

An apologetic for Christianity in Britain

This is an apologetic for the reasonable and just treatment of Christianity in UK society today.

However it does not propose, nor does it expect, any radical change in the way that Christians are treated; indeed it fully expects the treatment of Christians to worsen and for society to ignore any kind of justice and fair play for them. The reason for this is that the Bible itself, the source of authority for Christians, explains that this will be the case as we approach the end of the world.

Therefore, the purpose of this paper is not to lobby for change but to be an indictment of modern governments. The truth of their unrighteous policies, supposedly dedicated to freedom and equality, needs to be explained.

The fight for rights

In recent decades, certain groups have vigorously fought campaign after campaign for 'equal' rights after a previous period of discrimination or persecution. The Gay lobby, not satisfied with the repealing of laws against homosexuality for consenting adults, has crusaded for more and more power.

This has now got to the point where ordinary reasonable people can be in fear of mentioning certain subjects in ordinary public conversation for fear of being accused, or even prosecuted, on anti-discrimination laws. 'B and B' and small hotel owners can no longer determine who can be allowed, or not allowed, in their own home. Christian and other groups cannot reasonably represent a different perspective during a Gay Pride procession for fear of arrest; even for just giving out tracts peacefully.

The problem with giving certain rights to a small spectrum of society¹ is that it skews the balance of rights for everyone else. It also means that the state employs thought police; once a fictional scandal but now very real. People can be imprisoned for their opinions; free speech has been lost.

The moment you make a special case for one group of society they become a favoured case and have more rights than everyone else. In a fair and just society all that needs to be specified is that all people are equal under the law and everyone must be treated with equal respect and dignity. In our current society there are many people that fall far short of this – the old, the infirm, the disabled, the socially challenged, certain races, certain religious groups, but also Christians. However LGBT groups have a far higher standing, despite being a very minority demographic and historically being considered as perverse.

One reason for this is that LGBT representatives have managed to secure many positions of power and influence over the last few decades by stealth. Indeed, certain aspects of society are dominated by Gay people; such as the BBC, the entertainment industry and

¹ In the case of homosexuals it is normally about 1% of the population and rarely more than 2% in given areas or time periods. People have also been imprisoned for long periods for anti-Semitism; in America Jews represent only 2% of the population. Yet people can blaspheme the true God, use Christ's name in vain and castigate Christians constantly with impunity. Yet nominal Christians form very large proportions of the population of many countries.

particularly the theatre world, pop music businesses, fashion and so on. Several key politicians involved in the recent legal changes were Gay people.

So, you have the situation today where a tiny proportion of society (and one that was, for centuries, considered as perverted and illegal under British law) now have great power and holds the conversation of reasonable people to ransom.

The goal of modern anti-discrimination lobbying

In short, it is the destruction of Christian principles and expression in society as a whole.

Is this far fetched?

Not at all. One must first understand that the basis of the end-time, satanic government of the world is the destruction of Christianity. Most Christians understand this and it is made clear in the book of Revelation. We are currently in the preparation period for this global totalitarian government and all national governments are merely puppets for the elite that controls the world through Jewish banking,² criminal and commercial cartels,³ think tanks,⁴ national secret services,⁵ Vatican Jesuits, secret societies⁶ and global corporations.⁷

As the final expression of world government is centred on the destruction of Christianity and the true church, so the preparation for this government is founded upon the oppression of Christians and the gradual subversion of Christian morals in society, replacing them with pagan, occult and wicked policies. The great change in the UK in the last 120 years has been a slow deterioration from a Christian subset to a pagan one. Only a fool would deny that this has been going on for decades.

One of the tools of the elite in subverting Christian mores has been various anti-discrimination laws and the pretended focus upon tolerance of minorities.

Anti-discrimination laws

The crusades for anti-discrimination laws to protect homosexuals (plus Lesbians transgenders and transvestites), racial discrimination acts or the laws against anti-Semitism were not based upon freedom for oppressed minorities. The agenda was far more cynical. These were merely a smokescreen to hide a relentless attack to erode Christian principles and undermine Biblical laws. The unnecessary laws have done little to actually promote harmony, as evidenced in the massive expansion recently of far right groups all over Europe, alongside increased cases of racial attacks, race-based riots in America⁸ and the UK, anti-Semitism and intolerance of homosexuals.

