

CHRISTIAN WATCH

Issue 50

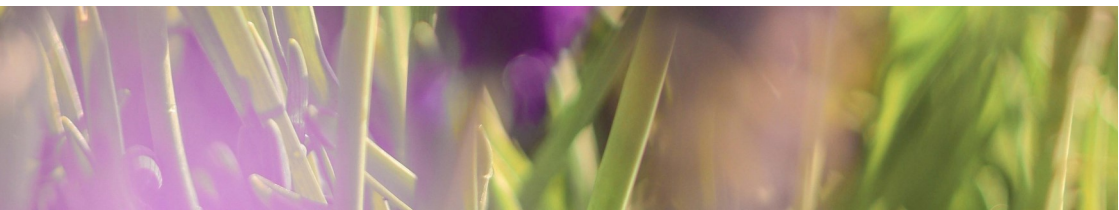
A Protestant Biblical Witness

Mar/Apr 2024



'And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.'

Mark 13:37



**Christian Watch Annual Subscription (2024),
including UK postage — £12**

THE IMPORTANCE OF SOUND DOCTRINE

How necessary it is for Churches and Ministers to hold the truth with a firm, unyielding hand and to give no place to error, no, not for an hour! Remember this, Churches and Ministers, Deacons and members and all ye that fear God in the assemblies of the saints, that there can be no *little* errors; we mean as regards the vital, fundamental doctrines of our most holy faith. There may be differences of opinion on minor points, as on Church Government, the administration of the ordinances of the New Testament, the restoration of the Jews, the nature of the Millennium, the interpretation of particular passages of Scripture; but on such fundamental points as the blessed Trinity, the Person of Christ, the personality and work of the Holy Ghost, no deviation can be allowed from the straight and narrow line of Divine Truth. Error on any one of these vital points is from Satan and he never introduces little errors; all, all are full of deadly poison. Error in itself is deadly.

J. C. Philpot

(Some articles may not necessarily reflect the opinions and beliefs of Christian Watch but are included for information only and not as an endorsement.)

IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

Letter from the Chairman	4
A Prayer for 1860 (& 2024!) <i>J. C. Ryle</i>	6
Pastor speaks out on the Ordinance of Baptism being employed to facilitate asylum claims <i>Pastor Peter Simpson</i>	8
Should Christians Attend Homosexual ‘Weddings’? <i>Rev. Stephen Holland</i>	12
Longing for the Lord to Appear <i>F. L. Gosden</i>	15
News and Current Affairs	19
“The Lord Liveth” <i>Dr. D. A. Doudney</i>	24
All Under the Lord’s Feet <i>J. C. Philpot</i>	26
The Wonders of Redemption – Hymn <i>A. Steele</i>	27

March 2024



Dear Friends,

Greetings in the precious Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

At this Easter period, let us remember that the Covenant of Redemption was fulfilled for us in the work of the cross. The humanly impossible was accomplished. Reconciliation was made between lost man and a loving God. No offering had ever been made like this offering. No sacrifice had ever been made like this sacrifice. Unparalleled and unrepeatable, the passion of the cross was the ultimate of all passions. The singular nature of the cross and the singular Person of the cross made a singular way of salvation.

The hymn – The Wonders of Redemption – has been included in this Newsletter. May it be a blessing to your soul.

Northern Ireland – in February, 2022 the DUP collapsed the power-sharing institutions in Northern Ireland in protest at post-Brexit trade arrangements which created a border in the Irish Sea, but now the DUPs leadership claim that the Protocol/Windsor Framework – devised by the Government of Westminster to protect the European Union single market for trade had been reversed and thus they were free to return to Stormont, but is this correct? It has now transpired that a budget of over £192 million has been set aside for Irish Sea border posts – so the Protocol has clearly not been removed. Border inspection posts are a key part of the special post-Brexit trading arrangements for Northern Ireland, thus providing a way for the European Union to protect its single market. By claiming it no longer exists, the DUP is telling the electorate to move on - the problem is no more – and this undermines resistance to the partitioning of the United Kingdom.

This current sorry state of affairs is the result of the continuing apathy, naivety and divisions among the majority Protestant/Unionist electorate.

The Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and the Traditional Unionist Voice (TUV) all compete for votes from the Protestant/Unionist electorate, the result being that although Sinn Fein/IRA have never obtained a majority of votes in Northern Ireland, they now hold the position of First Minister at Stormont because of the bizarre and totally unfair electoral system which was foisted upon the people by the so-called 'Good Friday Agreement', engineered by the Government of Tony Blair who, of course, subsequently revealed where his true sympathies lay by his conversion to Roman Catholicism. In a recent edition of the Ulster Newsletter, the banner headline read: "The battle goes on – No Surrender." Ulster needs the prayers of God's people – let us not be found wanting.

