

Revisiting the Coronation of Elizabeth II

The recent thanksgiving service in Westminster Abbey included the quoting of biblical passages from both Old and New Testaments. What do these Scriptures teach us?

There's an often-forgotten reason behind the generally acknowledged success of Queen Elizabeth's 50-year reign. It is the biblically endorsed code of morality enjoined on her by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1953. According to those close to the Queen, she has tried to follow it to the best of her ability.

Considering the human inadequacies and imperfections experienced by us all, this British monarch has undoubtedly reflected many of the principles of leadership so clearly proclaimed in the Bible.

Royal duties and responsibilities

The eldest daughter of King George VI was thrust into the world's limelight after her father's death. On 2 June, 1953 this young lady was crowned and consecrated Elizabeth II in the coronation chair of King Edward I of the 13th century.

As a young queen, she had to carry out many responsibilities befitting the monarch of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

Half a century later Elizabeth II returned to Westminster Abbey to attend a service of thanksgiving celebrating the 50th anniversary of her coronation.

The standards that were acknowledged in the coronation service 50 years ago were reiterated at this special commemorative service as a reminder to the Queen and her people.

The Dean of Westminster, Wesley Carr, described the service in these words. 'On this significant anniversary, with quiet but deep respect and affection, we stand with our sovereign, and each and all of us commit ourselves anew to that duty and service which are both hers and ours.

'We shall take four aspects of the coronation rite – faith, service, responsibility and respect – and reflect upon them. And we pray that they may be marks of our

common life as individuals, as a nation, and as citizens of the Commonwealth and the world' (*The Times*).

In today's faithless and materialistic society, all too many only serve themselves and are not willing to take responsibility for the welfare of others. Consideration for the needs of others is highlighted throughout the Bible.

Highlighting the Scriptures

The scriptures quoted during this special thanksgiving service emphasised reliance on God (Psalm 121:1-8) and spiritual gifts for Christian service (1 Corinthians 12:4-11). They also included the first ordinance of humility (the foot washing of John 13), submission to one another (Luke 22:24-27) and forgiving one another (Colossians 3:12-15).

The spiritual lessons from both the Old and New Testaments are clear. Reliance on God coupled with godly humility and forgiveness are character traits required of every Christian.

Young Solomon's attitude of service

Another important biblical passage was quoted during this special thanksgiving service. Some 3000 years ago King Solomon of Israel was praised by God for his humility. The Creator was impressed by the young king's attitude of service to his people. Rather than asking for riches and the demise of his enemies, Solomon asked God for wisdom in order to discern between right and wrong in ruling and leading the people of Israel.

The king requested: 'Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil' (1 Kings 3:9). God was pleased. 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life; neither asked for riches for yourself, nor have asked for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, behold . . . I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you . . . So if you walk in my ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days' (verses 11-12).

Solomon's reign would have been blessed beyond measure if he had continued to embrace the moral standards enjoined on him, the spiritual values which are based on God's Law.

Queen Elizabeth II was reminded to keep these same values and

The House of Israel and the House of Windsor

Have you ever wondered why there are similarities between the ceremonies of the crowning and consecration of the British monarchs and those of ancient Israel?

Why has the coronation stone upon which the Queen was crowned traditionally been identified with 'Jacob's pillar stone' – referring to the ancient biblical patriarch?

Are you aware that in ancient Israel the Hebrew word 'jubilee' related to a 50th year celebration of liberty and thanksgiving for God's blessings, paralleled when Queen Elizabeth II commemorated the Jubilee of her 50th year?

Are the Ten Tribes of Israel really lost or have they simply forgotten their identity?

Our thoroughly researched booklet *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy* will identify the major descendants of these 'lost' tribes. Please request your free copy.

standards based on divine law. At her coronation, it was stated that the laws and principles governing good leadership emanate from God, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. 'To keep your Majesty ever mindful of the Law and the Gospel of God as the Rule for the whole life and

It was obvious that Queen Elizabeth saw her coronation as a religious service of dedication of her life. William Rees-Mogg

government of Christian Princes, we present you with this Book [the Bible], the most valuable thing that this world affords.'

This advice was followed by the words, 'Here is Wisdom. This is the royal Law. These are the lively Oracles of God' (*The Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, 2 June, 1953*, official royal publication).

A nation in need of reform

In today's general approach to life, sound biblical advice on how to conduct ourselves individually and

collectively is usually rejected. As a direct consequence, Western society is suffering the inevitable results of discarding these biblical standards. To embrace values of biblical origin seems outdated to many, even though these standards have withstood the test of time. Most men and women insist on going their own way (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25), unwilling to be guided by God's spiritual laws and principles.