When you clamp down on the personal liberty and free speech of all to sponsor a minority group, you will make many people angry. But that was what was planned all along because the second reason for anti-discrimination laws was to promote civil unrest and foment social instability. The goal of the elite is to foment civil disturbances and set up tribes of warring people within society. In the same way the elite seek to sponsor continual war in

² E.g. the American Federal Reserve banking system, JP Morgan, the Rothschild Group etc.

³ E.g. the Mafia, which works hand in hand with the CIA.

⁴ E.g. The Council on Foreign Relations, the Fabian society, the Bilderbergers. These think tanks provide policies that are taken up by national governments.

⁵ Notably MI5 and MI6, Mossad, the CIA, the FBI.

⁶ E.g. Freemasons, the Skull and Bones society.

⁷ Such as Rockefeller Corps. For details on all this see my book 'The depths of deception right now'.

⁸ E.g. Ferguson, Missouri.

the world to lead to certain strategic objectives, just as they pre-planned the First and Second World Wars and the Bolshevik Revolution – all paid for by Jewish banking groups.

When a society is fragmented, weak, distracted, oppressed, confused and scared, then it is much easier to gain control of the nation. Such a weak nation can even sleepwalk into totalitarianism legally through a corrupt parliament.

The point

So, before I lose track and elaborate on the purpose of the global elite, the point I am making is that the laws to support tolerance of minorities were really to damage society, weaken it, confuse it, remove absolutes, and especially to ruin Christian standards in the nation.

The reasonableness of Christians

Faced with a continual threat to its very existence, how do Christians react?

Gay people can complain about even the simplest derogatory statements, even something that meant no harm, and can ensure that castigators are prosecuted quite heavily. Christians, however, suffer constantly every single day and make no complaint.

Christians honour Jesus Christ as God. They believe that he gave his life to save them from sin and gain eternal life. As such they love him with a pure devotion. He is no mythological figure; to those with faith he is close to them and hears their prayers.

Thus blasphemy is painful for Christians to hear.

Blasphemy used to be illegal since British society was built on Christian principles; even British Common Law is fundamentally based upon the codes found in the Bible. When someone uses the Lord's name in vain it is painful for a believer. Yet this occurs ten thousand times every day. Hardly an hour goes by on TV when the words 'Jesus' and 'Christ' are not used in a blasphemous manner. Even ordinary game shows will feature these words, let alone post-watershed dramas. These expletives come without warning, even in family shows, and Christians cannot switch them off in time. The only alternative is that Christians cease watching television completely – but then they need to stop listening to the radio as well.

But outside of television, in everyday life Christians are subject to blasphemous use of God's name day in day out. People do not mean any harm by it but they do it nonetheless. Yet despite this constant barrage of discrimination against the God of Christianity, there is no Christian crusade to stop it in the media or in daily life. Christians put up with it as they have always done. This passive persecution is borne along with many other evils.

Now if Allah was derided constantly in this way there would be a Jihad against British society. Most people are too scared of the repercussions to denounce or blaspheme Allah or the Koran. If the Gay agenda was constantly derided in a nasty fashion the perpetrators would be put in prison. If Black people were treated in this manner, the prisons would also be full. But genuine Christians tolerate this evil and indeed, pray for their persecutors and seek to do good to those who mistreat their God. Indeed, they seek to love even their enemies because Jesus Christ commanded them to.

Then again, the Bible is openly ridiculed in the most blatant and aggressive manner. This is done, not merely, by angry individuals but also by professional academics in TV documentaries. Over and over again Christians are ridiculed for believing in an intelligent

designer or that the earth is young. The Bible contents are ridiculed as being lies and myths, written long after the events took place. Any story containing accounts of miracles, healings or resurrection is denounced in the most aggressive terms. Senior scientists feel free to use the most insulting language to attack any poor soul who believes the literal truth of Scripture.

In all these attacks, on both the Bible itself and the content of the Bible, Christians are never given any opportunity for rebuttal, even when creditable people seek it. There are many occasions even where Christians have offered to partake in a public debate on certain issues (such as evolution versus creation) and have been refused. No television channel will give a balanced opportunity for Christians to present the Gospel.

Now all of this is odd when you consider the historical background to Britain. Indeed, it demonstrates an all-out war against Christianity in all its expressions.

Some basic history

The basis of Britain is Christianity

While there is no such thing as a Christian nation, Britain has long been a bastion of Christian principles and laws. The essential foundation of Britain is Christianity and this has always been recognised in history books until recently.