Stonewall – It has been reported that Stonewall - representing LGBTQ+ people – received £1,107,868 of taxpayers' money in 2023 to promote their extreme sex education and trans-affirming school policies, promoting trans-gender, anti-family, pro-trans, pro-LGBT ideology. We need to be clear - LGBTQ+ is sodomy – and these people are sodomites (see Genesis 19).

We live in dark days, but – and I quote Bishop J. C Ryle (first Protestant Bishop of Liverpool) - let us seek to know Christ better now and live in closer communion with Him... We shall then feel - "I have all and abound: I want nothing more. Christ dying for me on the cross – Christ ever interceding for me at God's right hand – Christ dwelling in my heart by faith – Christ soon coming again to gather me and all His people together to part no more, Christ is enough for me. Having Christ, I have 'unsearchable riches'."

Yours in His Service,

Ian Henderson

Ian R. Henderson
(Chairman)

A PRAYER FOR 1860 (& 2024!)

By the Rev. J. C. Ryle
(Rector of Helmingham, Suffolk)

O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, pour down the Holy Spirit upon our country. Revive Thy work amongst us. Increase true religion in the land - and especially in our own parish.

Touch the hearts of the careless, the thoughtless and the unbelieving. Show them their sin, their guilt, and their danger. Stir them up to think and grant them repentance. May thousands this year be converted! May thousands seek Christ, believe and be saved!

Arouse the hearts of all true Christians. Fill them with true zeal for Thy glory and for the spread of the Gospel. May they be more holy, more charitable and more diligent in trying to do good! May they pray much and often!

Pour down the Holy Spirit upon me. Let me not be deceived about the state of my own soul. If I am not yet converted, convert me without delay. Create in me a new heart. Show me what I am. Show me what Thou art. Show me Christ. Teach me to pray. Let me not die in my sins. If I am converted, give me more grace. Lead me on. Build me up. Stablish me. Strengthen me. Perfect me. Increase my faith - and hope - and love. Grant that I may grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pour down the Holy Spirit upon all Ministers of the Gospel. Make them more zealous and more faithful. May Christ be

preached this year more fully, freely, and affectionately, than He has ever been yet preached.

Pour down the Holy Spirit upon all congregations. May there be more life, earnestness and fervour in all our religious assemblies! May hearers of the Gospel this year always meet together really desiring a blessing and always go home to pray!

Pour down the Holy Spirit upon all ranks and classes; upon the rich and upon the poor, upon the old and upon the young. May there be less Sabbath-breaking and drunkenness and worldliness and covetousness and pride and formality and self-righteousness in the land this year! May there be more thinking, praying, Bible reading, holy living and diligence in the use of the means of grace! May we all feel more deeply the value of our own souls and care more for the souls of others!

Gracious Lord God, deal not with us according to our sins. We confess with shame that we are a sinful, proud, ungrateful nation; but spare us according to Thy mercy. Pour down Thy Holy Spirit on us. Revive Thy work – and make us a nation fearing God and working righteousness.

We ask all for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

*“Christ has taken our nature into Heaven, to represent **us**; and has left us on earth, with His nature, to represent **Him**.”*

PASTOR SPEAKS OUT ON THE ORDINANCE OF BAPTISM BEING EMPLOYED TO FACILITATE ASYLUM CLAIMS

By **Pastor Peter Simpson**, Penn Free Methodist Church

With the astonishing reports of the Church of England facilitating the ability of failed asylum seekers to remain in the country by accepting their approaches to be baptised, we are witnessing a vivid example of the attitude of so many mainstream churches to the whole issue of large scale migration into the U.K. over the last 60 years. As well as always being pro-mass migration, they have also refused to condemn the downright sinfulness before God of illegal entry into Britain.

Let us make no mistake here. The Christian greets and honours his neighbour whoever he is and wherever he comes from, but this is no reason for the United Kingdom not to rigorously control its borders and to allow this small and already overcrowded island to constantly have an open door to whoever wishes to come here from anywhere in the world. The 'wokery' of the political establishment and of so many churches ignores the Biblical reality that God Himself has ordained nationhood and national borders (e.g. Deuteronomy 32:8,



Acts 17:26) and that Scripture clearly teaches the need to maintain the integrity of those borders.