It is reassuring, however, that there are at least a few influential leaders in the nation who do try to embrace the standards

that were recently enunciated again in the special thanksgiving service in Westminster Abbey. Any nation that continually rejects the divine laws that regulate human relationships will not survive in the long run. That is the record of history.

Fifty years ago a crown of human glory was placed upon the Queen's head, consecrating her reign according to the constitution and laws of the nation. But the Bible tells

us of another 'crown of glory' that the true followers of Jesus Christ will receive at His return to earth. Every obedient Christian can rightly aspire to the crown of eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

Gerhard Marx

'Husbands, Love Your Wives'

*One of the greatest blessings from God in this life is a happy marriage.
Here's how every husband can do his part.*

When God created man, Adam could not find a companion comparable to himself. He was without that special kind of help. In Genesis 2:18-20 God had Adam name every living creature. This impressed upon his mind the need for someone who would be a companion comparable to him.

Spiritually, man was made incomplete – needing the Holy Spirit. Physically, man was also made incomplete. 'And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him"' (verse 18).

When God created woman, He made a counterpart for man – a person to complement or complete him. 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh' (verse 24).

It is God's intention that husband and wife become the pinnacle of love and unity in the human realm.

Fortieth wedding anniversary

My wife Norma and I recently celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary. In reflecting back over those years, I recognise that Norma is a gift from God (the special person God selected for me) and a wonderful blessing to our marriage and family. I am incomplete without her. She has enriched our lives in so many ways.

In marriage, a husband and wife

become a team – partners for life. God regards them as 'one flesh' or one unit or entity (Genesis 2:24). Each brings certain strengths, abilities and talents to the relationship. It seems that in the areas where I have been weak, Norma is strong. She is a woman of great discernment, insight and empathy for people. Norma has a love and concern for people that is immediately evident to anyone who meets her.

I have had to grow in these qualities. My service to the Church would have been greatly impaired without her. I have learned how to

When God created woman, He made a counterpart for man – a person to complement or complete him. Each brings certain strengths, abilities and talents to the relationship.

be much more approachable and concerned for people through her example.

Express your love

God chose ancient Israel as His wife. Psalm 135:4 expresses God's feelings toward Israel. She was His 'special treasure' or precious possession. We can all echo the same sentiments to our wives, that they are precious to us and a special treasure – and that they hold a valuable place in our lives.

I would encourage husbands to constantly express to their wives how important and how valuable they are to us. We live in an age where it is easy to become so busy that we neglect our marriages.

We need to remember to step away sometimes from the 'urgent' to take care of that which is 'important'. There is no more important human relationship than marriage.

Encourage your wife

I would like to mention some principles that will help to keep your marriage strong and vibrant.

Your wife needs to know that she fills a role in your life that no one else can fill. Do you tell her that she is special above all women? She needs to know that she is more important than your mother, your children, your friends, your secretary and your job. Positive words actually promote good health.

Proverbs 16:24 states: 'Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.' It is extremely encouraging and energising for a wife to hear words of love and praise from her husband.

The Bible praises the virtuous wife: 'Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all"' (Proverbs 31:28-29).

Ephesians 5:32 states that marriage pictures 'Christ and the church'. What a wonderful opportunity to live and experience a foretaste of the relationship Christ wants to have with His bride! God has certainly demonstrated to the

Church how special we are.

He sent His Son to the earth and Christ was willing to make ‘Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant . . . and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross’ for the sake of His bride (Philippians 2:7-8).

Our wives need to know that we cherish them. ‘So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies . . . For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it’ (Ephesians 5:28-29). Cherish means to keep warm and give

we love and cherish them and hold them in high regard as Christ does the Church?

Our wives also need to know that we love them unconditionally. Let’s face it. Husbands and wives see one another in the best of times and in the worst of times. They see our greatest joy – and our lowest unhappiness. How do we respond at those times? Peter says: ‘Likewise you husbands, dwell with them with understanding, giving honour to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the

cession. Effective communication has to do with understanding one another. She might have insecurities, failing health and struggles as a mother or a wife. How do we respond to her fears? Her hopes? Her dreams? She needs to know that her opinion is so valuable that you will discuss decisions with her and act only after carefully evaluating her advice.

Favour from God

Remember the simple statement from Proverbs: ‘He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favour from the LORD’ (Proverbs 18:22).