Many tribes bound by Christianity

It is true that (like many nations) Britain is a polyglot⁹ country. Many nations have invaded or have been absorbed into the woof and weft of the nation. If you investigate the language and dialects of English you will find many influences and borrowed words. Originally the language was based upon Saxon foundations with a hefty use of Greek and Latin words. However, the language of ancient Britains is unknown but the key founders of the nation were from Troy (Brutus, the relative of Aeneas;¹⁰ hence 'Britain': Brutus'-land). There may have been more ancient megalithic peoples but nothing certain is known of them.¹¹

After these came the Celts that had migrated across Europe from Turkey (Galatia) bringing with them the La Tène artistic style. The Brythonic speech¹² of the Celts was pushed into the far reaches of Wales, Ireland and Cornwall; initially by the Romans and later, more fully, by the Saxons. The Romans, of course, gave us many Latin words. After the Roman departure came the various waves of Northern European tribes, such as the Angles, Saxons, Jutes and so on. These gave us more Germanic sounding words and the underlying English language began to evolve. This is the basis of what many call Anglo-Saxon, though the term has little sensible meaning. No man at the time called himself an Anglo-Saxon.

⁹ Knowing or using several languages; literally 'many tongues'. I use the term to imply that English is based upon the influence of many tongues not that there are many languages in Britain (though that is true: there are many tongues spoken in homes today: Farsi, Gaelic, Hindi, Welsh, Gujarati, Arabic, Mandarin and so on).

¹⁰ Aeneas: a Trojan leader, son of Anchises and Aphrodite, and legendary ancestor of the Romans. When Troy fell to the Greeks he escaped and after wandering for many years eventually reached Italy. The story of his voyage is recounted in Virgil's Aeneid.

¹¹ Some suggest that these ancient people gave the land the name of 'Albion'. However, this is a poetic or literary term for Britain or England that is often used to refer to ancient times. It is probably of Celtic origin and related to Latin *albus* 'white' (in allusion to the white cliffs of Dover).

¹² As evidenced today in the Celtic speech of the Welsh and Cornish.

After this came the Viking invasions, principally Danes who eventually settled in the northern half of the country. The prevalence of Viking words is still seen in the dialects of the north and the names of places and things.

After this came the Norman invasion and of course this brought a French influence to the language, though the Normans had originally been Vikings that were absorbed into Normandy.

So English is a polyglot language.

However, in this multi-layered international influence that has affected Britain for centuries, underlying it all has been the stronger influence of Christianity. Though there were many historical tribes that settled in Britain, over time these all became highly influenced, if not dominated, by Christianity. Many came here as pagans and converted to Christianity. Numerous Celts, Romans, Saxons, Angles, Jutes, Danes, Norsemen and Normans were Christians and the proclaimed religion of Britain was Christianity from earliest times [see later.]

Before homosexuality became normal and legalised; before paganism and witchcraft dominated; Christianity was the bedrock of British society in law, society and culture.

The Christian basis of society

Now all the modern opposition to Christianity stands in the face of the fact that the Bible has, for centuries, been at the heart of British social life. The beginning of most of the foundational edifices of society emerged from the work of Bible-believing people.

Universities

The original British universities were places to study theology arising out of monastic places of study for preserving and copying manuscripts. Formal teaching existed at Oxford in some form from 1096. The original religious universities gradually led to the development of colleges and schools much later, many of which arose from Christian foundations (such as all the public schools).

Christians initiated the university system.

Ragged schools

Perhaps the first English schools were those set up by the Christian king, Alfred the Great. Other schools were established by monasteries on a small local scale. General education for the poor came much later.

Robert Raikes (the Younger) was an English philanthropist and Anglican layman, noted for his promotion of Sunday schools which pre-dated state schooling and by 1831 schooled 1,250,000 children. These schools are seen as the first schools of the English state school system. Rich children were privately tutored.

In 1818, John Pounds, known as the crippled cobbler, began teaching poor children without charging fees in Portsmouth.

In the late 18th century, Thomas Cranfield offered free education for poor children in London. By the time of his death in 1838, he had established 19 free schools that provided services for children and infants living in the lower income sections of London.

Minister Thomas Guthrie started the first Scottish free school for the poor. In 1843, Lord Shaftesbury became the president of the Ragged Schools.

All these eventually led to the development of state-sponsored schools and compulsory education.

Christians started the educational system for the young.

Hospitals

The imperial acceptance of Christianity in the Roman Empire initiated an expansion of the provision of health care. After the First Council of Nicaea in 325 AD construction of a hospital in every cathedral town was begun. Even the first Islamic hospital, in Damascus (c. 707), was founded with assistance from Christians. Medieval hospitals in Europe were religious communities, with care provided by monks and nuns. Monasteries also developed agricultural skills and knowledge.

