

16th April 2020

Signs of the Times

Why do we have signs of the times?

It is to enable the disciples of Jesus to be encouraged to see the work of God being fulfilled in accordance with His Prophetic Word, giving them assurance, that they can be fully persuaded that, what God has promised, he is able also to perform (Romans 4:21). It is something Jesus expects his servants to show an interest in, we recall the way he condemned the Pharisees who observed the sly and made pronouncements about the coming weather, but were blind to current events— Matthew 16:3 - *When it is evening, you say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red, and in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and darkening. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the **signs of the times**?* The importance of seeing world events and their relation to Bible prophecy is important because Jesus notes that his appearing on earth will be stealthily, and very quiet, see Revelation 16:15 *Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.* The need to be on guard, alert, and watchful of our own behaviour and character, and also be aware of the signs of the times, in order to be prepared. Again the Lord Jesus warns those in terminal epochs, to be very much on their guard in Revelation 3:1-3: *And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; ... Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.* How appropriate these words are, let us remind ourselves then of the signs of our times, which indicate that the Return of the Lord Jesus Christ is near, that he is even at the door.

The Resurrection of Israel

If someone says prove God exists, you can respond with just two words. The Jews. Their very existence after thousands of years, with identity, language and culture, when hundreds of other nations, tongues and tribes have morphed, migrated or been extinguished for good, is remarkable, especially seeing that they as a nation were scattered all around the world for the best part of 2000 years, in direct fulfilment of Bible prophecy (see Deuteronomy 29:28, Luke 19:41-44) What is even more remarkable though, is that in the latter days resurrection era, the nation of Israel has come back to life.

Fading from collective memory, perhaps, as these events took place over 70 years ago. We cannot remind ourselves enough, that it is a Miracle. It would be impossible for any people, scattered throughout the world with no central identity

or control, all speaking different languages, assimilated into their host nations, yet managing to hand on to their ancient religion for two millennia, at the same time as being murdered in gas chambers



on an industrial scale, to actually survive such an onslaught, and come back from the dead, rise from the ashes, stronger, and more powerful than ever before, to become a regional military and economic superpower, a world leader in pharmaceuticals, biochemistry, medicine, hydrology, nanotechnology, cyber-security, be the start-up nation of the world, such breathless progress, such breakneck development has almost become expected, and no longer news. Fellow brothers and sisters just a few decades back were full of excitement, as they watched these events in the Holy Land. What of us? We are mindful of the prophet Ezekiel in chapter 37, where he was shown that vision of the valley of dry bones, and he was asked



the question? Son of man can these bones live? Back in January 27th 1945 at the liberation of Auschwitz, the answer surely would have been a resounding No. The Final Solution, the policy of Nazism (influenced by the wicked

theory of evolution as the origin of species) seemed to have achieved its result. But the vision to Ezekiel continued Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off from our parts. But there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. God put sinews, and flesh and he breathed upon them, and they stood up and exceeding mighty army. God explained to the prophet 47:12: Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves,



and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord. It is true, we have seen this happen, they have been placed in their own land, the nation brought back from the dead. A certain element acknowledge that this is the fulfilment of the word of God, as the image of this vision is depicted upon a Menorah located at the Knesset, Israel's Parliament building. But the majority are a secular people who although attempting to retain Jewish identity are no

different to any other nation in their national conduct and behaviour. They do not yet know the Lord who brought them up out of the graves, the Spirit of God has not yet been poured out upon them, and is yet to be fulfilled. (Zechariah 12:10)

