied in Isaiah 2 and Revelation 19-20.

Jeremiah and the last days' prophecies

The prophecy of Jeremiah 30 indicates that in the last days – Hebrew 'acharit ha yamim' – there will be a return of the Jewish people to the land of Israel: 'For behold, the days are coming,' says the Lord, 'that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,' says the Lord. 'And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.' Jeremiah 30.3.

This will be followed by a time of great trouble in the land. "For thus says the Lord: 'We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask now, and see, whether a man is ever in labour with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labour, and all faces turned pale? Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it."

This passage concerns a time of trouble that is compared to the pains of a woman in labour. It is unlike any that has been before or will be again. This idea is repeated in many other passages in the Bible concerning the days before the coming (again) of the Messiah. For example, Isaiah 13.6-13, Joel 2.1-11, Daniel 12.1-3, Matthew 24.15-22, 1 Thessalonians 5.1-3.

Jesus / Yeshua said of this time, before His return: 'For then there will be great

tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.' Matthew 24.21-22

The idea of a time of unique trouble is bad news, but Jeremiah 30.8-10 also says: 'For it shall come to pass in that day,' says the Lord of hosts, 'That I will break his yoke from your neck, and will burst your bonds; Foreigners shall no more enslave them. But they shall serve the Lord their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them. 'Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob,' says the Lord, 'Nor be dismayed, O Israel; for behold, I will save you from afar, and your seed from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return, have rest and be quiet, and no one shall make him afraid.'

So, God is saying that there is a Hope for Israel in the days to come. The reference to David their king connects to the Messiah, the one known in Judaism as 'Moshiach ben David', Messiah Son of David. He is the only one who can bring this miraculous deliverance to the people of Israel in their hour of need.

Nevertheless, there is a cost to this deliverance: 'For I am with you,' says the Lord, 'to save you; though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, and will not let you go altogether unpunished.' Jeremiah 30.11.

The following verses go on to describe the reason why Israel needs correction, the sin problem which causes God to turn away from His people: "For thus says the Lord:

'Your affliction is incurable, your wound is severe. There is no one to plead your cause, that you may be bound up; you have no healing medicines. ... Your sorrow is incurable. Because of the multitude of your iniquities, because your sins have increased, I have done these things to you.' Jeremiah 30.12-15

The new covenant

So, the time of trouble is designed to convict Israel of sin and correct something that Israel and the Jewish people have got wrong. Is there a particular sin which may be the cause of all this trouble? And most importantly what is the solution to this problem?

In the following chapter, Jeremiah says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." Jeremiah 31.31-34.

This covenant was made through the sacrifice of the Messiah, when Yeshua

/ Jesus came 2000 years ago to die as a sacrifice for the sin of the world, be buried and rise again from the dead on the third day. At the last supper, the Passover Meal which Jesus held with His disciples, just before He went to the cross, He took the Passover emblems of bread and wine and applied them to Himself: Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Matthew 26.27-28.

According to the promise of the new covenant written in Jeremiah, those who enter into it have their sins forgiven, come to know the Lord and have His law put into their mind and written on their hearts. All these things are promised to those who have a genuine relationship with God through Yeshua the Messiah.

Therefore, the main thing which the Almighty wants to correct in the eyes of the Jewish people is the identity of the Messiah. He has come once in the person of Yeshua to save us from our sins, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 53, the Suffering Servant, the one of whom Isaiah wrote: He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have

gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53.3-6

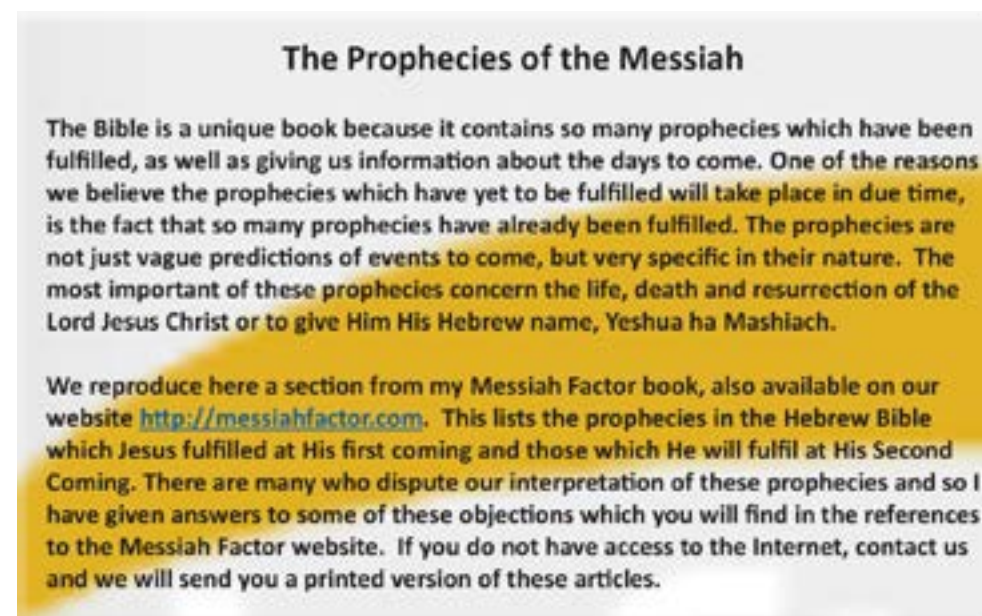
He is coming back as the reigning King Messiah, King of kings and Lord of lords, Almighty God to bring an end to war, regather the surviving remnant of Israel and cause the rebuilding of the Millennial Temple in Jerusalem. In that day He will fulfil the prophecy of Isaiah 2.2-4: Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

At the end of the book of Acts in the New Testament we find Paul, under house arrest in Rome, because of his proclamation of Yeshua as the Messiah in Jerusalem (Acts 21-26). He called together the leaders of the Jewish community in Rome and said: "For the Hope of Israel I am bound with this chain." Acts 28.20.

Yeshua, Jesus is the Hope of Israel. He is the only one who can save us from our sins. He is the only one who can

sort out the Middle East crisis and bring peace to Israel and the surrounding Arab countries. When He does this the prophecy of Isaiah 19 will be fulfilled: In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian will come into Egypt and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians will serve with the Assyrians. In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria—a blessing in the midst of the land, whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, "Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance." Isaiah 19.23-25.

When everything else fails, the one hope left for Israel is Yeshua, Jesus the Messiah who has come once and is coming again soon to sort out the mess we humans have made of the world He gave us to look after.



Who am I?



Sexualities, genders, personality types, and everything connected to the self are becoming or highest set of values.

We believe in ourselves, pursue 'my truth', seek to be our best selves and tell ourselves we are worth it.

But is there something beyond the shifting sands of "your truth, my truth, and their truth" that secures who we are once and for all? What is the truth?

The foundation of scripture brings us a very different revelation about ourselves. We learn that we are created, not that we create ourselves; that there is a creator who is greater than us! God's existence confronts us with the reality that there is an ultimate, secure truth from outside ourselves that has something decisive to say about who each of us is. We cannot escape this truth we can only submit to it or rebel against it." ['Answers Insider' May 2024](#).

Martin Iles from ['Answers in Genesis'](#) has written a book with the title 'Who am I?' In an article promoting this book he writes:

"A new generation is preoccupied with the question of identity and it's getting complicated. Any resource on identity will tell educators and young people that identity is subjective, meaning it comes from within their own feelings and sense of who they are. They are encouraged to define themselves by these things, even down to their lusts, passions and desires.

In the Gospels Jesus was asked 'Which is the first commandment of all?' In His answer He quoted from the Hebrew Bible, Deuteronomy 6.4 and Leviticus 19:18:

['The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your](#)

[neighbour as yourself.'](#) There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12.29-31.

So first we should love God, then love our neighbour. He didn't actually say 'love yourself' although the implication of 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself' is that people will naturally want to look after and protect their own interests.

For the modern identity movement, the priorities are the other way round, firstly love yourself, then your neighbour and lastly (if at all) God. To love yourself you need to know yourself and so a great deal of activity is focussed on answering the question 'Who am I?'

