



PROPHECY *Today* UK

Bringing the unchanging word of God to a changing world

THE SHAKING OF THE NATIONS

A message of hope

Rev Dr Clifford Hill



Today, God is shaking all nations through the coronavirus pandemic. As with all the other shakings, we must ask: why?

Scripture emphasises three outstanding things that God hates: oppression and violence, injustice and greed, idolatry and false religion. I believe there comes a point in God's dealings with the nations when the wickedness of humanity becomes intolerable; at that stage God allows the forces of darkness and human sin to be unrestrained, to bring a time of judgment upon the nations.

China is a nation of unrelenting oppression, where freedom of speech is impossible and where Christians are subjected to great persecution and cruelty. Even in Europe, however, which quickly became the 'epicentre' of the pandemic, abortion levels are at an all-time high, while more and more countries are allowing elderly and unwell people to take their own lives, shepherding those deemed a burden on society to the slaughter. Can we be surprised that God has not spared us?

The second thing God condemns is injustice and greed, which are the qualities upon which the financial systems of the world are built. In 2008, the great financial

OUR STORY

From 1985 to 2006, Prophecy Today was published in print and grew to become one of the most widely read Christian magazines in the UK. It was an iconic publication renowned for declaring the word of God for our times

In 2015, Prophecy Today was reborn online as Prophecy Today UK, taking a new format but keeping the same vision. Our small but dedicated team is led by Prophecy Today's original founder, the Rev Dr Clifford Hill, and operates under the umbrella of Issachar Ministries, publishing fresh editions each

Friday. You can sign up on our website to receive these straight to your inbox, for free!

At Prophecy Today UK, we believe that God is as involved in the world



Prophecy Today's original logo



Covers of the original Prophecy Today magazine, in print 1985-2006

today as he was in biblical times. We also believe that he longs to give Christians understanding about the world and how he is working out his purposes in it.

The next four pages contain excerpts from the contemporary ministry of Prophecy Today UK, which includes commentary on public affairs, teaching articles and book reviews.

Every one of our articles published since 2015 is available on our website – find us at www.prophecytoday.uk.

The great shaking of the nations that through Prophecy Today we have been prophesying for more than 30 years is happening today. It gives us no satisfaction in saying this for, as national leaders are saying, we are all in this together – no-one has been immune from the

The message I have been carrying since the 1980s is one of great trouble – but also one of hope

risk of Covid-19. But where does it fit in the purposes of God?

In the July 1986 edition of the printed magazine Prophecy Today, I wrote the editorial under the same title as I am using here. Back then, I was writing a few weeks after gatherings at Mount Carmel and Jerusalem where we had received the message forewarning of a great shaking of the nations, in line with the prophecy in Haggai 2:6-7.

This great shaking has only increased in intensity since those days – as we have been writing in Prophecy Today for many years.

crisis brought the crash of many seemingly rock-solid financial institutions, which required an enormous effort of governments to save the world economy. Even secular observers saw this as caused by greed and injustice. It was an opportunity for radical reform, but no such reformation took place. Now the world economy is facing a disaster which no-one can avert or escape.

The third thing God hates is idolatry and false religion. Our modern totem poles are our houses and

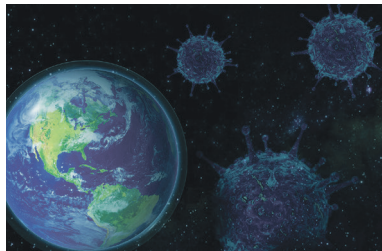
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cars and worldly possessions – and ourselves. False religion in Britain includes the unbelief embraced by most clergy trained in university theology faculties. Biblical scepticism becomes unbelief, which robs the Gospel of power. What is more, over more than 50 years of immigration, church leaders have joined with politicians to welcome other religions into the land, claiming “We all worship the same god!”.



For all these reasons, there comes a point when warnings are too late. The message I have been carrying since the 1980s is that there would come a time of great trouble engulfing all nations.

But the message I have been carrying is also one of hope – if we preach the Gospel and people respond in repentance, then a revival of faith could follow the time of judgment. Despite the pandemic, I know that God has good purposes for this nation.