The first part of this sentence is the classic understatement. The second part shows the magnitude of the blessing of a wife – nothing less than favour or grace from God. My wife Norma has been God’s ‘favour’ to me for 40 years. I am sure many of you husbands could make similar statements about your wives.

Let us remember to treasure God’s blessing of our wives in word, in action, in wisdom, in understanding, in honour and in love.

Roy Holladay, President of the United Church of God.

Adapted from one of his recent letters to the Church, which are available regularly at www.ucg.org.

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comfort. It has to do with emotional, mental and spiritual support.

Show unconditional love

Ephesians 5 further describes how Christ sacrificed for and sanctifies the Church. While the analogy here is not completely applicable in the human realm, we can still draw lessons from it. Do we as husbands sacrifice for the good of, the well-being of, the joy of our wives? Do our actions reflect that

grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered’ (1 Peter 3:7).

Through spiritual knowledge, wisdom and understanding, God guides us to know how to show love as He would. A part of that love is honour for our wives. Notice as well that our relationship with God is affected by our relationship with our spouses. Husband and wives are ‘heirs together’ of God’s promises.

Your wife needs open communi-

Making Marriage Work

Making a lifelong commitment to another person is a very serious matter and one that should never be taken lightly. God fully expects both the husband and wife to live up to their wedding vows as outlined in the Bible. This is the only way a stable family life can be built, and the family unit is the basic building block of any society.

Achieving this end requires not only commitment, but patience, love and respect for one’s

spouse and an honest appraisal of oneself. It requires a degree of emotional maturity to openly and truthfully discuss differences and difficulties, and to agree on a path where conflicts can be resolved. This requires true teamwork.

To find out more about the principles that affect your marriage and to gain an insight into achieving success in various aspects of life, please request our free brochure *Making Life Work*.

The Good News Responds to Your Correspondence

Our offices all over the world regularly receive letters, e-mail messages and faxes from readers from many points of the globe. Some ask questions, and others just make interesting comments. We would like to share just a few.

Correspondence and regular dialogue are very important to The United Church of God. The letters below are a strong indication of this truth.

One of our *Good News* readers in Aurora, Illinois, in the United States writes:

- *I work at a Christian doctor's office and became acquainted with The Good News through the magazine in his office. Since reading it, I have ordered the magazine at home and look forward to getting my bimonthly editions. I highly respect your ministry and wish to extend my thanks and prayers for your efforts to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Good News is the first Christian magazine I have been able to pick up and read that is informative without being slanted denominationally. Instead of drawing my conclusions for me, you let God speak to me about world events in His wisdom, not ours.*

Christ's gospel continues

The next letter is from a gentleman in St Albans, Hertfordshire, near our present United Church of God congregation in Bricket Wood. He asks a question about the history of the Work we are doing in preaching and publishing the Gospel of the Kingdom of God around the world.

- *Thank you for sending me copies of The Good News. In the past I*

was a subscriber to The Plain Truth. Am I right in assuming that you were connected with the Worldwide Church of God, even though you make no mention of Mr Herbert Armstrong or his writings in The Good News? A few years ago I received material from the Philadelphia Church of God. Do you have any relation to them? I look forward to receiving your reply.

Many of the present members of the United Church of God were previously associated with the Worldwide Church of God, and deeply respect the teachings of Herbert W. Armstrong (1892-1986).

In fact our beliefs are very similar to his, but due to major doctrinal differences with the corporate successors, we are now separately incorporated as *The United Church of God – an International Association*.

We have no corporate connection with the Philadelphia Church of God. Our basic teachings are comprehensively covered in our free booklet, *Fundamental Beliefs of the United Church of God*. Please request your free copy.

Searching for the true Church

A lady residing in Northampton tells us she is searching for the true Church. She writes:

- *Could you please put my name on the mailing list to receive*

The Good News? I am an ex-member of the Worldwide Church of God and am currently searching for the true church, so any other booklets you could send would be most appreciated.

As well as adding her to our subscriber list, our regional staff in the UK sent her the two booklets *The Gospel of the Kingdom* and *The Church Jesus Built*. We hope they will be useful in her search.

The Sabbath or Sunday?

The next letter is from a minister in Scotland who takes issue with something we wrote in the magazine.

- *Having read your Good News, I believe that you might find it helpful to consider the New Testament emphasis on the first day of the week. Why is it that no other numerical day of the week is specifically mentioned? The Lord's Day is the remembrance of the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

Actually the seventh day is specifically mentioned in the New Testament, and when the term 'Sabbath' or 'Sabbath Day' is used in a weekly sense, it always refers to the seventh day of the week – not the first. The key New Testament passages about the first day of the week are explained on pages 36 and 37 of our booklet, *Sunset to Sunset – God's Sabbath Rest*.