Revival of Hebrew

As part of the regeneration of the nation, their identity was strengthened in a unique way, never seen before and never since. That was that they began to speak the language of Moses, of Joshua, David and the prophets. Their own tongue. However this language had not been spoken as a mother tongue since the second century AD. It was dead as a spoken language, dead like its people. But how could a nation of refugees, when they made Aliyah, -returned home to Israel all speaking different languages of their countries of origin coalesce as a people if they did not understand each other. In an astonishing miracle often ignored, God reversed Babel, and permitted the Hebrew language to be revived. Seen as part of Zionism, the movement to revive this ancient language began in 1881 led by a man Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, and his friends. Why was it so successful? Maybe a part fulfilment of Zephaniah 3:9, but certainly a fulfilment of Revelation 16:16 *And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.* Why would Jesus describe gathering people to a place called in a Hebrew language if the language was dead and irrelevant? This shows that the modern speaking of Hebrew is a sign. A sign of our times, that soon what Armageddon means in Hebrew will take place. It means a Heap of Sheaves in a valley of threshing. The nations will be brought to Israel for a good beating! This has not happened yet, and so is future, but the events leading up to it are very much signs of the times. This is described in the previous verses: Revelation 16:12 -14 *And the sixth angel poured out his vial (bowl) upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the*

kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. This leads us onto new signs to consider:

Drying up of the Euphrates

These vials, or bowls as they are better known today, were full of liquid, and one by one these seven angels one after the other poured out their bowls of liquid, in various areas and locations as described, representing God setting in motion various influences to bring about His purpose, like an irresistible tide of events which cannot be turned back. Each container of liquid adding to the one before. By the time we come to the sixth bowl, many historical events have taken place. We can see most of these bowls are poured out prior to Christ return described in verse 15. In fact, Jesus announces his return in the period of the sixth bowl. Thus, if we are living just prior



to Christ return, as we would expect then the events described by the sixth bowl to relate to modern and ongoing events in the nations. As shown in Isaiah 8:7 the overflowing of a river represents the extension of the military power associated with it: so, in Revelation 16 we are looking at a power associated with the river Euphrates which is drying up, or declining, and disappearing altogether. History tells us that power was the Ottoman or Turkish empire

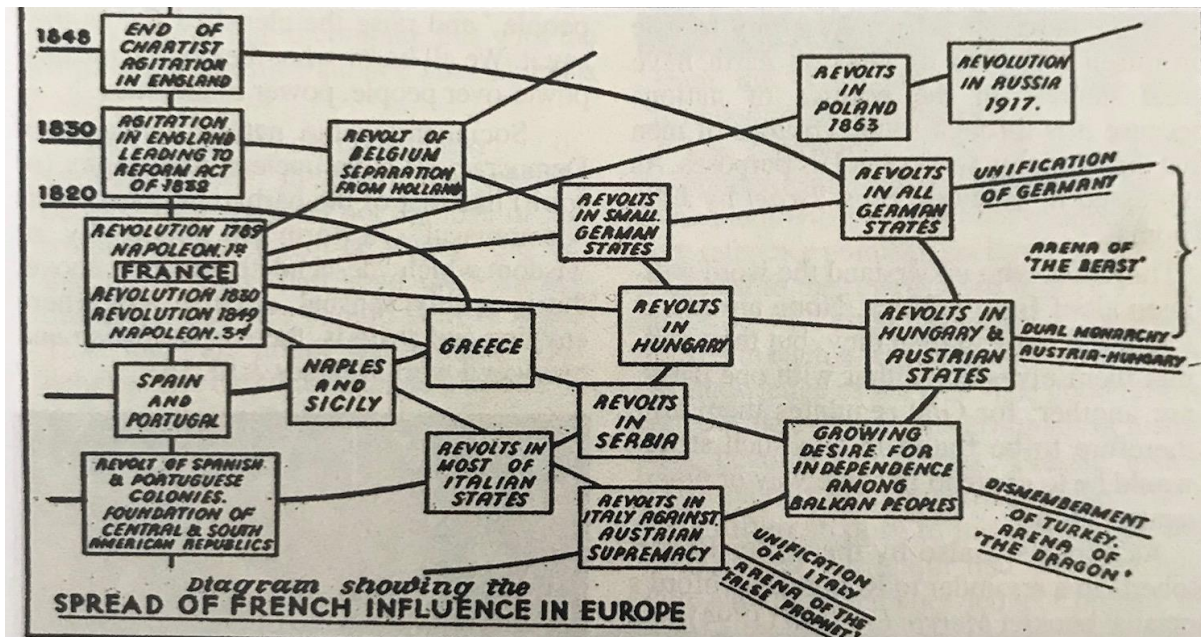
which at its height extended deep into Europe, occupying parts of southern Russia, dominated the whole of the middle East and extended into northern Africa. It was like a clammy cloud resting

