



# PROPHECY *Today* UK

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

## BATTLE STATIONS

**BEING CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS  
IN AN UNCERTAIN AND CHAOTIC  
WORLD**

**A** new phase of history has begun, and we see the titanic struggle between good and evil unfolding before our eyes with alarming speed. The book of Daniel, and his experiences of the awesome power of God in a pagan nation, should give us the confidence that even when all seems lost and the consequences of sin seem overwhelming, God reigns supreme. He will be with his people and his purposes will be fulfilled.

The battle we face is not for the faint of heart and will require a level of courage and commitment to our faith that many of us have not experienced and never imagined before. We face an uncertain future in a rapidly changing world and there is much work to do. As we respond to this call, beginning with repentance and in prayer, we will be challenged about how we will use our time, our finances, the resources we have seen as our own.

I'm a qualified private pilot, but last year, I was involved in a serious landing accident, as turbulence

from a wind farm flipped the wing just before landing.

My being rescued from that aircraft – walking away from it with just a little cut on my knee – was nothing short of miraculous; and I give the Lord all the glory for that. I quite literally walked out of the aeroplane, made the necessary phone calls to deal with the CAA and the insurers, and then sat down for a sandwich and a cup of tea!

As I reflected, I was taken by the fact that I remained completely calm throughout.

And that, I believe, is a picture for what God wants for his people in the emergencies and challenges that lie ahead.

It is my contention that, in time, as people move into a period of greater austerity and greater difficulty, and as many people hit the point of despair, it's absolutely vital for us as believers to be prepared for it, and not be fazed by it. We need to be that voice of calm, of confidence, of assurance in our communities when

and tomorrow, and that the exploits and extraordinary events that we read about in our Bibles are possible for us today.

As things worsen, bringing fear and despair, we, as believers, need to be the people who carry the life of Christ in us; we need to be the people that others can look to and can turn to, in whom they can see

*shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?"*

We're going to have lots of opportunities to bring the good news of Jesus to the lost and defeated and despairing and frightened. That's what we need to prepare for, for they will only hear it from people like us.

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people are faced with circumstances they simply can't cope with.

In recent years, I really have seen the most extraordinary and miraculous working power of God. This gives me a confidence that the God of Israel is the same yesterday, today

an unshakeable confidence in God.

Romans 10:14-15 says, "How, then, shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how

■ **Nick Szkiller** is the chair of Issachar Ministries, PT's parent ministry. The first section of this article was also published in the booklet *Crossing Over*, available from Issachar Ministries.





## 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 Tom Lennie, author of several books on historical revivals, 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).

# STANDING FIRM WHEN THE WORLD IS SHAKING

Today we are witnessing the shaking of the nations to an unprecedented degree. The days of upheaval of which we have been warning for many years in this ministry are now upon us.

The death of our beloved Queen has shaken the whole nation. She was one of the building blocks of stability that kept the nation steady in times of turmoil. She had unshakeable faith in God that kept her steady in times of turmoil such as the death of Princess Diana. She learned a great deal from her father King George VI and his faith in God. I was a child in London all through the bombing and I remember the King and Queen Elizabeth (our Queen's parents) visiting bomb sites and talking with people in the midst of personal tragedies, sharing their faith and encouraging everyone to stand firm. This is where our Queen learned her biblical values of service, faithfulness, integrity, and steadfastness that she followed all the days of her life, working right up to the day before she died. She firmly believed in prayer because she had seen prayer answered in response to her father's faith.

I still vividly remember the day of prayer called by the King in May 1940. It was a desperate situation – with the British army stranded



Joel Rouse/Ministry of Defence, Wikimedia Commons

on the Continent as the Nazi tanks advanced on them. On 27th May 1940, the German High Command announced: "The British army is encircled, and our troops are proceeding to its annihilation".

**IF my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn away from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and I WILL HEAL THEIR LAND.**

King George VI had called the whole nation to a Day of Prayer on Sunday 26th May, and huge numbers flocked to the churches. Then three things happened that all appeared to be miraculous:

- A spirit of confusion clouded the German High Command. Irrationally, Hitler ordered his generals to halt the advance towards the West coast of France.

- A storm of extraordinary fury grounded the German Luftwaffe from 28th May for several days, allowing the British forces to make their way to Dunkirk.

- A great calm followed, which

settled over the English Channel, with low cloud cover allowing an armada of little boats to ferry the waiting soldiers from the beaches out to the Royal Navy warships and return to Dover. 335,000 men were

evacuated from Dunkirk – ten times what was expected.

This amazing feat was due to prayer, and the response of ordinary citizens risking their lives on behalf of others in their small boats. It is also a parable of great significance for us today. It shows the amazing things that can happen when small numbers are motivated to do great things.