With specific reference to baptisms into the Christian faith being employed as a means of helping asylum seekers remain in the country, having entered into it illegally, it needs to be emphasised that true baptism requires as a primary condition an acknowledgement of personal sin and a profound expression of repentance, which must include a genuine setting aside of all known existing sin. Premeditated entry into Britain when one has no legal right to do so is sinful in God's sight; so true repentance would require returning to the country where the asylum seeker was situated before the sinful act took place. The Lord Jesus Christ said concerning true converts - "By their fruits ye shall know them" (Matthew 7:20). This means that for repentance to be real, there must be no further indulging in one's previous sins.

With regards to illegal migration, true repentance would also have to include not receiving State benefits, which at the moment are given to those who have just deliberately broken the laws of the land by their unauthorised entry. Such law-breaking is in direct opposition to the Bible's teaching (see, for example, 1 Peter 2:13-14) and no true Christian would be willing to benefit materially from any sinful action.

There have been reports of up to 40 asylum seekers going through the process of becoming Christians on the 'Bibby Stockholm' migrant barge in Dorset. Assuming in particular that many of these converts will be from a Muslim background, this represents nothing short of a mighty spiritual awakening, because such large-scale conversions are not generally happening in this country and have not happened for a long time. This writer should know, because he is out in the high streets most weeks preaching the Gospel and often in locations where there are many Muslim people passing by.

It is incredibly difficult to get our Muslim friends even to begin to consider the claims of Jesus Christ. Just this week in Slough a Muslim came up to me dismissing the Christian faith on the grounds that we worship a man, whereas they worship only God. I replied that I worship the eternal Son of God, Who became a man in order to accomplish man's salvation. However, the Muslim response to this is always 'It is impossible for God to become a man – it would be too demeaning for Him and, anyway, how can God be man at the same time as being God?'

So, Muslims are taught from a young age how to reject Christianity. They often tell me that it is impossible for God to have a Son, which is to attack the very heart of the Christian revelation. I respond by asserting that they must not attempt to confine the eternal Almighty God to mere feeble human understanding. In the specific context of asylum seekers becoming Christians, are these converts now publicly asserting that they reject Islam in its core teachings of denying the Trinity and the deity of Christ?

The Bible teaches that true faith only comes from hearing Gospel preaching (Romans 10:14). So, has there been on the 'Bibby Stockholm' vigorous preaching presenting Jesus Christ as the only way to be saved from the guilt of sin (and the obvious corollary of this, namely that other religions are false)? Has there been true repentance, which means a desire to stop sinning and so to leave the country into which one has entered illegally?

In September, 2023 Pope Francis visited Marseille, a key area on France's southern coast in respect of migrants heading from the Middle East and North Africa across the Mediterranean and into Italy - and then moving on into France. In many cases France will also be viewed as a mere stepping stone for ultimate entry into the U.K., the most cherished, it appears, of possible destinations. One of the

places which the migrants aim for is Ventimiglia in Northern Italy close to the border with France and around 200 kilometres from Marseille. Here they hope to enter France illegally across various mountain passes. Francis focused upon immigration during his visit to Marseille and stated that the primary need was to show humanity and compassion to the migrants, the clear implication of his words being that for countries to protect their borders and prohibit entry is quite simply immoral and unacceptable.

The Guardian newspaper reported on the Pope's visit that his "position on migration stands in contrast to some countries in Europe that are emphasising border fences, repatriations and the possibility of a naval blockade to keep refugees out." Indeed, the Pope has criticised European nations for not being more accepting of large-scale migration, speaking of them as those "who live in their bubble (and) in a culture of prosperity."

So, we observe here how a major church leader with worldwide influence is presenting the whole migration debate very much in terms of the indifference of the rich to the plight of the poor and of a failure by Europe and other Western nations to show enough compassion. This kind of response also tends to reflect the attitude of the Church of England and many other U.K. churches, but it is a mere conformity to the politically correct worldview of cultural Marxism and so must be rigorously challenged by Bible-believing Christians. The churches must stop endorsing the criminal behaviour of illegal entry into other people's countries and they must show respect for the integrity of Britain's borders and indeed for the retention of Britain's national identity generally.

God has ordained the nation State with clearly defined borders and these borders must be respected and strictly controlled - and I unequivocally assert this on solidly Biblical grounds.

SHOULD CHRISTIANS ATTEND HOMOSEXUAL 'WEDDINGS'?

