



A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

2020 SPRING EDITION

E-BULLETIN



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Praise the Lord!

The vision is here!

The slogan for the Apostolic Churches Alliance (ACA) is “a vision for the future”. I want to say to my fellow ministers and churches, the vision is here. In November 2019, I wrote to ministers concerning 2020 and announced that the theme for the year was: **“Running with the vision”**. I felt in the Spirit that we had to make haste, to redeem the time for the days are evil.

2019 wasn't a good year for the world, it was the culmination of many bad things within the last decade or so. Pride had become a virtue and no longer a vice. Greed had become an objective to be pursued with great zeal. China, a communist country, who by philosophy, should be more egalitarian and less strident for money has more billionaires than any other country except America. China because of its wealth strides the world like a colossus with most of the world dancing to her tune. Things couldn't continue like this.

In the words of secular commentators these are challenging times but in the words of the bible, these are the last days. Because these are the last days we must come together and strengthen one another and the body of Christ for in the words of Apostle Paul, written two thousand years ago: *“knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed”*. **(Romans 13:11)**.

If that were true then, how much more is this true in 2020. The problem for many of us is undersatnding what the bible means by the last days.

Later on in this edition, there is an article on the last days, which is intended to give clarity and preparedness to the saints.

This past weekend there were many special united online services because of the coronavirus pandemic. The worldwide crisis has brought communities together for we now realise that we are

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better together and that we are interdependent. This is true for the world at large and certainly true for the body of Christ.

We had become nationalistic, xenophobic, selfish and ruthless towards the poor, hungry and stateless. Leaders were being elected on a platform of hate and selfishness.

People are rightly nervous and some afraid of a one world government because history tell us that evil flourishes when men try to bring this about. Nimrod, the mighty hunter of men wanted a one world government with him as king. God intervened and stopped the project. Similar attempts have taken place in regions of our world: fascism and communism to name but two wanted world domination but were thwarted.

Yet it was the prayer of our Lord that the church be one. The church united is a force for good and not evil so let's work for unity.

The vision is also now because the world needs the church. Coronavirus has silenced the world like never before. God has been speaking to this generation but his voice has been ignored.

He has spoken through nature: floods, fires, hurricanes and even earthquakes. The earth is crying out but we have not been listening.

He spoke to us through our children; afraid of what is coming upon the earth. They walked out of schools, protested, appeared in the media, used social media to express their fears but world leaders didn't want to know. Yes, we agree with you, but not now, was the response of some.

Our Lord spoke about the response to the ministry of John the Baptist and his own ministry thus: *"whereunto then shall I liken the men of this generation? And to what are they like? They are like unto children sitting in the marketplace, and calling one to another, and saying, we have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept. For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil. The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners! But wisdom is justified of all her children". (Luke 7:31-35).*

The effects of the pandemic will soon past from the UK and in time the whole world. Being a virus or plague it will remain on earth but will be managed through public health control measures and our body's natural immune system.

People are ready to be ministered to for many know the world had gone too far in challenging the laws of nature, decency and of God.

The Lord's servant

Apostle Lloyd Denny

President of the Apostolic Churches Alliance

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ACA NEWS

With Covid -19 Spring church services and special meetings have been cancelled or postponed for later in the year. We'll keep you posted as soon as we know what each of us is intending to do in the coming weeks and months.

It's good to see the innovative ways some churches have responded to the shut down. May the Lord keep the saints especially the newly converted during the crisis and to the end.

Some churches have struggled communicating with the saints and are having to learn very quickly because they either set their faces against anything new or were slow in embracing change.

The ACA will work with partner churches when we can to share best practices and information so we all can be better at communicating in different ways. It's a fact that God communicates in a myriad of ways: dreams, visions, trances, the written word, the inner voice and through the vocal gifts of the Spirit.

We would like to have a special service before the end of the year once the lock down has been lifted. The In Our Time Wordfest on Saturday **14th November** is an opportunity to do so. Again, we will keep you posted.