Discover your identity

Martin Iles describes an exercise in a school in the USA in which children were being asked to make an identity poster about themselves. This involved looking within and asking 'Who am I?' with no holds barred, no boundaries. 'Describe what you like about yourself, what you don't, what you like about others and what you don't like, what makes you feel good and bad.' They were told to be authentic, to be 'your best self and not to let anyone judge you or condemn you for who you are.'

This identity quest can become an exercise in psychology, connected to what has become known as 'intersectionality'. Google defines intersectionality as 'Relating to the interconnected nature of social categories such as race, class, and gender.' Google gives an example about how a person might identify themselves: "She has an intersectional experience as black, female, and queer".

This is then connected to 'systems of discrimination or disadvantage.' A person who identifies as 'black, female and queer' is likely to have experienced discrimination or disadvantage in their lives, therefore they will identify as victims of an unjust system. My identity, using the same categories, is 'white, male and heterosexual.' Not a good definition, because white heterosexual males are associated with the oppressors of people who may be black, female or homosexual.

Race and Identity

This in turn feeds into the 'change' agenda to restructure traditional western societies. The oppressors (white, male, heterosexuals) are bad and the victims (black, female, queer) are good. On this basis past power structures need to be replaced by the diversity and multicultural agenda. In particular this applies to European history and culture, influenced by different forms of Christianity.

In this way of thinking people are encouraged to find out ways the world is oppressing them or has oppressed them in the past. The race issue is the most obvious one with past injustices, perpetrated largely by people who were white on people of colour. This leads into the critical race theory, which condemns 'white privilege' and oppression by European colonialism.

An article in the Daily Telegraph (25/8/24) tells how teachers are being taught to disrupt the 'centrality of whiteness' in schools and ensure that 'future educators are "anti-racist" and prepared to implement this in the classroom. Teachers will be instructed in how to "disrupt the centrality

of whiteness" in schools, according to a best-practice document. The term "whiteness" in critical race theory refers to social attitudes considered normal by white people. In other there is something wrong with 'social attitudes considered normal by white people.'

There is a 'centrality of whiteness' in British history and culture for the simple reason that until recently almost the entire population of these islands is descended from tribes who lived in or invaded these islands in the past 2000 years, the Celts, Romans, Saxons, Vikings and Normans. All of their skin colour happens to be white. Large scale immigration from Commonwealth countries changed this and certainly many new immigrants experienced racist hostility from the settled white community. However now we have a situation where many white people feel discriminated against by today's multicultural society imposed upon us by the liberal left elite.

This has become part of the Marxist agenda to change the values of our society and control what we can say and think and believe and suppress you if you get out of line. This way of thinking has now been established over the much of the media (the BBC in particular), the education system, the judiciary and the police, the civil service and much of the established church and charities.

From the Christian point of view, we should oppose all forms of discrimination and oppression. We should accept all people as equal before God and follow the ideal of Martin Luther King who said 'I have a dream that people should be judged by the content of their character, not the colour of their skin.'

True believers should see themselves as one in Jesus, as Paul wrote in Galatians: *'For as many of you as were baptised into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek (Gentile), there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.'* Galatians 3.27-29.

While we do retain our identity as male or female, black or white, Jewish or Gentile, after we accept Jesus, we have now taken on a new identity as the redeemed people of God in the Messiah. This new identity has a much greater significance than our natural identity because it determines our status as children of the living God in this world and the next.

Religion and identity

This raises the issue of religion as the way we define ourselves. For most people their religious identity is similar to their racial identity, because the majority of people follow the religion of their parents and their social group. If you are born into a nominal Christian, Hindu, Muslim or Jewish family, you are likely to identify as Christian, Hindu, Muslim or Jewish.

In the past most people lived in areas or communities where one religion dominated and they belonged to that religion. Now in multi-cultural, multi faith societies like London, we have people from every race and religion living and working alongside each other. In such a society many are now saying that all roads lead to God, and Christians are wrong to speak of Jesus Christ as the one way to God. Someone picked up a copy of

our previous magazine and wrote to me saying, 'I am sure you are aware that there are many gods and many religions in this world. You probably believe that yours is the only right one. Can you not see how illogical that is?'