Hospitals arose from Christian charities begun to help the poor that could not afford a private physician.

Orphanages

E.g. Barnardo's Homes – the world's largest orphanage system was started by Christian Thomas John Barnardo. Several other orphanages were established by Christians, such as George Muller's home in Bristol and Spurgeon's in London. Before these modern forms, churches and monasteries helped to provide homes and relief for orphans.

The orphanage system originated from Christian charities.

Homelessness and care

Care for the poor, injured and homeless was undertaken by Christian ministries and churches; notably William Booth's Salvation Army. Henri Dunant, a student evangelist in Geneva, founded the Red Cross in 1865. In the Middle Ages monasteries served as hospitals, places of refuge. The YMCA was founded in 1844 and grew greatly.

The great reforms that established equity and aid in society arose from Christian works.

The abolition of slavery

Chiefly by a Christian, William Wilberforce. In 1772 slavery was judicially excluded from England. In 1792 conditions aboard slave ships were regulated by law. In 1808 the English slave trade was abolished. In 1831 all European slave trade was abolished. England spent 15 million pounds for enforcement, even making payments to Spain and Portugal to stop the trade. In 1833 slavery was abolished in the British Empire: £45 million was paid in compensation to free 780,933 slaves.

It was Christians that initiated the abolition of slavery in the British Empire. [In America it was also Christians that abolished slavery in two southern states before the Civil War and Lincoln.]

The reform of prisons

John Howard [1726–90] was an earnest evangelical Christian, a philanthropist and prison reformer. In 1773 his horror at conditions in Bedford jail led him to undertake a tour of British prisons; this culminated the following year in two Acts of Parliament setting down sanitary standards. His work, *The State of Prisons in England and Wales* (1777) gave further impetus to the movement for improvements in the design and management of prisons.

Elizabeth Fry [1780–1845] was a Quaker¹³ prison reformer. In the forefront of the early 19th-century campaign for penal reform, she concerned herself particularly with conditions in Newgate and other prisons, the plight of convicts transported to Australia, and the vagrant population in London and the south-east.

The reform of prisons and the improvement of conditions for prisoners were initiated by Christians.

The abolition of child slavery and labour laws

Anthony Ashley Cooper (Earl of Shaftesbury) pioneered child-labour laws, prohibited women working in mines, established a mental health sanatorium, built parks and libraries.

Labour laws arose from Christian champions.

Trade Unions

The early development of the trade unions resulted partly from church people, often Methodists, and the first Labour MP was a Christian (Keir Hardie.).

Rulers

There were also Christian kings and political leaders who laid down fundamental principles of British life; such as the legal and education reforms of Alfred the Great or the works of Edward VI or the developments of Oliver Cromwell [see later]. Indeed, when Queen Victoria was asked, by a visiting Maharajah, what the secret of British imperial power was she handed him a Bible and said that the empire was built upon it.

Several monarchs were genuine evangelical Christians and all monarchs after 1066 gave professing assent to Christianity by oath.

Scientists

Apart from all of this, Christian scientists, who sought to ‘*understand God's works after him*’,¹⁴ made some of the most important discoveries and inventions that undergird modern life. Without those Christians we would have no modern technology.

For instance, the Christian Michael Faraday discovered electricity and electro-magnetics. Blaise Pascal was the founder of Hydrostatics and Hydrodynamics; inventor of the barometer. Alexis Carrel was a Nobel Laureate in Medicine and Physiology. Isaac Newton was the discoverer of the Law of Gravity and inventor of reflecting telescope. Humphry Davy invented the miner's safety lamp. Louis Pasteur invented Pasteurisation. We could continue in this vein and fill a whole book.

So, Christianity has been fundamental in establishing much of the good that society now stands upon. What does modern society do in return – it marginalises Christians and persecutes them for trying to preach what they have freely preached (mostly with royal sanction) for over 1,000 years.

¹³ A member of the Religious Society of Friends, a Christian movement founded by George Fox c.1650 and devoted to peaceful principles. Central to the Quakers' belief is the mystical doctrine of the ‘Inner Light’, or sense of Christ's direct working in the soul. This has led them to reject both formal ministry and all set forms of worship.