By **Rev. Stephen Holland**

Protestant Perspectives - Protestant Truth Magazine

March - April, 2024

Well-known and much loved popular preacher Alistair Begg, a Scotsman living and pastoring in the United States for more than forty years, has created quite a stir within evangelical and Reformed churches over his public comments on whether a Christian should attend the so-called 'wedding' of a homosexual couple. His counsel was to a grandmother whose grandson was getting 'married' to a transexual man. His advice was 'Yes, go to the service and buy them a gift.' His reasons were to show them love and demonstrate that 'you are not a hateful, judgmental person.' He has refused to back down and withdraw his comments when challenged by fellow Christians. A radio platform that airs many of his sermons has removed him from their station; but was the Rev. Begg correct in his comments? Should Christians attend such a service? No doubt this will be an issue that many Christians will have to face.

It confirms their actions

No matter how well-intentioned the Christian's motive may be in going to the service, even if we make our beliefs clear, it gives the impression of approval. As the old saying goes, 'actions speak louder than words.' One of the actions from people attending such a service is to



offer the couple their 'congratulations' and to present them with a gift to start their life together. How can a Christian offer a gift and congratulations to a couple entering into what God wrathfully disapproves of? The Apostle Paul calls the believer to separate from the world and to have nothing to do with the unfruitful works of darkness (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 5:11). It needs to be said that the Rev. Begg does not in any way approve of homosexual relationships and has preached strongly against them - and although his intentions may be good, I have to say that his advice to attend a service of that nature was deeply misguided and harmful to any couple entering into such a 'marriage'. It is not loving to give even a hint of approval.

It causes confusion

The church is called to be light in the world. It is a dark world, and the only true light that shines is the light of God's Word. Many in the visible and professing church are presenting a confused and even totally compromised picture. What does the Bible actually say about same-sex unions? It is not ambiguous in the picture it draws. In a day of mass confusion, it is vital for the church of Christ to give a clear, certain sound. The Bible is very clear – there are only two sexes or genders – male and female. Sex and gender are used interchangeably, meaning the same thing. There is no difference. Only in recent times have there been attempts to muddy the waters. Claiming to identify as a cat does not make you a cat! It is the ultimate act of rebellion against God, your Maker, to reject the sex you are born with. God made humankind male and female, with xx or xy chromosomes. Alistair Begg believes this.

It corrupts the message

The message of the Bible is that all are sinful and so under judgment. Whatever one's sexual orientation or lifestyle, all are in need of true repentance and faith. To state and show disapproval of sin does not mean one is hateful or judgmental, though Jesus did call us to judge righteous judgment (John 7:24). We now live in a world where many

can't even answer the question - 'what is a woman?' The Bible has the answer to man's plight. We must present a clear message, in word and action, to a fallen world. It is the ultimate act of love to present the law of God, which exposes sin – and preach the only Saviour who can deliver from sin and give eternal life to all who trust and believe in Him. Let us lovingly give the message of God's Word to a confused and dying world.

BREATHING AFTER HOLINESS

○ that the Lord would guide my ways,
 To keep His statutes still!
○ that my God would grant me grace
 To know and do His will.

○ send Thy Spirit down to write
 Thy law upon my heart!
Nor let my tongue indulge deceit.
 Nor act the liar's part.

From vanity turn off my eyes;
 Let no corrupt design,
Nor covetous desires, arise
 Within this soul of mine.

Order my footsteps by Thy word,
 And make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord,
 But keep my conscience clear.

Make me to walk in Thy commands;
 'Tis a delightful road;
Nor let my head, or heart, or hands,
 Offend against my God.

Isaac Watts

LONGING FOR THE LORD TO APPEAR

An address by **F. L. Gosden** on Isaiah chapter 64, given in 1962

“Oh that Thou wouldest rend the Heavens, that Thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at Thy presence!”

