



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

The Foundations are Crumbling

November 2013

The disintegration of Christian civilisation in the Western world is gaining momentum exponentially. In Britain the process of secularisation that began in the 1960s can best be illustrated by statistics showing the health and stability of family life. A reliable measure is the number of babies born out of wedlock. In the 1950s 97% of babies were born to married couples. Throughout the 1960s babies born out of wedlock did not exceed 5%; by 1980 it reached 10%; by 1990 it had rocketed to 25%; and at the last census in 2011 it had doubled again and reached 47%. In some regions of Britain it was in excess of 50%.

Marriage Matters

Many people argue that it doesn't matter whether children are brought up by a married couple or a cohabiting couple; but this is not the case. There is a massive amount of research showing the outcomes for children of different family types. When the family breaks down children are always negatively affected. Married couples are far more likely to stay together than cohabiting couples and, according to a report by the Marriage Foundation, 90% of babies born this year to unmarried partners will experience the breakdown of their family home by the time they reach school leaving age of 16.

Dysfunctional Families

All the research shows that the children of fragmented families are more likely to do badly at school, have health problems, emotional or behavioural problems, are less likely to get good jobs, and will have a poor record in forming stable relationships which, of course, greatly increases the instability of the next generation.

After the Tottenham riots Prime Minister David Cameron said that he was going to take special measures to improve life for the 100,000 most dysfunctional families, but nothing appears to have been done and the number of dysfunctional families in Britain is actually increasing. A recent Ofsted Report says that some three quarters of 1 million young people are being brought up in homes blighted by alcohol or drug addiction.

Crumbling Values

What we are seeing happening in the nation is the crumbling of the value system of society. This means that personal and social values are breaking down at an alarming rate because children are not being taught the basics of right and wrong. The world of confused morality into which they are born gives them no clear teaching to guide their behaviour. They are left to work out their own rules which inevitably are defined by what they perceive to be 'self interest' and getting what they want.

This is incredibly serious for the future of the nation because it means that the next generation will be even more unstable. They will lack a basic code of behaviour or standards to guide their personal relationships which means that everyone will do what is right in their own eyes. This kind of moral anarchy is a nightmare scenario that is not just a fantasy in a Hollywood horror movie. It will actually become a reality in Britain if family life continues to disintegrate at the current rate.

Thirty Years of Warning

I have been warning about the consequences of family breakdown for more than 30 years. Research I did as far back as 1979 for a book called "*Towards the Dawn*" showed the trends in society that have actually been fulfilled over the years.

In that book I used sociological concepts to show that the primary source of social change does not lie in the economy or any other social institution but in the value system of a society. When the personal and social values of society become unstable the foundations of the nation crumble. We are either **led by** concepts of righteousness or we are **driven by** the forces of evil that lead to destruction.

In "Towards the Dawn" I said "With no certain basis to the values of society and an ever increasing rate of change, chaos is inevitable and the end result in terms of mounting chaos, normative anarchy, the breakdown of social organisation and the final disintegration of the entire system is equally inevitable". I also said "Christians have the opportunity of bringing new life to a dying nation. But the task is urgent - very urgent indeed. We are probably nearer to the point of no return, the point at which the whole system goes spinning out of control....than most social analysts would care to admit" (page 72).

Crossed a Red Line

I believe we crossed a red line in Britain in July this year when Prime Minister David Cameron forced through the Bill legalising 'Same-Sex Marriage' despite more than half of his own MPs voting against him. Those who followed their conscience instead of the pressures of party politics knew that this measure would seriously damage the nation by undermining marriage and family stability. From this year onwards we can expect to see a rapid decline in the number of couples getting married and a rapid increase in family breakdown with all the consequent negative pressures upon children.

Persecution Coming

The latest proposal coming out of the European Parliament is a call for European-wide direct surveillance of any EU citizen suspected of being "intolerant". This really is the death of free speech and is yet another blow directed at Bible believing Christians who would dare to speak out against anything that might offend anybody else. One of the statements in Section 4 of the EU Document says "**There is no need to be tolerant to the intolerant**".

This is an appalling statement! Just think of what it means for the future of our godless nation as we turn our backs on centuries of Christian tradition, and principles that have formed the legal foundation of our society. It is a spirit of madness that is gripping the nations and driving us towards destruction. It looks as though Christianity may very well be driven underground in the very near future. It is therefore essential that Christian parents and grandparents teach their children the faith so that they will be able to stand firm through the coming onslaught.

Issachar Ministries Message

This is the message we are teaching in Issachar Ministries. We are studying the way the Jewish people in Exile in Babylon survived and maintained their faith in a hostile social environment. It was largely due to the teaching of Ezekiel to whom the elders of the scattered communities came to sit at his feet. He used the words of Moses to urge the leaders to ensure that every family taught the basics of faith in God to their children.

"Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them upon your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" (Deut 6.4-7).

The Tide Will Turn

We Christians have to learn to live in Babylon for a season until the tide turns. It will undoubtedly turn at the point when there is so much chaos in the nation that people begin to cry out, "Oh God, what's gone wrong?" At that point there will be an amazing opportunity for Christians to act prophetically explaining what's gone wrong, how we have turned away truth and righteousness, but our God is a loving Father who is eager to forgive his wayward children and to redeem the nation.

This paper come to you as part of the Issachar Ministries Intercessionary prayer e-mail in November 2013

The series on Living in Banylon will continue next month

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