I answered: It is not illogical to believe that there is one way to God through Jesus Christ, although I understand that many people disagree with this. Logically there are three possibilities on this issue.

1. All Gods are equal and therefore there is truth in all religions and all religions may lead to God.
2. There is no God and therefore no religion is giving you the truth.
3. There is one God and one way to know God. Therefore, one religion is giving you the truth and the rest are not.

Number 1

in this list does present some logical problems because different religions say radically different things about God which conflict with one another. For example,

- Hinduism – there are many gods.
- Judaism, Christianity and Islam – there is one God.
- Judaism – the Messiah is yet to come; Jesus is not the Messiah. Christianity – the Messiah has come in the person of Jesus Christ / Yeshua the Messiah.
- Islam and Judaism – God is one and indivisible. Christianity – God is three persons in one, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Islam – Jesus is the last prophet before the final prophet Mohammed.
- Christianity – Jesus is Son of God, the final revelation of God to humanity.

Number 2

leaves us with some questions. While we cannot prove the existence of God there is evidence for His existence. These concern the origins of the universe, the question of the purpose of life, the existence of good and evil and the fact that all cultures have some idea of a higher being. The Psalmist tells us how the creation bears witness to the existence of God:

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. Psalm 19:1-4

Many people have difficulty believing in God because of their life experiences or observation of hypocrisy in supposed followers of God. But in the end what we believe or don't believe about God does not affect His existence, which is outside of time and space and yet which has an influence on what happens in time and space.

Number 3

is the claim that the Bible makes for itself. The Old Testament speaks of one God, the creator of all things, who gave the moral law (10 Commandments) at Sinai and who is contrasted with the idols of the nations. These are called vain and the product of human invention (by contrast knowledge of the God of the Bible is given by revelation to His prophets). In the New Testament Jesus is revealed as the one way to God, the sole mediator between God and humanity through His sacrifice for the sin of the world at the cross and His resurrection from the dead.

That has become quite a scandalous thing to believe in today's multicultural society. However, the Bible teaches that not all faiths and life styles are equal. There is truth which is absolute and comes from God. Jesus told Pilate at His trial, 'For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.' John 18.37. There are also lies or 'non truth'. Jesus said of the devil: 'He is a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.' John 8.44.

In the cause of multiculturalism, Christians are being told not to insist on teaching the uniqueness of Jesus Christ as the one way to reach God. But that is what the Bible says, so we have to go against the diversity agenda and insist on the uniqueness of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour of the world.

Sexuality

Another way to identify yourself today is by your sexuality. In the sixties' sexual revolution, society began to throw off the restraint of biblical commandments about sex and the priority of family values - one man married to one woman being faithful to each other and bringing children into the world.

Now we have schools teaching children about sex with no values based on the Bible, saying that homosexuality and heterosexuality are equally valid and also telling children they can change sex if they don't feel comfortable in the sex they were born into. As a result, people's sexual identity becomes a big part of who

they are. Transsexuals insist that everyone must accept the sex they have changed into and use appropriate pronouns when addressing them. If you question the logic of this and use the wrong pronoun you may be censured and even lose your job, as happened to a schoolteacher who used a child's birth gender pronoun instead of the one they had changed to.

The Bible rejects all this, teaching that God created and designed humans as male and female, able to reproduce through sexual union of husband and wife. Therefore, the promotion of homosexuality and transsexuality is against God's law and order, as is the promotion of heterosexual sex outside of marriage. Therefore, we should accept the identity given us at birth, as male or female, and keep God's moral law on sexuality.

Our identity according to the Bible

Let us now look at how God does define us and gives us our identity in the Bible.

1. Created in the image of God - Humans as God made us

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1.1

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. ... So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1.26-28.

Humans therefore are a special creation, separate from animals, existing as either male or female created in the image of God with a spiritual dimension that is meant to relate to God. As the French philosopher Pascal wrote: "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every person which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ."

2. Lost - Humans as sin spoiled us

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. Ephesians 2.1-3.

