



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET



- NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
- BACKGROUND INFORMATION
- COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "As one whose religious education consisted of little more than what I learned at a Sunday School... I drifted towards an agnostic attitude towards Christianity when I realised that even The New Testament, 'the word of God' reflected obvious human imperfections in the narrative ... Later I came to realise that... nearly two thousand years of history had convincingly demonstrated that when the Truths enunciated by Christ were applied in human affairs, a new and creative type of civilisation came into existence. Douglas shed a blinding light on much of what appeared obscure or irrelevant concerning Christianity.

His presentation of the vital importance of the Doctrine of Incarnation was a revelation to me and I have long come to the conclusion that Social Credit is, as Douglas said, '*practical* Christianity' and that the very future of genuine Christianity now depends upon Social Credit and the Douglas revelations."

– Eric D. Butler in "Releasing Reality: Social Credit & the Kingdom of God"

CHRISTIAN ZIONISM – THE MODERN EBIONITES by Betty Luks: Those who have taken the trouble to study the background to the earliest years of Christianity know the importance of the Greek influence in shaping the development of the Christian Faith. Not so much the influence of the Greek language itself but in the non-submission of the early Greek Christians to the demands of the Judaeo-Christians that they become Judaised before they could be accepted into the fellowship.

The students would know that radiating from the centre at Jerusalem, the westward urge of Christianity was by far the most pronounced and reached the capital of the Roman Empire within ten years of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. It was at Antioch, a Greek city, that the disciples were first called Christians.

Hegesippus, a convert, recorded the Jerusalem Christians were split up into a number of factions and were quarrelling over doctrinal points. The factions included the one we know as the Ebionites. Travelling down to Antioch from Jerusalem, they were insisting the Greek converts had to conform to the rites of Judaism. This matter was thrashed out between Paul and Peter at the very first Church Council, the Council of Jerusalem as recorded in the Book of Acts chapter 15. At a later date, the Ebionite teaching was declared a heresy by the Church.

What were the main features of the Ebionites doctrine?

- They sought to enforce the Mosaic Law.
- They insisted on the human birth of Jesus Christ.
- They claimed Paul was a heretic. (Paul argued *against* the Judaisers.)

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- They looked for the return of Christ to found an earthly kingdom. (The Jews at the time were looking for a very human political Messiah to rid them of their Roman oppressors.)

Jewish historian Professor H. Graetz in "History of the Jews", Vol.II, p.273, tells us how the Judaeans and the elders of the Ebionites "mingled together without reserve" for a time, but "it did not last long". Again he says: "the closer the Judaeans-Christians of the second or third generation approached the views held by the pagan-Christians (Greek-Christians) the further they drifted away from Judaism."

With the help of these brief background details, read the following "Jerusalem Declaration on Christian Zionism" by the Heads of the Christian Churches in modern Jerusalem.

"THE JERUSALEM DECLARATION ON CHRISTIAN ZIONISM" – Statement by the Patriarch and Local Heads of Churches In Jerusalem, August 25, 2006.

"Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

Christian Zionism is a modern theological and political movement that embraces the most extreme ideological positions of Zionism, thereby becoming detrimental to a just peace within Palestine and Israel. The Christian Zionist programme provides a worldview where the Gospel is identified with the ideology of empire, colonialism and militarism. In its extreme form, it places an emphasis on apocalyptic events leading to the end of history rather than living Christ's love and justice today. We categorically reject Christian Zionist doctrines as false teaching that corrupts the biblical message of love, justice and reconciliation.

We further reject the contemporary alliance of Christian Zionist leaders and organizations with elements in the governments of Israel and the United States that are presently imposing their unilateral pre-emptive borders and domination over Palestine. This inevitably leads to unending cycles of violence that undermine the security of all peoples of the Middle East and the rest of the world.

We reject the teachings of Christian Zionism that facilitate and support these policies as they advance racial exclusivity and perpetual war rather than the gospel of universal love, redemption and reconciliation taught by Jesus Christ. Rather than condemn the world to the doom of Armageddon we call upon everyone to liberate themselves from the ideologies of militarism and occupation. Instead, let them pursue the healing of the nations!

We call upon Christians in Churches on every continent to pray for the Palestinian and Israeli people, both of whom are suffering as victims of occupation and militarism. These discriminative actions are turning Palestine into impoverished ghettos surrounded by exclusive Israeli settlements. The establishment of the illegal settlements and the construction of the Separation Wall on confiscated Palestinian land undermines the viability of a Palestinian state as well as peace and security in the entire region.

We call upon all Churches that remain silent, to break their silence and speak for reconciliation with justice in the Holy Land.

Therefore, we commit ourselves to the following principles as an alternative way:

We affirm that all people are created in the image of God. In turn they are called to honour the dignity of every human being and to respect their inalienable rights.

We affirm that Israelis and Palestinians are capable of living together within peace, justice and security. We affirm that Palestinians are one people, both Muslim and Christian. We reject all attempts to subvert and fragment their unity.

We call upon all people to reject the narrow world view of Christian Zionism and other ideologies that privilege one people at the expense of others.

We are committed to non-violent resistance as the most effective means to end the illegal occupation

in order to attain a just and lasting peace. With urgency we warn that Christian Zionism and its alliances are justifying colonization, apartheid and empire-building.

God demands that justice be done. No enduring peace, security or reconciliation is possible without the foundation of justice. The demands of justice will not disappear. The struggle for justice must be pursued diligently and persistently but non-violently.

