

UK BIBLE STUDENTS NEWSLETTER

Mid-June 2010

A SANCTUARY FOR ISRAEL

Thus saith the Lord GOD; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come (Ezekiel 11: 16).

The purposes of God are often masked by the intricacies and ambiguities of this imperfect world. Indeed, the complexity of Nature itself provides an excuse for unbelief. In order to teach Man what He wants him to learn God has obscured Himself and allowed room for doubt as to His character and abilities. So, as Moses was not permitted to see Jehovah's face, mankind may only judge God's work by the final results, the 'back parts' (Exodus 33: 17-23).

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SAVING GRACE

By A. Prentice

I can do everything through him who gives me strength (Philippians 4: 13, NIV-UK)

The unbeliever professes astonishment that anyone in the twenty-first century should still believe in God. Or, more to the point, that they should *need* to.

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MUSINGS

Harold: An Allegory

Harold went on a hiking trip through the vast forest with his two companions. A storm arose and he got separated from them. After many hours of wandering in circles, Harold became fearful and desperate. As he went along the trail, he picked up rocks and stacked them into elaborately tapered mounds every hundred yards, right in the middle of the path. 'This will show them I came this way', Harold said to himself, and it comforted him greatly. Sure enough, that afternoon, his friends came upon the artefacts. Unfortunately for Harold, they were both atheists. One looked at the straight line of markers disappearing into the distance and dismissed them as a random, accidental collection of rocks, no doubt the result of a series of landslides. The other agreed, but admired the mounds very much and wished to know more about the phenomenon. The two spent the next week in a thorough and respectful study of the heaps. Harold was never found.

IN THE REAR-VIEW MIRROR: 1979

Margaret Thatcher, *The Downing Street Years* (1993)

'Britain in 1979 was a nation that had had the stuffing knocked out of it with progressively more severe belabourings over the previous hundred years. Beginning in the 1880s, our industrial supremacy had been steadily eroding in the face of first American, then German competition. To be sure, some part of this erosion was

inevitable and even welcome. As the pioneer of the industrial revolution, Britain enjoyed a head start over its competitors that was bound to diminish as nations with larger populations and more abundant natural resources entered the race. But since their rise would mean the growth of large export markets for Britain as well as fierce competition in domestic and third markets – Imperial Germany, for instance, was Britain's second largest export market in 1914 – this commercial rivalry was more blessing than curse.’

DRAGNET

Items of interest from the World Wide Web

Genetic study sheds light on Jewish diaspora

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science_and_environment/10276393.stm>

Japan unfurls Ikaros solar sail in space

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science_and_environment/10293284.stm>

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