

## Maastricht, Monarchy and Morality

"I, Elizabeth, do solemnly and sincerely in the presence of God profess, testify and declare that I am a faithful Protestant." (*H.M. The Queen's first Address to Parliament, November 4th, 1952*).

There is today a collapse of moral and political confidence in Britain and a loss of faith in our institutions, the like of which we have not seen before. Scandal has plagued the royal family as, one after another, the marriages of the Princes and the Princess in line of succession have broken up. The Church of England, increasingly intent on following the fashion of the world, has lost the trust and regard of the people and seems destined for disintegration. The police service and the courts of justice have repeatedly been discredited, and the modest proportion of corruption and fraud that has actually been detected in the business world is on an unprecedented scale. The young have scant respect for their elders; reverence towards anything is rare: *"There is no fear of God before their eyes."* The mounting crime wave and the sheer nastiness of so much criminal and other behaviour is deeply worrying for all of us. The government seems paralysed and unable to do anything other than react to events. Their only conviction appears to be that the Maastricht Treaty, which seems to have most of the Cabinet and Opposition leaders mesmerised, must be ratified.

There is a sense in which events seem to have been orchestrated, so swift and relentless has been the assault on the nation's institutions, most particularly the Monarchy and the Protestant throne.

The conveyor-belt 'process' of Maastricht, inexorably leading to

abdication of sovereignty seems unstoppable. The desired expressions of the will of the people has been brushed aside, and no amount of passionate and rational argument, warning signs, adverse publicity, bad behaviour or breaches of trust experienced with our European partners, seem able to restrain the compulsion to merge and abandon our identity. If the process is completed and we are committed to a federal Europe, sovereignty would no longer rest with the people of these islands, nor with their Queen. Her Majesty will be a citizen of Europe like the rest of us and her Parliament will be seconded to and overruled by the European State.

### Take Note of the Religious Dimension

The predominant religion of the confederation would be Roman Catholicism and its spiritual head would be the Pope, to whom all who practise the Roman Catholic religion owe allegiance, **political as well as spiritual**.

Among current leaders of Europe practising this religion are Jacques Delors and Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers, both Jesuit educated, as well as Chancellor Kohl and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzales of Spain, also devout Catholics. These four leaders are products of the Roman Catholic Social Movement, as are former premiers Andreotti of Italy and Tadeusz Mazowiecki of Poland. The Catholic Social Movement

believes that there is no nobler task than the unifying of our continent. Two internal commission reports submitted in February 1993 to EEC President, Jacques Delors, argue 'that ancient religious differences are at the heart of the conflict besetting the Maastricht Treaty on European Union; and religion - or at least some kind of peculiar new Euro-spirituality inspired by Brussels - is the answer to the Community's political crisis.' There is no doubt as to the nature of that spirituality, nor the importance of understanding the ancient religious differences referred to. The European Community, from its inception, was an idea in the mind of the Vatican to re-Catholicise Europe and, into the bargain, to re-Catholicise this country.

When at her Coronation, Her Majesty the Queen took the Bible handed to her by the Moderator of the Church of Scotland; the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Moderator expressed that which lies at the very heart of Protestantism and at the heart of the institution of the Monarchy - the recognition of the authority and supremacy of the Holy Scriptures:

'This is the most valuable thing this world affords. Here is wisdom. This is the royal law. These are the lively oracles of God.'

Her Majesty then promised: 'To maintain to the utmost of her power the Laws of God, the true profession of the Gospel and the Protestant Reformed religion established by law.' Then laying her hand on the Holy

Bible, she added: 'The things I have here before promised I will perform and keep. So help me God.'

### Departure from Biblical Christianity

In other words, the Queen committed herself, and the 'Crown-in-Parliament', to uphold the statutes and laws of Holy Scripture and the Christian Faith. However, during her reign, we have seen the royal assent given to radical legislation totally opposed to Christianity as revealed in Scripture, and plainly fostering immorality. Bills facilitating divorce, the legalising of abortion and homosexuality, and the 'liberating' of adultery and pornography laid the basis of today's moral crisis in our society. *"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"* (PSA 11:3). There are signs that we are reaping the whirlwind of God's righteous anger and judgment, so very apparent in the devastation resulting from collapsing family values. Her Majesty the Queen experienced this herself in her own *"annus horribilis."*

Many Christians believe that Her Majesty's fortieth<sup>1</sup> and most difficult year, culminating in the fire that started in her personal chapel at Windsor, has brought both throne and nation to a very critical time spiritually. Church leaders today do not speak for God from Scripture as they once did; but God's Word is not silent about what has happened in our land. What we are seeing unfolding at breathtaking speed is the withdrawal of the grace and blessing of God, that many of us have come to take for granted, as the inevitable result of our national apostasy.