"What does the Lord require of you, to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

This is where we take our stand. We stand for justice. We can do no other. Justice alone guarantees a peace that will lead to reconciliation with a life of security and prosperity for all the peoples of our Land. By standing on the side of justice, we open ourselves to the work of peace – and working for peace makes us children of God.

"God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation." (2 Cor 5:19)

- His Beatitude Patriarch Michel Sabbah , Latin Patriarchate, Jerusalem
- Archbishop Swerios Malki Mourad, Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate, Jerusalem
- Bishop Riah Abu El-Assal, Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East
- Bishop Munib Younan, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land August 22, 2000

For a better understanding of modern Judaism's beliefs we recommend Israel Shahak's book: "Jewish History, Jewish Religion: The Weight of Three Thousand Years."

Another very important booklet for study is "The Australian Heritage Series". It features essays by three Christian theologians on the hatching of Christian freedoms, the basic philosophical importance of the Athanasian Creed and the Christian basis of our law.

Special Offer: 2 copies of "The Australian Heritage Series" free with every copy of "Jewish History: Jewish Religion" \$52.00 posted.

THE NEXT PHASE OF THE 'EMPIRE BUILDING'? Michel Chossudovsky of Global Research sees the Lebanon attack by Israel as a phase in the long-term plans of the U.S. and Israeli neocon leaders – "The Next Phase of the Middle East War". <http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article14860.htm>

Israel's war on Lebanon is an integral part of a US sponsored "military roadmap": "The war on Lebanon, which has resulted in countless atrocities including the destruction of the nation's economy and civilian infrastructure, is "a stage" in a sequence of carefully planned military operations. Lebanon constitutes a strategic corridor between Israel and North-western Syria. The underlying objective of this war was the militarization of Lebanon, including the stationing of foreign troops, as a precondition for carrying out the next phase of a broader military agenda.

Formally under a U.N. mandate, the foreign troops to be stationed on Lebanese soil on the immediate border with Syria, will be largely although not exclusively from NATO countries. **This military force mandated by the U.N. Security Council is by no means neutral. It responds directly to U.S. and Israeli interests.**

Moreover, the timely withdrawal of Syrian troops, following the February 2005 assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri has contributed to opening up a "new space". The withdrawal of Syrian troops served Israeli interests. The timely pullout was of strategic significance: it was a major factor in the timing and planning of the July 2006 IDF attacks on Lebanon.

In the aftermath of the Israeli bombings and the "ceasefire", U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701, drafted by France and the U.S. in close consultation with the Israeli government, has paved the way for the militarization of Lebanon, under a bogus U.N. mandate.

The Next Phase of the Middle East War: Confirmed by official statements and military documents, the U.S. in close co-ordination with Britain (and in consultation with its NATO partners), is planning to launch a war directed against Iran and Syria. U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. John Bolton has already initiated the draft of a U.N. Security Council resolution with a view to imposing sanctions on Tehran for its alleged (nonexistent) nuclear weapons program. Whether this resolution is adopted is not the main issue. The U.S. may decide to proceed in defiance of the Security Council, following a veto by Russia and/or China. The vote of France and Britain, among the permanent members has already been secured.

U.S. military sources have confirmed that an aerial attack, pursuant to a sanctions regime on Iran, with or without U.N. approval, would involve a large scale deployment comparable to the U.S. "shock and awe" bombing raids on Iraq in March 2003."

IMMIGRATION AND THE RURAL CRISIS by James Reed: Immigration is once more being pushed as a panacea for Australia's rural crisis (*The Australian*, 30/1/06, p.10, "A Land of Opportunity"). Migrants traditionally settle in cities: the 2000 census found that 85 per cent of them settled in metropolitan areas and over 60 per cent chose Sydney or Melbourne. Migration settlement is now being used to allegedly meet a shortage of skilled and unskilled workers. Thus the Migration to Warrnambool Project 2005 brought in 100 Sudanese to add colour, richness and excitement to the city.

The problem (one of the problems) with the magical migration philosophy is that migrants are people too. Even if they are refugees from the Sudan the same problems and deprivations that initially forced people to leave the country towns will ultimately cause them to leave and seek ethnic support units in the cities. Hence the initial problem will remain unsolved.

Of course it was never the intention of the elites to solve the long term rural crisis by immigration. At best it is a band aid that has the added advantage of continuing the demographic warfare of migration against rural Australia. Every town and street must become like Cabramatta and Bankstown and the less Anglo Australians, the safer the elites feel in their soft cosy beds.

BEFORE THE AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES by Brian Simpson: One of the arguments beloved of the multicultural and immigration lobby is that Anglo-Australians should not resist their demise by ethnic dilution because Australia was not the creation of the British. The Aborigines were the first inhabitants of this land and everybody else is a "migrant". Genocide was committed against Aborigines and only the cleansing blessing of migrants can heal these wounds. Presumably one billion Chinese and Indians brought to Australia would set the scores straight. It is a crazy argument at best.

One of the underlying assumptions behind this metaphysics of madness is that the Aborigines were the first inhabitants of "Australia". Archaeologist Mike Morwood, the leader of the team that discovered the remains of a one metre tall hominid at Liang Bua cave on Indonesia's Flores Islands in 2003, thinks otherwise.

The small human, called by the media "Hobbits" - known officially as *Homo Floriensis* - was thought by Professor Morwood to have populated Australia before Aboriginal settlers (invaders?) arrived around 60,000 years ago.

The Hobbits may have been "pushed out" by the larger Aborigines or – Morwood doesn't say it but it is a logical hypothesis – destroyed by them. But doesn't that constitute racial genocide? And if it is one of the founding myths, Anti-Anglo racism is called into question. The Anti-Anglo racists "moral superiority" argument, falls.

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