



The tribe of Issachar understood the times and knew what Israel should do

Issachar Ministries UK seeks to be a people who understand the times, listen to the Lord and know what should be done

Issachar Comments Papers

Expounding biblical concepts on the world scene today

OUTLOOK FOR 2015

January 2015

The Great Charter

The 15 June 2015 will mark the 800th anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta that defined the basic freedoms of English citizens and laid the foundations of parliamentary government. There will no doubt be a great deal written about this significant event in the nation's history and some celebrations at Runnymede. It will also provide an opportunity for reviewing the fundamentals of our parliamentary democracy and the present state of the nation.

Basic Freedoms

It is the state of the nation that should be of foremost concern to everyone whatever their age or background, yet a recent poll showed that almost half (46%) of young people in the age group 16 to 24 said they had no interest in politics and do not intend voting in the coming General Election. The right of everyone to have a vote and thereby to share in the government of the country was very hard won, along with all our basic freedoms. So it is sad to see things that cost the lives of our forefathers now despised by a generation that will soon have the responsibility for running the country.

Anarchism

The rising tide of anarchism among young people is a symptom of the loss of national heritage that has been an increasing feature of life in Britain since the 1960s. Changes in the law that have undermined the traditional culture of the nation have been instrumental in discarding centuries-old beliefs and practices. It is traditional family life that has suffered the most. Easy divorce plus the despising of loyalty and commitment in personal relationships has produced the present disastrous condition of family life that devastates the lives of millions of children who are left bewildered, broken and insecure when their home life is shattered.

Crumbling Foundations

But we cannot simply blame the politicians for the changing culture of the nation. A fundamental cause has been the loss of faith upon which the culture was based. It is our faith that provided the values and principles which formed the foundations of the national character and determined the behaviour of its people. Our biblical faith provided the principles of truth and integrity that were

accepted by the whole nation so that our leaders were trustworthy, they told the truth and their actions were based upon justice and righteousness; our businessmen followed the same principles and their word was their bond, bribery and corruption were shunned; in family life adultery and unfaithfulness were a disgrace.

These principles formed the character of the nation and were the foundations of our national life. Once the foundations crumble there is no firm basis to guide behaviour - everyone does what seems right to them. This is now the norm for the majority of those born since the 1960s.

Restoring the Foundations

Is it possible to restore the foundations of the nation? "*When the foundations are being destroyed what can the righteous do?*" (Psalm 11.3) It is obviously easier to tear down and destroy than to build up and restore. It can happen; but only when many people recognise that the nation is in a mess and there is a large amount of dissatisfaction. This generates the desire for change and it just needs a small group of determined people to start a new fashion.

Is this likely to begin in 2015? It is doubtful, because things are not yet bad enough to create that widespread dissatisfaction; although it is possible that the year ahead may go a long way in that direction. We are likely to see some massive changes in the political life of the nation and in the national economy during the coming year. These will be a direct result of having abandoned our Christian faith which has provided the foundations of our national life for many centuries. But only the older generation and young people of faith will recognise this.

Future Hope

The day will come when the older generation, born before the 1960s, will be gone; and the hope for the future will lie with a small minority of the nation - young people who have faith in the God of the Bible, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Creator of the Universe. At present, the greatest responsibility for the future of the nation lies with the older generation who have a firm foundation in their faith. They have not done a very good job of passing on their faith to their children; but will they teach their grandchildren?

For millions of children who have suffered broken homes, grandparents have an important place in their lives. If grandparents learn to share their faith with their grandchildren this could provide the "agent of change" so greatly needed in the nation at this present time. Preparing the next generation to change the nation should be the prime aim of the older generation. It is not enough passively to bemoan the state of the nation. The hope of the nation and its future once again depends upon the generation that came through the bloodiest period of war and international conflict in history. Can they once again produce a new Magna Carta for change by sharing their faith in Jesus with a new generation of young people? The future of the nation depends upon the answer to this question.

This paper comes to you as part of the Issachar Ministries Intercessionary prayer e-mail in January 2015 and also as blog on the Issachar Ministries website if you want to comment www.issacharministries.co.uk

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