



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

### No place for dissent

In John 6:15 we read: "When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone."

The Lord Jesus was very much aware of the thoughts of men and acted so as to deter their ill-advised plans.

We may learn from Him and, as much as in us is, be acquainted with the thoughts of men and act accordingly.

I was made to think along these lines when I noticed the headline I quote in the following article.

I sincerely trust you find these few thoughts helpful.

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*"And he (the False Prophet) causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name," Revelation 13:16-17.*

The Bible says: "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun," Ecclesiastes 1:9.

The enforcement of all to receive the mark of the beast in the times of the great tribulation in the last three and a half years of this age is but the re-emergence of a spirit that has ever been at work amongst men since Adam's fall into sin. Those who would obey God and walk in His ways have always been subjected to pressures to adopt the ways of the world and abandon their distinctives.

Why was Abel murdered? I believe the record given us in Genesis chapter 4 indicates why. "And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him," verse 8.

What matter did Cain raise with his brother Abel? Doubtless, it was the fact recorded in verses 4-5. "And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: but unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell."

Cain would have asked just what it was about Abel's sacrifice and worship that distinguished it from his and made it acceptable to God!

When Abel explained the distinction between his sacrifice and that of Cain, Cain was angered and we know how his anger resulted in the murder of his brother!

#### Earlier

We can of course trace this spirit back even further! Was it not evident in the devil! His whole rebellion was centred upon his desire to be as God. He would not be as God created him. "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day," Jude 1:6. John Gill comments on these words of Jude. 'But left their own habitation; by attempting to rise higher; or by quitting their station and posts of honour, being unwilling to be subject to God, and especially to the Son of God, who was to assume human nature, and in it be above them, which they could not bear; and by gathering together in a body, in another place, with Satan at the head of them; . . . for they were driven out of their native habitation, heaven; they were turned out of it, and cast down to hell.'



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Isaiah records: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High," Isaiah 14:12-14.

Born out of this evil ambition is a hatred of all who differ from him. It was said to him by the Lord after the fall of Adam, a fall he instigated, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel," Genesis 3:15. There exists in the being of the devil a hatred of the 'seed' of Christ, Who was the Seed of the woman. He has carried on a relentless campaign of oppression, subversion and attempted genocide of the elect of God throughout the ages. It is that spirit that will reach its fulness in the days of the Antichrist and his aide, the false Prophet.

Recently, I did an online search and found the following headline on a national news agency website.

"COVID-19: People who refuse to get vaccine could be denied entry to venues, minister suggests."

The report began: "The minister responsible for the rollout of vaccines says hospitality venues may require proof that people have had a jab. People could be refused entry to a host of venues if they decline a coronavirus vaccine, a minister has suggested. 'People have to be allowed to decide for themselves whether they want to be vaccinated or otherwise,' Nadhim Zahawi said."

There is a 'hint' in those words of what may become a regulation, a law, before long. Those who refuse the vaccine may be excluded from many areas of life and social activity because of their refusal.

Now there those who oppose vaccines for all sorts of reasons, most of which are foolish and mere irrational notions based upon myth and fancy. However, some of us will refuse this current anti-Covid vaccine because its manufacture and/or testing has involved the use of foetal material, obtained from the body of an aborted baby.

Because of this we would see the acceptance of such vaccine an acceptance and endorsement of abortion, the murder of the unborn.

My health cannot be maintained or safeguarded at the cost of the life of an unborn child!

### **Possibility**

Now such a position may be penalised by Government and by society generally. The words of Nadhim Zahawi, the minister responsible for the vaccination programme, carry within them at least the hint of such a possibility!

If the threat is ever fully realised, then Christians must see it as but the ongoing consequences of seeking to do right and that they are but following in the footsteps of many who have encountered the same spirit of animosity toward those who seek to do right.

That ancient confrontation between the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem and the disciples of Christ will prove yet again to be a guide and an inspiration in such circumstances.

"Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people. Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned. And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men," Acts 5:25-29.



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### Collision

Obedience to God and His Law will ever bring about a collision between the Christian and the desires, theories and perceptions of ungodly men.

So it will be to the end of time!

Following the setting up of the Great White Throne of Judgment there follows the eternal state. "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away," Revelation 22:1-4. Then and only then, will the child of God be free from that which has pained them and made them weep. Then there will be no contrary spirit, no conflicting views, no enemy to torment.

The believer in God is no longer the 'dissenter', 'the non-conformist'! Rather, that which was deemed un-orthodox has become the norm. All of God's purpose has been wrought out. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren," Romans 8:28-29.

All is blessed harmony and conformity in God's heaven. Being "conformed to the image of his Son" is the eternal objective of God for those who have believed upon Christ for salvation.

Oh happy day when this is accomplished and all inconsistency with the holy will of God has ceased!

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