¹⁴ Reportedly said by Isaac Newton. Note also: ‘*Whence is it that Nature does nothing in vain: and whence arises all that order and beauty which we see in the world?...does it not appear from phenomena that there is a Being incorporeal, living, intelligent, omnipresent, who in infinite space, as it were in his Sensory, sees the things themselves intimately, and thoroughly perceives them, and comprehends them wholly.*’ *Opticks* (1730 ed.) bk. 3, pt. 1, question 28.

I will give but two examples of many. At a Gay Pride rally in Norwich, Christians also marched peacefully with tracts explaining the Christian alternative. They were treated roughly by the police and threatened with arrest if they handed out the tracts. When asked why they were told by the senior police officer that it was offensive to the Gay people marching. When Christians stated that they were offended by what the Gay Pride march stood for, the police officer walked away. In other cases Christians, including old ladies, have been imprisoned for protesting during Gay Pride marches.

In the East End of London a man was arrested for preaching the Gospel peacefully in the open air, as people have done for centuries. When asked why, he was told that a complaint had been made by a person of a different faith (the area was notable for its mixed oriental population along with traditional Londoners). The evangelist was imprisoned for 24 hours and prosecuted.

Why is this when the foundation of civil life in Britain has always been Christian?

The historical Christian foundations of Britain

The Celtic Church: Britain is the first Christian nation

The Christian influence began with the Celtic church. Many people fail to understand that the British Celtic church was very powerful and influential long before the papal missionary Augustine came to Canterbury.¹⁵ Indeed, Augustine had a very difficult time, after arriving in 597, persuading English chiefs to adopt Roman Catholicism, as they were very happy with the Celtic position, which differed significantly.¹⁶ It was only at the Synod of Whitby in 664 that Augustine finally prevailed.

There was ... a flourishing and well-organised Christian community here centuries before that (Saxon) invasion.¹⁷

British Christianity began at the time of the British king Caradoc (Caractacus or Caratacus). It is averred that the apostle Paul was friendly with Caradoc's children in Rome when they were state prisoners at the imperial court. Hippolytus states that Paul's colleague Aristobulus (Rm 16:10) visited Britain around 58 AD.

After the end of Roman warfare in Britain in 84 AD, the influence of Christianity began to spread via Roman soldiers, traders and others. Some historians have stated that Druids had heard the Gospel as early as 40 AD. By 193 Tertullian mentions that the Gospel had spread as far as Scotland.¹⁸ In 240 Origen says that Christianity was well established in Britain.¹⁹ Certainly three English bishops were present at the Council of Arles in 314 and all British bishops agreed to the proposals of the Council of Nicea in writing in 325.

Jerome quoted Sabellius as saying that the '*first nation that ... called itself Christian ... was Britain*'.²⁰ Bede declared that the British King Lucian (Llew) proclaimed Christianity as the national religion in 156. Thus Britain was the first country to declare itself legally as Christian.

¹⁵ Not to be confused with Augustine of Hippo, the church father.

¹⁶ Two key points of argument were the tonsure style of Celtic monks and the date of Easter; however, there were many other stylistic differences to say nothing of the freedom of laymen in Celtic churches.

¹⁷ C. Arthur Lane, Illustrated Notes on Church History, SPCK, Brighton, (1896), p1.

¹⁸ Adv. Iud., 7.

¹⁹ Hom. 4 in Ezech.

²⁰ Ep. 46.10.

The Celtic church, in Ireland as well as all Britain, became the fountainhead of a massive missionary endeavour that spread missions throughout Europe as far as northern Italy. The well-known heroes of this period include Aidan, Ninian, Corantinus, Columba, Columbanus and Patrick.

Saxons

The incursions of pagan, superstitious Jutes settling in Kent (449 onwards)²¹, Saxons in Mercia, Essex, Middlesex, Sussex and Wessex²² (477 onwards) and Angles in Northumbria and East Anglia (547 onwards²³) eventually led to slaughter and destruction of Christians and churches.²⁴ It is Bede who identifies the invaders as Angles, Saxons and Jutes, other writers mention other names which are confusing and perhaps mistaken. Saxons were from Old Saxony (Germany), the coastland between the Elbe and Weser rivers. Jutes were from Jutland and the Angles from Schleswig-Holstein.

The legendary King Arthur, whose 12 battles stemmed the tide of Saxon advance for a century (note the Battle of Mt Badon c.500 AD), went into battle with the cross as his insignia on his shoulders.²⁵ However, by 613 the long series of invasions by Teutonic tribes ended with their domination over Celtic and Romano-British culture. This was initially a domination of Christianity by paganism.

