



# The Burning Bush - Online article archive

## Direct action

By George H Fromow, The first Secretary of the Sovereign Grace Advent testimony.

(This article is taken from Watching and Waiting, October, 1919 and reprinted in the January-March 2019 edition).

I'm reprinting this article (written in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, the Second World War and the resultant chaos amongst the nations) for it deals with the issue of governmental authority and the Christian's response.

This is a topic under discussion today in the wake of the Covid Restrictions. Some ill-informed Christian ministers and pastors say these restrictions are to be rejected and resisted by believers. They declare such a restriction is an attack upon gospel freedom and the right to worship when in truth it is no such thing.

The restrictions do not target Christians specifically but all gatherings which lead to the spread of the Covid-19 virus. It is hardly an attack upon Christian liberty to close pubs, dance halls and cinemas in a bid to hinder the spread of the virus!

In truth, the innovations of online videoing of church services has proved to be an means of reaching even more hearers than was the case before the restrictions. Such is the wise and merciful Providence of God.

- The Editor

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This phrase, (Direct Action ) as used today, will lead to revolution. Whatever form of government may be in power, it is a Christian obligation to respect it and obey it, in as far as it is possible in the fear of God.

Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus, Alexander, Caesar, were all to be obeyed, and to receive tribute. Their power was delegated to them by God. Caesar's government was inferior to Nebuchadnezzar's, as iron is inferior to gold, but nevertheless it was to be acknowledged. So too, constitutional or parliamentary government is of still less value in the Divine estimate – it is but a mixture of iron and earthenware as compared with gold – yet the child of God should recognise its authority, and regard it as the best God sees fit to permit for the present. Let us do nothing to undermine the authority of Parliament. Weak as it may appear to us, let us not despise it, lest a worse come upon us, having less authority, or worse – greater tyranny!

We are all conscious that there is today a fearful assault upon parliamentary government. It is being despised, ignored or overridden among all classes. The War Cabinet took direct control of National and Imperial affairs, under pretext of a war necessity, but although peace has, in measure, returned, there has not been full restoration of a Cabinet directly responsible to Parliament. Ministers seem to be a law unto themselves.

In the last phase of the war, a foreign Generalissimo had the empire's resources in his hands. At the Peace Conference the 'Big Four' were practically supreme in their decisions. In all this the English Parliament was paralysed.

Can such things be desirable? They may have appeared inevitable, but to the student of prophecy are indicative of the rapid drift away from democratic government, to a godless, lawless tyranny. Parliament does prove weak and fickle as it leans first to the left, then to the right, and now to a central coalition. But with all its failings, we see in it the best form of human government which God allows for our time. It is represented by the 'Iron and Clay' (Daniel 2:41-43).

If the iron-clay rule of the ten kingdoms is superseded, what follows? The rule of the Beast will follow (Daniel 7:24-25) and his policy will be direct action to effect his own will (Daniel 11:36). Let us fear to support anything that leans to unconstitutional 'Direct action;' it may override and destroy what God now permits us – parliamentary government.



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It matters little who takes direct action, the evil will follow, whether King or Commoner; Trade Union or Commercial Corporation; Miners or Ulster Protestants; the believer should shun to countenance it. Labour has its just grievances to be righted. Employers have their rights, which should be upheld. Protestants may well fear 'Rome Rule,' but neither party nor interest has the right to take the law into its own hands. It is quite unconstitutional, and for the believer unscriptural. If continued, and Parliament succumbs, lawlessness will abound, till one comes who will take all Direct action into his own lawless hands (2 Thessalonians 2).

Men will be found handing over all control and authority to him (Revelation 17:13). His action will be direct indeed, for he will direct all the energies of the ten confederate kingdoms against God and Truth, and 'make war with the Lamb' and 'with the saints' (see Psalm 2).

God also will take direct action as is His Sovereign right, and make the sovereignty of the world the sovereignty of His Son. That will involve the destruction of the Lawless One and his lawless followers (2 Thessalonians 2:8).

Meanwhile there is action for the saints of the Most High. Their power is in direct approach. 'Let us come boldly unto the Throne of Grace, to obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.' Hereby the Holy Spirit will energise them to witness to His direct action in their hearts, and use their witness for blessed action in the regeneration of souls, and their translation into the Kingdom of the Son of God.