The Church at that time was in a state of affliction and under the hiding of God’s face. However, their hearts were made tender as there was discovered to them that condition of a self-procured desolation – and the church confesses - *“We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”* In addition, it would appear that when things were exceedingly low, there was a period in which there was a seared conscience and a restraining of prayer, for the prophet goes on to say - *“And there is none that calleth upon Thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of*

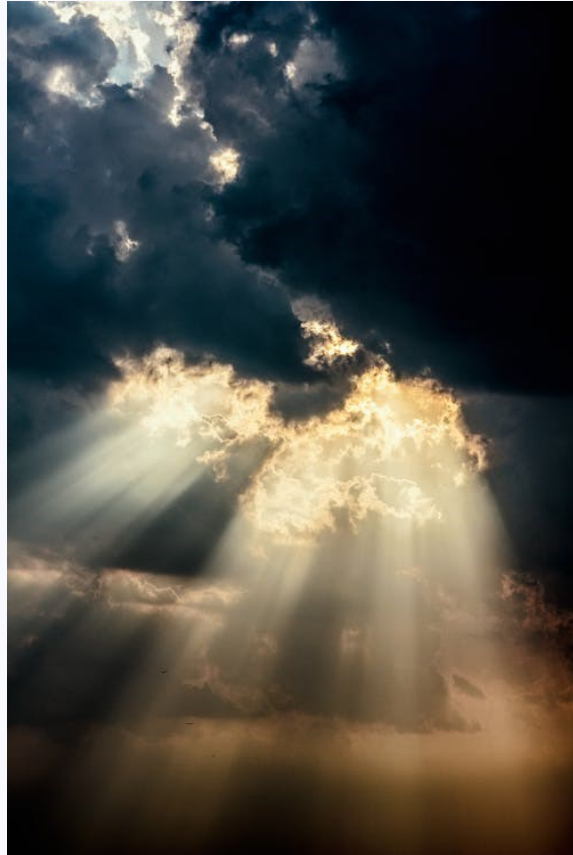


Thee.” Then he gives the reason: *“For Thou hast hid Thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.”*

There was an awakening. It is a mercy when we are made conscious of a bad state and humble ourselves under the judgments of God and hearts, like that of Josiah, are made tender. I would commend a consideration of Josiah’s case. They were indeed evil days, but Josiah’s heart was made tender and we read this: *“Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the Lord, when thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the Lord”* (2 Kings 22:19).

O how desirable – and what a blessing it would be – if the Lord would awaken us as a nation, if He should raise up men in places of authority with such a gracious, spiritual disposition of soul, to mourn and humble themselves, with a tender heart, as did Habakkuk also: *“I have heard Thy speech, and was afraid”* (3:2).

But in this chapter, the Church manifested two things which are outstanding. **There was only one remedy** – *“Oh that Thou wouldest rend the Heavens, that Thou wouldest come down!”* In an earlier



chapter the prophet expresses the same thing: *“Until the Spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest.”* There is no other remedy for the desolations that cause so much grief and mourning in Godly souls, but a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

“Oh that Thou wouldst rend the Heavens!” Our sins and provocations in the nation and especially in the church which is dear to the Lord, provoke Him to make the Heavens as brass and we cannot rend them. O what a mercy it would be if this prayer should be given and answered: *“Rend the Heavens!”* There sits the exalted Redeemer, the glorious Head of the Church, having finished the work of redemption that His Father gave Him to do. There He sits in all the Divine authority of His Divine Person and all the authority of His work whereby He satisfied the law, vindicated Divine justice and glorified His Father. He is there on behalf of the Church and here is a prayer, a prayer unto an exalted Saviour: *“Oh that Thou wouldst rend the Heavens!”*



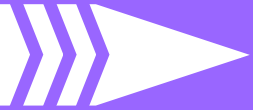
And then, too, there are the Heavens of the Word of God. Except the Holy Ghost does open it, rend it and take the vital truth from the Word of God and make it an experience in the hearts of His people,

it is a sealed Book. The Word of God contains the glorious Gospel. Also there are the Heavens of the church of God, the ministry. The Holy Ghost's mighty power through the ministry is intimately connected with the salvation of sinners and it is only the Holy Ghost that can make the truth effectual and the Word of God to *"have free course, and be glorified"* (2 Thess. 3:1).

But the second outstanding thing in the chapter is this (O to have good ground for such confidence): ***"But now, O Lord, Thou art our Father."*** Nothing can alter the relationship that God in Christ is made to His people and those relationships could never have been, apart from the matchless condescension of God's dear Son incarnate. Only so could there be any relationship, any vital union between sinners and Christ; only so could there be a new and living way to God. The Church here recognised that. Nothing can destroy what God has done. It is done for ever.