After the invasion, Christianity declined into heresy and superstition and in the second half of the 7th century the Celtic church had begun to lose ground. It had no unified territorial system and became isolated. Wilfrid, a pupil from Lindisfarne, felt the need for reformation after visiting Rome and Lyons and determined to bring Britain under the sway of the papacy. As Abbot of Ripon, he precipitated a crisis, which led to the council of Whitby in 664, called by King Oswiu of Northumbria, to decide which tradition would rule. Rome won. Northumbria was already Catholic; but gradually the rest of Britain submitted to the papacy: southern Ireland in 632; northern Ireland in 695; king Nectan of Scotland banished the brethren of Columba from Iona in 717; the west of England in 768 (but not Cornwall); Wales in 777.

Gradually Celtic Britons were pushed back to Wales, Cornwall, Cumberland, Westmorland and Scotland. By the 7th century Britain virtually became Saxon; thus familiar names such as Essex²⁶, Middlesex and Sussex²⁷ remain to this day. The founding of England as a nation was the struggle between the Saxon kingdoms of Northumbria (from the Firth of Forth to the Humber), Mercia (from the Humber to the Thames excluding East Anglia and Essex) and Wessex (southern England). Finally in 825 King Egbert of Wessex became overlord of all England.

²¹ Hengist and Horsa.

²² Wessex the kingdom of the West Saxons, established in Hampshire in the early 6th century and gradually extended by conquest to include much of southern England. The name was revived in the 19th century by Thomas Hardy to designate the south-western counties of England (especially Dorset) in which his novels are set.

²³ 'Angles' is the origin of the word 'English'. The Teutonic tribes could not understand the Celtic language and called it *Welsh* ie 'unintelligible'.

²⁴ The history is complex and the sources confusing. Some, such as Hengist and Horsa, initially settled in the east by treaty with the Britons to aid them against incursions by the Scots and Picts. Other bands invaded with violence. Eventually there was general unrest and warfare.

²⁵ According to the Welsh Annals

²⁶ East Saxons.

²⁷ South Saxons.

Britain was slowly developing into being English. Some unity was necessary, especially as a new threat arose from the northeast – Vikings. Soon the Vikings crushed most of northern England, but Wessex held out.

Alfred the Great

Alfred [849–99] was king of Wessex from 871–99; more familiar to us as Alfred the Great. Alfred's military resistance saved SW England from Viking occupation. His victories against the Danes²⁸ established Wessex as the original prototype England, comprising the southern half of Britain. Above an imaginary line across the Midlands and the north-west, the Danelaw was the northern area where the Vikings eventually settled.²⁹ However, beginning with chief Guthrum (defeated by Alfred), many Vikings became Christians after the treaty of Wedmore.

Alfred was educated at Rome and was a great reformer and a true Christian. He is credited with the foundation of the English navy and with a revival of learning based upon the Bible. He built ships to patrol the coast to prevent further incursions by Vikings. Impressed by his learning in Rome he sought to educate the people of his realm and had schools built for this purpose. In order to teach children English he himself wrote books and translated several from Latin, including Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* and Boethius' *Consolation of Philosophy*. He also initiated the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*. Alfred is also the father of English law.

However, undergirding Alfred's zeal was his Christian faith. He built churches in his kingdom and translated parts of the Bible into English. His works are some of the earliest English Scriptures.³⁰ His work includes: the Ten Commandments, parts of Exodus 21-23, Acts 15, and a number of Psalms, along with other great theological works of the Fathers.

Alfred the Great was so called not just because he won victories against the Danes, but also because he reformed society, established the rule of law and set up the kingdom of Wessex as a Christian nation.

As the father of the English nation, and whose son, Edward the Elder, was the first king of unified Britain, Alfred set the scene by being a Christian king of a Christian nation.

Viking rule

Vikings and Saxons gradually settled into an agreed position in the north until new incursions by Norsemen, Swedes and Danes began. To cut a long story short, the English king Ethelred the Unready (i.e. ill-advised), was unable to deal with this properly in 979 when he came to the throne. After initially buying them off with Danegeld ('Danish money') he massacred Danes among his own people, including the sister of the Danish king Sweyn.

In 1013 Sweyn exacted a terrible vengeance and became king of England. After a brief interlude when Ethelred assumed command, and then Sweyn's son Edmund Ironside,

²⁸ 'Danes' was then a catchall term for Vikings or Norsemen from any Scandinavian country.