The whole human race has inherited a sinful human nature, from our first parents who disobeyed God (Genesis 3), which places us under the power of the devil and therefore under the wrath or anger of God. According to the Bible this is our common identity and none is righteous. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3.23.

3. Redeemed - Humans as Christ restores us.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in

Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5.17-21.

God Himself came to the earth in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ to restore lost humanity. Jesus said, 'The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.' Luke 19.10.

God wants to bring a new identity to all who receive Jesus as Saviour and Lord. They become sons and daughters of the living God (John 1.12-13). In this new identity we 'have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace' Ephesians 1.14-19.

We exchange our old identity which brings death for a new one in Jesus Christ that brings life: 'For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.' 1 Corinthians 15.22 'And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.' 1 Corinthians 15.49.

That's what's on offer in the Gospel. Now we can be identified with Jesus Christ. He is our ultimate identity and invites us to bear the image of heavenly man and become a new creation in Him. This identity is not determined by whatever race or religion we were born into, or our life experience, or our sexuality.



Signs of the Times

Those things may have an influence on how we live now but if we are disciples of Jesus Christ, our true identity is defined by 'Christ in me the hope of Glory.' This identity defines me now here on earth and through to eternity. Once you are dead it won't matter what your skin colour / race / gender is. Your body will decompose and all that will remain (if buried) is your bones. If you are cremated only dust will remain. It won't matter what your sex is. Jesus said, 'In heaven they neither marry or are given in marriage but are as the angels of God.' Matthew 22.30

It will matter whether you are lost or saved – in Christ or not. If you continue through this life in rebellion against God, you will be lost forever in hell with no chance of redemption. If you are saved you will be saved forever and dwell in heaven with God, with no possibility of ever being removed from there. So now is the day to choose God and Jesus Christ and make sure that your identity is in Christ alone. Become a child of God and be born again to eternal life in Jesus Christ:

As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1.12-13

Answers in Genesis has produced some useful material on this subject including Martin Iles' book 'Who am I?', which gives some very good biblical insights into the identity question. Simon Turpin's book 'Adam' gives reasons to believe the Genesis account is fact not fiction.

For information on these items go to Answers in Genesis, Unit 1, 16 Morris Road, Leicester, LE2 6BR.

<https://store.answersingenesis.co.uk>

We also have a talk by Tony Pearce on this subject available on CD or at <https://rumble.com/v4z9w0w-who-do-you-think-you-are.html>



Jesus Christ is the answer. He is risen from the dead. He is alive today. He is coming back soon.

UN 'Summit of the Future'

The United Nation's Summit of the Future is being promoted as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to "transform the global governance!" It is scheduled at the UN in New York City for September 22-23, 2024. The top priority for the meeting is to "Transform global governance and turbocharge the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development."

At the upcoming meeting, UN Secretary Antonio Guterres plans to ask for a vote empowering him to decide when the next "global shock" of any kind seems to be developing in any country so that he can then organise an 'emergency platform' in response on behalf of the world.

According to investigative journalist, Alex Newman, who has attended a number of such events, this proposed UN "emergency platform" will empower the Secretary-General to seize the relevant functions of national governments in order to resist the alleged or potential new "shock." Exactly what constitutes a world-shocking event? He says it can be anything, "even Black Swan events." A black swan event is defined in dictionaries as a "high-impact event that is unpredicted or unexpected"—in other words, it's "anything I say it is." The recent worldwide Covid event could be described as a 'black swan' event. The conference in September 2024

aims to address the current world crisis in relation to plans to save the world from climate change, war and financial crisis. One aspect of its "Summit of the Future" will be proposals for 'A Global Digital Compact and reforms to the International Financial Architecture' (the world economic system).

Among the proposals are a new "apex body" in charge of the entire financial system that will "enhance its coherence and align its priorities with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." According to Guterres, this could be done through a twice yearly summit between the G20, the UN Economic and Social Council, and heads of international financial institutions. This will further integrate the G20 with the United Nations into a body that can be described as an economic Security Council. The G20 currently includes the US, UK, EU, Russia, China, Japan, Brazil, South Africa and Saudi Arabia. In other words, both parts of the US led western alliance and the eastern alliance led by China and the BRICS countries.