In the meantime, please put it in your diary for we must come together as soon as we can do so, in large numbers to mourn our loss, for we have lost ministers and saints during this pandemic, either to the virus or in other ways; and in thanksgiving.

There are national guidance on conducting funerals and weddings during the pandemic, do visit the NHSE website for information and regular updates. Click on the link below for access.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/participation/why/nhse/>

In the case of funerals there are special measures in place which will upset families so please educate yourself so you can support bereaved families appropriately.

Do visit your church premises regularly and ensure it is as secure as is possible. Robbers are breaking into properties because they know they are not being used and people are staying home. These are professional robbers and also desperate people who are drug addicts, beggars and the homeless who are looking for cash and anything they can get their hands on.

Please let us know of any news items you think is useful to share by emailing:

loyddenny@rrfluton.org.uk

One of the major concerns is the proliferation of fake or unsourced news that are causing distress and fear. People, including the saints, are too quick to forward unsourced video, audio and text. Please help put a stop to this. Stick to the Bible, it has reports we can trust.

Pastor Troutt has organised for Pastors to pray together on line from different locations around the world each week. I know others are doing the same, there is no distance in prayer.

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THE LAST DAYS

The term or phrase last days is important to preachers and the church alike, in every generation. The term can be found in both the old and new Testaments.

The problem we get ourselves into when trying to explain the last days is one of putting a specific date to last days. Determining the last days is like saying “how long is a piece of string”

In Genesis 49, Jacob nearing the end of his pilgrimage, calls his sons to him to tell them the things that shall befall them in the last days. Their last days is different from the last days referred to by Prophet Joel or Prophet Micah (**Isaiah 2 & Micah 4**) when speaking of the House of God.

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The last days of the 12 sons of Jacob referred to what would become of the tribes in years to come. To take Judah as an example, the tribe from which Messiah came.

“Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes: His eyes shall be red with wine, and his teeth white with milk”.

Judah, which means praise, yet he is first described as a warrior a military person. Then Jacob says because of Judah's military prowess his brethren would bow down before him.

Then Jacob said, Judah is a lion's whelp, (whelp - puppy, offspring) or a baby lion.

Then the sceptre would not depart from Judah nor a lawgiver from between his feet until Shiloh comes and unto him shall the people be gathered.

Jacob saw ahead of time the rise of Judah to become the dominant tribe, that would become the tribe of kings. That Shiloh (the Sent one) would gather the people unto himself and this would include the nations but only when Messiah came. Jacob also saw the bloody death of of the Sent one. The author of Hebrews ascribed to our Lord the office of Apostle, which mean, the Sent One. (Hebrews 3:1).

The 12 disciples were later called apostles, as were Paul, Barnabas and others. Paul wrote about the office of apostle in his letters in particular Ephesians 4. So, the office of apostle is legitimate and necessary in the church. However, there are different levels of apostles.

Jesus Christ is at a level all by himself. Then we have the apostles of the Lamb, the 12 called by our Lord. Then the foundational apostles comprising the 12 plus New Testament apostles like Paul, Barnabas, Silas et al. Finally, we have ministry apostles.

As long as the church have need for pastors, teachers etc it has need for apostles. With the falling away (2 Thess. 2), the office of apostle was hijacked by the Papacy and it became his own by decree.



Following the Reformation the office was restored to the church but church ministers were ignorant of the office or reluctant to use it lest it be said they were presumptuous.

The truth of the matter is a 13 year old girl may have no idea about being a mother but if she gives birth to a child she is a mother.

The substantial difference between our Lord as apostle and the other levels of apostle is this. Other apostles are sent ones whereas our Lord is **the Sent One**. Furthermore, earthly apostles are chosen by God. Jesus on the other hand came from heaven.

The first principle to follow when looking at “the last days” is the starting point; that’s when the clock starts ticking.

Looking through the history of Judah and Israel one can see the fulfilment of the inspired words of Jacob.

