



Brexit, shmexit? Let's ask for a new vision of our nation and the world

How should Christians see leaving the EU?



Many say they see leaving the EU as vital for Britain to regain independence from an increasingly secular humanist entity. They link current affairs to the Bible's prophecies of the 'end times' and conclude that Britain must be free to act under its own sovereignty in order to have the opportunity to be on the 'right side' of end-time events.

Yet even Christians are also concerned by the uncertainty of Brexit. What will happen to businesses dependent on exports to the EU and how will it affect jobs? Of course, the economic uncertainties and social demographic crisis facing the EU mean there is no guarantee of stability if we stay in.

Amid this uncertainty, let us remember that the apostle Paul advised us to "set our minds on things above" (Colossians 3:2). So, what is God's view of the nations?

One group of Christian businessmen belonging to the ICCC (International Christian Chamber of Commerce) was led to have a conference in Strasbourg, one of the two seats of the European Parliament. When an opportunity opened up to go into the famous Parliament building, they were reminded of various scriptures by the Holy Spirit.

One was that it is God who puts the nations' boundaries in place:

"From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit

the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands." (Acts 17:26; similar passages are in Deuteronomy 32:8 and Isaiah 10:13).

This contrasts with the EU's plan to divide Europe into 11 regions for administrative purposes. In their plan for a truly united Europe, the UK would have been divided into sections with the south of England linked to northern France in a region called Trans Manche.

The group of businessmen were also struck by the realisation that, in building a European Federation, man came together not necessarily thinking about what they could share but what they could get out of it.

Former President of the ICCC, Surrey businessman Roger Ball, told the 2016 conference that through prayer he had been led to believe that Europe is the first stages of an end time 'Babylon' global economic power and fiscal union." In the Bible, Babylon is a symbol of nations and man-made systems opposing God's reign.

Did God want Britain to submit to this superstate and learn to "live in Babylon" until an appointed time as the Jews were instructed during their 70-year exile?



We deserve the judgement of living in Babylon, since we have willingly departed from God's Word as a nation. There has been a succession of ungodly laws dating back to 1959 with the Obscene Publications Act, long before our membership of the EU. We must humble ourselves before the Lord and continue to repent on behalf of our nation, since judgement begins with the house of the Lord. One prayer leader has said, "First, we need to get 'Babylon' out of the

Church" – meaning worldly ways of thinking and acting.

As the title of this article suggests, Brexit is not the whole story. The opportunity of the EU referendum has actually brought up the whole question of our identity as a nation.

Britain used to be a nation that sent out missionaries to the four corners of the globe. Now more open borders have meant that the 'nations' are coming to Britain – but is the Church ready with the Gospel?

Some have thought that leaving the EU will weaken relationships with European Christians, who see British prayer leaders as spiritual parents. However, separating from Europe economically and politically does not mean a spiritual exit. A Christian accountant, who has advised many churches and charities for decades, points out, "We wouldn't be separating from Christians in Europe; we just need to ask, what is God's will and best plan for our nation?"

It is time that we in the Church looked beyond Brexit and tried to regain a vision of Britain's calling as a nation. Just as individuals are meant to serve one another, how is our nation meant to serve and thereby bless other nations?

Is Britain intended to stand again in the way of a dominating world power, as she did in the days of Charlemagne, Napoleon and through two World Wars? Is this part of our calling as a nation, to stand alone against spiritual forces of evil (Ephesians 6:12) by withstanding being conquered (in the past) or subsumed into the greater Europe today?

It is all too easy to be influenced by the media and let fear of the future affect our judgement, but no Christian should make decisions based on fear, no matter what they hear in the media.

When praying, we need to recognise how our nation has lost its way, humbly ask God to restore our sense of purpose as a nation and to put us in that place where we can best fulfil it and be a blessing to the rest of the world both as a nation and as the Church.



Brexit – plus ça change!

Why we're featuring the EU again

Over three years ago, in the autumn of 2015, I prayed about when to feature the European Union. I felt it was to be the following spring; this was borne out by David Cameron's announcement of the "in-out" referendum.

So we tried to show the plans already in progress for a redrawn map of Europe and the 'superstate' in the wings.

For some years my attention had been drawn to videos and prophecies from various quarters, all with the message that Britain should leave the EU. David Noakes, whose prophecy we printed in full, told me this January: "My personal conviction, which has not changed during the last three years, is that it is the Lord's purpose that we should leave the EU – I believe without any strings attached – which must mean without a 'deal' (if one can call the present suggested arrangement a deal, rather than a trap).

"I believe also that in God's mercy he wants to release us before the whole institution falls into disaster under his hand of judgement. That is not to suggest that in our godlessness we do not merit judgement also – we do – but that his mercy is still upon us because of the faithfulness of the former generations; and also because he still has a destiny for us to fulfil in his purposes.

"Unless I am grossly deceived, I have received more than one prophetic word during the last year or two, all of which have had the same flavour."

Put like this, those of us who believe that God directs the destinies of nations (and invites us to participate through prayer and fasting) can be clear that leaving the EU is about regaining sovereignty so that we can fulfil our divine calling – that of a missionary, or 'sending' nation. Despite popular criticism of the British Empire, the evidence shows that God used it to spread the Gospel. And the most economically successful former Empire members – such as the US, Canada and Australia – and some of today's Commonwealth countries – have strong Christian roots.

Evangelist David Hathaway says, "I still believe that God's desire is to use Britain as a nation to evangelise Europe and Israel! But, like Israel, we must, as a nation, return to God and obedience to his laws. That is the responsibility of the Church. Look at the many social problems in Britain today."

Back in 2016 I was inspired to write the article on this page, because like others I sensed that our focus needs to be on our national, God-given identity and purpose. So when it came to me that we should print eight more pages this issue to include a Brexit supplement, it was clear that four of the articles from 2016 are still relevant, and that we should reprint certain pages to strengthen readers in their resolve to pray for the nation.

