



# PROPHECY *Today* UK

*Bringing the unchanging word of God to a changing world*

# FACING DEATH WITHOUT FEAR

**The threatening presence of a deadly virus has forced many to face up to the reality of death and its consequences.**

**A morbid subject, perhaps, which most of us spend all our lives trying to avoid. The Bible tells us that death is followed by judgment (Heb 9:27), another grim thought to dwell on. But, oh, the freedom of sins forgiven and assurance of eternal life through the sacrificial death on our behalf of Jesus our Lord!**

**S**uch was the happy predicament of my dear father-in-law as he passed peacefully into the Lord's presence aged 88. He certainly looked at perfect peace when we entered his room shortly after he died, and we recalled how often he had assured us that he was ready to go and totally trusting the Lord. How true is the Scripture that declares, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants!" (Psalm 116:15)

Only the gospel can do this. Life is fragile. Death occurs, sometimes without warning, among both young and old, none of whom will escape judgment for their sins without trusting in the blood of Jesus.

My father-in-law John had a faith tested in the fire, and of greater worth than gold (1 Pet 1:7). With the Tokyo Olympics in full swing, he earned a place on God's podium, and could truly say, with Paul: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of

*righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day" (2 Tim 4:7f).*

The prophet Isaiah reminds us that we are here today and gone tomorrow (Isa 40:6-8). But the word of the Lord endures forever, along with those who have trusted him. Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11:25f).

**We are all presented with a choice: to live our lives in faith or fear; in peace or disharmony...**

CS Lewis didn't live through Covid, but there was much fear of the atomic bomb in his time. He reminded his readers that their situation wasn't new in terms of facing threat, and wrote, in 1948:

*"...You and all whom you love were already sentenced to death before the atomic bomb was invented... The first action to be taken is to*



*pull ourselves together. If we are all going to be destroyed by an atomic bomb, let that bomb when it comes find us doing sensible and human things—praying, working, teaching, reading, listening to music, bathing the children, playing tennis, chatting to our friends over a pint and a game of darts—not huddled together like frightened sheep and thinking about bombs. They may break our bodies (a microbe can do that) but they need not dominate our minds."*

The point is, are we ready to meet our Maker and face judgment?

We are all presented with a choice:

to live our lives in faith or fear; in peace or disharmony; in the abundance of life and forgiveness that Jesus offers or in rebellion against God and judgment to come for sins unforgiven.

How we die is often a reflection of how we lived. My late wife Irene, as she suffered agony in her last days, was nevertheless able to lift her arms in worship and adoration of her Saviour. Rev. Simon Ponsonby writes: "Certainly anyone who has sat with the dying, as I have, will know that those who die without faith in Christ often die in fear."

But while ever we have breath, it is never too late. My own mum was greatly troubled in her last days – until I was able to lead her in a prayer trusting the blood of Jesus to cleanse and wash away all guilt and sins of the past.

So, do not let the fear of death rob you of peace both in this life and the one to come. Trust in Jesus, and you will live and die in peace, in the certain knowledge of being raised up again to everlasting joy beyond all you could imagine (1 Cor 2:9).

■ Charles Gardner





## 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, under the leadership of original founder Dr Clifford Hill, taking a new format but keeping the same vision. Our small but dedicated team is now led by Charles Gardner, a long-time contributor to Prophecy Today, 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 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.

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



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

Every one of our articles published since 2015 is available on our website – find us at [www.prophecytoday.uk](http://www.prophecytoday.uk).

# A MONUMENTAL CATASTROPHE

## The West has not discerned the spirit of Islamic Jihad

The chaos of the evacuations from Kabul has been heart-breaking to watch. The unforgettable scene of hundreds of desperate people trying to board a military plane epitomises the tragedy that has been created in Afghanistan by the lack of an effective exit strategy.

So many have been asking the question of whether 20 years of conflict, vast expenditure, and the loss of so many lives have been worthwhile. We were told that the Afghan Government that we helped to set in place and the Afghan army that we trained and equipped, plus the defeat of terrorism, would be a lasting legacy that would keep us safe for decades to come. But it did not even last for one month! The entire social and political structure we had constructed over 20 years has been swept away in a few days.

Jesus told a little parable about houses built on sand instead of being founded on the rock. Not only were the houses that we built resting upon sand, but their walls were paper-thin. We tried to create a modern Western-style democracy in an Islamic culture whose values are fundamentally different and which we have never understood.

We went to Afghanistan to protect the Western world from terrorism, but we have never taken the trouble to understand the spiritual dynamic behind Islamic Jihad. That is the tragedy that is now unfolding. The fear that is gripping many Afghans is because they know what is likely to

happen when the Taliban's version of Islam will be imposed upon the nation. Women and girls will be taken and given to Taliban soldiers to be reduced to enforced domestic slavery with no social rights, unable even to walk the streets without a male escort. Christian converts and men who collaborated with the Americans or British face summary beheading.