²⁹ Danelaw the part of northern and eastern England occupied or administered by Danes from the late 9th century until after the Norman Conquest. It comprised of Northumbria, Mercia and East Anglia.

³⁰ Earlier parts were translated by Aldhelm, bishop of Sherborne in Dorset who translated the Psalms into Saxon English around 700. Bede (died 735) translated parts of the Bible from the Vulgate into Saxon English. He supposedly died while dictating a translation of John's Gospel. Later in the tenth century Abbot Aelfric, and perhaps others, translated significant parts of the Old Testament into English, as well as the Gospels and some other New Testament books.

Canute (king of Denmark and later also of Norway) took the throne from 1016-1035. Eventually, after some brutal times, Canute brought peace and was famously full of hubris.

Despite his hubris, Canute became a Christian and, like Alfred, brought a sustained period of peace to the country. He even accepted English law as the law of his kingdom. Danes and Englishmen (no longer Saxons) were equal.

The reign of his two sons were bad and mercifully short. Then the eldest surviving son of Ethelred, Edward the Confessor [1003-66], became king [1042-66]. Edward was famed for his Christian piety and founded Westminster Abbey, where he was eventually buried. He was even canonised by the Roman church in 1161.

Edward was succeeded by Harold II, the son of his wife's father, Earl Godwin, his advisor.

Note that when the Saxons and the Vikings came to Britain they were pagans, but in due course many of them converted to Christianity and most of the rulers were Christians.

The point is that from the earliest times Christianity dominated life in England and many kings were Christians, as well as various nobles and local chiefs.

Normans

At this point most people have some idea of English history. Of course everyone remembers the date of 1066 when Harold was killed in the Norman invasion.

By this time all the nations of Europe were committed to Christianity. Now whether you believe that this was just superficial or devout matters little here. The point is that all European nations were Christian, even if dominated by the Roman Church. Until the Reformation, when personal faith in Christ became more important than superstition and submission to the pope, everyone was loyal to Christianity.

Now before everyone dismisses the faith of medieval church people we should consider some things.

It is true that until the Reformation people had virtually no access to a Bible and had very little theological understanding (i.e. The Dark Ages), unless they were monks or university professors. Indeed, the priests actively hindered people from reading Scripture, which was the province of a priest alone. Thus the people were filled with superstitions and legalism.

However, in their own way they were far more devout to God than many modern people today in evangelical churches. No man then dared to break a vow on fear of hell. No man would use the name of Christ in vain in public. Adultery was a crime. Blasphemy was a crime. Workers in the feudal system had little opportunity for leisure and give themselves over to sin, unlike modern folk who sit in front of a television all night, most nights.

We should also remember that so great was the fear of final judgment that one emperor repented on his knees in the snow for three days for offending the pope.

People had a genuine fear of God, something entirely missing in modern churches. Their fear was uninformed and legalistic, but it led to a real reverence for God. We need to remember that Jesus stated that it was the works (fruit) of a man that showed whom he loved and obeyed, not what he affirmed, or what he promised to do.³¹ Medieval people may

³¹ Matt 21:28-31, But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. Then

have been badly taught, legalistic and even superstitious, but it may be that far more of them will be in the kingdom than those in modern evangelical churches.

The Reformation and the modern age

With the Reformation true religion became the province of the ordinary person as the priesthood of all believers was championed. But greater still was the influence of the printing of Bibles in the common vernacular all over the world, along with faithful exposition of it.

No longer was religion merely superficial and legalistic, people could become devout and learned in spiritual matters by studying the Bible for themselves. This promulgation of Scripture and Biblical resources led to the Protestant work ethic, which transformed western nations into powerful states that dominated the world.

England was blessed, more than most nations, with monarchs either committed to honouring the God of the Bible, even though their motives may have been political (like Elizabeth), to monarchs that were very devout evangelical Christians. These include Edward VI, a saintly king for a short while until his early death, or Oliver Cromwell (whatever your views on him).

After Henry VIII, the monarchy became identified with Christianity, and this has not yet been legally overturned.

We could discuss the inherent Roman Catholicism of the Stuart dynasty and the road to the proclamation of Britain as a Reformed Protestant country at the Glorious Revolution with William and Mary, establishing a legal basis of Protestantism for the British monarchy. Yet there is no point in discussing this because both sides claim to be Christian. As far as our purposes here are concerned, the Tudors, The Stuarts and all dynasties afterwards were Christians by declared oath in Parliament, crowned by a Christian archbishop.³²

Conclusion

After Canute, until very recent decades, every monarch was committed to Christianity to some degree. Every monarch after 1066 was crowned in a Christian service by an archbishop. Later monarchs were given the title of head of the church after Henry VIII.