So this is a time for kindness to one another as we pull together, and surely a time to pray for our European friends. Let's pray, as happened at the prayer day on 26 January, for national unity, and also for warm church, cultural and sporting links as we extend the hand of friendship and respect to our European neighbours and trading partners.

Melanie Symonds



REV DR CLIFFORD HILL

Prophetic insight into today's world

This first appeared in 2016. Has much changed since?

REFERENDUM INS AND OUTS

There IS a better way to ensure our nation's future blessing and prosperity

Politicians, bankers, big businessmen and journalists have all been making their pronouncements about whether we should leave the European Union or stay in it.



They all give their opinions on whether we will be richer or poorer, safer or at risk. Do we need the EU as trading partners or will we be better off independently trading in world markets? **But I've yet to hear any leader in church or state calling the nation to seek the guidance of God for the future well-being and prosperity of Britain.**

MAJOR REFORMS

The Prime Minister promised to seek major reforms in the EU so that he could recommend the country to vote in the Referendum to stay in a 'Reformed' Europe. But no such 'reformation' has been achieved.

There is no change to the Common Agricultural Policy which is strangling the life out of British farming. Farmers have the highest rate of suicide of any occupation and the dairy farming industry is likely to be wiped out because of EU regulations.

Britannia does not rule the waves around our shores

NO CHANGE

There is no change in the Fisheries Policy which forces our fishermen to throw thousands of fish back into the sea in order not to exceed their quotas, while we buy fish caught by foreign fishermen in our own waters. Britannia certainly does not "rule the waves" around our shores since we gave away our sovereignty to the EU.

And there is no change in the predominance of the European Court of Justice that takes precedence over our own legal system, which many believe to be the best in the world. Our system has been developed over the past 800 years, since Magna Carta.

SECULAR HUMANIST POWER

In this newspaper we are not only concerned with economic, political and social matters but with the spiritual

health of the nation. We remember that in the negotiations leading up to the Maastricht Treaty there were strong attempts to get some reference to the centuries-long Judaeo-Christian tradition shared by all the nations of Europe. This was vehemently resisted by the secular humanists who have gained power among the unelected officials in the European Union.

ATHEIST VALUES

Their atheist values have had a fundamental effect in promoting the secularisation of Britain. It was EU law that paved the way for same-sex marriage in Britain.*

Since the European Court has the power to overrule our laws in the UK, this means that our Parliament no longer has the power to govern the nation

in accordance with the will of the electors.

There is a basic spiritual truth that when a nation deliberately rejects the truth of God's word, it puts itself outside the blessing and protection of God. This is what has happened in Europe, which has gone from being the most Christian continent in the world to being the most secular.

Today the nations of Europe are facing multiple problems as they struggle to cope with a vast influx of migrants, high unemployment and growing social discontent, compounded by the desperate attempts to maintain the Euro, which are causing incredible suffering to the poor in countries such as Greece, Spain and Portugal.

UNGODLY AND REPRESSIVE SYSTEM

Of course they all want Britain to stay in, to help prop up this ungodly and repressive system, which is why all the leaders spent so much time trying to shuffle together a few crumbs for our Prime Minister to take back to London and claim it as a new deal in a "reformed Europe". This is so far from the truth as to be laughable if it were not so serious.

Politicians and leaders of big

businesses are combining to try to scare the voting public into remaining in the EU. But the greatest fear is not in leaving, but in staying in an ungodly and failing organisation. The warning signs have been there for a long time. Now we have the opportunity of escaping before the collapse comes - like Lot getting out of Sodom, or Abraham leaving Ur.

UNKNOWN TERRITORY

Certainly it leads us into unknown territory, but this is where

time our soldiers were rescued from Dunkirk and our airmen won the Battle of Britain against the might of the Nazi war machine, so too faithful believing prayer has the power to influence the destiny of the nation.

God is mobilising the faithful remnant in Britain to intercede to save the nation. Even though we will be treading unfamiliar paths; if we are doing this in trust in God, he will



trust

in God

is far more

important

than making

pacts and treaties

with other nations.

Jeremiah had to warn

the politicians in his day

that making treaties with

other nations would lead to

disaster. He said "The Lord has

rejected those you trust; you will

not be helped by them" (Jeremiah

2:37). Sadly, the leaders and the people

refused to listen and only a few years

later Jerusalem was destroyed by the

Babylonians who invaded the land.

The big question facing us today

in Britain is whether or not we have

sufficient trust in God for him to be

able to lead the nation into ways of

righteousness and prosperity.

Do we trust God to lead the nation into ways of righteousness and prosperity?

A FAITHFUL REMNANT

God is not dependent upon numbers! He loves to work out his salvation with just a handful of people who are totally committed to him like Gideon's 300; and like the 120 disciples on the Day of Pentecost who shouldered responsibility for the 'Great Commission', taking the message of God's salvation to all the world.

Today, God is calling the faithful remnant in Britain to intercede to save the nation. As the prayers of the faithful saved the nation at the

respond and ensure that blessing will come upon the nation.

The God of Creation, who holds the nations in his hands, is faithful to keep his promises. He says: "I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth." (Isaiah 42:16)

The faithful remnant of believers in Britain today have the opportunity to bless the nation through their prayers and through their witness; if we put our trust in the Lord he will lead us, not only into ways of righteousness but into times of prosperity and peace.

*See the HEART website for an explanation of this in a fuller version of this article

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FRANCE AND GERMANY TO BLUR THEIR BORDERS

Macron and Merkel sign new treaty in Emperor Charlemagne's seat

Frustrated by the rise of populism and nationalism in the EU, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron have signed a comprehensive treaty of Franco-German collaboration spanning from shared diplomatic corps to shared hospitals.