upon many peoples, oppressing, and obliterating nations. But at the turn of the 20th century, the 500-year empire began to wane. So that by the end of the first world war, under the British, The Turks were driven from the land of promise, the land of Israel. Israel couldn't go back to the land all the time the Turks were in control. It is a sign which has happened, in this modern era. Now Turkey has a new role to play, which we will look at shortly.

Agitation of the Nations

Next John saw in the vision *three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet*. What of these three frogs? Yes, the French like eating frogs. In fact, the French are affectionately nicknamed frogs for a reason. It used to be part of their heraldic identity. France was founded in the marshlands of Westphalia. But John in this vision didn't see frogs, he saw frog like spirits, or teachings, doctrines which are froglike. Teachings which come from the bottom of the pit, from out of the mud and mire, teachings which change shape and form when convenient, teaching which are loud and insistent. Croaking and agitating without stopping. As the Turkish empire was shrinking, the short-lived French empire was growing, and the earthquake took place in the land of the frogs, the French Revolution, where new ideas from the masses, the mud and mire, grew into a rolling all-consuming ideology, which is still affecting society hugely today. The watch word of the Revolution was, (the three unclean spirits or teachings): Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity. By themselves these doctrines sound worthy and aspirational, but there is no God in these tenets. No place for God. These teachings are themselves signs of our times,

that we are living at the time of Christ's return.



Liberty: to do, think, say, behave in whatever way we please.

 Freedom and liberty from the restrictions of the law of God. I am my own God is the popular catchphrase, be true to yourself and you'll be all-right. Libertarianism has morphed frog like in the rights of sexual deviants, the rights of women over unborn babies, always rights, and never are there any wrongs! Summed up as Humanism



Equality. Down with the aristocracy, down with the clergy, cried the radicals, all men are equal, a noble thought, except that in today's world, men are obviously more equal than others, as claims of equality, equal rights, human rights, actually undermine the rule of law, to advance corrupt powerbases. Summed up as socialism. As Margaret Thatcher once said The problem with socialism is that eventually you run out of others people's money. See Matthew 20:9-15



Fraternity. Power of the people. Yes, the age of democracy, the membership badge of an advanced society. Allegedly. The Frog like spirit Democracy, has been one of the greatest influences to have been spawned in that French marsh. How can democracy ever succeed. Where in history has the mind of the

majority, ever been on the side of that which is noble, honourable, righteous, and true? How can man order himself? Jer 10:43 *it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.* 17: 9. *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

Russia King of the North

So on whose authority and on what foundation are these doctrines established. These teachings we read came forth from the mouth of the **dragon, the beast and false prophet**. Not God, we note. No, these teachings received their authority, and impetus from policies expressed by the dragon, or in

prophetic language the military aspect of the old Eastern Roman empire, the eastern bloc, home of communism corresponding to the left leg of the image to those familiar with the image of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, Russia



and also the beast, the beast, prophetic language for the region of the Holy Roman empire the political power of the Western block, the right leg of the image, and also out of the mouth of the false prophet, the false prophet is prophetic language for the power of the Papacy. All of these are signs of our times, but dealing with Russia first. Russia as a power historically inherited the mantle of the Eastern Roman empire, and guardian of the eastern orthodox church, and so retains the symbol of the dragon. We see in the Revelation 16, how instrumental Russia has been in the advancement of socialism aka communism, in modern history. Not only is this biggest European military power spoken of as the dragon but in Ezekiel 38 is shown to be at the head of an alliance which will invade the Holy Land. Described as the King of the North in Daniel 11, Gog which is understood to mean Autocrat or Dictator, leads