In the meantime, the Gospel is firmly in the hands of individual believers and we must seek every chance to share it. The pandemic has afforded us an unprecedented opportunity to share the love of God and testify to the only cure for fear: the hope of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

■ **The Rev Dr Clifford Hill is Prophecy Today UK's Editor-in-Chief. Read his weekly editorials at www.prophecytoday.uk**

Walking on Water

Prophetic word first given at a Prophetic Word Ministries meeting, 1994



David Noakes

“In the days which are to come, that part of the Church which will survive and prevail as overcomers will be that part which has learned to walk upon the waters, trusting only in me. There will be such storms that it will no longer be possible to cross the waters by the ordinary means of using a boat.

The ways of traditional church organisation will not be adequate, because they will be too rigid and inflexible to withstand the wind and the waves. Those who have put their trust in them for their security will be like those who find themselves in a boat which is overwhelmed and doomed to sink.

In those days only those who have learned to walk upon the waters will walk in safety. Putting my people into rigid, formal structures is to put them into a boat which will seem adequate and comfortable while the waters are calm, but will later become a

place of death for those whose only experience has been to get in and enjoy the ride.

The structure of my Church is not to be like a ship, a monolithic whole, a structure created by men. It is to be my Body, mobile and flexible, able to adapt to the needs of the moment.

A body will survive, but any structure created through the wisdom and efforts of man will prove to be like the ship which will sink in time of trouble. My people should not be

The days are coming when every item of your security which depends upon the ways of man and the structures of the world will be taken from you. No matter how hard you have laboured to build it up and no matter how much my people have asked me to bless it, it will be like having placed your treasure in a bank which has suddenly closed its doors and will permit you no access.

My people must be taught the way of walking on the water, hand in hand with me. They must be taught to put

about through human organisation, but only under the direct leading of my Spirit.

Consider what is written in my Word and hold it close to your hearts:

‘Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the Lord. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when prosperity comes, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness...

Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit.’ [Jeremiah 17:5-8, NKJV]”

Prophecy Today UK encourages readers to weigh and test all prophecies carefully, with the help of Scripture and the Holy Spirit. The full version of this word is available on www.prophecytoday.uk. Search ‘Walking on Water’

My people must be taught the way of walking on the water, hand in hand with me

over-organised but should be taught the ways of God; the way of listening for the voice of my Spirit and of spontaneous obedience to those promptings.

Each one must have his trust solely in me, the Head of the Body, who alone has the wisdom to guide his people through stormy waters.

their eyes upon me with a whole-hearted intensity and to trust me implicitly in all matters, whether they seem great or small.

As each member learns to recognise and obey the instructions of the Head, so all together will begin to function as one Body. This will never come

Living in Babylon

The coronavirus pandemic has changed everything. For weeks we have not been able to enjoy normal social relationships; our political masters have controlled everything we do outside our own homes. In normal times this would be considered ‘oppression’.

The restrictions upon us are, in ways, like those imposed upon the people of Judah who were forcibly transported to Babylon after the fall of Jerusalem in 597 BC. They could only go where their political

masters allowed; even in their leisure time they were under surveillance.

The exiles didn’t have the internet for communication. They missed the great festivals in the Temple in Jerusalem. They felt isolated and separated from God.

Nevertheless, with some encouragement from the Prophet Jeremiah, in exile they found a faith that was not dependent upon the Temple or the priesthood. They discovered God in their own

homes and in private prayer. Their new-found faith triumphed over all adversity. When they eventually returned to shattered Jerusalem, nothing was too difficult for them.

Will this be the experience of Christians in Britain when the corona-crisis subsides? Will many new believers emerge from the lockdown having had a life-changing experience of God? Will living in 21st-Century Babylon transform the lives of multitudes?



This article is part of a series on www.prophecytoday.uk drawing modern lessons from the Babylonian exile. Search ‘Living in Babylon’

■ **Rev Dr Clifford and Mrs Monica Hill**



THE CHOCOLATE CHRISTIANS

Workers – and customers – get a taste of heaven on earth!

Indulging in a box of chocolates, or having a quick break with the help of a well-known tasty snack, might seem almost akin to a religious experience for some.

Perhaps there is an element of truth to that – because virtually all the big chocolate companies were founded by Christians.