The Treaty of Aachen signals how they intend to deliver their goals of greater EU integration and global influence. It was signed on the soil of Aachen, also called Aix-La-Chapelle, capital of Charle-

magne's Frankish empire, on 22 January.

Speaking at the signing, Macron said, "At a time when Europe is threatened by nationalism, which is growing from within, Germany and France must assume their responsibility and show the way forward."

He called the bilateral relationship "a bedrock which can relaunch itself... in the service of reinforcing the European project".

The treaty will do its best to blur the border between France and Germany, sharing merged water, electricity and public transport networks as well as hospitals and joint business schemes.



President Macron is happy to intensify Franco-German co-operation

A high priority is securing a seat for Germany on the UN Security Council

Under the pact, the countries will cooperate between their foreign affairs ministries, diplomatic and consular missions and coordinate their action at the UN and NATO. They have also agreed to strengthen monetary and economic union, establish common positions in the EU

and cooperate on foreign policy and external and internal security.

A high priority for both is securing a seat for Germany on the UN Security Council, where, if successful, they will closely coordinate their positions.

Not surprisingly, the far-right parties in France and Germany have objected strongly and accused the two leaders of sleight of hand over the lack of advance consultation. On the French side, it has been called a submission to Germany.



Chancellor Merkel has signed the Franco-German friendship treaty



Establishing an EU army is a major purpose behind the new Aachen Treaty between Berlin and Paris.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said at the signing on 22 January, "We are committed to developing a common military culture, a common defence industry and a common line on arms exports. We want to make our contribution to the emergence of a European army."

The two countries have pledged to help each other with armed forces, should there be any case of armed aggression, and create a common military culture, establishing the closest

possible cooperation between their defence industries and technological base - all managed by a new Franco-German Defence and Security Council.

Both Angela Merkel and Emmanuel Macron have previously endorsed what Merkel called a "real" European army. After US President Donald Trump came to power, Merkel said in 2017 that Europeans must take their fate into their own hands, suggesting that relying on the US was no longer viable.

A Franco-German Brigade, founded in 1989, already exists, jointly consisting of units from the French Army and German Army.

OLLY AND MARTIN COULD BE MAKING OUR RULES

Two unelected civil servants chairing a secretive committee could make "binding decisions" on the UK and EU after March 29 - IF Mrs May's Withdrawal Agreement succeeds

If Mrs May's Withdrawal Agreement goes ahead, any disputes between the UK and the EU after 29 March will be settled by two civil servants who have been closely involved in the negotiations.

Olly Robins has been Mrs May's chief EU negotiator and Martin Selmayr is a German civil servant who has been the Secretary-General of the European Commission since 1 March 2018. Previously, he was Chief of Staff to the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, and there was some anger when he was eased into the post of effectively running the EU.

The Daily Telegraph reported on 14 January that senior backbench Tories were going to set out their concerns about the scale of the powers handed to the joint committee which Rob-

ins and Selmayr could co-chair. Martin Howe, QC, a leading expert in EU law, told The Telegraph: "The Withdrawal Agreement contains a presumption of secrecy regarding the proceedings of the joint committee."

"Unless Parliament were to legislate to constrict or control the activities of the UK representative, a civil servant could wield very substantive legislative powers without oversight from Parliament. This is a matter of great concern."

Mark François, vice-chairman of the European Research Group, said: "Under this agreement, Martin Selmayr and Olly Robins could potentially exchange two letters which would override Parliament and compel them under Article 166 to change the law."

A "new European spring": Italy and Poland's ambitious plan to wrest EU from Eurocrats

Populists from Italy and Poland should forge a "new equilibrium" to replace the influence of Germany and France in the European Parliament, Italy's Minister of the Interior Matteo Salvini has said.

Salvini, who is now Italy's most powerful politician, promised to create a "new European spring" during a visit to Warsaw on 9 January.

He said: "We propose a common programme to be offered to other parties and

peoples in Europe founded on certain themes, like economic growth, security, the family, Europe's Christian roots - themes that some in Brussels have denied... If we want to change the EU we must be ambitious - think big."

A common programme founded on the family and Europe's Christian roots

Poland and Italy will be the protagonists of this proposed revival of true European values, which aims to reclaim sovereignty from unelected bureaucrats in Brussels and transfer key EU powers back to national capitals.

Salvini has already been persuading Dutch and French populist parties, which would make a Eurosceptic block of potentially 150 MEPs in the upcoming European elections, or the third largest party in the EU Parliament.

He added: "Our goal is to be present in all European countries and work with other sovereign forces... I know there is interest within many countries for change. This is a historic occasion: it is time to replace the Franco-German axis with an Italian-Polish alliance."



Matteo Salvini, Italy's powerful Interior Minister

Vive la différence!

Revivals, religious tolerance and being the oldest nation state in Europe mark us out as different

Philip Quenby has compiled these historical charts to show the unique way Britain developed.