### Multi-Faith Worship is a Snare

The compromise of the ecumenical movement and ARCIC (The Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission) which gave way to another 'process' (the Inter-Church Process), has inevitably and rapidly been followed by multi-faith worship and talk of changing the Coronation Oath. In the wake of the apparently irretrievable breakdown of the marriage of the heir to the throne, the Archbishop of York, John Habgood, suggested

that: 'If the Coronation Service was to unify the nation it must recognise that we now live in an ecumenical and multi-faith society.'

Her Majesty has permitted Roman Catholic Primate, Cardinal Hume, to preach to her, and ignored the protest of over 2,000 Church of England clergy, concerned by the insult done by the multi-faith worship at the Commonwealth Day Service in Westminster Abbey to the unique claims of the Protestant reformed faith and the inviolable supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ. In 1993, for the first time since the Reformation, the sacrament of 'penance' or hearing of confessions is taking place in the Palace of Westminster. MPs are being 'shriven'.

On April 21, 1993, the Queen's birthday, a Roman Catholic High Mass took place to receive Junior Social Security Minister, Ann Widdecombe; a former Anglican, who has adopted the name Hugh after the Roman Catholic St. Hugh of Lincoln (1140-1200), and, incredible as it may seem, in **"remembrance"** of that great Protestant martyr, Hugh Latimer (1485-1555). According to *The Sunday Telegraph* these triumphalist words, which urge the conversion of England to Roman Catholicism, were to echo around the crypt Chapel of the House of Commons:

Faith of our fathers, Mary's prayers,  
Shall win our country back to Thee;  
And through the truth that comes from God,  
England shall then indeed be free.

She was sponsored by the Education Secretary, John Patten, and the Liberal Democrat MP, David Alton (Leader of 'The Christian Democratic Movement').

### The Presumption of Papal Imperialism

At his inauguration, the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, said that Augustine had brought Christianity to the British Isles from Rome. This is no more than ecumenical propaganda. There is a wealth of evidence that Christianity had taken root in these islands by the end of the first century, and saints of Christ such as Alban were martyred or persecuted for the sake of the Gospel centuries

before Augustine arrived to enforce papal supremacy in A.D. 596.

The rule of Rome was established, after a century of opposition from indigenous Christians, at the Synod of Whitby in A.D. 664. The church in Ireland retained its freedom for nearly 500 years, and sent out another saint, Columba, to evangelise Scotland and Northern England from his community base in Iona. Henry II was commissioned by the Pope to invade Ireland and bring the Christians there under papal control, which was accomplished at the Synod of Cashel in A.D. 1171.

### This is Our Heritage

Our forefathers who carefully drafted the *Bill of Rights* and *Act of Settlement* were at pains to protect and defend the biblical Christianity rediscovered at the Reformation and thus consolidate the basis of our Parliamentary and individual freedoms. They saw the Roman Papacy as a proven threat to the safety and freedom of the realm, and the practice of Roman Catholicism as an affront to true New Testament Christianity. This was apparent in the Sovereign's Coronation Oath, sworn by every monarch up to the time of George V:

'...I do solemnly and sincerely, in the presence of God, profess, testify and declare that I do believe that in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper there is not any Transubstantiation of the Elements of Bread and Wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, at or after the consecration thereof by any person whatsoever; and that the Invocation or Adoration of the Virgin Mary or any other Saint, and the Sacrifice of the Mass, as they are now used in the Church of Rome, are superstitious and idolatrous.'

At that time, memories of the inspired burnings of such godly men as Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley at Oxford and George Wishart in Scotland were still precious to the majority of the people and taught to their children at school. Relativism had not taken root, nor had tolerance stretched the bounds of morality beyond the limits of Scripture. Truth really mattered. Our great Christian heritage firmly guarded by the national church and enshrined in

<sup>1</sup> Forty years - or days - is a time of testing in the Bible.

the 39 Articles and the other great Protestant Confessions of faith, was treasured by the whole nation.