Most of them were practising Quakers, who were radical disciples of Jesus much persecuted for their faith in days gone by as their exuberance and passion literally shook the foundations of formal religion. At times they would tremble with emotion as they worshipped – hence their nickname.

As their principles barred them from many trades including producing and selling alcoholic drinks, they went into business producing non-alcoholic beverages.

Joseph Rowntree and other Quakers like Fry and Cadbury hit upon the idea of using the humble cocoa bean to create a delicious chocolate drink – the bars came later – with the help of a spoonful or two of sugar.

The industry took off and soon provided employment for thousands in Bristol, Birmingham and York, with the latter now home to a museum – York's Chocolate Story – attracting visitors from around the world.

Honesty and integrity were their watchwords, with the welfare of their workers (and of the community in general) always paramount.



The establishment of a retreat to care for the mentally ill in a humane way was an example of their early philanthropy. And Rowntree's was among the first to offer paid holidays and a company pension scheme, along with a works doctor and dentist. Indeed, they were ahead of their time as regards industrial welfare, providing terms

of employment and working conditions which only came much later in other industries.

Rowntree's also built New Earswick on the outskirts of York to provide clean, affordable housing – following the example of George Cadbury who had created a model village at Bournville, still said to be among the most desirable residential areas in the country. There were obvious business benefits from having a contented workforce living in a pleasant environment.

John Cadbury also invested his energies in campaigning against industrial pollution, child labour and animal cruelty, founding the society which became the RSPCA. And Helen Cadbury, daughter of Richard, founded the Pocket Testament League, now a global enterprise using pocket-sized scriptures to help spread the Gospel.

Joseph Fry held a prayer meeting for all workers and Cadbury's followed his example, while

Rowntree's hired a Congregational minister to look after the young men's pastoral needs. Free breakfast was also provided along with a myriad of social and recreational facilities.

Sounds like heaven on earth – and certainly a challenge for believers in today's business world!

■ Charles Gardner

Fear God and Don't Be Afraid

When disaster strikes, what is God saying?

For a long time, God has been trying to get the world's attention. There has been a growing sense that things cannot continue the way they are going – that we are hurtling towards global meltdown – whether politically, economically, ecologically or spiritually.

By allowing the world to be brought to a virtual standstill by something we cannot even see, God has encouraged everyone to reflect on where the world is heading and has

called the Body of Messiah to listen to him in these crucial days. What is God trying to say to his people? There will doubtless be various answers to this question, but among them must surely be the following:

1. Unfailing love: Our Heavenly Father does not desire anyone to perish; he wants to draw everyone back to himself. More than this, he is preparing a faithful remnant for himself out of every nation. We need to be able to rest in the peace and

security of his unfailing love, even while crisis rages around us.

2. Restoring the fear of the Lord: We have desperately needed wisdom to deal with the coronavirus crisis. Proverbs 1:7 tells us "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom". God's Kingdom people, the Body of Messiah, need to regain the fear of the Lord, so that the glory of God once again becomes our priority and so we can access his wisdom.

Continued over

'OUTSIDE IN' - SEEKING TO SERVE 'OUT OF CHURCH' BELIEVERS



In recent years, a growing number of faithful Christians in the UK have become disillusioned with current expressions of Sunday church available to them, or have left altogether.

They are not falling away from the faith, but rather acting in line with their consciences. Unable to find or attend a congregation that affirms the authority of the Bible, they are searching for fellowship in other ways, as they go through a 'wilderness' season with the Lord.

For Christians in this position, **Prophecy Today UK** is pleased to commend 'Outside In', a new area of ministry supporting and connecting believers who are on the 'outside' of current 'church' life but still very much 'in' the Body of Christ.

If you would like more information about this initiative, please e-mail outsidein@issacharministries.co.uk or write to 'Outside In' at Issachar Ministries, Office 5, Shannon Court, High Street, Sandy, BEDS, SG19 1AG.



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Fear God and Don't Be Afraid



3. Do not be afraid: Whilst the whole world fears the virus, God wants his people to have a proper perspective as found in Matthew 10:28: "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, fear the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell." We are commanded to fear him not so we can sit and tremble, but so we might be freed from all other kinds of fear and able to represent him rightly and boldly to those who don't yet believe.

