



PROPHECY Today UK

Bringing the unchanging word of God to a changing world

JUST STOP OIL

THE DANGERS OF THE DOGMATIC DEVOTEES

With the de facto abandonment of Christianity as the UK's religion, we are faced with a plethora of secular quasi-religions pursuing their own fundamentalist visions of the perfect society and warning us of an imminent Apocalypse unless we embrace their faith.

Chief amongst the progressive zealots are the catastrophising sect of eco-warriors known as Just Stop Oil, an offshoot of Extinction Rebellion, who have become the spearhead of the environmental movement. Whilst ER practised civil disobedience, Just Stop Oil devotees have moved on to what they term "Civil Resistance" to the *"harmful politics and our criminal government"*.

Since their launch in February, Just Stop Oil's direct action has included throwing soup onto Van Gogh's Sunflowers, spraying paint on the windows of Harrods, tipping milk onto supermarket floors, supergluing their hands to works of art and blocking the Dartford Crossing.

The UK is facing a time of financial stringency due to the war in Ukraine, a looming global recession and general political mismanagement. As a result, most people are tightening their belts and looking forward to winter with apprehension at the prospect of significantly higher energy and food bills. Yet, such is their total faith in their cause, the Just Stop Oil protesters have chosen to add to our misery by, earlier this year, blocking oil refineries and cutting the delivery of essential fuels, and are now demanding that we stop

using fossil fuels altogether.

Just Stop Oil's manifesto makes it apparent how blinkered it is. The group states that in order to end fossil fuel use by 2030, it *"will require massive investment in clean technology, renewables and energy storage"*. Renewable energy is never going to be able to replace fossil fuels by 2030 and wind farms bring their own environmental hazards. Solar power farms require huge swathes of arable land which could otherwise be used to grow food. Yet, the suggestion that we turn to nuclear power is met with horror as the ultimate blasphemy.

Just Stop Oil have no actual concern for the lives of ordinary people and the problems we face. This is clear from their tactic of blocking roads. Ordinary people have to get to work, keep appointments and generally go about their daily business. Ambulances have to take ill people to hospital, food has to be delivered to supermarkets, fire engines have to rush to emergencies. All these are disrupted when self-righteous eco-warriors park themselves in the middle of the roadway. It should come as no surprise that there is growing evidence of drivers getting out of their cars and physically dragging the zealots off the highway.



It is true that we could live without using fossil fuels. Throughout the world many do just that. We call this lifestyle 'abject poverty'. Life without fossil fuels, especially in northern latitudes, is cold, nasty and short. Fossil fuels do more than heat our buildings and cook our food, they provide the power without which industry and transport would grind to a halt. Much of our clothing, household utensils and everyday necessities, from electrical wiring to spectacles, come from oil. Until we develop realistic alternatives, there is no possibility of us just stopping oil - and those alternatives are simply not going to miraculously

arrive before Just Stop Oil's 2030 cut-off date.

The agenda goes further, however. Stuart Basden, co-founder of ER, has argued that the movement *"isn't about the climate"*, but is concerned with many issues such as overturning white supremacy, the patriarchy, Eurocentrism, heteronormativity, cultural identity and class hierarchy. He states, *"To focus on the climate's breakdown (the symptom) without focusing attention on these toxic delusions (the causes) is a form of denialism."*

What they see as the environmental catastrophe is a mere

symptom of a greater sickness. They see Western culture as a cancer which must be excised and wish to change the structure of the entire world. *"If we only talk about the climate, we're missing the deeper problems plaguing our culture. And if we don't excise the cause of the infection, we can never hope to heal from it."*

Our environmental zealots illustrate the truth that when you abandon Christ you abandon more than Christ, and what fills the void is never good.

■ Rev Campbell Campbell-Jack



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.

LIGHTS BURNING BRIGHTLY IN THE DARKNESS OF THE COMING DAYS – A PROPHETIC WORD

All prophecies should be carefully tested and weighed, and we invite readers to consider this prayerfully.

The word of prophecy which follows was received at the South West Bible Week at Sidmouth in August 2022. It was accepted as genuine by the large gathering of mature believers there.

*My understanding is that this word was given by the Holy Spirit to encourage a faithful remnant people in the days of increasing darkness and difficulty which lie ahead of us. In the darkness and despair, God will use his people who hold fast to the word of truth to glorify Himself and bring many to salvation. I have heard no promise of 'revival'; only that God will be powerfully at work in times of trouble. He will work through those people of humility who know Him, and know that without Him, they can do nothing. **David Noakes***

"Beloved, we stand at the brink of something big and new; not new to me, but it will be new to you. I have in store for those who truly love me such things as you have not yet experienced. I have an outpouring of my Spirit which I have longed to impart; indeed, for a long time I have wanted to impart it.

But now I am separating out for myself a people who love me for myself. I have watched for many years for such a people, and on those of you whose hearts are truly towards me I will send my Spirit in a new way.