A vital part of the agenda is 'digital connectivity' and the establishment of a Global Digital Compact, which will create a digitally connected network of people, entities, devices, and things, directed by those who run the system. This is also what the World Economic Forum prescribed in their report 'Unlocking Technologies for the Global Goals in

2020.' A Digital ID is a cornerstone in this work and is seen among other things as a way to reduce poverty. The digital ID system is already in place in the two most populous nations on earth, China, with its Credit Score system, and in India with its Aadhaar card.

The risk is that this will develop into a dictatorial form of government that will use the social credit system and Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) to undermine human rights by controlling the money supply and people's ability to use it. This is already happening in China. When fully operational it can be programmed to make you obey instructions from the Masters that run the show in order to receive your daily bread. The people in power could declare a "Planetary Emergency" as happened during the pandemic. They then take away our freedoms in order to save the world from disaster. The man with the plan appears and imposes the 666 system of Revelation 13.

Heresy from the Pope

Speaking to young people in Singapore during his Asian trip, Pope Francis said: "Every religion is a way to arrive at God. There are different languages to arrive at God but God is God for all. But my God is more important than your god, is that true? There is only one God and each of us has a language to arrive at God. Sikh, Muslim, Hindu, Christian, they are different paths."

The Pope's statement "every religion is a way to arrive at God" is a deviation from New Testament teaching and from Roman Catholic doctrine. Calling

his statement 'heretical' the traditional Catholic website Lifesite News wrote:

'According to the teaching of the Catholic Church, the only true Church is indeed the Catholic Church, the Body of Christ (Eph 1:22), and it exercises the charge given by Christ to spread the Gospel to all nations and to bring souls into the Church (Mark 16). ... Catholic author Erik Ybarra condemned Pope Francis' statement as coming from 'a bottomless pit'. ... 'What the Pope is saying here is that the variety of religions, all which contradict each other theologically, are not anymore in competition than are the diverse languages of the world.'<https://www.lifesitenews.com>

As evangelical Christians we disagree that the Catholic Church is the only true Church. Salvation is by grace alone and faith alone and in Christ alone. It is available to all who call on the name of the Lord in repentance and faith in the Gospel and the true church is made up of all who have accepted Jesus as Saviour and Lord. Historically the Roman Catholic system has deviated from New Testament teaching and suppressed the Gospel message.

However we do agree that the Pope teaching that all religions are paths to God is heretical according to Biblical teaching. Jesus said, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6. Peter said about Jesus: '[There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.](#)' Acts 4:12. Paul wrote: '[For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men,](#)

[the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all.](#)' 1 Timothy 2:5-6.

The Bible speaks of the emergence of a religious system known as Mystery Babylon that will be in alliance with the 'kings of the earth'. This will produce a false form of Christianity that will suppress the true faith in Jesus Christ (Revelation 17:1-6). Reformed Protestants have seen the Roman Catholic Church as 'Mystery Babylon' corrupting Christendom in an alliance with the kings and ruling powers of the earth. This certainly happened when the Medieval Papacy had power over the kings of Europe. Now the modern Papacy under Pope Francis is attempting to bring together all religions in a false unity that is approved by the global political powers that seek a united world under the UN. Such a religious system will inevitably come into conflict with the true teaching of the Christian faith and persecute the saints, who are all true believers in Jesus Christ.

Wars and rumours of wars

If the year of 2024 has proven anything so far, it's that our worries about the potential outbreak of WWIII are absolutely reasonable. In a sense WWIII has already begun as the war in Ukraine is essentially a proxy for all of NATO against Russia. Ukraine is now asking for permission to use long range missiles supplied by NATO countries to hit targets deep inside Russia. This magnifies the danger of escalation of the war with the potential for nuclear weapons to be used. Ukraine has used the drones and missiles it has to target Russian oil refineries, air bases

and ammunition warehouses in a series of attacks designed to disrupt Putin's war machine. Now Putin has made clear to the west that if long range NATO missiles hit targets inside Russia, he will see this as a declaration of war against Russia and respond accordingly. What that response will be, we don't know. It could be cyber or missile attacks, or, in the worst case, nuclear attacks.