Reminders of the wonderful deliverances from papal power were included in the Prayer Book and are still to be found in the preface to most editions of the Authorised Bible: England had repeatedly experienced plots, conspiracies and assaults against both Throne and State carried out by the Jesuits in the 16th and 17th centuries; among others, the Ridolphi plot, the Babington Plot, the Spanish Armada, and the Gunpowder Plot; Archbishop Laud's attempt 'to advance popery and shake up and alter the true Protestant Religion established in the Church of England'<sup>2</sup>; as well as the attempt of the Stuart king, James II, to do the same, which led to the 'Glorious' and bloodless Revolution and to the securing of the Protestant throne.

The Jesuits, ever zealous in their conviction that the end, of establishing the rule of Rome, justified the means, went underground. They were banned from almost every country in Europe including our own, until they were able to re-emerge just before the start of the Oxford Movement in July 1833. The success of the Tractarians and the man described by previous popes as the 'founder of the ecumenical movement', Cardinal John Henry Newman, in building up the 'High Church' or Roman Catholic wing of the Church of England, sowed the seeds for the departure of the denominational structures from true Christianity in the twentieth century. Vatican II, in the early 1960s, convinced and continues to convince many Protestants that Roman Catholicism has changed and was looking for agreement and compromise. This is not so. Cardinal Hume, who looks for and believes we may be seeing 'the conversion of England' has stated that the Roman Church '**possesses all of God's revealed truth and all the means of grace**

<sup>2</sup> For which he was tried by Parliament and found guilty by both the Commons and Lords, and executed

**and will not accord that status to others.'** Gullible Christians longing for unity have swallowed a red herring. The doctrines of the Council of Trent which pronounced anathemas on 'the heretics' of the Protestant Reformation were upheld by Vatican II. The language has changed, but not the substance. For example, Protestants have become 'separated brethren', but 'subsidiarity', a Jesuitical term of 'Vatican speak' first used in the pontificate of Pius XI early in this century, can mean whatever those at the centre of power choose it to mean. This does not bode well for our freedoms. Having failed to conquer the nation by direct assault in earlier centuries, the Jesuits are now poised to attain their goals by means of the Ecumenical Movement and the 'Maastricht Process'.

#### **These are the Foundations of the Nation**

As a nation we have turned our backs on God, denied and squandered our great Christian heritage. The faith that won for us the freedom to read the Bible and, indeed, any other book; and that so many martyrs sacrificed their lives to defend; the religion that sent missionaries out to all corners of the world, winning countless souls and laying the foundation of the greatest empire the world has known; the Christianity that withstood the constant threat of Rome and gave us our Protestant Reformed Throne and national identity; that faith, given to us by the grace of God, maintained the freedom and safety of the realm. Under George VI, when that freedom was threatened by Nazi Germany, the nation was called to prayer. Twice during the Second World War, in 1940 and 1944, just as at the time of the Spanish Armada, 'the people of the Book' cried out to God for His deliverance. He always answered the nation's prayers and thus Protestant Britain has remained free from subjugation by an alien power.

#### **This is the Way Forward**

As our government prepares to yield our inheritance to Maastricht;

as the Monarchy and the Established Church, and their Protestant Reformed identity, crumble; and as the moral landslide gathers momentum, again today we need to repent as a nation and to cry out to Almighty God for mercy and deliverance. *"Where there is no vision, the people perish."* We need to look to Scripture to rediscover, as the Reformers did, the simplicity of the Gospel, repentance and the promise of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

All of us are responsible for the dreadful depravity that is surfacing among us: *"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, There is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one... There is no fear of God before their eyes... For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God."* Martin Luther, who saw corruption and depravity all around him, found the answer of individual salvation, which results in corporate and national blessing, in such verses of Scripture from the third chapter of the book of *Romans*.

For those who understand what God has done for this nation, the choice to be made over Maastricht transcends economic considerations. We chose to defend freedom in 1939, regardless of the certain huge cost. We enlisted the help of the LORD our God, who had saved us so often before. We must do so again now. Let us pray that God will grant the people of the British Isles the wisdom and the opportunity to reject Maastricht and retain the freedoms that by God's grace we still enjoy.

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Source: 'Wake Up!' magazine, May/June 1993

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