

The New Horizons Newsletter

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Matthew 28:19-20

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An Ideal Nation

As the trumpet-sound of war sounds again around the world it is prudent to draw lessons from history. Never mind two World Wars—*this* century has seen blood flow freely in conflicts large and small. There is no peace. And once again the Anglo-Saxon nations are poised on the brink, warships and bombers being positioned 'just in case', belligerent voices raised on all sides.

Conflict—it's ingrained in human nature: bring out the club, the blow-pipe, the bow, the bomb, the gas, go nuclear, attack by hacking. As technology grows so does our capacity and, seemingly, our appetite, to destroy, as does our callous disrespect for life. And technology coupled with a sad lack of wise leadership could end civilization.

Philosophers have asked: *why don't we learn from history?* Ignore the lesson, however, and we are certain to re-live it. *Check* World War I, World War II, Kosovo, Iraq, ISIS...Syria.

Lesson from History

We have long ago cut the cords which bound us to wise decision-making. Arrogant self-aggrandisement and short-term thinking has overtaken our leaders as they seek to strut the world stage. They seek peace, they pursue peace—but it remains elusive, a fading dream too often dissipating into a nightmare of broken bodies and shattered hope. They don't know how.

Evolution has tutored us to think merely in terms of the material—

to minimize the spirit element of our being. '*Survival of the fittest*' may be true in nature, but it is demeaning for intelligent rational beings uniquely created in the image of God.

So, we neglect and discard the elderly and the vulnerable. We callously destroy in the womb countless thousands of unwanted potential world-enhancing talent largely a consequence of promiscuous sexual conduct with its consequent dependence on health services to clear the mess. We demonstrate our superiority by deploying our deadly weaponry abroad, meddling in the affairs of 'weaker' nations.

Lost World

Anciently, nations warred at the behest of their gods. Not less ancient Israel from whom *we* inherited our foundation laws and our culture. Sadly we have largely discarded those principles—principles that underpinned their national greatness for as long as they remained faithful to Him.

God, for example, gave specific guidance to maintain the integrity of the nation: '*...You shall make no covenant [don't form an alliance] with them [foreign nations], nor with their gods. They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against me: for if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you*' (Exodus 23:32-33). It is a lesson our Western nations haven't learned.

As nations develop, a special common culture evolves eventually binding the populace in a patriotic unit comfortable with its traditions, its systems, its

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THE LAW IN PERSPECTIVE

You are presented with a choice of nations in which you will spend the remainder of your life. Would it be a nation—and there is a wide choice—where uncontrolled violence is rampant? Where murder is tolerated? Or where personal property isn't sacrosanct and theft is the order of the day? A nation where bribery and intimidation and lying secures the court's verdict?

What about a nation (though you might think you already live in one) where the older generation is side-lined and neglected, where sexual dalliance is almost universal? A nation where greed on a personal or a national scale has racked up unpayable debt and misery?

That's not what any sane person would choose. We want a tranquil life. We want to be free from personal diseases. We want to be safe and secure—certainly in our declining years.

Given the opportunity to design the perfect Constitution for your choice of nation—how would it be framed? May I suggest the following:

- Respect the elderly
- Do not murder or be violent
- Be faithful in marriage
- Don't steal
- Don't lie to the Courts
- Do not lust after what belongs to someone else
- Don't want anyone's house, wife or husband, employees, electronic gizmos

Sound familiar? It is, of course, (part of) the much maligned 'Ten Commandments' given by our Creator to ancient Israel as their founding Constitution. Indeed in essence it has been incorporated in some form in the legal system of all civilized nations and extends as far back as Abraham (Genesis 26:5, 1900BC) and beyond. Why, then, the animosity towards this sound guidance for life by—of all people—Christians?

God had told Israel: '*...Don't worship any other god but Me*' (Exodus 20:3). But—how would you identify Him? You may have your own idea of 'god', but does it conform with His? In fact, God—the one true God—goes on to give us a sign, an identifying mark, and this is perhaps the sticking point for many.

The God of the Bible is '*...the same yesterday, today and for ever*' (Hebrews 13:8). He says '*...I change not*' (Malachi 3:6). Nor does His 'sign' change—a sign that was embraced by the early church—both Jew and Gentile. 'Remember', God said, '*remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy*' (Exodus 20:8). It is the day set apart at man's creation—a welcome day of rest next column

An Ideal Nation...cont'd

religion. It can tolerate—even welcome—strangers, as long as the latter embrace the indigenous laws and culture. Alien religion, especially, is a disturbance, and God made this clear to His nation, Israel: '*...One law and one manner shall be for you, and for the stranger that sojourns with you*' (Numbers 15:16). The LORD added that this also applied in affairs of faith (vv.28-29). Each 'national religion' bears its own specific cultural and legal baggage—the binding cords for unity. It is ignored at our peril.