armies into Israel, from the land of Magog, Rosh, Meshech and Tubal. Magog the region of the ancient Scythians, today west Russia, Eastern Europe. Rosh, the Rus, from which Russia bears its name, Meshech, tribe of Moschi, from which Moscow bears its name, and Tubal, the Tabali from where Tobolsk derives its name. Today the Russian Federation includes all these regions. What is significant is that this power is behaving more like the Dragon power, although being a champion of the frog like spirit of communism, under the Dictator Vladimir Putin, Russia has embraced its orthodox faith in a bear like hug. It sees itself as the guardian of the church, and so exactly fits the symbolism employed in the Apocalypse. It is shown in Ezekiel 38 as leading a great alliance, and standing against another western led alliance. A few years ago, this was impossible Russia couldn't even stand up to itself! But now, it has completely reconfigured and rebuilt its armed forces, and has forged well established military and political alliances with most of the enemies of Israel. Ezekiel explains how The Northern host will come down like a cloud to cover the land. Well, the first troops are there already, as we know, and have been for some time. Just a short tank drive away from Jerusalem, Russian forces in Syria have bolstered that sworn enemy of Israel, and have given confidence to Hezbollah and other proxy Iranian forces. We must not forget that Damascus was part of the Greater Israel under the rule of King David, and so strictly speaking Russia is already in the land. Ezekiel mentioned that under the leadership of Gog, Persia would be in the same alliance against Israel, see verse 5.

Persia

Again this is a sign of our times. Not so long ago, Persia or Iran as it is known today, was very pro the west, and was no friend of Russia at all, and had good relations with Israel. Not in line with Bible prophecy at all. But in January 1979, the Iranian Revolution took

place, and the Shahanshah (meaning King of Kings) Mohammad Reza Pahlavi fled the country ending 2500 years of continuous monarchy, and the country turned away from the US and UK, and is now a close ally of Russia, with a fanatical loathing of Israel, all in less than 50 years.

Other Russian Allies

Ezekiel 38 also mentions in verse 5, Ethiopia and Libya being amongst the nations which come against Israel. It is of great interest that Russia has stepped into the power vacuum that is in Libya and are backing the Libyan National Army with military support. Additionally Russia is increasingly increasing its influence in Africa as a recent report states: Entitled *Russia's scramble for influence in Africa catches western officials off-guard*, it says: *In a high profile visit in March 2018, Lavrov (Russian Foreign Minister) visited Angola, Namibia, Mozambique, Ethiopia, and Zimbabwe, signing a raft of agreements for economic zones, mineral exploration and for military and technical cooperation. ...Foreign policy experts, who have noted the sharp rise in Russian engagement in Africa, believe it is being driven by several factors...Russia ... sees itself as having a historic footprint from the era of the Soviet Union when it supported liberation movements.*

Europe – The Beast

Also mentioned in the list of confederates to attack Israel is Gomer see verse 6. Gomer, an ancient name for the Cimmerians, or Galatae, were tribes of people who migrated to West Europe, known as Gauls. This region today is occupied by France – no coincidence as already talked about, Belgium Spain, etc, in fact with Magog, occupies the whole of the area known today as the European Union. This territory was once known as the Holy Roman Empire, and is known as the Beast of the Earth in the Revelation. We noticed

earlier, that along with the Dragon, and the False Prophet, the frog like spirits, the Beast gave voice to these teachings. Thus we would expect in the latter days just before the return of the Lord Jesus Christ a new political federation of the countries and territories inhabited by the Gauls, and who were part of the Holy Roman Empire, and of course we have it today as the European Union. This Union believes that trade (clay) is key to peace, as long as sovereign powers cede to central control. Thus we have the old Catholic nations, the remains of the Holy Roman (iron) empire mingling together, - for money, yes the iron and the clay of the feet, the ten toe kingdoms of Nebuchadnezzar's image. Europe's political and civil law is based on Roman law. Europe's idea of citizenship and civil responsibility derives from the Roman idea of citizenship. The European Union is founded on Catholic Social doctrine. The continent of Europe is a Latin Kingdom. Of course, the numerical values of the Greek letters which spell Latin Kingdom add up to 666. Revelation 13:18 This European Empire will be in cahoots with Russia at the battle of Armageddon, it has been suggested that it will be for financial reasons, as Russia will manipulate the EU into dancing to its tune, as it supplies nearly all the carbon based fuels to the bloc – Russia triumphant Europe chained! But of course, there is another reason.