### I believe that we in the West are being given what may be the last chance to save our biblical heritage.

The values underlining Western democracy are rooted in our Judaeo-Christian heritage. Without these values the whole social structure of the nation has no foundations. But our immigration policy in Britain has been based upon a similar rootless ideology. We have simply allowed millions of people to come to the UK without offering them any training to help them to understand life in Britain. So, we have areas in our big cities where no one can speak

English, and it is this laissez-faire policy that has produced the kind of homegrown terrorists who took the lives of many people in the London bombings in 2005.

With a birth-rate several times higher than that of the native population, before the end of this century Muslims could be in the majority in the UK. Will they then want to enforce sharia law under

which women have no rights and homosexuals are beheaded?

Perhaps that is God's intention to bring judgement upon our godless society where we have had the truth for centuries, but we have deliberately turned our backs upon God, despising our Judaeo-Christian heritage and all the freedoms and benefits it has brought to us.

The worldwide implications of the hasty exit from Afghanistan are



horrendous. It effectively means the end of Western influence in world affairs. Donald Trump's short-sighted and self-centred policy of 'America First' ignored the needs of developing nations. Joe Biden promised a more compassionate policy; instead of which he has run for cover with even greater haste, leaving a disastrous situation behind where millions face the death of their hopes and dreams.

There is however a glimmer of hope. As I watched the chaotic scenes in Kabul and cried out to God, I believe I heard him say: "But this is part of my purposes to open the eyes of the blind."

I believe that we in the West are being given what may be the last chance to save our biblical heritage. If beheadings hit the news, it will expose to the world the true nature of Islam and show us what we can expect as the outcome of Islamic Jihad as they pursue their objective of world domination. It may be that the shock will cause us to reopen our Bibles, seeking the Lord in repentance, and he will once again pour out his Spirit to cleanse and purify nations that have despised his word.

■ Dr Clifford Hill





# SIGNS OF THE END OF THE AGE?

**“These are unprecedented days” declare our secular leaders; and they surely are. But “unpredictable” days? Absolutely not. For the Christian these days are not unexpected either to the Lord or the Bible. Matthew 16:1-3 records Jesus making the point to the Pharisees and Sadducees that though they knew how to interpret the appearance of the sky, they couldn’t interpret the signs of the times.**

**T**his raises the question as to what signs we might, or should, be noticing. Opinions vary, but we can ask if there is anything happening that looks like what the Bible indicates will happen at the end of the age. This should help us in our perspective and discernment of current events. Here are some signs which are worthy of note.

**Israel re-born as a nation and the Jewish people returning to the land.** It seems clear that end-time events in the Scriptures set out waypoints in terms of the land, the nation and the people (Isa 11:11-12; Zech 10:9-10; Isa 66:8).

**Israel a military power and a coalition of nations.** Ezekiel 38-39 predicts a war against Israel which involves a coalition of nations. Only if facing a powerful opponent would such a coalition be needed. Is there such a grouping to the north of Israel? We notice current strong political/military elements within Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran and Turkey actively threatening Israel – with also Russia in the mix.

**Peace treaty?** Daniel 9:27 appears to predict some sort of Middle East peace agreement that will turn out to be a ruse. In 2020 the US-sponsored ‘Abraham Accord’ peace agreement

was signed by Israel with the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan.

**One world religion and government.** We are warned of this in Revelation 13 and 17, so what is visible? We know of the ‘Chrislam’ initiative which has support from some Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders. And there have been increasing calls for a global government approach to world problems, with fast-moving developments.

**An apostate church?** We can see Matthew 24:10 at work in a falling away from biblical truth with deceptive teaching. Cultural acceptance of what the Church stands for is more important than declaring the uniqueness of Christ. Ungodly behaviours and laws are not challenged.

**The Nations (ethne).** Jesus’ statement that the gospel will reach all nations before the end comes (Matt 24:14) is well on its way to completion. He also said that believers would be hated by all nations. To the astonishment of many, we even see this coming to pass in the once-Christian countries of the West.

**The Days of Noah.** Jesus spoke of the time of his coming being like the days of Noah (Matt 24:37). In Noah’s time people were blind to impending danger. Even more provocative was transhumanism: women had birthed



## ‘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](mailto:outsidein@issacharministries.co.uk) or write to ‘Outside In’ at Issachar Ministries, Bedford Heights, Brickhill Drive, Bedford, MK41 7PH.**



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children with the sons of God (fallen angels) – resulting in the Nephilim. Hybrid humans – this is promoted today by the World Economic Forum and the US military’s cyborg research, with interest from the mega-rich.

**Mark of the Beast?** (Rev 13:17) Everything needed for such a mark is now in hand. Implant technology exists to provide readable under-skin devices, which could include ID, health and bank details – even approved social status. Remember the purpose of the mark is simple: you cannot buy or sell without it – easy to control in a cashless society. This array of simplified signs should remind us how the Bible prophesies

a complex web of deception that we will need both the Word and the Spirit, along with support from fellow believers, to find our way through. The beginnings of birth pangs (Matt 24:8) are visible in our day. Evil agendas are also at work and we must not be unaware of the enemy’s schemes (2 Cor 2:11).