The Warning Despised

The nation of Israel was a union of twelve familial related tribes all bound by the culture and laws passed down by their common father, Abraham: '*... all the nations of the earth shall bless themselves in your Seed, because Abraham listened to My voice and heeded My charge, My commands, My statutes, and My laws*' (Genesis 26:4-5). These were later established as the founding Constitution of the new nation of Israel (Exodus 20ff).

Israel ignored the warning, lost touch with their God (JHVH) as they were seduced to worship foreign gods and to embrace their culture. They ended as captives in a foreign land. The *House of Israel* have not to this day returned to their inheritance. The *House of Judah* lost sovereignty for seventy years before their restoration, only to return and again, having rejected the Messiah, be ejected from Palestine by the Romans in 70AD, then scattered and without a national homeland for two millennia.

It stands as a stark warning for every nation, and not least our own faced as we are with our insidious culture of multiculturalism, political correctness and lax law enforcement. Ω

and spiritual refreshment. A day for fellowship and to enhance our relationship with Him through His Word. A day to worship the One who '*...made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it*' (v.12). It is, He said, '*...a sign*' for His covenanted people (ch 31:17).

As a *physical* nation Israel was required to observe the seventh day under penalties for non-compliance. As a *spiritual* nation in whom is the Spirit of God dwells Christians embrace the Sabbath willingly, joyfully and rejoice in all its benefits—in spite of the opposition from the world in general and the challenges of observance in a secular world. Such worship is alone acceptable to God, and all other is in vain, empty, useless. Other worship may excite a frisson of personal pleasure and self-satisfaction, but, said Jesus '*... It is no use for them to worship me, because they teach human rules as though they were my laws!*' (Mark 7:7, Daniel 7:25). Ω

Insight from Paul

The apostle Paul's letters shed a bright light on our walk with God

As a 'Pharisee of the Pharisees' and schooled by the renowned Gamaliel, the apostle Paul was well-versed in the rites and customs prescribed by God and recorded in the Scriptures and which were his life-long custom to observe. Not least were the ceremonies associated with the annual festivals.

The festivals form a pattern based on the agricultural cycle, perfectly understandable in an agrarian society, and were in spring, in summer, in autumn. The apostle has much to say about the 'First-fruit', a motif rooted in the spring festival, and he expands its significance beyond the harvest theme to embrace the glorious destiny mapped out for true believers.

The first festival of the Hebrew year is *Passover/Unleavened Bread*, and the firstfruit of the barley harvest was celebrated during it. When the Sabbath ended the Temple authorities cut a sheaf of ripe barley, which was presented next morning before the altar: '*...he [priest] shall wave the sheaf before Jehovah for your acceptance; on the morrow of the sabbath [Sunday] he priest shall wave it*' (Leviticus 23:10). It was called the 'Wavesheaf'.

The apostle applies this symbolism to Jesus: '*...now Christ has been raised from the dead; He became the firstfruit of those having fallen asleep [ie who died]*' (I Corinthians 15:20). *Passover* marked the death of Jesus—which occurred as the *Passover* lamb was slain in the Temple: '*...in the middle of the week [ie Wednesday] he shall cause the sacrifice and the offering to cease*' (Daniel 9:27), Jesus having fulfilled the symbolism. The harvesting of the *Wavesheaf* marked his resurrection from death, which happened as that Sabbath ended, Jesus having spent three days and three nights in the grave (Matthew 12:40).

Sunday morning we find Mary at Jesus's tomb, early, '*...while yet dark*'—only to find him long gone (John 20:1), having been resurrected the previous evening around sundown. Jesus then met Mary, but forbade her to touch him '*...Do not touch Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father*' (v.17). He was about to ascend to heaven to be presented to the Father as the firstfruit (I Corinthians 15:20)—at the time the firstfruit sheaf was to be presented in the Temple. We note that the disciples later that day embraced him when he appeared to them. *Mission accomplished.*

Noting that the wavesheaf consisted of *many* stalks of ripe grain, Paul unravels the significance: '*...ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit*' (Romans 8:23). Every true Christian is a part of the 'firstfruit harvest. James echoes this theme; if you are 'in Christ' you are '*...a kind of firstfruits*' (James 1:18).

The barley harvest began only after that first sheaf of grain had been cut (Leviticus 23:14), and continued until the next festival seven weeks later. God instruct-

ed: '*...you shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall you number fifty days*' (vv.15-16). It culminated in the *Feast of Weeks*—in the New Testament called *Pentecost* (Acts 2:1). (This year Sunday May 20.)