The False Prophet.

Another sign of the times, is the way in which the Papacy, that horn more stouter than its fellows, with eyes of a man and a mouth which says great things (Daniel 7) is increasing its international influence ever more. The current Pope hails from Argentina, illustrating the Roman Catholic Church's



global power. But the Papacy headed by the Pope, is that man of sin, the son of perdition; who sits as God, shewing himself that he is God. From the Vatican, (which incidentally comes from the Latin *vaticinatus* which means to prophecy) from there has come edicts over the centuries which contradicts the truth of God's word in order to maintain power, take for example when the Pope recently pronounced that it was perfectly alright to be a Catholic and believe in the theory of evolution. He cut the very ground from under others who were gallantly taking the fight to the atheists. But that aside, this Papacy gives the religious legitimacy to the Beast, to the European Union, it is the Catholic Church which ultimately is controlling the EU, hence the description in the Revelation 17 *So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.* This political religious monstrosity exists today, and has over and over again been adopted as a symbol by the EU!



Spirits of devils working miracles...

Returning to Revelation 16: 14 we read of those frog like spirits that they are the spirits of devils working miracles... or as it could be

more accurately put, these are the teachings of madness, working signs! Signs of our times! Jesus said: Luke 21: 25-27. *And there shall*

be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Just in the last 30 odd years there have been countless revolutions all based on the same frog like spirits, in this rush for democracy, rule of the people: Kurdish uprising for independence from the Republic of Turkey, The People Power Revolution in the Philippines. Pan-Armenian National Movement frees Armenia from Soviet rule. Uprising In Burma. The Singing Revolution, bloodless overthrow of communist rule in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The Tiananmen Square protests, in China. The fall of the Berlin Wall. Communist regimes fall in Poland Bulgaria and Romania, Velvet Revolution overthrows the communist regime in Czechoslovakia. The Log Revolution in Croatia starts, triggering the Croatian War of Independence. The Shiite Uprising in Karbala, Iraq. The Bosnian War of Independence. Shiite-led rebellion for the restoration of democracy in Bahrain. The Congo War in the Democratic Republic. The Kosovo Rebellion against Yugoslavia. The Bulldozer Revolution, overthrows Slobodan Milošević's régime in Yugoslavia. The Taliban insurgency, The Rose Revolution, in Georgia, The Orange Revolution in Ukraine. The Cedar Revolution, in Lebanon. The Tulip Revolution of Kyrgyzstan, the Saffron Revolution of Burmese Buddhist monks. The so called Arab Spring: The Syrian uprising against Bashar Assad, we could continue all night. Revolution after revolution. But the wheels are about to fall off.

Turkey

Earlier we mentioned how the Russian Tsars inherited the protectership of the Eastern Roman Empire, the Orthodox Catholic

power base of Constantinople migrated north after the Ottomans conquered Constantinople. Russian churches in Moscow always have



a crescent moon under their crosses, a symbol to show that Christianity will triumph over Islam, where but in Constantinople. Peter The great spoke of retaking this city in Turkey today., It

has been always a vision in Russian expansionism to retake that city. However, we notice in Ezekiel 38 that the house of Togarmah is to be at the steps of Gog, is to be part of the King of the North's confederacy.



Togarmah is the same as Turkey. We expect then for there to be a rapprochement with Turkey and Russia, Currently they are uneasily supporting opposing sides in Syria, but behind that, Turkey realises that as it is not allowed to join the EU, it needs Big Friends, and having recently purchased Russian powerful anti-aircraft system the S-400, it has moved decisively away from the West, and into the arms of Russia. Turkey may well be gobbled up, the Bear is hungry.