"But now, O Lord" – unworthy as we are, basely as we have backslidden, though our iniquities have carried us away like the wind – *"Thou art our Father; we are the clay."* O what a mercy to be clay in the hands of the Heavenly Potter. Naturally, we are as hard as the nether millstone, can never be melted but, if we are vessels of mercy, these two blessed experiences in the eighth verse take us in: *"But now, O Lord, Thou art our Father; we are the clay, and Thou our Potter; and we all are the work of Thy hand."*

Well, we have much to mourn over in the church of God, but O that He might so sanctify our condition and awaken us out of sleep and grant us gracious counsel that He gave to the church at Laodicea: *"I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire."* There is a beauty in this sad chapter. O look at the prophet – you can almost see his eyes filled with tears of sorrow. There is one remedy and only one: ***"Oh that Thou wouldst rend the Heavens, that Thou wouldst come down!"*** May the Lord give us that prayer - and answer it.

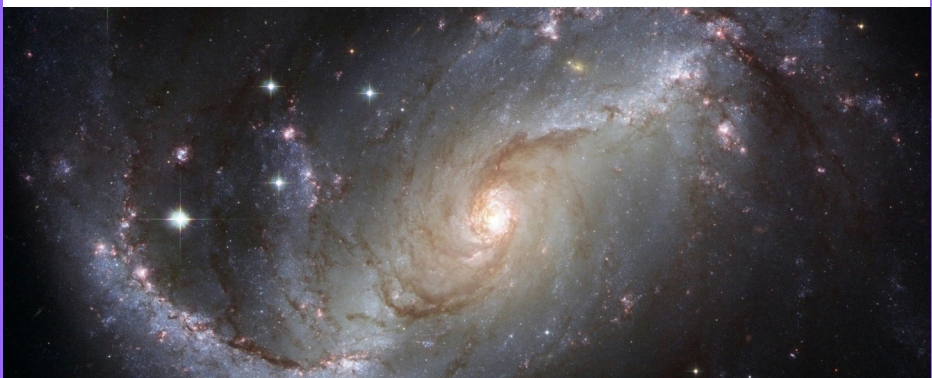


Cosmologists: “New super galaxy rings found – they shouldn’t be there!” – British Church Newspaper, 5 February, 2024

Cosmologists are flummoxed by proof of newly-found ‘rings’ of galaxies which are where they should not be, according to traditional astronomical theories. University of Central Lancashire scientists have discovered a gigantic, ring-shaped structure in space, named ‘The Big Ring’, which they say – if visible to the naked eye from earth – would look 15 times larger than the Moon.

It was originally identified by Alexia Lopez, a PhD student at the University, who also discovered a second large structure, ‘Giant Arc’. The ‘Big Ring’ is said to be made up of “galaxies and galaxy clusters.” Scientists admit - “It is so big that it *challenges our understanding of the universe,*” pointing out that it is extremely distant from our solar system and has so many galaxies that it took “huge amounts of time and computer power” to survey the structure.

According to top cosmologists and evolutionists, once upon a time there was once a tiny, tiny dot comprising all manner of minerals and chemicals which suddenly exploded about 13,787 billion years ago



into swirling clouds of dust. These whirling clouds of dust eventually spread smoothly across the universe, forming round-shaped blobs of material which became suns or planets. About 9 – 9.5 billion years afterwards, the Earth became solid and about another 5 billion years after that, one or more ‘simple’ cells developed in a ‘warm ocean soup’. These became amoeba which then miraculously developed into all the extra-ordinarily complex and varied forms of intelligent life that we see today.

The ‘smooth spreading out of these dust clouds’ is called the ‘central cosmological principle’, but as cosmologists acknowledge, “such large structures should not be there or even exist.” Dr. Robert Massey, Deputy Director of the Royal Astronomical Society, said - “This is the seventh largest structure discovered in the universe, which contradicts the idea that the cosmos is smooth on the largest scales. If these structures are real, then it’s definitely food for thought...the evidence for a re-think of what has been a central plank of astronomy is growing.” He admitted that the ‘Big Ring’ is by no means the first likely violation of the cosmological principle and suggested there must be **“another, as yet undiscovered, factor at play.”**

CW comment: Is it not easier to believe the Word of God than these fanciful stories of billions of years?

Can this land live? – Voice for Justice UK Newsletter – 26 March, 2024 (www.voiceforjustice.org)

Last week the nation was shocked to hear the Princess of Wales’ announcement that she was receiving treatment for cancer. Over the last few weeks, the conspiracy theories surrounding Kate have grown more and more outlandish, not to mention cruel and intrusive. Terrible things have been suggested about her and William on social media

and there's been a lot of criticism – fuelled, as we now learn, by hostile States seeking to destabilise our nation by rumour and misinformation. For the greater part of the country, however, and indeed across the world, there's been an outpouring of sympathy and support for the Princess and her young family. We are all praying for Kate's complete and speedy recovery; but the news, coming so quickly after the King's diagnosis – and that of Sarah, Duchess of York – will inevitably have plunged the Royal Family into turmoil. Quite apart from the logistical headache of managing royal engagements with the King and Kate out of action and William – rightly prioritising the needs of his family – there will be the strain and anxiety of watching loved ones suffer and it is inevitable that, with three members of the family affected at the same time, a shadow will have been cast over the wider family. A shadow that, by extension, now lies across the nation as a whole.