For a full explanation, please request the free booklet mentioned above along with *Holidays or Holy Days – Does It Matter Which Days We Keep?* This second booklet documents that Jesus Christ was not resurrected on a Sunday morning.

The final letter is from a gentleman in Thailand. Our work of preaching and publishing the Gospel reaches around the globe. If at one time the sun never set on the British Empire, today it never sets on the work that God has called us to do. He writes:

- *I sure hope that this letter will reach you in pretty good condition. Without much mincing of words, I am using this medium to please request that you send me The Good News magazine in order to bring me the best news around the world from a biblical perspective. I believe strongly that*

you have a positive message of hope to a suffering world in this magazine.

Do you answer Bible questions?

Various services freely available

We are very pleased to answer questions about the Bible either through *The Good News* magazine or our booklets and other literature. We also have biblically trained correspondents who will reply to your letters personally as needed. So if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to write, email, fax or telephone.

If you have Internet access, why not pay us a visit at www.gnmagazine.org? There you will find past issues of *The Good News*, our daily Bible Reading Programme and other publications that show the relevance of Scripture for today's world. There is also a

link to our local website (www.goodnews.co.uk).

Ours is a free educational service in the public interest. We provide a vital missing dimension in public education – the true biblical understanding of world conditions, and how they got that way. As the gentleman from Thailand said, we publish a positive message of hope to a suffering world.

For more information about the mission of the United Church of God, be sure to request our free brochure *This Is the United Church*

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The Ultimate Father

I never knew my father. As a child I always felt something was missing as I watched my friends with their fathers.

Twelve years ago I learned the truth of God and became a practicing Christian. I was brought up in mainstream Christianity, but there is a world of difference.

I am now middle-aged, but there is no longer 'something missing'. I was contemplating this fact the other day and realised it is because I do now have a Father, and much greater than a physical father. What is this Father like?

- I can talk with Him at any time of the day or night. I have confidence in knowing that He is always there for me.
- He has given me a precious handbook that teaches me how to live.
- He usually does not need to chastise me as He has given me a sensitive conscience.
- He forgives me every time I sin, provided I ask His forgiveness. He does not get angry or sulk. He forgives me unconditionally.
- He heals me when I am sick. He has done this on two occasions, one to the

astonishment of the hospital staff.

- When I ask Him to help my family and friends through trials, He does.
- Finally, He doesn't show favouritism. I have the same trials as non-Christians, because to be otherwise would show I was being a Christian for what I can get, and somehow devalue being a Christian.

My Father in heaven is there to help and guide me through my trials.

*Dawn Wayne
Tonbridge, England
congregation*

Questions & Answers

Q : How do people truly know if they are being called by God?

G M, Republic of Ireland

A : First of all, consider the majesty and greatness of the Christian calling. The apostle Peter referred to this magnificent calling in his first general letter: 'You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him *who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*; who once were not a people, but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy' (1 Peter 2:9-10).

Peter's inspired description of the Christian calling helps us comprehend the majesty of our salvation. Earlier he had written: 'You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ' (verse 5).

This great calling to salvation is made possible by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins and the forgiveness that He made freely available. Peter said that Christians 'rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith – the salvation of your souls' (1 Peter 1:8-9).

The apostle Paul underscored Peter's approach by describing the Church (those chosen ones called out of this world by God) as a spiritual building joined together and growing into a holy temple in the Lord (Ephesians 2:20-22). Then

in 1 Corinthians 2:9 he quoted Isaiah the prophet: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for them who love Him.'

And then Paul added, 'But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God' (verse 10). Jesus Christ also described the result of our salvation, the Kingdom as 'the paradise of God' (Revelation 2:7).

It is God the Father who calls His chosen ones out of this world of spiritual darkness into His marvelous truth (John 6:44, 65).

One of the signs that God may be calling you personally is that you are beginning, however gradually, to truly understand the meaning of the Scriptures with a depth and dimension that you never experienced before. You begin to understand the mysteries of the Kingdom of God (Matthew 13:10-11).

You also awaken to the need for change in your personal life, to bring it into line with the godly standards and values shown in the Scriptures – 'to live a life worthy of the calling you received' (Ephesians 4:4, New International Version). The Bible refers to this process as repentance. Luke called it '*repentance to life*' (Acts 11:18).

