

UK BIBLE STUDENTS NEWSLETTER

Mid-August 2010

Scripture citations are to the British-English version of the New International Version (NIV-UK), unless noted..

From the History Corner

THE BRITISH TRADES UNION MOVEMENT (*Part II*)

'Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely — be content with your pay".' (Luke 3: 14)

There is a section of society that is unswayed by the passion of radical preachers. A class prepared to bear hardship and follow a path of negotiation to achieve reform. It is these labourers who prefer to conserve society's order while relying on the reasonableness of their claim to win over their opponents.

Despite the historic abuses committed by both employer and employees, the destructive mutual antagonism implied by those overused terms 'Capital' and 'Labour', and the often pejorative application of the word 'socialism', the implicit plea for fair treatment of the labourer is inherently just. Indeed, it is underpinned by the Judaeo-Christian tradition of Great Britain.

Addressing the ubiquitous employer, the Apostle James writes (5: 4): 'Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.'

Thus the power of the trades union movement rests on its moral force.

Read on [>>>>](#)

Q&A

Question: Explain the words of Jesus in John 17: 5 (NIV-UK): 'And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.'

Answer: This verse occurs in the opening portion of what is generally known as Jesus' high-priestly prayer (vs. 1-26), in which He gives thanks to the Father and commits the disciples to His Father's care. It follows Jesus' discourse to His disciples after they had eaten the Last Supper and left the upper room.

There are two elements worthy of note in John 17: 5:

Firstly, Jesus confirms His *pre-existence* – that He had lived in the Father's presence long ages before He was born into human nature ([John 1: 1, 2](#)).

Secondly, Jesus seems to suggest that He would be content merely with a return to that pre-existent condition. However, after His resurrection, God 'exalted him to the highest place' (the Divine nature), *greater than the position He had before* ([Philippians 2: 9-11](#)).

This second element is consistent with the unitarian view of God: that He is *one* and *above all*, and is therefore distinctly separate from Jesus, His *Son*. This is why John 17: 5 reads like a conversation of a son with a father.

Were Jesus the ‘second Person’ of a Trinity, and therefore ‘co-equal’ with God the Father, He could not have been exalted any higher.

IN THE REAR-VIEW MIRROR: 1851

Christian Wolmar, *Fire & Steam: A New History of the Railways in Britain* (2007; Atlantic Books, London), 112.

‘The Great Exhibition marked a turning point in the public’s attitude towards the railways, helping them overcome the stigma they had suffered as a result of the [railway] mania and its collapse. The brainchild of Queen Victoria’s husband, Prince Albert, the Exhibition was conceived to celebrate Britain’s technological progress and, especially, its dominant position in the world. This “somewhat arrogant parading of accomplishments” was the first ever international exhibition and was intended to be a major tourist attraction luring visitors from both home and abroad. Early in the planning process, the organizers realized that the railways would play a key role in transporting the millions of visitors needed to make the exhibition viable. The 13,000 exhibits were housed in a huge glass building, dubbed the Crystal Palace, erected in London’s Hyde Park. Over six months it attracted a staggering 6,200,000 people (a third of the population of England and Wales), including 110,000 on the busiest day. The whole nation was gripped by Exhibition fever and entire towns and villages would form “Exhibition clubs” which organized excursion trains up to the capital – for many, their first-ever train journey.’

DRAGNET

Items of interest from the World Wide Web

Canada

Scientists record fast-evolving fish

<<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2010/08/09/2977453.htm>> (retrieved Aug. 15, 2010)

Huge iceberg breaks off Greenland glacier

<<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/north/story/2010/08/10/greenland-petermann-iceberg.html>> (retrieved Aug. 15, 2010)

United States

Brain works more like internet than ‘top down’ company

<<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-10925841>> (retrieved Aug. 15, 2010)

International Couples Flock to U.S. for Gender-Selective In-Vitro Fertilization

<<http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2010/aug/10080905.html>> (retrieved Aug. 15, 2010)

We occasionally refer you to Web sites we judge as helpful in confirming or supplementing the facts and information presented in our articles. Due to the transitory nature of Web links, some will expire or be moved after a few months. Additionally, some of these sites are on servers within or outside Great Britain and may display geographically-selected advertisements, some of them of varying merits. We have no control over such contingencies.

UK Bible Students won’t give away or sell your name or e-mail address to anyone. See our [Privacy Statement](#). You are

receiving this newsletter because you subscribed to it. To remove your name click [here](#). If you are having trouble reading this plain version of our Newsletter you can view it in *pdf* a day or two after circulation [here](#). Please address any comments about the Newsletter, favourable or unfavourable, to newsletter@ukbiblestudents.co.uk

Postal Address: Post Box 0195, Brough, East Yorkshire, England

Web Address: ukbiblestudents.co.uk

For a loose transation of our English-language site into your preferred language go to: <http://translate.google.com/#>

Our server is in the United Kingdom

Newsletter copyright 2010 UK Bible Students