Do read this comparison carefully.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

England (Britain from 1707)	AD 449 Pagan Angles, Saxons and Jutes invade, pushing back the Christian Britons.	AD 597 St Augustine starts conversion of the southern English to Christianity.	AD 663 The Synod of Whitby leads to Roman Catholicism supplanting Celtic Christianity throughout England.	AD 878 Alfred the Great's victory at Edington ensures the survival of Christian England.	AD 1070 William the Conqueror invites Jews from Rouen to settle in England.	AD 1189-90 Massacres of Jews at London and York. In AD 1290 Edward I expels Jews from England.	AD 1350-80 John Wycliffe translates parts of the Bible into English for the first time. His teaching influences Jan Hus and hence Martin Luther.
Germany	AD 300 onwards. Pagan German tribes migrate west.	AD 500 onwards. Christian missionaries work to convert the German tribes.	AD 768 Charlemagne becomes king, reigning until AD 814.	AD 782 Massacre of Verden: captured pagans are killed by Charlemagne's army.	AD 1077 Papal victory in the Investiture Contest as Henry IV begs the Pope's forgiveness.	AD 1096 Rhineland Massacres of Jews by Crusaders.	AD 1349 Persecution of Jews. The Black Death continues to sweep Europe.
France	AD 496 Baptism of the Frankish King Clovis and 3,000 of his soldiers.	AD 687 The Frankish kingdom is reunited after fragmentation following the death of Clovis.	AD 732 Charles Martel halts Muslim invasion of France at the battle of Tours.	AD 800 Charlemagne crowned Holy Roman Emperor in Rome by the Pope.	AD 1066 and following. Kings of England are simultaneously Dukes of Normandy.	AD 1214 King Philip Augustus makes large territorial gains in France from King John, adding to baronial unrest in England.	AD 1428 Joan of Arc inspires French resurgence by lifting the siege of Orleans. Religious revival accompanies Joan's arrival on the national stage.
Spain	AD 409. German tribes invade Iberia. Visigoths (first Arian, then Catholic) conquer Spain.	AD 589-693. Successive Councils of Toledo approve repressive laws against Jews.	AD 711 The Muslim conquest begins with Visigothic defeat at Barbate River.	AD 778 Charlemagne's troops attack Caesaraugusta (modern Zaragoza).	AD 1066 Granada Massacre: Muslim mobs kill much of the city's Jewish population.	AD 1094 El Cid conquers and rules Valencia. He is revered as a national hero.	AD 1355 massacre of Jews at Toledo and Najera (AD 1360). Further massacres in AD 1392.
Portugal	AD 409 onwards. The Suevi form a kingdom in northern Spain and Portugal.	AD 585 Visigoths conquer the Suevi.	AD 711 Muslims overrun the south of Portugal.	AD 800 A ten-year rebellion against Muslim rule breaks out in Lisbon, Meridá and Toledo.	AD 1086 Crusaders push back the Moors in Portugal.	AD 1139 Portuguese defeat the Moors at Ourique and take Lisbon (AD 1147).	AD 1355 Civil war.
Arabia	AD 500 The Arabian Peninsula remains a patchwork of tribes.	AD 570 Birth of Mohammed.	AD 638 Jerusalem is captured by Muslims, followed by Persia (AD 641), North Africa (AD 641-700) and Spain (AD 711).	AD 880 The once-monolithic Abbasid Caliphate is reduced to territory in Iraq and Iran.	AD 1099 The First Crusade captures Jerusalem, setting up Christian rule in the Levant.	AD 1204 A crusader army sacks Constantinople, fatally weakening the Byzantine Empire.	AD 1389 Arab lands remain divided.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

England (Britain from 1707)	AD 1660 Restoration of the monarchy and the Clarendon Code (a set of discriminatory laws aimed at Puritans).	AD 1689 The Toleration Act allows greater freedom of religion.	AD 1739 John Wesley starts his open-air preaching, leading to the Methodist Revival.	AD 1765-69 Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England assert the primacy of Christian ethics in English law.	AD 1781 Loss of the Thirteen Colonies in America.	AD 1807 An Act to outlaw the slave trade is passed after decades of campaigning by William Wilberforce and the Clapham Sect.	AD 1878 William Booth first uses the name Salvation Army. Revival accompanies its work.
Germany	AD 1660 Recovery from the Thirty Years' War slowly continues.	AD 1683 A joint German-Polish army lifts the siege of Vienna.	AD 1727 The Moravian church sparks revival, influencing John Wesley.	AD 1763 Austria and Prussia end the European phase of the Seven Years' War.	AD 1792 A Prussian army invades France but is defeated at Valmy.	AD 1806 onwards. "Higher criticism" of the Bible questions its reliability.	AD 1882 Nietzsche proclaims, "God is dead. God remains dead. And we have killed him."
France	AD 1670 Louis XIV subsidises the English king in return for his support and agreement to become a Roman Catholic.	AD 1685 Louis XIV revokes the Edict of Nantes, sparking a mass exodus of Huguenots.	AD 1740-48 The War of the Austrian Succession.	AD 1789 The Declaration of the Rights of Man proclaims that law is an expression of the General Will of the People.	AD 1789 Revolution in France leads to the Terror (AD 1793-4) with over 40,000 executed. Christianity is replaced by worship of the Supreme Being.	AD 1804 Napoleon crowns himself Emperor. The French Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars cause an estimated 5-7 million deaths.	AD 1898 The Dreyfus affair highlights anti-Semitism.
Spain	AD 1598-1602 Outbreaks of plague.	AD 1704 Britain captures Gibraltar from Spain.	AD 1729 Treaty of Seville ends war between Britain and Spain which began in AD 1727.	AD 1767 Jesuits are expelled from Spain, Portugal (AD 1759) and France (AD 1764).	AD 1793 War against the French Revolutionary regime.	AD 1808 French troops invade, making Joseph Bonaparte king. A Spanish revolt is suppressed.	AD 1898 Spain loses vast territories in the Spanish-American War.
Portugal	AD 1668 Spain recognises Portuguese independence by the Treaty of Lisbon.	AD 1698 Muslims expel the Portuguese from most east African ports.	AD 1728-9 Portugal briefly reoccupies Mombasa.	AD 1755 The Great Lisbon earthquake (magnitude 8.5 to 9.0).	AD 1789 Abortive uprising in Brazil.	AD 1808 The Peninsular War starts as Britain aids Spain and Portugal against France.	AD 1870 The Vatican Council proclaims Papal infallibility.
Arabia	AD 1656 Grand Vizier Kiuprilli leads a revival of Ottoman government.	AD 1683 The Ottoman siege of Vienna is broken.	AD 1744 The al-Sauds ally with the newly emerged Wahhabi sect of Islam.	AD 1786 The United States pays a bribe to Morocco to buy immunity from pirate attacks.	AD 1798 A French army under Napoleon lands in Egypt, defeating the Mamelukes and an army subsequently sent by the Ottomans.	AD 1807 Janissaries again revolt and replace the sultan.	AD 1856 The Ottoman sultan approves reforms granting Christians religious freedom.