Obviously there is much more to this miraculous process of the Christian calling than we can cover in a brief answer. We have sent you a comprehensive booklet that explains how acceptance of that calling ultimately leads to salvation and eternal life in the Kingdom of

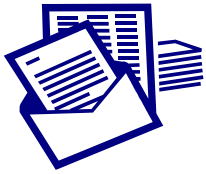
God. *Transforming Your Life: The Process of Conversion* expounds these concepts in much more detail. The title of the first chapter is 'Who Are God's "Called, Chosen and Faithful" People?'

If you have further questions about God's calling or any other biblical subject, please feel free to write us at any time. We are pleased to see that you have also requested the *Bible Study Course*. The 12 monthly lessons will help you expand your spiritual knowledge. We would like to hear how you progress.

Fellowshipping With Others

The United Church of God *British Isles* continues to plan additional meetings for study and fellowship throughout Britain. We already have congregations in or near **Bricket Wood, St Albans** (just north of London); **Tonbridge** in Kent; **Gloucester**; **Preston** in Lancashire; **Edinburgh**; and **Ramsey** on the Isle of Man. And we are currently starting new Bible Study groups in Essex and in the Northwest and Southwest of England.

If you are interested in attending any of these established groups, or desire fellowship in other areas, please contact us as soon as possible at *P.O. Box 705, Watford WD19 6FZ*. Or e-mail info@goodnews.org.uk. Telephone: 020 8386 8467.



Letters From Our Readers

Healthy living

Thank you for *The Good News* and the other publications I regularly receive from the United Church of God. I was intrigued by Scott Ashley's article headed 'Lessons from the SARS Epidemic' in the current issue of *World News & Prophecy*. Curiously a couple of days or so prior to the May issue dropping through my letterbox, I had been turning over in my mind the possibility of a link between SARS and the pig.

Rex Russell in his book *What the Bible Says About Healthy Living* points out the conclusion of some virologists that the whole of the earth's population could be at risk if pigs and humans are not separated. With the future prospect of pigs being reared for spare-part surgery, we will be creating a nightmare scenario. Please find enclosed a tithe/offering.

M J P, Bedford

- *Our readers may be interested in requesting and reading the free brochure What Does the Bible Teach About Clean and Unclean Meats?*

The British and European Supplement

I recently came upon a copy of the *British and European Supplement* and found it very useful and helpful. Would you be

kind enough to send me some literature about the United Church of God – *British Isles?*

W L T, Newport, South Wales

- *Having already posted a reprinted article, we also recommend the free brochure This Is the United Church of God.*

Questions answered

What a blessing to find so much truth in what I've read so far in your publications. My spirit was reawakened. Some of my most confusing questions have been answered.

L T, Portland, Oregon, USA

Reader from Austria

Thank you for the privilege of receiving *The Good News* free of charge which I appreciate immensely. Your other magazine *World News & Prophecy* and your *Bible Study Course* have helped me in more ways than you can imagine. I would be grateful if you would also forward *God's Holy Day Plan*. Thanking you in anticipation.

B U, Austria

Reader's Digest response

Thank you so much for sending *The Good News* magazine. I am really impressed with its content, and have much enjoyed reading the interesting articles, some of which

have brought further understanding of various issues which have always puzzled me, although I have been a Christian for many years.

O L, Hayling Island, Hants

- *This lady requested the magazine in response to a recent insert card in Reader's Digest.*

Bible Study Course

Thank you for sending me Lesson 1 of the *Bible Study Course*, and also the booklet *Making Life Work*. Lesson 1 is very interesting and I have learnt a great deal from it. I enclose test card number 1 for your marking and look forward to receiving the answers from you as well as Lesson 2. I have also read a portion of a marriage article. I hope to read every article of yours as time goes by.

E T J, Bracknell, Berkshire

I would like to receive the *Bible Study Course*. Could you please advise me as to any further steps I need to take.

S C M, Manchester

You have already taken the necessary steps, and Lesson 1 has been posted. Several hundred students have completed the Bible Study Course in the British Isles. Many thousands receive it worldwide.

How our literature is funded

The United Church of God *British Isles* is registered as a charity in England and Wales (number 1079192). The publication of this Supplement and other literature is funded by the generosity of members of the Church, co-workers and our readers. Following Jesus Christ's instruction (Matthew 10:8), it is supplied free of charge so that it can be made available to all who wish to receive it. We are grateful to those who assist financially in the work done by *The Good News*. Donations may be sent to: The United Church of God, PO Box 705, WATFORD WD19 6FZ.