You will see the lame walk, you will see the sick raised from their bed and you will see the dead raised in these days to come, because I have been longing with all my heart to have a people whom I can trust to give the glory unto me and not take

IN YOUR DARKEST MOMENTS I WILL SHINE IN WITH MY LIGHT, AND YOU WILL KNOW IN A NEW WAY THE GREATNESS OF YOUR GOD. THEREFORE, BE ENCOURAGED, BE GREATLY ENCOURAGED, BECAUSE I AM INTENDING TO DO THINGS WHICH YOU LONG FOR AND THOUGHT YOU WOULD NEVER SEE.

You will know the fullness of my Spirit working within you in ways you have never known before. You will know my power, you will know my love, you will know my grace, you will know my faithfulness, and you will see me answer prayer in a way for which you have longed.

it unto themselves. Beloved, I have preserved for myself a remnant for these last days and my heart is overflowing with joy; and I long, I long to speak to the world through a people who want only me and nothing for themselves; and through such people I will speak to the world.

I am not a merciless God who will make judgements without extending mercy and I will give mercy to those who will turn and repent. And there shall be a greater harvest than you have dared hope and there shall be larger numbers than you would have expected; and yet, beloved, I call upon you to stand strong because these will be hard days. The days will be difficult, they will be difficult for the world, they will be difficult also for my people because there will be such division that men will either love me or they will hate me with a satanic hatred, and there will be very little in between.

Do not fear those who will persecute you, but fear only me. For beloved, I have all things in my hand. Do not think for one moment anything in your lives or anything in the world around you is out of control. It is not. For I am the King, I am Supreme, I am Sovereign. I have in my hand all that you need and I will never let you down. I will never forsake you; I will never fail you.

In your darkest moments I will shine in with my light, and you will know in a new way the greatness of your God. Therefore, be encouraged, be greatly encouraged, because I am intending to do things which you long for and thought you would never see. I am with you. My beloved, that is all you need. All you need is that I am with you, for Christ in you is indeed the hope of glory: the hope, the assured hope, the guarantee of glory. And you will shine like lights in the darkness. As the darkness of these last days increases, as the fury of the enemy rages, so my love will become even more apparent.

The world will see and know those who belong to me and many will turn and many will come to me, and there shall be a harvest for which I have longed, and for which many of you have longed. You have thought perhaps it would never come.

Beloved, there may be some of you who do not see it, who do not see it because you are already seeing my face in glory. But many will see it and you will rejoice, and your rejoicing will be such as to carry you through every test and every difficulty because my joy will fill you, my love will surround you and I will work in you such trust that you need never ever have any doubt that your God is with you.

Beloved, be encouraged with these words. Take them to heart and be expectant that I will bring to pass all that I have intended."

■ **David Noakes**





SAVING THE 1%

GOD'S RELENTLESS LOVE



Don't be cruel to any of these little ones! I promise you their angels are always with my Father in heaven. Let me ask you this. What would you do if you had 100 sheep and one of them wandered off? Wouldn't you leave the 99 on the hillside and go look for the one that had wandered away? I am sure that finding it would make you happier than having the 99 that never wandered off. That's how it is with your Father in heaven. He doesn't want any of these little ones to be lost. (Matt 18:11- 4)

Just one sheep out of a hundred. Just one lost person. That's all... My sense is that the thought of a 1% loss would not seem to be an enormous issue to most of us. But this parable makes it clear that it is abhorrent to Jesus – and that is when reading it in our watered-down interpretation of the original. In the Greek, the word used for lost is 'appollomee' and it translates not as 'lost', but 'destroyed.'

Jesus is saying in this story that God is not even willing to see 1% destroyed. He wants every single one of us to come into His kingdom. Yet we live in a Christian world where the prevailing thought seems to be that it is okay to let sinners perish! Where we can let 1% drift away, and not even be too fussed if that 1% becomes 2 or 3, or 10 or 20 per cent. Yet God is not willing that any should be destroyed.

Now, I am not dismissing the reality of God's judgment; the judgment

will come. But, that judgement is not God's desire, it is not what he wants, nor what he is aiming for; the idea of judgment causes him to grieve. And yet, having said all of this, Christianity is broadly split into two camps. One for whom the judgment cannot come soon enough, the other for whom there will never be a judgment and therefore we have licence to behave as we wish.

In God's eyes we are defined by whether we are willing to walk with Him – not by where we are or what we have done. That means that members of the covenant community are not to employ the language of judgement, not to write-off anyone. We are to remember that Jesus came to seek and save the lost, and that we are called to emulate him.

God's relentless love is unreasonable, it is shocking and beyond our comprehension – a love which leaves the 99 (safely protected in a pen) to

seek out the lost. And this is what Jesus is teaching us too: Do not let even 1% slip away. The kingdom is for everyone; and it will not be for lack of forgiveness on God's part that all do not participate in its glorious culmination.