We are, without doubt, facing difficult times and many are asking, why? Why have three members of the Royal Family been struck down with the same disease at the same time? To find an answer, perhaps we should try looking at this from God's perspective.

Over the last 70 – 80 years, as the shadow of war appeared to recede and we've grown more prosperous and technologically advanced, men and women have increasingly rejected God. We don't need Him anymore, we say, we can manage things better by ourselves. Nominally, of course, we remain a Christian country, but the gods we worship today are consumerism, sexual licence, diversity, climate change and science, with 24/7 worship offered on the altar of 'Self'.

The truth is as a society we have wilfully and knowingly rejected our Creator and so become 'God-less', with the result that into this vacuum, fed by 'sacred prostitution' and the blood sacrifice of over ten and a half million unborn, the demonic has gleefully rushed in and taken over

control. By our rejection of Christ, we have once again and, voluntarily, placed ourselves under bondage to evil.

But there can be no compromise between goodness and sin and God will not uphold or bless evil so, as a result of our choices, He has withdrawn His protection. Small wonder then that in recent years we have found ourselves caught in such a downward spiral of chaos; but, while God has withdrawn His protection, He has not withdrawn His presence and, throughout all that is happening, He remains sovereign. Now a storm is gathering and, unless we urgently repent and once more pledge our allegiance to the One, true God, there will be terrible judgment.

In specific relation to what is happening to our Royal Family, however, it is perhaps instructive at this point to have a brief look at history. Under pagan belief systems, it was believed that the person and well-being of the King was supernaturally tied to the life, strength and welfare of the nation. In his person, the King held power over the fertility of the soil, over the climate and over the general well-being of the people. If the land suffered misfortune, plague, famine, crop failure, flood, or defeat in battle, the King would be held responsible. Similarly, if there was something inherently wrong with the land – some ‘sin’ that somehow put it out of alignment – then this would be reflected in the person and health of the King.

In recent years, the UK has increasingly reverted to a pagan mindset. The current obsession with our ability to control climate change is a version of this, as too is the national fascination with magic, our celebration of promiscuity and our societal acceptance of the worship of alien gods. As part of the gift of free will, God allows us this ‘choice’, but the point is, we cannot choose only part of what is included. If we choose ‘pagan’ belief over redemption and the freedom offered by Christ, then we place ourselves under the domination of sin, with all the consequences that flow from that. Under paganism, the royal

family, and most especially the person of the Monarch, would be seen as a figurehead – to put it another way, a supernaturally appointed ‘frontman’. If, therefore, the land is diseased, small wonder the accredited representative then mirrors that affliction. Similarly, if the Monarch is spiritually and morally out of alignment, that influence will be reflected in the state of the nation.

We all pray now for a speedy restoration to health for the King, Kate and the Duchess of Sussex; but for a full healing for all of them and the nation, it is urgent that we reject this pseudo-allegiance to paganism and that our society undergoes immediate and radical surgery – to cut out the disease we have allowed to take root - and then, like Kate and the King, our nation will require follow-up treatment to make sure the disease does not return.



We need urgently to repent our casual and unthinking slaughter of the unborn, our celebration of sexual licence and deviance, our rejection of biology and natural law - and attempted control of the environment and, most important of all, our attempt to remake God in our own image. The UK has long been a Christian country. So our society, culture and laws are all founded on Christian beliefs, as set down in the Bible.

Can this land be restored to health and live again? Yes, but only if it returns to the values and beliefs on which our nation is founded and, if we once again swear obedience to Christ, so that we return to His protection. God’s will is to save, but the only way we can now escape judgment is by repentance.

“THE LORD LIVETH”

Psalm 18:46

By **Dr. D. A. Doudney**

Our text contains a declaration which all infidels in the world cannot gainsay. Nature declares a God and conscience will bear the same testimony. We rejoice, however, that to the believer, far more is revealed in these words. They contain more than an abstract fact - that could do us little good. True, Jehovah is the self-existent Deity, but He has been pleased, in infinite love to His people, to live in new-covenant relationships with them. Thus, we cannot but connect with these words those of the dear Saviour when about to leave His disciples – “Because I live, ye shall live also.”

