



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

The day when the tide of immigration will turn

A consideration of the prophecy of Zechariah, chapter 5, and its relevance to the referendum on UK membership of the EU.

"Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah? And he said unto me, To build it an house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base," Zechariah 5:10-11.

There is at work today throughout the earth, a spirit of iniquity and rebellion that will reach its fulness in the days just prior to the Saviour's return. Paul tells us in 2 Thess 2:6-7. "And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way." "Withholdeth" means to 'hold fast', see 1 Thess 5:21. "Letteth" simply means 'to hinder'. Thus we are taught that the spirit of rebellion and anti-Christianity which will be revealed in the very last days is presently held in check by God's power until God's appointed time.

Presently, that wicked agency is concealed to a very large degree. Note 2 things: 1. God had to show and explain to the prophet this wickedness. 2. God had to further reveal what was hidden within the ephah.

I. WE ARE TOLD HERE THE GUISE UNDER WHICH THIS WICKEDNESS WORKS.

"And I said, What is it? And he said, This is an ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, This is their resemblance through all the earth," Zechariah 5:6.

1. It is under the likeness of what an ephah symbolises that this wickedness operates.

The ephah was a measure, Deut 25:14. Here the same word is translated 'measure'. The name of the measure became associated with the container which held that measure. Thus we are looking at a container which held an ephah. It was the merchant's tool even as weighing scales are widely used in many branches of commerce today. Thus it speaks to us of commerce, of merchandising.

2. We have had the importance of commerce brought before us in the EU referendum campaign.

The whole debate centred upon the commercial impact leaving the EU would have. There was no mention of morality, of the Bible or of God in this debate. Money was the issue. It is what will decide the issue of the UK's membership of the EU.

Once it was the moral law of God which guided men now it is profitability!

3. The prophet was allowed to see this truth. How many of God's people today share in this knowledge? It is recorded here for our learning!

II. WE SEE THAT THIS SPIRIT OF LAWLESSNESS IS CONCEALED AND CONSTRAINED WITHIN AN EPHAH.

1. The concealment is chosen by the devil but the constraint is of God. Devil has ever promoted his cause under the guise of that which is apparently innocent.

2. It is so encouraging to see that God is in control of the devil. It has not changed since the days of Job! All of those who would destroy God's people and God's purpose have been allowed to go only so far! We must rest in this truth today.

3. We are told here how this scheme of the devil will develop. That is because God is sovereign!!

III. THE EPHAH IS ON A RETURN JOURNEY.

Verses 9-11. The wings of a stork are employed in transporting it to Shinar. Shinar is Babylon. The stork is a migratory bird that returns year by year to the same nest it used the year before. This ephah is being taken



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to where it 'nested' before! Genesis 11:1-9. Here is the place where the spirit of antichrist was displayed long ago.

1. Women in the Bible often depict religious movements. The Church of Christ is depicted by a woman. "Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners?" Song of Solomon 6:10. The Church is the "Bride" of Christ, clothed in white raiment. She is a holy entity.

However, we find another woman used to depict another religious movement which is of a very different character. Rev 17:1-6. Babylon in its earthly glory is depicted in the OT as a woman. "Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called, The lady of kingdoms," Isaiah 47:5.

2. This is the spirit of Babylonism we see. In the latter days it will return to its ancient origins from which it was scattered. Notice that the "wind" will aid its return! Storks are known to avail themselves of the wind and thermals of air to assist them on their journey. The devil is called "the prince of the power of the air," Ephesians 2:2. The return of the ephah is aided by the power of the devil. This is in keeping with what the Bible tells us about the Antichrist, the last king of Babylon. "And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority," Revelation 13:2.

3. At the end of this age, the devil will be given liberty to pursue his evil purpose. Rev 16:13-15. Of course, like Pharaoh rushing after Israel into the Red Sea, it will but seal his doom!

4. There is a suggestion of speed and swiftness here. These things will begin to come to pass very rapidly. Rev 1:1.

IV. THE EPHAH IS BEING BORNE TO BABYLON IN ORDER THAT IT MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED.

"And he said unto me, To build it an house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base," Zechariah 5:11. Three words are to be noted. "Build", "established", "set". All speak of a degree of permanence. The spirit of Anti-Christianity is a wandering spirit according to the decree of God when he scattered the rebels in Genesis 11. It has appeared under many likenesses. Pharaoh, Goliath, Philistines, Moabites, etc. In more modern times in Romanism, liberalism, ecumenism, Hitler and of course, Islam. But there is a day when its "exile" will end and it will be "established" in its own base, "built" for it in Babylon.

1. God reveals that there is a future for Babylon. It will become THE commercial power within the territory of the old Roman Earth. Revelation 18 indicates clearly its mercantile preeminence.

2. Surely we see its rise even today! That area of the world has become the focus of international politics since the first Gulf War. That is 26 years ago!

3. As it is built and established, it will become the centre of economic prosperity. Therefore it will draw hordes of immigrants to it as the discovery of gold drew men of old in the gold rushes! Such "rushes" may still be witnessed wherever oil, "black gold" is discovered!

There will be a departing from the shores of the UK when this happens.

V. THIS WHOLE REBUILDING OF BABYLON IS ONLY THAT IT MIGHT BE DESTROYED.

I will close by reading the obituary that God has already written of this evil system. Revelation 18.

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