Is there such a thing as British exceptionalism? Over the course of 1,500 years of history, several things stand out:

Firstly, England remarkably early developed into a unitary nation-state within her existing borders, whereas power in continental Europe was either diffused in city-states or regions or supra-national, like the empire of Charlemagne, the Holy Roman Empire or Spanish Empire.

Secondly, this nation by and large

avoided the large-scale religiously-motivated massacres which characterised the French Wars of Religion, say, or Germany's Thirty Years' War. Britain came earlier than most to the idea of accommodating a plurality of voices, whether politically through Parliament or in society at large through religious toleration.

Thirdly, England had her revolution (the Civil War) a century or more earlier than other countries – in the 1600s, when political ideas were universally viewed

through the prism of religious belief. By contrast, the French Revolution (and those which later looked to it for inspiration) was driven by an avowedly atheistic (secular humanist) outlook.

Fourthly, (Protestant) Christianity was embedded deep within the fabric of English (later British) society in ways not found elsewhere: not only in the law but also in a self-consciously Davidic notion of kingship. Religious revival (sometimes national, sometimes regional) became a recurring feature of

British life from the time of Wesley and Whitefield onwards

Fifthly, following Cromwell's decision to allow Jews back into England in 1655, British imperial power flourished, ultimately enabling this nation to play a key role in the return of Jews to their ancestral homeland after the end of the First World War.

On these pillars England (and later Britain) built a strength and a continuity of government that were widely admired and envied.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

AD 1431 Joan of Arc burnt for witchcraft after claiming that God sent her to deliver France.	AD 1534 Henry VIII breaks with Rome, creating the Church of England.	AD 1536 Bible translator William Tyndale is burnt for heresy, but official translations of Scripture are later made.	AD 1588 The Spanish Armada is dispersed by the "Protestant Wind" and Drake's Sea Dogs.	AD 1620 The Mayflower lands in America, starting Puritan colonisation of New England.	AD 1642 Start of the Civil War. Puritans side with Parliament against the king.	AD 1655 Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell allows Jews back into England.
AD 1415 Jan Hus (a major influence on Martin Luther) is burnt for heresy.	AD 1518 Luther's 95 theses are widely circulated, starting the Protestant Reformation.	AD 1524-5 Luther condemns peasant insurrections, which are bloodily suppressed.	AD 1555 Peace of Augsburg: a subject must now follow the religious affiliation of his ruler.	AD 1618 The Thirty Years' War pits Catholic against Protestant.	AD 1635 Defeat at Nordlingen forces Protestant champion Sweden out of s. Germany.	AD 1648 The Thirty Years' War ends, with up to a third of the German population killed.
AD 1450-1453 Successive French victories undo almost all English territorial gains in France.	AD 1520 The Field of the Cloth of Gold: Henry VIII's diplomacy with France fails.	AD 1562-98 France is convulsed by the Wars of Religion between Protestant and Roman Catholic.	AD 1572 Mass murder of Protestants (Huguenots) on St Bartholomew's day.	AD 1598 The Edict of Nantes ends the Wars of Religion by promising freedom of worship to Huguenots.	AD 1637 Louis XIII makes a vow placing France under the protection of the Virgin Mary.	AD 1648-53 The Fronde revolt erupts during war with Spain whilst Louis XIV is still a minor.
AD 1492 Jews and Muslims are ordered to become Christians or leave Spain.	AD 1521 Cortes defeats the Aztecs and Magellan discovers the Philippines.	AD 1534 Francisco Pizarro conquers the Inca Empire.	AD 1551 The Spanish Inquisition issues its first index of prohibited books.	AD 1621 Truce between Spain and the Dutch expires (the 80-year Dutch Revolt ends in AD 1648).	AD 1643 Annihilation of the Spanish infantry at Rocroi ends Spain's military dominance.	AD 1652 Catalonia submits to Spanish rule.
AD 1497 Many Jews expelled from Spain settle in Portugal.	1514 Portuguese ships reach China.	AD 1536 The Portuguese Inquisition is formed (in Spain from AD 1478).	AD 1576 Invasion of Morocco ends in disaster. Spain takes over Portugal and its empire.	AD 1621 Philip IV of Spain rules as Philip III of Portugal.	AD 1640 The Duke of Braganza is proclaimed King John I as Portugal rebels against Spain.	AD 1654 Portugal expels the Dutch from Brazil.
AD 1516 Rise of the Barbary Coast pirates. Muslim slavers raid England and Ireland for the next two hundred years.	AD 1520 Under Suleiman the Magnificent the Ottomans hold swathes of Arab territory.	AD 1526 Ottoman victory at Mohacs ends Hungarian independence.	AD 1571 An Ottoman fleet is defeated at Lepanto by an alliance of Christian forces.	AD 1578 A Portuguese invasion of Morocco is heavily defeated.	AD 1638 Ottomans recapture Baghdad.	AD 1648 A second Janissary revolt deposes the Ottoman sultan.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

