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'Brexit' - What Saith the Scriptures?



The issue of "Brexit" is before us as never before since the UK voted 2016 to leave the EU!

It appears that what has been settled upon by the Prime Minister is not what the 17+ million citizens voted for in 2016.

The thinking of the citizenry who voted "leave" really counts for nothing but what the "all-wise" "gnomes of worldly enterprise" pontificate is what matters!

When Moses said the people of Israel would leave Egypt and that "there shall not an hoof be left behind" (Exodus 10:26) that complete removal took place. But we are not led by a Moses or anything like him!

The terrible confusion and disappointment inflicted upon many by the utter deceitfulness of the political leadership of our land, must not settle upon the Christian. Remember that old adage: "Man Proposes, God Disposes!" It is most certainly true. Behind all the machinations of men, and that throughout the centuries of time, there has ever been the outworking of God's eternal plan. Let us not forget or be blind to this truth.

Here in the UK, there is a babble of voices shouting out their opinions. There has, over recent months, been a continual, persistent murmuring by business interests, foretelling of an economic 'winter' should we leave the EU. That murmur has increased in volume arguing for the acceptance of the Theresa May 'sell-out' since it suits their business interests as severance from the EU will not really take place under her 'deal'!

Such cries are a portent, an omen, of things to come.

"And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: the merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, and cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men. And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all," Revelation 18:1-19.

The whining of the merchant lobby here in the United Kingdom over the last few years is a mere reflection of a much greater mourning that will come on those who have rejoiced in the abandonment of God's truth and the embracing of the god of economic success and advance!

It has been commerce that has dominated the thinking and the debate surrounding the "Brexit" process!



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Now, more than ever, the threat of economic loss combined with the hope of prosperity are the twin weapons assaulting the minds and hearts of the population. God and His Word have no place whatever in the deliberations of the masses. Such a mix can result only in disaster!

EMPHASIS

The emphasis of the Bible is upon the spiritual and the eternal. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.," Matthew 6:33. Again we are told: "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Mark 8:36-37.

It is so easy to live for the 'now' and forget 'the world that is to come'!

Future

What the merchants and their political acolytes seek today from the EU, will be granted in a much fuller measure by Antichrist. That is evident in the lamentations over lost wealth in the verses from Revelation 18 which I quoted above. The avarice and greed of men will know full rein during the short days of Antichrist's reign. But it all comes to a tragic and calamitous end! "And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all," verse 19.

Emptiness

There is no true or lasting satisfaction found outside the will of God. Man's self-indulgence has always resulted in utter emptiness and ruin.

"Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you," Matthew 6:27-33.

These truths are scoffed at by most today and believed on by very few but one day it will be seen that they determine the final outcome of all things for mankind.

Surrender

It is now very clear that the British Government has yielded to the demands of the Irish Government and its EU supporters.

In a nutshell, the Irish Government saw the 'Brexit' negotiations as an opportunity to advance its long-term goal of a United Ireland.

Its demand for 'no hard border', meaning no real border checks etc, between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, was really all about holding on to the many concessions obtained from the British Government with regards its influence in Northern Ireland affairs and granted through the spinelessness of Northern Ireland's Unionists politicians' foolish and treacherous concessions over the years, chiefly wrung from them by the terrorism of the IRA.

For some time there has been a 'virtual' united Ireland. A 'hard border' would have shattered that so it had to be resisted by the Republic of Ireland and its allies!



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'Sold the pass'

Sadly, the DUP, which had already 'sold the pass' by entering into a power-sharing arrangement with Sinn Fein/IRA, accepted the 'no hard border' demand and that because the greedy, unprincipled businessmen of Northern Ireland saw a return to border checks as a hindrance to their continued money-making.

The DUP's adoption of the Theresa May/Leo Varadkar "no hard border" policy left them, quite literally, with hardly a leg to stand on since Mrs May's 'deal' is all about conceding the Irish Government's demands and since the DUP had already agreed to that, what could they really complain about? They have, in the wake of Theresa May's announced deal, come under increased pressure to reverse their initial rejection of her "Brexit" deal.

A recent BBC news report has the influential Ulster Farmers Union chief executive calling on the DUP to back Theresa May. "We would support the deal going through and, against that background, we would ask the DUP to consider voting for this deal," said Mr Aston. The draft deal between the EU and UK includes a backstop plan, which would mean Northern Ireland would have to stay aligned to some rules of the EU single market.

