

UK BIBLE STUDENTS NEWSLETTER

Mid-March 2010

**The date and time for our Lord's Memorial in 2010 is Sunday, March 28, after 6:00 p.m.
For details see [here](#) (pdf; may take a while to load)**

A HUSBAND, A WIFE, AND THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

By A. Prentice

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church (Ephesians 5: 31, 32).

MARRIAGE IS A brilliant arrangement which allows for not only the propagation of the species, but for the mutual support and encouragement of wife and husband and the formation of the family structure, in which children may be nurtured, and by which nations may be established. In short, marriage stands at the root of human civilisation.

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THE LAST SUPPER

An extract from The Life Of Christ, by Dean Frederic William Farrar (1831-1903)

WHEN [Jesus and the disciples] arrived, the meal was ready, the table spread, the *triclinia* laid with cushions for the guests. Imagination loves to reproduce all the probable details of that deeply moving and eternally sacred scene; and if we compare the notices of ancient Jewish custom, with the immemorial fashions still existing in the changeless East, we can feel but little doubt as to the general nature of the arrangements. They were totally unlike those with which the genius of Leonardo da Vinci, and other great painters, has made us so familiar. The room probably had white walls, and was bare of all except the most necessary furniture and adornment. The couches or cushions, each large enough to hold three persons, were placed around three sides of one or more low tables of gaily painted wood, each scarcely higher than stools. The seat of honour was the central one of the central *triclinium*, or mat. This was, of course, occupied by the Lord. Each guest reclined at full length, leaning on his left elbow, that his right hand might be free. At the right hand of Jesus reclined the beloved disciple, whose head therefore could, at any moment, be placed upon the breast of his friend and Lord.

It may be that the very act of taking their seats at the table had, once more, stirred up in the minds of the Apostles those disputes about precedence which, on previous occasions, our Lord had so tenderly and beautifully rebuked. The mere question of a place at table might seem a matter too infinitesimal and unimportant to ruffle the feelings of good and self-denying men at an hour so supreme and solemn; but that love for “the chief seats” at feasts and elsewhere, which Jesus had denounced in the Pharisees, is not only innate in the human heart, but is even so powerful that it has at times caused the most terrific tragedies. But at this moment when the soul of Jesus was full of such sublime purpose . . . a strife of this kind must have been more than ever painful. It showed how little, as yet, even these His chosen followers had entered into the meaning of His life. It showed that the evil spirits of pride and selfishness were not yet exorcised from their struggling souls. It showed that, even now, they had wholly failed to understand His many and earnest warnings as to the nature of His kingdom, and the certainty of His fate. That *some* great crisis was at hand — that their Master was to suffer and be slain — they *must* have partially realised: but they seem to have regarded this

as a mere temporary obscuration, to be followed by an immediate divulgence of His splendour, and the setting up on earth of His Messianic throne.

Original volume published 1881, by Cassell, Petter, Galpin & Co, London, pp. 376, 377. A text version (with errors) is available online at <http://www.preteristarchive.com/Books/1874_farrar_christ_index.html>

IN THE REAR-VIEW MIRROR

Daily Mirror, Tuesday, January 10, 1967

‘Japan is about to pass Britain as an economic power, predicts the magazine *U.S. News and World Report*. It says that in recent years Japan’s booming economic growth rate has averaged more than ten per cent – compared with Britain’s average of less than three per cent. Britain’s gross national product is still bigger than Japan’s. But in the past ten years Japan’s has trebled while Britain’s has increased by only 70 per cent. The magazine article predicts: “At that rate, Japan in a few years will overtake Britain to become the world’s fourth greatest economic power, and may even pass West Germany to rank just behind the U.S. and Russia.” The article says that Japan’s defeat in World War Two is turning out to have carried with it considerable advantages, while Britain’s victory has brought big disadvantages. It explains: “Britain is still burdened with huge debts incurred in the war. These are a major cause of the chronic instability of the £. Japan has no such debts”.’

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Lament for a Nation, George P. Grant (1970; repr. 1995, Carleton University Press, Canada), 75, 76
‘[American] society does preserve constitutional government and respect for the legal rights of individuals in a way that the eastern [Communitic] tyrannies do not. The perpetuation of these depends on the continuing tradition of Lockian liberalism among influential classes. Bourgeois Protestantism, with its Catholic and Jewish imitations, have survived in the United States and give some sense of the eternal to many people. Nevertheless, these traditions – no longer the heart of American civilization – become more residual every year. Sceptical liberalism becomes increasingly the dominant ideology of those who shape society; and . . . this ideology is the extreme form of progressive modernity. The United States is no longer a society of small property owners, but of massive private and public corporations. Such organizations work with the scientists in their efforts to master nature and reshape humanity. Internationally, the imperial power of these corporations has destroyed indigenous cultures in every corner of the globe. Communist imperialism is more brutally immediate, but American capitalism has shown itself more subtly able to dissolve indigenous societies. This can make it harder to resist than the blatant thrusts of the Russians or the Chinese. . . . American society has also inherited the older aspects of the Western tradition: the Church, constitutional government, classical and philosophical studies. But every day these become more like museum pieces, mere survivals on the periphery.’

DRAGNET

Items of interest from the World Wide Web

Earth Sciences

Axial shift in earth’s rotation?

<http://www.cbc.ca/technology/quirks-blog/2010/03/shake-rattle-and-roll-tipping-the-earth.html>

International

U.S., France, and Germany, top three most admired countries

http://www.gfk.com/group/press_information/press_releases/004734/index.en.html

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