AD 1908-14 Sunderland revival led by Alexander Boddy	AD 1917 The Balfour Declaration recognises Palestine as "a national home" for the Jews. Allenby takes Jerusalem from the Ottomans.	AD 1922 Britain gains a League of Nations Mandate over Palestine and Iraq.	AD 1922 onwards. Pentecostal revival (Smith Wigglesworth and others).	AD 1940 onwards. Regular National Days of Prayer are held throughout the Second World War.	AD 1948 Britain withdraws from Palestine and the State of Israel is declared.	AD 1959 Liberalising of the law starts with passing of the Obscene Publications Act.
AD 1906 HMS Dreadnought is launched by the Royal Navy as a naval arms race between Britain and Germany grows ever more frantic.	AD 1918 Armistice ends the First World War. Germany descends into civil war.	AD 1919 The Weimar Republic is proclaimed, based on the principles of representative democracy.	AD 1921-4 Hyperinflation wreaks havoc.	AD 1940 Victorious in the west, Hitler is at the height of his power and popularity.	AD 1945 Germany is divided into zones of occupation by the victorious Allied powers	AD 1957 Germany, France, and others conclude the Treaty of Rome, founding the EEC.
AD 1907 French occupation of Morocco begins.	AD 1916 The Sykes-Picot Agreement sets out British and French spheres of influence in the event of their defeating the Ottoman Empire.	AD 1922 France gains a League of Nations Mandate over Syria and Lebanon.	AD 1920 onwards. Inter-war France is increasingly polarised between Left and Right.	AD 1940 Evacuation of Dunkirk and victory in the Battle of Britain allow the eventual liberation of France (AD 1944).	AD 1954 Defeat at Dien Bien Phu leads France to withdraw from Indo-China.	AD 1954-1962 An increasingly brutal war in Algeria threatens to plunge France into civil war.
AD 1902 Alfonso XIII becomes king.	AD 1918 Spain openly reports the influenza pandemic of 1918-9 (hence "Spanish Flu").	AD 1920 Spain fights the Rif War against Berber tribes in Morocco.	AD 1923 Primo de Rivera establishes a dictatorship.	AD 1939 End of the Spanish Civil War. General Franco becomes dictator.	AD 1947 General Franco declares Spain a monarchy with himself as regent.	AD 1968 The Alhambra Decree expelling Jews from Spain in AD 1492 is formally rescinded.
AD 1910 King Manuel flees after a revolution in Lisbon. A republic is proclaimed.	AD 1917 Three children see visions of the Virgin Mary at Fatima.	AD 1918 The Monarchy of the North is proclaimed in Porto but republican forces swiftly re-establish control.	AD 1932 Antonio Salazar becomes dictator.	AD 1939-45 Portugal stays neutral in the Second World War.	AD 1948 The Movement of Democratic Unity is banned.	AD 1960 Portugal becomes a founder member of the OECD.
AD 1908 Rising by the Young Turks.	AD 1916 Colonel T. E. Lawrence galvanises the Arab Revolt under Sharif Hussein bin Ali of Mecca. Ottoman massacres of Armenians.	AD 1920 Arab kingdoms emerge from the Ottoman Empire.	AD 1923 Transjordan is separated from Palestine.	AD 1941 Grand Mufti of Jerusalem Amin al-Husseini offers support to the Nazis.	AD 1948 An attack on Israel by an Arab coalition is defeated.	AD 1958 Egypt and Syria form the United Arab Republic.

MAGNA CARTA:

The missing link in the Brexit debate

The great Charter planted deep in the fabric of English – later British – society and consciousness biblically-based ideas about law, kingship and governance. Lawyer Philip Quenby argues that this is the cornerstone of our national identity



King John signing the Magna Carta

Magna Carta, that essential guarantor of our basic freedoms, underscores what we are as a nation. It is the missing link in the Brexit debate, because at heart that debate concerns identity and values.

At heart the Brexit debate concerns identity and values. All else – important though economics, trade, immigration and the rest may be – is secondary

All else – important though economics, trade, immigration and the rest may be – is secondary.

We have had to decide whether being part of the EU is consistent with the institutions and way of life that have grown out of our unique history – institutions and a way of life quite distinct from those in continental Europe and in some important respects incompatible with them.

Membership of the European Union places the priceless and hard-won legacy of our past at grave risk

Membership of the European Union places the priceless and hard-won legacy of our past at grave risk: accountability is problematic; democracy watered down; uniformity enforced; legal decisions based on Roman law traditions at odds with our own; the importance of our Judaeo-Christian heritage denied.

What has this got to do with Magna Carta? Everything: because the great Charter planted deep in the fabric of English (later British) society and consciousness biblically-based ideas about law, kingship and governance which turned what was originally a failed peace treaty between a king and his barons into a springboard for the development of modern civil liberties.

English law was anchored in Christian ethics. Law in Continental Europe looked to Roman law, which set the ruler apart

Law

Magna Carta was based on the Coronation Charter issued by Henry I who, like his father William the Conqueror, swore to uphold the laws of Edward the Confessor, the last Anglo-Saxon king recognised as legitimate by the Normans. These incorporated the legal code of King Alfred the Great, which began by reciting the

Ten Commandments and other Old Testament laws, emphasising that God's law came first and man's second.

The result was that English law was anchored in Christian ethics, and required that laws not only meet procedural formalities but also be consistent with biblical morality. The great 18th century legal theorist William Blackstone wrote that "Any law that is contrary to the Scripture is no law at all and not to be obeyed."

By contrast, law in continental Europe looked primarily to Roman law: code-based, mandated from the top down (unlike English common law, which developed from the bottom up as judges worked out practical answers to problems), applied by inquisitorial judges rather than through each party testing the case of the other.

Roman law set the ruler apart – a law-giver who was not himself subject to the law – and a law was valid simply if correct procedures were observed.

These profound differences of principle and practice help explain why this country so often finds itself at odds with legal decisions given by European judges and why law generated by the EU so often jars with our own way of doing things.

Kingship and governance

Magna Carta affirmed what Anglo-Saxon law had always held: that a king is subject to the same law as the people – a principle derived from the Bible.