On reading this parable, it makes me reflect that God would have us in the world as mechanics, working to redeem people, places and circumstances. In Judaism there is a phrase 'tikun ha'olam' which literally means 'healing the world'. It speaks of a desire to be light in a dark place, to be God's arms and legs in this world. That is what Jesus would have us be in our witness to His grace. However, the reality is that we, like some of the Pharisees that Jesus engaged with, are happy seeing ourselves as judges, pronouncing on the sins and failings of those we encounter.

I remember from my childhood the term 'there but for the grace of God go I'. It is a phrase that speaks of the recognition that without God's grace we are without hope. Speaking out that phrase is an act of humility; and humility is a world away from the attitude that comes with judgment. Speaking out this phrase takes us into the space of humbling ourselves and in doing so, coming closer to the Lord. And from that place of humility and intimacy with God, we can emulate our Lord and have a hunger to rescue even the 1%.

■ Nick Thompson

'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, Bedford Heights, Brickhill Drive, Bedford, MK41 7PH

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CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Christmas is like a present. But some people just get the present and delight in the beautiful wrapping, the sparkly glitter, the pretty ribbons – the lights, the Christmas tree, the parties – and then, when it's all done, they just put it aside, unwrapped, and go on with life.

Others unwrap the present, but just enjoy the warm glow they get from the box – the carols perhaps, the nativity, the Christmas story.

But what Christmas is all about is what's inside the box. The God of the universe, far too big to fit inside a box, and yet who became a baby who fitted in a manger.

He came to bring us gifts:

*light in the darkness that we face,
peace amid the chaos,
hope in the midst of despair,
faith instead of fear,
love to replace hate,
guidance for the lost,
mercy rather than the judgement
we deserve.*

He came to tell the whole world – **he came to tell you** – that he loves you, and asks you to follow him, into life eternal. Will you open the present of Christmas, and welcome Jesus into your heart.

■ Kathryn Price



ISSACHAR

MINISTRIES UK

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 0333 090 2187, or fill out the following form and post it to Issachar Ministries, Bedford Heights, Brickhill Drive, Bedford, MK41 7PH.

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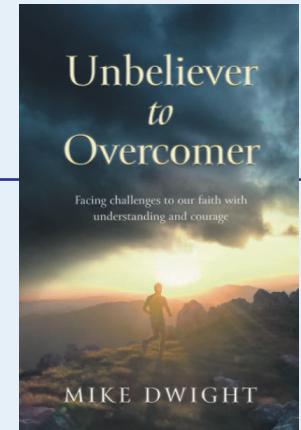
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REVIEWS

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

Unbeliever to Overcomer: Facing challenges to our faith with understanding and courage



■ Mike Dwight

Malcolm Down Publishing, 2022, 175pp

Mike Dwight's timely new book concerns one of the most important topics of our day – being an overcomer in Christ. The aim of the book is to challenge and encourage one another to run and finish the race in what may be difficult times ahead. This will require courage and tenacity, and this book provides an invaluable aid which will guide and instruct us in the struggles and persecution we are likely to face.

The book is structured in three sections and, as the title suggests, takes us on the whole journey from not knowing Christ at all, to the ultimate objective of standing victorious with Him as He returns in glory.

He covers themes such as discipleship, the role of the world, the flesh and the devil in dissuading us from persevering as disciples, and understanding why some fall away. One chapter is a study on Revelation 1-3, noting that the word '*disciple*' does not occur at all in the book of Revelation, being replaced instead by '*overcomer*'. The shift in emphasis is striking.

The topic of overcoming will become even more important in the days ahead. Dwight challenges us to make being an overcomer a priority.

■ Paul Luckraft

Harnessed for Adventure: True Life Stories of Faith Adventures with God'



■ Gordon Hickson (2022)

This has got to be one of the most fast-paced true life testimony books of recent decades. From start to finish, it's jam-packed with faith adventures – making it one of the most exciting and faith-building biographies I think I've ever come across.

Gordon and his wife, Rachel, embarked on lives of full abandonment to Christ, seeking to obey His voice and believing Him for breakthrough in every circumstance, even when the odds were highly stacked against them, as they often were.

Sensing the call to Africa, where they worked for a number of years for *Reinhard Bonnke Ministries*, they also travelled and ministered in numerous nations across Africa and Asia. From 1990, Gordon's focus was the UK, getting deeply involved in numerous local and national projects, and church ministry.

Miracles and striking answers to prayer seemed to be an integral part of the Hicksons' lives, as they fearlessly moved with God in faith, yet they retain a sense of humility, and their faith-filled stories are devoid of either sensationalism or triumphalism. Their single aim seems to be to share the love of Jesus throughout the world, and to bring glory to God. A thoroughly inspirational read.

■ Tom Lennie

This e-book and audiobook can be purchased from heartcryforchange.com for £8.99.