The situation in the Middle East may soon become much worse, as we have written in the article 'Hope of Israel'. There is a growing alliance of hostile nations confronting Israel, including Iran and its proxy groups in the region. Turkey has talked of invading Israel, while Iran is now arming Russia for its war in Ukraine. Russia already has bases in Syria and is allied to Iran. Iran is hoping to bring Russia into its alliance against Israel. All of this lines up with the nations prophesied to come against Israel in the War of Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38-9). Because of the alliances involved and the fragile nature of global energy exports there is a danger of a global economic crisis if a wider war breaks out between Israel and its neighbours. It appears that such a war is imminent.

Africa is wracked with deadly conflicts, the worst of which now is the two year old civil war in Sudan. More than 15,000 people have been killed, around 8 million are displaced from their homes. Around 2 million have fled to neighbouring countries, Chad, Ethiopia and South Sudan, which are themselves poor and unstable. The UN estimates more than 25 million need humanitarian assistance, and deteriorating food security risks are triggering the world's largest hunger crisis.

Much of the Sahel region from Somalia through northern Nigeria to the west coast of Africa is being torn apart by conflict largely caused by Islamist militants taking control of the territory. Militants linked to al-Qaeda have claimed responsibility for massacring as many as 300 people in Burkina Faso in what is thought to be the country's worst terrorist attack. About half of Burkina Faso is beyond government control, as the country has been ravaged by increasing jihadi attacks encircling the capital. Jihadists linked to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group have killed thousands and displaced more than two million people. Rogue Russian militias are also operating in the region adding to the chaos.

Increasing war and conflict is prophesied for the last days scenario. At the same time there may be a temporary peace put in place as the antichrist rises to power on the world scene. Revelation 6.

Last word

Can we know the date of Jesus' second coming? No. Jesus told us that no one knows the day or the hour of His return: 'But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.' Mark 13.32.

Jesus also said He would come like a thief in the night, in other words at an unexpected time: 'But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is

coming at an hour you do not expect.' Matthew 24.33-34

Paul said something similar: *For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.* 1 Thessalonians 5.2.

As a result of these verses, many Christians have concluded that we cannot know anything about the timing of Jesus' return. If Jesus comes like a thief in the night when least expected, how can we know when He's coming? Could it be anytime now or in a 1000 year's time?

However, Paul went on to tell the Thessalonians that those who live in the light and who believe the prophetic word will not be surprised by the coming of the Lord: *But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.* 1 Thessalonians 5.4-10

True believers are not in the darkness about this coming event, so should not be surprised as the unprepared householder is when the thief comes to take away his possessions. They are

not to be asleep, but to be watchful, not to be drunk but to be alert and watching for this event to happen. Both being asleep and drunk are conditions in which people are not fully aware of what is happening around them. In the last days' scenario, the unbelievers (and the untaught Christians) will not be aware of the significance of the events taking place around them and will be taken by surprise by these things happening.

True believers will be expecting the Lord's return, seeing the signs of His return taking place. Jesus gave the disciples information about these signs in answer to their question 'What shall be the sign of your coming and the end of the age?' Matthew 24.3. The fact that He gave them an answer to this question and did not dismiss it as a foolish question, means that He does not expect His followers to be ignorant about these things. We have produced a leaflet and booklet on this subject, 10 Signs of the Return of the Messiah:

1. There will be an increase in wars, famines, plagues and earthquakes leading to a time of great trouble on the earth. Luke 21.10-11.
2. The earth will be full of violence 'as in the days of Noah' and many people will be afraid of what is going to happen. Luke 17.26-27, Luke 21.25-6, Genesis 6.11.
3. There will be great sexual immorality 'as in the days of Lot' (Sodom and Gomorrah). Luke 17.28-8, Matthew 24.12, Romans 1.24-27, 2 Timothy 3.1-9.
4. There will be widespread pollution of the earth and problems with the environment. Isaiah 24, Revelation 8.6-11.