He will not live in an isolated manner. No, He will live as the Husband of His beloved bride, loving her ever the same, cherishing her, placing His left hand under and, with His right hand, embracing her, rejoicing over her as a Bridegroom; His love unabated, providing for all her wants, never wearying of her, but frequently reminding her of His love – and calling for an expression of hers, saying, “Let me see thy face, let me hear thy voice, for sweet is thy voice and thy countenance is comely.”

He lives as a Father, providing for all the necessities of His children – not giving them all they ask for, but wisely judging for them and acting accordingly for their good. His discipline is not pleasant, but profitable.

He lives as a Parent, combining the best qualities of the tender mother and judicious father. “As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you.” Thus, His people shall never be orphans. “I will not leave you comfortless” (margin, *orphans*).

Art thou bereaved of thine earthly relatives? Jesus, the Lord of Heaven and earth, of life and glory, the Maker and Upholder of creation, the Treasury of grace, liveth – and in Him are far greater worth and deeper love than can be found in any other; and He, believer, is thine, with all His fulness. Yes, He lives as thy Father, Brother, Husband, Friend, thy Shepherd, thine Advocate, ever to plead thy cause with skill in the court above; thy Surety, to be a Substitute for thee; thy Priest, to atone; thy King, to rule over thee and to subdue all thy foes who would hinder thee in thy journey Heavenward. All the endearing ties of nature may fail, but Jesus ever liveth to be a Substitute for all, while none could be a substitute for Him.

We read that Baal's worshippers called upon the name of their god "from morning until noon," "but there was no voice, nor any that answered" and, though they continued to cry to him until the evening, it was useless. They called, not upon the living God, but Elijah prayed and proved His God a prayer-hearing and answering God.

It is related of Luther that, when about to face his enemies at Worms, the powers of darkness beset him fiercely on his journey and, in bitterness of soul, feeling like David - God had "shut out his prayer," he exclaimed, "O God, art Thou dead?" Soon he realised the truth that "The Lord liveth" and is the never-failing succour of His tried and tempted saints.

May these truths encourage our faith, that we may "trust in Him at all times, pour out our hearts before Him," since "He is a refuge for us." Bless the Lord for His words - "I am the Resurrection and the Life. I am He that liveth and was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore, and have the keys of Hell and of death." Amen.

ALL UNDER THE LORD'S FEET

By J. C. Philpot

"And hath put all things under His feet." Eph. 1:22

How vast, how numerous, how complicated are the various events and circumstances which attend the Church of God here below, as she travels onward to her Heavenly home! But if all *things*, as well as all persons, are put under Jesus' feet, there cannot be a single circumstance over which He has not supreme control. Everything in providence and everything in grace are alike subject to His disposal.

There is not a trial or temptation, an affliction of body or soul, a loss, a cross, a painful bereavement, a vexation, grief or disappointment, a case, state, or condition, which is not put under Jesus' feet. He has sovereign, supreme disposal over all events and circumstances. As possessed of infinite knowledge He sees them, as possessed of infinite wisdom He can manage them and as possessed of infinite power He can dispose and direct them for our good and His own glory.

How much trouble and anxiety should we save ourselves, could we firmly believe, realise and act on this! If we could see by the eye of faith that every foe and every fear, every difficulty and perplexity, every trying or painful circumstance, every looked-for or unlooked-for event, every source of care, whether at present or in prospect, are all, as put under His feet, at His sovereign disposal - what a load of anxiety and care would be often taken off our shoulders!

THE WONDERS OF REDEMPTION

And did the Holy and the Just,
The Sovereign of the skies,
Stoop down to wretchedness and dust,
That guilty worms might rise?

Yes, the Redeemer left His throne,
His radiant Throne on high,
(Surprising mercy! Love unknown!)
To suffer, bleed and die!

He took the dying traitor's place,
And suffered in his stead;
For man (O miracle of grace!)
For man the Saviour bled.

Dear Lord, what Heavenly wonders dwell
In thy atoning blood!
By this are sinners snatched from Hell,
And rebels brought to God.

What glad return can I impart
For favours so Divine?
O take my all, this worthless heart,
And make it wholly thine.

Anne Steele

**CHRISTIAN
WATCH**

PO Box 6526,
Leamington Spa,
CV31 9NL

christianwatch.org.uk
Registered charity no.
1095108

