

Followers of the Way

Recognise the times

Lynda Rose, 09-11-25

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

Today is Remembrance Sunday, when we remember, honour and give thanks for those who gave their lives in two world wars, so that we might live in freedom. This morning there'll be services of remembrance throughout the country, but it's important that we don't just pay lip-service to the fallen, and that we defend and continue to uphold the values for which they died. At the end of the day, that's the only real 'honour' we can give – the one thing we mustn't do is let those hostile to the values for which they died take over and destroy our nation by stealth.

'To everything there is a season, and a time for everything under the sun...'. We all know there are 'seasons' in life. The 'big' seasons, such as childhood, adolescence, adulthood, old age ... immutable seasons; and then the 'lesser' seasons, when our situation changes and we have to adapt. !

Sometimes, it's not easy to recognise when a new season has begun. That might be because we don't want to acknowledge what's going on – or because we want to hang onto the familiar, and stepping out into the unknown is scary. But we need to understand that all the 'seasons' are decreed by God, and they have a purpose. If we try and fight against that purpose, we've got a problem. But submit to God and work with Him, and He'll lead us into the new.

So what season are we in, here in the UK? The charitable might say that we're living in a time of 'uncertainty', while the less charitable might say the country is falling apart, and that we're on the point of collapse. But, however you look at it – we're in a mess. We're in a season of change. Which actually is the result of our *wrong* choices.

There's an old proverb, 'the wheels of God grind slow, but they grind exceedingly fine'. It's been quoted by a lot of people down the centuries, and it means of course that, though God may appear to move 'slowly', He always responds, and His justice is both inevitable and complete. It's a warning of judgment.

Over the last century, we've consistently rejected God and rebelled against His laws, and now we're under that judgment. As a nation, to have any hope of survival, we have to recognise that and wake up. *For better or worse, we are now in a season of war.* Specifically, we're under attack from those who plot our destruction – our annihilation. Unless we recognise the times, and respond appropriately, we shall fall.

But, though this crumbling of our society is of our own making, let's make no mistake, it's God who is changing the seasons. And His plans are for good. He's shaking the nation to wake us up. It's uncomfortable. He's exposing the fault lines in society, allowing those

overtly hostile to Himself to gain seeming power – and they're not nice people. But God is allowing this in order that we might be purified, forcing us once again to turn to Him for help.

And, if we turn back to Him, He will help.

Over the centuries, there have been so many times when the UK was under threat, but every time, while we held to God, He has delivered us – from plague, storm, threat of invasion, and from war. We've just held Remembrance Sunday, commemorating, as we do every year, the dead of two world wars. We won both wars, but, make no mistake, we couldn't have done it without God. Those victories were birthed in, and rested on, prayer. In 1940, for example, around 400,000 soldiers had been driven onto the shores of Dunkirk. Trapped. Churchill was told we'd be lucky if 40,000 could be rescued and brought home. But the King called the nation to pray and, miraculously, around 340,000 men were rescued by the small boats which responded to the national call to help. But that rescue was enabled by God, because there was an amazing calm over the Channel, that enabled the small boats to cross; while in France there was a terrible storm and fog, that grounded the German planes and made it impossible for the ground forces to see.

God in action!

The UK is in a similar position of peril now, and the only thing that can save us and bring us through the dark days that lie ahead is God. As a nation, we must recognise the season and turn back to Him in repentance, begging for help. A dark season now lies ahead, and it's going to take courage and fortitude. God helped with the rescue of our soldiers from Dunkirk, but He didn't supernaturally transport them home. Effort is going to be required of us, and each one of us, no matter what our age or condition, has a part to play.

In the battle that lies ahead, it's absolutely vital that the Church, the body of believers, becomes once again faithful to its call and recovers its voice – and we each one of us have a part to play.

The good news is that, however bad things seem, God has not given up on us, and He still has a purpose and plan for this nation. The call to each one of us now is to have courage and stand firm. But we must also stand together in unity. Ahead of the Lord's return, He is moving in this land, and now is the time for us to work together for victory! Let's make sure we don't get left behind!