It is of note that the first Christians joyfully accepted that the LORD expected them to observe His festivals. Thus we find Paul '*...was in a hurry to arrive in Jerusalem by the day of Pentecost, if at all possible*' (Acts 20:16). He had also issued guidance to the Corinthian brethren on the manner they should be observing those spring festivals (I Corinthians 5). Ω

Letter from England

No matter how long before this present corrupt world order is overthrown—as it surely will be—we Christians have to make the best of it. We are, here in the West, blessed with a generally peaceful environment, an environment that stems from our deep Christian roots.

Over the centuries we as a people have come to absorb those principles of living that reflect (however dimly). the teachings of Jesus. That is our foundation. And in the words of the Psalmist, '*...If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?*' Those principles underpin our civilization: the rule of Law, mutual respect, generosity, self-discipline, personal responsibility, family values, respect for all life—and a lingering understanding that the Creator is watching over us for our good.

But for how much longer? Diluted by secularism, by foreign influences, by Darwinism, by the desire for more—all combine to cause to fade the fundamental understanding that we are made in the image of God, and that He has, in the Scriptures, provided guidance for our welfare.

When we, as individuals or as governments, ignore that guidance we lose our way. As Christians we do our best to follow the path He has mapped out for us, to, with the apostles '*...obey God rather than men*' (Acts 5:29). That will land us in trouble with the authorities, who are intent on finding a divine law and legislating it out of existence. Think *family law*—certainly the foundation of national stability. It encompasses our behaviour from personal relationships, to the bedroom, to the courts, to our national borders.

Jesus promised eternal life to those who remain faithful to him and his way to the end.

James

Whose Agenda?

Our world is fast moving towards unity—a new world order in which education, business, politics, religion are all unified under one world leader. The process has developed silently, slowly, largely unseen over many decades, but is soon to affect all of us.

Agenda One

The global elite can't wait and are actively promoting it. It perhaps sheds light on the strident opposition to the United Kingdom exiting the European Union. To them the nation state is archaic and best eliminated. A 'global state' is seen as a golden future for all of us—a world of total equality, shared resources, peaceful co-existence, extinction of the divisive concept of 'race', the end of hunger and disease. *Utopia!*

This transformation, by this plan, is to be activated by the United Nations, and was actively promoted by Robert Muller, the former UN *Assistant Secretary-General*: '*...We must move as quickly as possible to a one-world government; a one-world religion; a one-world leader*'. It is the UN's stated policy: '*...The age of nations must end. The governments of nations have decided to order their separate sovereignties into one government to which they will surrender their arms.*' (*U.N. World Constitution*)

Official UN departments oversee each sector (eg UNESCO for education and science), and for purposes of political administration the world has, reportedly, been sub-divided by the UN into ten regions each with its own leader who cedes his authority to a single world leader.

One department, Muller adds, oversees religion: '*...Peace would be impossible without the taming of fundamentalism through a United Religions*'. The path to religious unity is strewn with many way-marks. *Anglicans* have formally acknowledged the *Pope* as pre-eminent. *Methodists* actively discuss merger with the *Anglicans*—a return to their roots. *Lutherans* have long since abandoned the pretence of being reformers. Both *Protestantism* and *Catholicism* join in new worship forms largely drawn from *Pentecostalism*. Inter-denominational services are increasingly commonplace and include 'speaking in tongues' and emotional arm-waving. And leading United States Protestant *evangelists* have signed up to the Catholic doctrine of justification (by works).

Central to all the changes sits the Papacy. Papal occupants of 'the throne of Peter' have pursued this agenda since the early sixteenth century.

No-one will enter the New World Order unless he or she will make a pledge to worship Lucifer. No-one will enter the New Age unless he takes a Luciferian Initiation.

David Spangler

[We want] a man of sufficient stature to hold the allegiance of all the people...Send us such a man and, whether he be god or devil, we will receive him'.

Paul-Henry Spaak

Protestant denominations are viewed not as spiritual partners but as rebellious children who must return to 'mother church'. All 'heresy' is, eventually, to be eliminated—if necessary, as with the Inquisition in the Middle Ages, by torture and death.

Agenda Two

God, however, has an alternative agenda which will supersede

man's faulty and ultimately despotic plans.

Messiah will return, not in the disguise of a mere human but as the all-powerful divine Ruler of our planet. He will have observed the dire universal consequences of the United Nations plan (or, probably, a similar alternative) and will, having put down all opposition, start the process of re-construction.

His rule will encompass all nations—a true thousand year *reich* presided over benignly by the King of kings and where all mankind will, with transformed hearts and minds, have free access to the Spirit of God. Ω

also read...

God's Grand Design

<http://www.cgom.org/Publications/Articles/GodsGrandDesign.pdf>
or in print format from our offices/website

But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

*And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it **Micah 4:1-4***