Today, the attitude that prevails around the world is one of ungodly

fear, which "has to do with punishment" (1 John 4:18). Why are people afraid of being punished? Usually because they feel guilty. But the good news of the Gospel is that Jesus came to remove the two giants of fear and guilt from our lives by shedding his precious blood for us, so that we can enjoy perfect forgiveness and freedom from the fear of condemnation.

Through the pandemic, God has given his people a tremendous opportunity to reach out to the multitudes with this glorious hope.

■ **Agy Eftimiou**

ISSACHAR MINISTRIES UK

Prophecy Today UK is a project of Issachar Ministries. Its inclusion in Heart is still in its pilot stage and we need to be able to justify its production costs. We will be assessing its effectiveness after one further issue of Heart.

If you appreciate Prophecy Today UK's inclusion in Heart please let us know and encourage us to continue!

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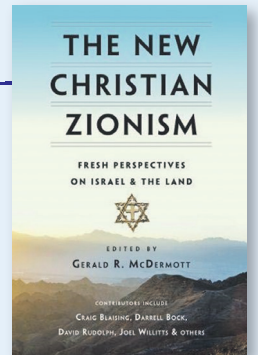
Prophecy Today UK reviews books, DVDs and other resources, both old and new, which we hope will bless your walk with God. Read the full reviews of the books below in the 'Resources' section on www.prophecytoday.uk

The New Christian Zionism

Gerald McDermott

IVP, 2016, 349pp

£18 (paperback). Available from Christian Friends of Israel and Amazon



The main thesis of this excellent and important book is that Christian Zionism is not "an outgrowth of premillennial dispensational theology" (p11). There is a long history of Christian Zionists who lived before the emergence of Dispensationalism and many Zionists who have come since have not espoused this particular theology.

The book, which contains contributions from a range of experts, arranged into four sections, stresses the centrality of Israel and the Land to the whole Bible rather than just some eschatological (end times) scheme. The return of the Jews and the re-establishment of their nation-state is clearly part of biblical prophecy, but there is more to Christian Zionism than that.

Part Two, 'Theology and the Bible', considers the relation between the two testaments before looking at Zionism in the gospels and the Pauline epistles. This more scholarly section is still very readable, and the points excellently made.

In Part Three, chapters on 'Theology and the Law' (e.g. does modern Israel violate its covenantal call to justice by its relation to international law?) and on 'Theology and Morality' (e.g. is modern Israel faithful to the moral covenantal demands regarding its treatment of minorities?) are extremely helpful.

Part Four considers the future of Christian Zionism. This summarises the book and continues to stress the theological case for being a Christian Zionist.

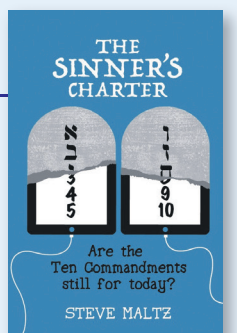
The book can be slow-paced at times, but key points are reinstated clearly and to good effect. Overall a very informative and significant book. ■

The Sinner's Charter

Author: Steve Maltz

Publishing info: Saffron Planet Publishing, 2020, 226pp

£10 + P&P (paperback). Available from the publisher's website, www.sppublishing.com



Maltz's latest book asks 'Are the Ten Commandments still for today?' The title indicates that what was once viewed by Western culture as a set of moral imperatives has been skewed by modern thinking and flipped into something quite the opposite, creating a charter for sinners to justify how the world should operate – whether in the entertainment industry, the business world or private life.

Part One considers each Commandment in turn, with useful explanations of the original Hebrew and how certain phrases should be properly read. Maltz also includes excellent research into our own times with recent examples of how our culture has changed to reflect attitudes very different from those found in God's Word.

Part Two takes us through the historical journey of what happened to the Ten Commandments once men got their hands on them. Beginning with the early Church we see how even Christians began to alter both the words and the spirit of the Commandments.

Part Three looks again at each Commandment in turn with the aim of reclaiming them. Even if you feel you want to challenge some of Maltz's conclusions or ideas, the stimulus to your thinking will be valuable.

Finally, Maltz asserts that the Church must accept that it has lost sight of the certainties of God's laws, otherwise it will sink further into irrelevance. This book is a profound scrutiny of both the Word and the world, capable of making a significant impact on individuals. ■