Britain

Returning to Ezekiel 38. We can read of the opposing alliance of armies, Sheba Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish and all the young lions thereof. We will not spend much time on this as we discuss this frequently, however, it must be pointed out that this year has seen a remarkable sign of the times, in that Britain left the European Union on 31st January. Remarkable, because it seemed for

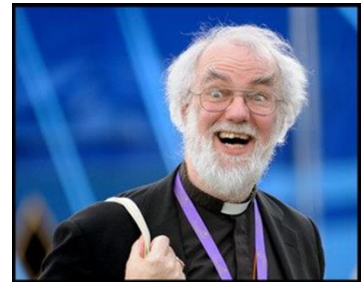


a long time, that it was not possible. The establishment within the country were against it, Europe was against it. Following the situation in the news daily, it seemed as if endless obstacles were thrown in the way to

prevent this political union coming to an end. But nothing can stand in the way of the will of God. Britain had to leave, to be able to stand against the EU when it comes to be Protestants again. For as Ezekiel states the merchants of Tarshish will be amongst the bloc who say *Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?* The signs of the times dictate that we would expect Britain again to once more take more of a leading international diplomatic role. With Britain hiding in the shadows of the United States, one of the merchants of Tarshish for so long, it didn't seem possible. However, with Donald Chump in charge, the United States has accelerated its isolationism, and not just because of coronavirus. Look at the way it has embarked on trade wars with China, unilaterally pulled troops from Syria betraying the Kurds, cutting money from the World Health Organisation, and indeed the United Nation organisation. The US will have 20 million unemployed, and will suffer under economic recession. Enter Britain, free from the shackles of Europe, confident with the Commonwealth nations – including dear Kenya, eager to increase trade, increase links to the Gulf States Sheba and Dedan. Under MBS, Mohammed Bin Salman, The Saudi government have increased ties to Britain, and enhanced already strong links, and have increased quiet diplomacy and security issues with Israel.

Rise of Antisemitism

A report in the Guardian recently explained that Antisemitism on rise across Europe 'in worst times since the Nazis. Last year, Germany's government anti-Semitism Commissioner warned Jewish men against wearing the kippah in public following a spike in attacks against Jews. Again last year, the United Kingdom's national human rights institution launched a formal investigation into anti-Semitism within the Labour Party! The evidence of rising anti-Semitism in Europe has become impossible to ignore. In a December 2018 survey on anti-Semitism in Europe, the European Union's Fundamental Rights Agency found 89% of Jews living in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, France, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, and the UK feel anti-Semitism has increased in their country and almost half worried about being insulted or harassed in public. This is a sign of the times. We expect the Jews in the land to suffer dreadfully in the battle of Armageddon, we expect Jews around the world to be pilloried and hated, because we know the Scripture teaches that all Jews must return, see Ezekiel 39:28 ... *but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have **left none** of them any more there.* How will this be possible, except for the world chasing them and casting them out of their lands, just as the Egyptians did, so we expect to see more and more anti-Semitism.



The Decline of Christianity

The former archbishop of Canterbury declared Britain a post Christian country. It is true, under his and subsequent leadership, so called Christian leaders have betrayed the book they claim to read and believe in. The West is increasingly becoming secular. Catholicism is the only real bulwark against this decline, which only

strengths its hand. It is ultimately the cause of the decline, and the saviour of false christianity. As far as the man on the street is concerned, he wants nothing to do with it. He just wants to eat, drink, and be merry. This is a sign in itself. Luke 17:26-33 *And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot, they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.* Jesus was describing the days heralding his coming, at a time of judgement. Thus according to the very words of the Lord Jesus we would expect to see a worldwide decline in moral values, it is a worldwide disease that has to be purged. That purging has already started.

Conclusion

Mark 13: 34-37 *For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.*

Brother Terry 160420