The first major warrior in Israel was Joshua but he was of the tribe of Ephraim. Then we have warriors like Samson (Dan), Gideon (Manasseh) and Jephthah (also from Manasseh), none were from Judah. Furthermore, these warriors or judges never became King.

King Saul was the first King of Israel and was a warrior but was not from the tribe of Judah, he was from Benjamin. Neither did his brethren praise him. He became jealous because David was more lauded than he.

David, was a warrior from Judah and was praised by the people. He also became King and was loved more as a king than even after he defeated Goliath.

David then is the start of the last days for Judah. The importance of Judah in Israel would continue apace, even when some of the Kings were not righteous. Judah kept on providing kings right to the birth of the one that was born King (Jesus).

Jesus’ kingship would end with his garments washed in wine and his garments in red wine, a reference to his bloody crucifixion.

With the death of Jesus the role of Judah would cease in Israel. Christ who is King of kings and Lord of lords would extend his reign to the church.

In Isaiah 2, the same prophecy given to the prophet Micah: "But in the last days it shall come to pass, *that* the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it".

This prophecy could not be fulfilled before Christ and within Judaism, because of the reference to the nations flowing into the house of God. This only became possible through the church.

Let's now return the last days Jesus spoke about.

The last days began with Jesus as made clear in Hebrews 1: “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these **last days** spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of



his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high”.

The universal outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost happened as a further sign of the commencement of the last days. The last days clock started ticking at the death and resurrection of Messiah.

“And it shall come to pass in **the last days**, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: and it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved”. (**Acts 2: 17-18, 21**). The last days is the day of grace and truth.

What God told prophet Joel, began to be fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost and will continue to the very end. Prophet Joel doesn't use the words “the last days” but he was speaking of the future when there would be universal outpouring of the Holy Spirit. (**Joel 2: 27-28**). Peter, on the other hand took the same prophecy and show the beginning of its fulfilment.

To know where we are in the last days we need to look at the prophecies of our Lord and the apostles and even the prophets.

Our Lord in Matthew 24 and its parallel scriptures in Mark 13 and Luke 21, give pointers to the last days. Paul and Peter also in their epistles give pointers to the last days.

Paul for example is adamant about what the last days will look like.

The prophets of old preface their message with "thus saith the Lord". The apostles didn't do this but would make it very clear that God was speaking through them. For the Spirit of Christ was in them.

“This know also, that in **the last days** perilous times shall come”, wrote Apostle Paul. He then goes on to list some of the things to look out for. (**2 Timothy 3:1-9**).

I know each generation from the start of the church make claim to the scriptures being fulfilled in their time. We then must observe the second principle when determining the last days. This is the principle of “probability”. The many and diverse happenings at the same time.

We know that Jesus was the Messiah or Christ because he fulfilled many prophecies ranging from Genesis right up to Malachi.

What Paul lists in his second letter to Timothy, together with what our Lord spoke about in the gospels I mentioned above, and what James and Peter wrote, can only be fulfilled in the modern world.

Are we close to the ending of the last days? It began with Jesus Christ and will end when the gospel has been preached into all the world for a witness. **The Lord will call time**. Until then let us continue preaching the gospel even though the number of souls that will be saved may be small. Only eight souls were saved when the flood came. Only three souls ultimately made it to safety out of Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham pleaded for the twin cities and God said yes but he stopped pleading at ten souls.

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The Apostolic Churches Alliance

Jesus Christ is Lord



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PUBLICATION

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Apostle Denny writes a regular blog, click on the link to read his latest blogs. The most recent titles include: "Seeing is believing?" "A very present help in trouble" and "Listening to the voice of God". <http://www.rfluton.org.uk/rfblog/>

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Becoming a member of the Apostolic Churches Alliance.

Why not join the ACA today, there are obvious benefits, and its important that we stand together to support one another in propagating the gospel. Contact Apostle Denny or Pastor Troutt for more information on membership.

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