Of huge importance in enabling subjects to hold kings to account and prevent arbitrary government, that statement also contained within it the germ of democracy. For if a subject could rely on the law to protect him in his dealings with the state, this meant the subject had rights which no government could override.

This was the start of modern civil liberties, with voting rights growing on the back of legal rights and freedom of conscience – again, an idea based on careful reading of the Bible – replacing state-enforced orthodoxy. Representative democracy



1680 reproduction of Magna Carta with legal commentary

(with Parliamentary candidates standing for named constituencies instead of the Party List system familiar on the continent) in turn helped ensure accountability in government and administration.

Foundations

Magna Carta and the things which grew from it are rooted deep in Christianity. The roots of the European Union, by contrast, lie in a secular humanist world view which can be traced back to the ideas of Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

For Rousseau, the ultimate sovereign was "the People", not God. He saw law as the "General Will of the People" – which not only makes the moral content of law irrelevant but also opens the way to dictatorship, as individual conscience must be subordinated to the General Will. Adopting these ideas, the French Revolutionary regime replaced Christianity by worship of the Supreme Being, delivering the bloodshed of the Terror and the military dictatorship of Napoleon.

The same road has been travelled by many others since, giving rise to the primacy of the Volk in Nazi Germany and the Will of the Proletariat in the Soviet Union.

Magna Carta illustrates a fundamental truth about identity and values, showing this nation and

the European Union to be products of two mutually exclusive philosophies. Oil and water do not mix, though one can contaminate the other. To imagine that this incompatibility can be fixed by tinkering round the edges to reform the workings of a bureaucracy is whistling in the wind.

We have to decide whether being part of the EU is consistent with the institutions and way of life that have grown out of our unique history – institutions and a way of life quite distinct from those in continental Europe and in some important respects incompatible with them



Philip Quenby is a writer and film-maker after a previous career as a partner in an international law firm.

His book **Redeeming a Nation** looks at how God has worked in English history over the centuries. His five-part documentary, *Magna Carta Unlocked*, (available from magnacartaunlocked.com) examines how and why modern civil liberties grew on the back of a failed peace treaty – and what part the Bible played in that process

Britain has been “one of the leading liberalisers” in Europe (so we can’t actually claim the moral high ground)

Our European partners have been kinder to the unborn

ANDREA WILLIAMS, CEO of the Christian Legal Centre, claims that we can tend to hide behind the EU to avoid taking responsibility for our nation’s moral decline.

She told the congregation at the National Prayer Day on 26 January that Britain has been “possibly the leading liberalising nation within Europe”.

She said: “Very often, it’s as if the people in the Church... say, ‘They made us do it! It’s their laws that made us do it.’

“But... WE have exchanged the truth for a lie in this nation. We have legislated for evil.”

As well as liberalising divorce and marriage laws, this particularly applies to sanctity of life issues. A considerable number of EU countries have been more conservative in human embryo research than Great Britain. This stems from the Christian heritage of those nations.

Britain has been “possibly the leading liberalising nation within Europe”

At a time when Britain was liberalising laws relating to human embryo research, embryonic stem cells and therapeutic cloning, aiming to be the foremost nation worldwide in such research, many other European nations were far more restrictive – perhaps most notably Germany and Italy. In turn that influenced certain EU laws.

This stems from the Christian heritage of those EU nations

Moreover, the UK had already legalised abortion in 1967 before it joined the EU in 1973 and Frenchwomen would



Time to stop the blame game: Andrea Williams says we can’t attribute our moral decline to the EU

travel to the UK to terminate their pregnancies. France did not legalise abortion until 1975.

Italy did not legalise abortion until 1978, as did Luxembourg. And Belgium did not legalise abortion until 1990. West Germany is a more complex situ-

ation, but in 1976, it allowed abortion up to 12 weeks in very limited circumstances.

In the Netherlands abortion was legal from 1984 for emergencies and only with an official certificate from the Dutch government. In fact, the Netherlands’ Foreign Office admitted in a 2011 communiqué that one of the factors contributing to their legalising abortion in 1984 was Britain’s prior legalisation of abortion.

“We have not been a very good example to the rest of the EU in the area of the sanctity of life and human embryo research,” a Christian researcher told HEART.

“We need to remain humble, and among everything else we pray regarding Brexit and the EU, to also pray for our leaders to know what laws to retain once we finally leave the EU’s jurisdiction.”

“We must weep for when we have not spoken”

At the National Prayer Day on 26 January, Andrea Williams called on the Church to repent of failing to stand for truth in national life: “It is we, the people of God, who must lament...”

“In the Church, there is not one part of our corporate life that he does not see. And if we do not speak, if we do not lament, then how can he hear our prayers?... We need to weep for when we have not spoken...”

She added: “We’re not called to despair – because [God] will rule and he will reign and one day every knee will bow. And we are the hope of our nation.”

OPERATION BREAKTHROUGH

Read the findings of this ‘war council’ of national prayer leaders

OVER THREE DAYS, six of us gathered to seek the Lord for a strategy for the days ahead; a sort of war council looking way beyond Brexit.

Most people understand that Brexit is just a beginning, and that Britain has a destiny to embrace.

We have all been involved in national prayer events, but we realised that God’s rescue plan for our nation must involve the far wider Body of Christ on a more consistent basis.

Over those three days, the Lord took us on a journey, examining our own hearts and lives: and he opened up the Scriptures with rhema words. It became clear that he wanted to ‘blanket’ the nation with PRAISE and the WORD, and that the result would be amplified if there was a unified coordination.

We felt as if we had been travelling on a train track, but needed to reach a station so others could get on board. On the third day this ‘station’ was reached, as a God-given strategy unfolded.