However, it also states that Northern Ireland products will continue to have "unfettered market access" to the rest of the UK. Earlier, the president of the Ulster Farmers Union (UFU) said there was "no option but to support" the prime minister's Brexit deal. Ivor Ferguson said: "It's the best deal on the table. A no deal would be disastrous for our Northern Ireland farmers." (BBC News Website, 16th November 2018.)

Review position!!

It is questionable if the DUP will hold to their original position of total rejection. The "Belfast Newsletter" of the same date ran a story with the headline: "Theresa May claims 'DUP working with us'". The report states: "Her comments follow an accusation in the House of Commons from the DUP Westminster leader Nigel Dodds MP that she had "sold out" Northern Ireland in the draft Brexit agreement." The report went on: ". . . it also comes following remarks on BBC NI TV show The View from DUP chief whip Sir Jeffrey Donaldson that the party would "review" its confidence and supply agreement with the Conservative Party if the draft withdrawal text is passed by parliament."

There did not seem to be any immediate denial from the DUP. That is ominous! The political atmosphere, as represented in the daily news reports, is changing, with support for Mrs May apparently growing and the tide turning against her opponents. That being so, we can expect 'dead fish' here in Ulster to simply go with the current and vacillatingly shift their position to keep in step with the crowd!

The whole sorry mess is an amalgam of compromise, deception and abandonment of moral and political principles!

Remember Christian!

There is one thing ever to be remembered by Christians. What appears to be a victory for the enemy is actually the furtherance of the eternal purpose of God. That is what Peter pointed out in Acts 2:22-24.

"Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it."

Never did a victory appear less like one as did Calvary! But it was the very epicentre of God's eternal victory over His enemies and the advancing of His eternal purpose to redeem a people for Himself.



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Events in Europe at present are but the outworking of God's purpose in this part of the world wherein God in His sovereignty is permitting men to lay the foundations of the future kingdom of Antichrist. England will be in that kingdom but Ireland will not. Should we see the separation of Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK, a breach which goes very much against our historical and natural alliance with a "Protestant" throne, we must see that the factors that naturally bound us to mainland Britain following the "Williamite Revolution" of 1688, have been dissolved by the acid of Ecumenism!

What a need there is for every Christian to study to understand God's purpose as revealed in Holy Scripture! As God's people found refuge in the plain statements of God in the days of the fall of Judah, some 600 years before the first advent of Christ, so we must heed that God's judgments are beginning to fall upon the UK and Ulster because of the abandonment of God and His truth by the people BUT, even in the midst of this judgment, God is working out a purpose in mercy toward an undeserving people.

'Is there any word from the Lord?'

"Then Zedekiah the king sent, and took him out: and the king asked him secretly in his house, and said, Is there any word from the LORD? And Jeremiah said, There is: for, said he, thou shalt be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon," Jeremiah 37:17.

In the midst of a growing crisis Zedekiah hoped for a very different message from the Lord. But, no! Judgment was still coming. However, it was a judgment which would end ultimately in mighty blessing for a people delivered from their rebellion and wickedness. This the Lord ever seeks to keep before His people by way of comfort in the face of the coming judgment.

"Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the Chaldeans, and into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and he shall take it: and the Chaldeans, that fight against this city, shall come and set fire on this city, and burn it with the houses, upon whose roofs they have offered incense unto Baal, and poured out drink offerings unto other gods, to provoke me to anger. For the children of Israel and the children of Judah have only done evil before me from their youth: for the children of Israel have only provoked me to anger with the work of their hands, saith the LORD. For this city hath been to me as a provocation of mine anger and of my fury from the day that they built it even unto this day; that I should remove it from before my face, because of all the evil of the children of Israel and of the children of Judah, which they have done to provoke me to anger, they, their kings, their princes, their priests, and their prophets, and the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And they have turned unto me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not hearkened to receive instruction. But they set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name, to defile it. And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin. And now therefore thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city, whereof ye say, It shall be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence; behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: and I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: and I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me. Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul. For thus saith the LORD; Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them," Jeremiah 32:28-42.

Through all the dark days and deep valleys which must be traversed, let us ever bear in mind just where it is God is leading His redeemed people! There is a "land of corn and wine" and we will enter it in due time, God's time!



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In the midst of the storm we must say, like Paul: "Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me," Acts 27:25.

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