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A TERRIBLE REALITY!

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived," 2 Timothy 3:13

We are given some details of just what exactly 'evil men' will engage in at the close of this age in the opening verses of this chapter.

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away," verses 1-5.

I have often pointed out that the word 'perilous', in verse 1, is the same word used in Matthew 8:28. "And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way." The Greek word translated 'perilous' in our text is here translated 'fierce'.

It can be seen that the rage and fierceness of this man sprang from his possession by many devils. He was a plague and curse upon the community in which he dwelt and nothing they did could restrain him.

Brethren and sisters, that is what is coming upon the world.

1. WHAT CHRISTIANS HAVE EVER SOUGHT, IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S COMMAND, TO TURN AWAY FROM IS GOING TO SWAMP SOCIETY IN THE LAST DAYS OF THIS AGE.

All that we have counted obnoxious, revolting and abominable is going to become commonplace.

Do we not see this very thing before our eyes? The abominable perversions which spring from depraved and devil-inspired hearts are commonplace. Gratuitous violence is a common occurrence. The aged, the infirm, the young, the weak and vulnerable are under attack, often in full view of the public who take no action to intervene, being too busy videoing it on their phones!

The scandalously debauched lives of the 'celebrities' who change their partners more often than most change their socks, are reported in terms of admiration and adulation. Such behaviour is beyond reproach it appears. We have become as Greece or Rome or Babylon in the public behaviour of society.

The source of this moral change in the outlook of the nation is taught us here. In 2:16 we read: "But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness." The source of the increasing ungodliness is the 'profane and vain babbling.'

Just what this babbling is can be easily known by that which Paul sets over against it: the Word of God. The path of the 'vain babblers' is to be rejected and instead believers are to "continue . . . in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of," 3:14. That path of course is the one set forth in Holy Scripture which is "given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness," 3:16.

For generations now the pulpits of the 'established and mainline churches' have railed against the Word of God and taught that it should be rejected as a falsehood and a deceit. Ecclesiastic leaders have "taught rebellion against the LORD," Jeremiah 28:16. Rebellion against the Lord entails the rejection of all the moral instruction He sets forth in His Word. The 'fruit' of the modernistic and ecumenical babblers is seen in abundance on the streets, lanes, homes, businesses, and the assemblies and parliament of our nation.

2. FURTHERMORE, IT IS GOING TO GET WORSE!

It may be hard to imagine it getting worse than it is but it will. Few realise the merciful benefits we have



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enjoyed up until recent times! The Psalmist of old prayed: "Rid me, and deliver me from the hand of strange children, whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood: that our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace: that our garners may be full, affording all manner of store: that our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our streets: that our oxen may be strong to labour; that there be no breaking in, nor going out; that there be no complaining in our streets. Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD," Psalm 144:11-15. We have enjoyed much of that happiness as a result of gospel mercy being visited upon our land in former times right up to recent days. It was not valued as it ought to have been otherwise we would not have carelessly cast it away in order to following the 'babbling' of the modern pulpiteers!

We are now entering into the dark harvest of that folly. Our streets are filled with 'complaining, with breaking in and violations of people's persons and property! And it is to get worse!

A picture of what comes upon a people who reject the truth of God and embrace the lies of the devil and his agents is painted vividly in the book of Lamentations. There is the aftermath of a nation who departed from God and suffered the consequences of His departure from it!

"And from the daughter of Zion all her beauty is departed: her princes are become like harts that find no pasture, and they are gone without strength before the pursuer. Jerusalem remembered in the days of her affliction and of her miseries all her pleasant things that she had in the days of old, when her people fell into the hand of the enemy, and none did help her: the adversaries saw her, and did mock at her sabbaths," Lamentations 1:6-7.

There are days of bitter memories coming upon our land as we begin to realise the misery we have brought upon ourselves.

3. THE ABJECT CONFUSION AND DISARRAY THAT THE NATION PRESENTLY IS IN OVER 'BREXIT' IS BUT THE BEGINNING OF OUR MISERIES!

Who can point the way to improvement and advance? There is none! Our nation's political leaders present a veritable 'Babel' of opinions and views. Buffoons and clowns crowd forward offering themselves and their ideas as the way to recovery and success. To follow them is but to seek to douse flames by throwing petrol on them!

Is there no hope?

Not for this world and its polity. The Bible paints a clear picture of the fountain of man's philosophies and notions.

"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually," Genesis 6:5.

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9.

"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: these are the things which defile a man," Matthew 15:19-20.

This being true, and it is, then no hope can be placed in a human solution.

The words of Hosea are very pertinent. "O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help. I will be thy king: where is any other that may save thee in all thy cities? and thy judges of whom thou saidst, Give me a king and princes?" Hosea 13:9-10.

Not until the Lord Jesus takes up the governorship of this world will we see an end to the downward plunge of the world's society.



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That day is drawing near. A trumpet will sound soon and in this is our hope.

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever,” Revelation 11:15.

“Even so, come, Lord Jesus”

Rev. Ivan Foster (Rtd).

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