5. There will be a restoration of Israel as a Jewish land. There will be a conflict over Jerusalem which will involve all nations of the world. Ezekiel 36-9, Zechariah 12-14, Luke 21.20-24, Revelation 16.16.

6. There will be a globalisation process out of which an antichristian world government will arise. Revelation 13.

7. There will be an increase in technology and travel. Daniel 12.4.

8. There will be false prophets who will lead people astray and cause confusion about God and salvation. Matthew 24.5, 24.23-27, Revelation 17.1-6.

9. There will be an attack on the basic truths of the Bible and opposition to those who teach the Gospel. Matthew 24.10-11, 2 Timothy 4.2-5, 2 Peter 2, 1 John 2.18-23.

10. The message of the Gospel will reach all nations despite opposition and persecution. Matthew 24.9-14, Matthew 28.18-20.

Believing Christians should be alert and ready for Jesus' return knowing the signs of His return and recognising these things happening in current events. Jesus said when you see them, you'll know He's near – right at the door: *"In the same way, when you see all these things, you can know his return is very near, right at the door."* Matthew 24:33. We see those signs today.

According to 1 Thessalonians 4 Jesus is coming firstly to take true believers out of the world to Himself in the event known as the rapture of the church: *For the Lord Himself will descend from*

heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 1 Thessalonians 4.16-17.

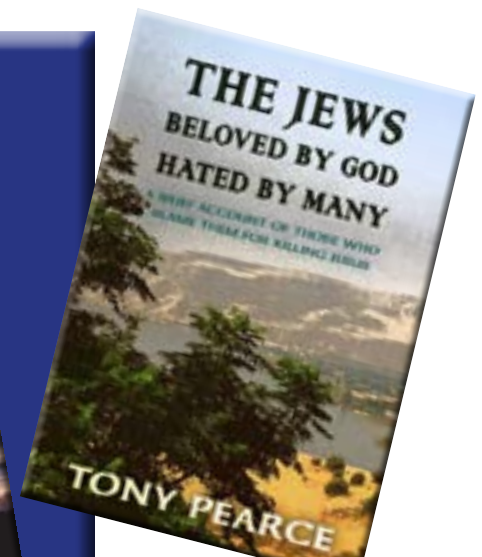
The timing of this event is entirely in the Lord's hands. For those who take the pre-tribulation view of prophecy, it could happen at any time, so we must be ready all the time to meet the Lord. We should also be ready for the moment of our death, which could also happen at any time. For those who take the post tribulation view, this event will only happen after seven years of the great tribulation on earth, when these words of Jesus will be fulfilled: *For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.* Matthew 24.21-22

According to this view Jesus cannot come at any time, but only after we have endured seven years of the most intense trouble on earth, when God's wrath against sin will be poured out on the earth in the events described in Revelation 6-19. However, 1 Thessalonians 5.9-10 tells us *'God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.'*

Jesus says to the faithful church at Philadelphia: *Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.* Revelation 3.10-11.

It is not unreasonable on the basis of these scriptures to believe that the true church will be taken out of the world before the time of most intense trouble comes on the earth. If this is not the case, we need to be prepared for a time of trouble in which many of us will lose our lives. If we do lose our lives, we don't need to fear because we will go to the Lord to be with Him forever. Therefore comfort one another with these words (1 Thessalonians 4.18) and look forward to the Lord's return:

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. Titus 2.11.



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Conclusion



All the things that we write about in this magazine are pointers to the fulfilment of Bible prophecies of the last days in our day and the soon coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The most important thing we can do, in the light of this, is to call on the name of the Lord for salvation, so we are ready to meet Him at His coming.

Dear Heavenly Father, I admit that I am a sinner and need your forgiveness. I believe that Jesus the Messiah died in my place, shedding His blood to pay for my sins, and that He rose again from the dead to give me eternal life. I am willing right now to turn from my sin and accept Jesus the Messiah as my personal Saviour and Lord. I commit my life to you and ask you to send the Holy Spirit into my life, to fill me and to take control and to help me become the kind of person you want me to be.

Thank you Father for loving me.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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