Yet, while ever alert to the enemy’s devices, let us keep our focus on the Lord. *“But my eyes are upon You, O God the Lord; In You I take refuge”* (Ps 141:8).

Christians have an anchor for the soul that is grounded in the finished work of Christ (Heb 6:19). Let us trust in Jesus, and not fear.

■ **Lewis Houston**





## Snatched from the fire!

### Extreme abortion amendment withdrawn thanks to Christian campaign

Largely thanks to campaigning Christians, one of the most wicked proposed changes in the law ever to have been conceived in this country failed to win approval this summer.

An amendment to the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, intended to legalise abortion for any reason up to birth, was withdrawn after being selected by the Speaker for debate and a vote.

According to Nola Leach of Christian campaigning group CARE, this was thanks to numerous MPs who powerfully spoke against it after being briefed by the organisation. Writing to supporters, Nola said: “MPs have told us about the high volume of emails and letters they received from constituents like you! Your help has clearly made a real difference.”

It is so encouraging that there are still many believers who are prepared to speak out and make a difference. It's all too easy for us to throw our hands up in the air and give up in defeat as a deluge of godless humanism threatens to overwhelm us.

But Jesus has the victory over death and destruction, and is right beside those who seek to promote justice and righteousness, along with life, health and peace to a very sick society (which includes pointing the way to Jesus' forgiveness for those who have aborted their babies).

I believe the plague of coronavirus is, in part, a judgment from the Lord for the shedding of innocent blood – 9 million unborn children in the UK since 1967. The prophet Ezekiel warned of judgment against the ancient Israelites for such detestable practices as sacrificing their sons in the fire (Ezek 20:31).

But God has not given up on us. We still have the potential to affect the political process. Well done, those who took the trouble to awaken the conscience of their MPs. May Christians continue to lead the way in raising their voices on behalf of those who have no voice.

■ Charles Gardner



**Prophecy Today UK is a project of Issachar Ministries, a resourcing ministry which derives its name from the Tribe of Issachar (1 Chronicles 12:32).**

**Issachar Ministries seeks to provide biblical teaching on current issues by understanding the times, listening to the Lord and knowing what should be done.**

**Are you able to support Prophecy Today UK financially, or would you like to receive more information about the ministry?**

Telephone 07759 042315 (mobile), or fill out the following form and post it to Issachar Ministries, Bedford Heights, Brickhill Drive, Bedford, MK41 7PH.

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## REVIEWS

**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](http://www.prophecytoday.uk)**

### Defying Jihad: The Dramatic True Story of a Woman Who Volunteered to Kill Infidels—And Then Faced Death for Becoming One

*Esther Ahmad & Craig Borlase (2019)*

Tyndale Momentum, 2019, 320pp

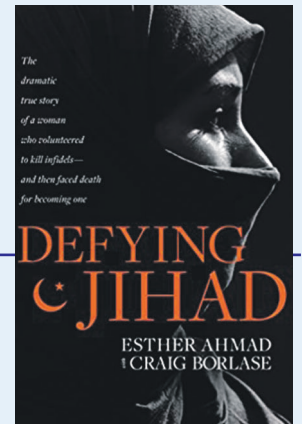
Brought up as a Muslim in Pakistan, Esther Ahmad loved to pray, learn, and also reach out to the poor. But as the years went by, her family became more involved with Muslims whose aim included jihad. Esther was very devout, and, aged just 18, volunteered for that cause. Her mission, essentially, was to blow herself up as a terrorist, in order to secure a place in heaven for her and her family.

But things didn't go according to plan. Jesus appeared to her in a dream while she waited to go off for training, setting her on a path to search for truth. Her life completely turned around, Esther found herself facing death as a martyr for Christ, at the hands of her father and former friends.

This is a dramatic story, one in which Esther's incredibly deep faith shines through; her bravery proving immense as she faced her accusers with grace and wisdom.

I found 'Defying Jihad' to be unputdownable and deeply inspiring, but also helpful in understanding the Islamic faith and the deceptions within it.

■ Kathryn Price



### Israel and the Church: An Israeli Examines God's Unfolding Plans for His Chosen Peoples

*Amir Tsarfati*

Harvest House Publishers, 2021, 224pp

For Amir, a Messianic Jew, the Church is as much chosen by God as Israel is. It's not an either/or situation – rather, each comes to the fore in different ways and times.

Whereas many authors on this subject, including myself perhaps, may appear to give the Church a hard time for its misunderstanding – even persecution – of the Jews, Amir has an obvious love for the Church that has taken the Jewish gospel to the ends of the earth.

I particularly enjoyed Tsarfati's studies on the Revelation to the churches, with helpful insights and encouragement to spend time in the Bible and on our knees in prayer, helping us to “block out the worthless and focus on the priceless”.

He conveys much helpful insight with his trademark sense of humour, but I didn't always find him easy to follow. Though well-written, his arguments are at times a tad too complicated.

Nevertheless, this is an excellent book with a fresh take on this topic, which I hope will bless many with a new revelation of God's wonderful plans for both Israel and the Church.

■ Charles Gardner