Despite the institutional churches being at their weakest for centuries at a time of great threat to the whole of humanity, God is doing something remarkable. He is mobilising the small groups of praying Christians

in the same way as he energised the small ecclesia in New Testament times – when he enabled them to stand firm in days of persecution, and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to witness to their neighbours and to carry the gospel of salvation to the ends of the Roman Empire.

This is his intention today in these days of shaking, and he is reminding his people of the power that is available to each and every believer. In days of crisis there are three 'Ifs' in the promises of God. They are:

- **IF** – you will seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you, declares the Lord. (Jer 29:13-14)

- **IF** – at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. (Jer 18:7-8)

- **IF** – my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn away from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and I WILL HEAL THEIR LAND. (2 Chron 7:14)

- **Clifford Hill**





# IT'S NOT IT, IT'S HIM

I was reading, recently, one of a whole host of beautiful testimonies that formed part of the famed Hebrides revival of 1949-52. The story relates to a schoolgirl in her mid-teens by the name of Fay Macleod.



Months before the revival commenced, both Fay and a close friend began coming under spiritual conviction. Fay became increasingly aware that she was a sinner, and far away from God. She and her friend would ponder aloud what it was that Christians had that they didn't. They couldn't

## Our Christian walk is nothing if it's not, at its core, relational

work it out, but they longed to have it.

Then revival broke out, and news spread that Fay's friend, Chirsty Ann, had been converted at one of the meetings. Fay was thunderstruck on being told, not having a clue what had actually happened to her. "I went to see her; and took one look at her. Her face was transformed - there's no other word for it - she was simply glowing. I said, 'Chirsty Ann - you've got it!'".

Her friend replied, "Oh, Fay, we've been so blind. It's not an 'it' at all, it's a him! I've found him - the Lord Jesus!" Fay threw her arms around her friend, and wept profusely on her shoulders. She accompanied Chirsty Ann to the meeting the following night, and she too found her Saviour, her life being absolutely transformed.

It was the simplicity yet profundity of the story that impacted me. The two schoolgirls had been searching for months for the one thing that could bring them peace and inner satisfaction - only to find that this one thing was a person - Jesus Christ.

Christian life is in essence simple. Yet that doesn't mean it's easy. Most of us know from experience it's not, and Christ teaches us the same, telling his disciples: "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Matt 16:24).

And while of course it's true that what we believe is important (1

Tim 6:3; 2 John 1:9), we can get so completely absorbed determining what theological points we absolutely must and must not imbibe - and arguing with others about these - that it becomes easy to overlook what the Christian faith is really all about: relationship bought through Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

How important it is for each of us to come back to our first love (Rev 2:4). That place of intimacy with God. Such closeness of relationship can only come from quality time spent alone in his presence. From asking him to reignite within us a burning passion for Christ.

If we regard time spent alone with God as tedious and unproductive then we have a problem. Surely

the thought of just being in his presence is one we would find exciting - seeking to connect with his heartbeat; gleaning truths from the reading of his word; listening to his sweet voice; distilling what he, by his Spirit, might be saying to us, personally, guiding us in the decisions we have to make. Surely that thought should woo us into spending more time alone in fellowship with him.

Our Christian walk is nothing if it's not, at its core, relational. Relational with God himself, and relational with fellow believers. In the difficult days that lie ahead for the Church and for the world, the strength of our relationship with God will ultimately determine both how we withstand the challenges that confront us, and how effective is our practical witness to those around us who are in need.

■ Tom Lennie

## TO JUDGE OR NOT TO JUDGE

We live in a non-judgemental society where any type of behaviour can be defended as personal choice and any criticism is denounced as hurtful. When Christians point out the harm of an aspect of behaviour, particularly of sexual morality, we are often met with the response, 'You shouldn't judge.' or 'It isn't very Christian to go around judging people,' or even 'It's not very loving to criticise.'

Everyone seems to know at least one Bible verse: Matthew 7:1 - "Do not judge, or you too will be judged." This is often played as a trump card to silence any Christian who attempts to say that something is wrong or immoral. After all, isn't this an instruction from our Lord himself?



Whenever someone makes an objection to any aspect of biblical teaching, we can be sure that there is an error in reasoning somewhere; the 'don't judge' argument is a prime example of illogicality. To even tell someone they shouldn't judge is to judge that they are judging, which is considered judgmental, which requires making a judgment about all the judging that is going on!

Saying 'Don't judge' is plain irresponsible and doesn't work in the real world. It would be beyond illogical, and sometimes unsafe, to not judge. Every single day we make judgements of many kinds, some simple, others important. When going to the supermarket we have to choose between 27 different types of bread (I counted); we review them and judge which suits our needs at that time. Occasionally we have to make more important judgements, such as whether an unsolicited message is genuine or fraudulent.