One of us saw a picture of a shofar being blown, but as well as the sound, words were also being released into the atmosphere, causing an explosive effect

in the Spirit realm. Then, many shofars were seen being blown across the land, in open spaces, on the coastlands, moors and parks, and the synergy was impacting the Kingdom.

Psalm 81, especially verses 2-4 was shared, and we understood we were to facilitate this happening on the 1st and 15th of every month across the counties, with a common Word being proclaimed.

It would not necessarily require large numbers in one place, and folk without a shofar could praise the Lord, proclaim the Word and shout “AMEN!”

The shofar, or ram’s horn, is linked to the authority of Christ, which along with the authority of the Word carries a powerful effect. This would create praise altars all over the land, and we envisage ongoing celebration praise. Praise and thanksgiving are vital keys to the victory.

This strategy settled on all our hearts, and we agreed we would seek to mobilise the troops of God’s army.

The first dates then, are 1 and 15 February, and the first proclamation suggested is from Psalm 97:1:

“The Lord reigns: let the earth rejoice!”

Then for 15 February, from Psalm 24:7:

“Lift up your heads O you gates! And be lifted up,

you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.”

For 1 March, from Ephesians 3:20-21:

“Now to him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.”

For 15 March, from Revelation 11:17:

“We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is, and who was, and who is to come, because You have taken Your great power and reigned.”

Just imagine the potential of a unified voice declaring his powerful Word.....

We would exhort you to support this God-given strategy, and let’s see what the Lord of Glory will do!



Brexit is just a beginning; Britain has a destiny to embrace



DAVID TIDY
(Prayer Warriors International)



PASTOR DENNIS GREENIDGE
(International speaker and intercessor)



ROY AND BRENDA TAYLOR
(Dovetail Shalom Ministries)



PHILIP QUENBY
(Christian historian)

God’s rescue plan for our nation must involve the far wider Body of Christ

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Can a nation be reborn?

THE CHOICE

No-one is talking about the spiritual issues at the heart of the Brexit debate

by Clifford Hill



When was the first national referendum in recorded history? The answer is in Deuteronomy 30 where Moses had in front of him the whole nation of Israel. He knew he was near the end of his life and he called them to make a choice that would have a lasting effect upon the future of the nation. This was the choice he presented: "See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction."

A similar choice was offered to the British people in 2016 but was obscured by a multiplicity of opinion and a paucity of facts. There was grave danger of voter fatigue overtaking the referendum campaign. We are on overload with the opinions of politicians, bankers and big business moguls bombarding us with their versions of 'facts and figures'. Some government members have continued to peddle scare stories about unemployment, recession, house prices collapsing, food prices rising and other stories of doom and gloom.

If these scare tactics are maintained, voters are likely to question the motives of why all these big financial and powerbrokers are trying to persuade us to stay in the EU?

Our objective in this article is to point to issues that were bypassed by campaigners on both sides of the debate. These are the spiritual issues at the heart of the choice we made in 2016.

What Moses did in the formative days of Israel, in the wilderness after the exodus from Egypt, was to remind them of the spiritual journey that had brought them to this point.

He said, "The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh King of Egypt" (Deuteronomy 7:7-8).

Moses not only reminded the people of the good things that God had done in the days of their forefathers but he also reminded them of the teaching they had been given, including the Ten Commandments. This was the standard of behaviour required if they were to continue enjoying God's blessing. In Deuteronomy 28 he set out the blessings of being in a right relationship with God and the inevitable consequences of forsaking God.

We have the opportunity to be free from the secular humanist bureaucracy of the European Union and to determine our own destiny under God

If the nation turned away from God he said that in politics there would be "confusion and rebuke in everything you put your hand to" (28:20) and in terms of relationships with

other nations "you will be unsuccessful in everything you do; day after day you will be oppressed and robbed, with no one to rescue you" (28:29).

Of course, we cannot compare our own nation with that of Israel. Britain was never chosen by God to be in a covenant relationship. But as a nation, historically, we have chosen to accept the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to be our God: and this is expressed in our Coronation Oath in which the Queen promises to uphold the Protestant Christian faith.

We therefore can claim the status of adopted children and under Greco-Roman law adopted children actually had closer ties to the father than putative children. They could not be reclaimed by their biological parents and they could never be rejected by their adoptive father.

Paul obviously knew this law when he told the believers in Ephesus (Gentiles and Jews) that God had "predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 1.5). He also wrote to the Galatians that God had sent Jesus so that Gentiles "might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out 'Abba, Father.'" (Galatians 4.6)

The referendum debate gave us the opportunity of reviewing our spiritual heritage. We are a small nation and yet we have had the immense privilege of establishing the largest empire in world history that is now a commonwealth of free nations. Of course we must not overlook the many wrong things we did in the days of Empire and colonialism, especially by tolerating and benefiting from the horrors of the slave trade.

But there were many good things our forefathers did in health and education and opposing tyranny in countries that are now free to work out their own destinies. We can also thank God for the way he has blessed and protected our nation when we were saved

from invasion and stood alone against aggression.

Moses urged his fledgeling nation to review their history and to reaffirm their relationship with God. He said "I have set before you life and death... Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him" (Deuteronomy 30:19-20).

Leaving the EU will not in itself bring peace and prosperity to Britain

This is the choice we have made in Britain. We have

chosen to be free from the secular humanist bureaucracy of the European Union and to determine our own destiny under God.

But leaving the EU will not in itself bring peace and prosperity to Britain. Nevertheless, reaffirming a determination to seek a right relationship with God will undoubtedly bring an era of blessing.

The great unknown is whether the faithful remnant of believers in Britain in the older generation and the rising tide of young people who are accepting Jesus as role model, Saviour and Lord, have sufficient strength to inspire the nation to embark upon a great adventure of faith.

STATE OF THE NATION Rev Dr Clifford Hill



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