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



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Continued

'Don't judge' is unbiblical. Context is king: Matthew 7:1 only works as a conversation stopper if we delete the next six verses of Scripture. It is clear that, instead of totally forbidding us to judge, Jesus is instructing us on how to make a righteous judgement. He tells us that when we make a judgement on any behaviour, we should first think about our own behaviour and avoid being hypocritical, "First take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." And, if we are to help someone take the speck out of their eye – and our judgements should always be in the context of helping – we must first of all judge that the speck is actually there.

Looking elsewhere in the Bible, we see the importance of making right judgments. Jesus requires us to recognise wolves in sheep's clothing – or false prophets – by their fruit (Matt 7:15-16), which requires us to judge whether or not these teachers are speaking truth. In John 7:24, Jesus instructs us to "Stop judging by mere appearances and make a righteous judgment." The apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 5:12f requires us to judge other believers.

Telling someone they shouldn't judge is not biblical. In truth, Scripture actually commands us to judge, but to make righteous judgements, humbly, and without hypocrisy.

Making judgements on the behaviour of others, if done properly and gently, can be the loving thing to do. Refusing to judge can do harm to someone who is doing wrong or in a wrong relationship, whilst making a judgement on another's behaviour can be the loving, Christian, thing to do. For those of us who are parents, we make judgements on the behaviour of our children. If we are loving parents, we will correct them if needed. Why? Not because we have a judgemental attitude and want to crush them, but because we care for them and wish the best for their lives. If we simply ignore the 'speck' in their eye and choose not to judge, we could be shaping the rest of their lives in a harmful way.

Judging with right judgment is not only logical and biblical, but it's also the most loving thing you can do.

■ **Rev Campbell-Jack** has been writing regular articles helping Christians to feel confident defending various biblical principles. They can be found on [www.prophecytoday.uk](http://www.prophecytoday.uk) – search 'apologetics'.



**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)**

## The Transforming Presence: Releasing God's Ability Within You

*Tom McCann*

Maurice Wylie Media, 2021, 164 pages

This is a remarkable work, opening up a connectedness to Christ that most Christians might not believe possible.

The son of missionary parents who lived entirely by faith, which made a deep impression on him, McCann shares his story of seeking – and finding – a deeper 'union with Christ'.

Tom shares several carefully chosen testimonies of seeing God meet his needs in remarkable ways, but it is the teaching that hits home most powerfully.

Recognising that our whole lives are spiritual, and there is no spiritual/secular divide, McCann emphasises that we need to surrender our whole lives to Christ, with the death of self being paramount – not just symbolic but worked out in experience.

The focus then becomes "the presence of the indwelling Christ, who now assumes governance and control within" (p.84). This is achieved through "union with Christ". While, of course, we remain fully human, Christ and the believer are now "one spirit" (1 Cor 6:17). This union is "the summit of God's loving plan of redemption".

This is a delightful study, written with a spirit of humility, easy to read, and packed to the brim with relevant Scripture quotations. A terrific read – I can hardly recommend it enough.

■ **Tom Lennie**



## The Book That Made Your World, How the Bible created the soul of Western Civilization

*Vishal Mangalwadi*

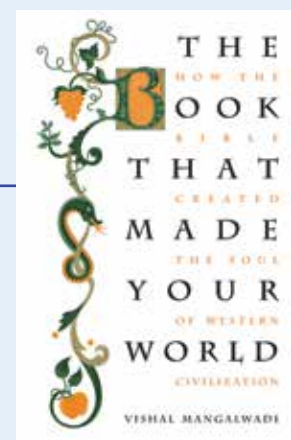
Thomas Nelson, 2012, 466pp

This book was an eye-opener for me. Some of the impact of the Christian foundation of Western society is plain to see. But in this book, Indian author, Vishal Mangalwadi, makes plain the huge extent of the impact of the Bible on the world, covering a vast sweep of history, and looking at concepts as far ranging as liberty, languages, wealth, medicine and universities.

The chapter on technology is particularly illuminating, as the author examines how the cultivation of the mind and the respect for human dignity instilled by the Bible, even throughout the 'Dark Ages', advanced Western civilisation. He compares the West with India, analysing the difference the work of missionaries made to his homeland. Sadly, but unsurprisingly, he feels compelled to warn of the dangers that the West faces in rejecting biblical standards.

The book is well researched – a labour of love. But inevitably, with the huge scope covered in this study, there are a few small errors. And occasionally, the jump between ideas is too rapid. These faults, however, don't remotely take away from the value of this book, which is truly enlightening and extremely helpful in understanding the vast impact of Christianity on our world.

■ **Kathryn Price**



**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.**

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