The monarch always had their own Christian chaplain to this day. Royal weddings and funerals are celebrated in Christian churches and the monarch is called 'The Defender of the [Christian] Faith'. Indeed, at the coronation the Queen promised '*to maintain the laws of God and the true profession of the Gospel*'. This is important enough for the government to inscribe the rim of the £1 coin with the Queen's title, 'Defender of the Faith'. In fact, at her Coronation the Queen promised to, '*maintain in the United Kingdom the Protestant Reformed religion established by law*'.

Without any doubt both the constitution and the reign of monarchs demonstrate that Britain was a Christian country from ancient times. Indeed, the Queen still rules on the basis of Christianity.

he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father? They said to Him, 'The first'.

³² However, the current government today is discussing changing this to allow for a non-Protestant monarch!

The Christian substrate in society

It would take a fool to deny that the essential foundation of all life in England has been Christianity for 2,000 years. Certainly, the last few decades have seen an all-out war against all forms of Christianity in modern British social life, and this has eroded a great deal; nevertheless, the underlying foundation is still there.

Names

Every person in the nation was originally presumed to be Christian unless stated otherwise for some reason (such as a Jew or an immigrant). A person's first name was his 'Christian' name.

Thousands, or even more, British place names, road names, towns and regions display a Christian heritage and origin. For example: Christchurch (there are four towns named thus), Bishopsgate, Bishop Auckland, Bishopstone, Church Close, Charing Cross,³³ Abbot's Wood, Abbess End, Abbey Drive, Priestwood, Cross, Crossgate, Cross in Hand, Trinity Road, Christian Malford, Christleton, etc.

Population

While down from the 95% of Victorian times, the majority of the population still call themselves Christians. At the 2011 census 59% did this.

Education

Christianity was formally taught in the schools until very recently. People were brought up on Bible stories as infants, then Biblical principles as older kids. Every morning school assembly began with a small Christian service or at least a prayer and a hymn – until recent years. In many grammar schools Divinity (Christian theological studies) was either an option for exams or was a compulsory subject.

Today a quarter of all primary schools are Church of England schools. The majority of public schools are Christian foundations. My own grammar school was one of many founded by Christian King Edward VI. While there are fewer church secondary schools, many have a Christian basis and a number are Anglican or Roman Catholic.

NHS

Everybody loves the NHS, both left and right (except for the radical far right that want to abolish it). Famously Nye Bevan, the Welsh Labour MP, takes the credit for its beginning. What did he think? He said, '*The NHS is a little piece of Christianity*'.

An established church

While I may not agree with an established church (the heresy of Erastianism), it nevertheless remains that England has one, and it is Christian. The state church is of the Christian faith.

In its essential form the Anglican Church dates back to the 7th century. It provided a unity for the seven kingdoms of the Angles and Saxons that had not then been achieved politically.

The very first word of the National Anthem is 'God'.

³³ A district in central London, England, in the City of Westminster at the west end of the Strand. In 1290 Edward I erected the last of 12 Eleanor Crosses here; each cross marked the resting place of Queen Eleanor's coffin on its journey from Nottinghamshire, where she died, to Westminster Abbey. The cross was a symbol of her faith in God.

Missionaries

Christian missionaries that pioneered new missions in far-flung nations often had the support of the British government at some point. Some missionaries became British consular officials until formal ambassadors were put in place (e.g. Mary Slessor). Sometimes when missionaries were under threat, British gunboats were sent to their aid; on other occasions troops were sent in (e.g. the Boxer rebellion in China). Some missionaries became national heroes and were the darlings of Parliament and the national press (such as David Livingstone).

Oaths and vows

Oaths to the monarch given in the armed forces included a promise to God until recently. Protestant chaplains were provided for the armed forces, especially in wartime. In the two world wars New Testaments were given to every conscript. In WWII the king called the whole country to prayer on several occasions. Remembrance services for war dead are conducted by Protestant ministers.

Oaths in court were sworn on a Christian Bible until recently.

Promises and initiation rituals in many organisations, such as the Boy Scouts, the Girl Guides, the Boy's Brigade and many others, included a promise to obey God and were based on Christian mores.

Parliament

The modern form of parliamentary democracy was chiefly laid down by evangelical Christian Oliver Cromwell based upon earlier forms. His purpose was to form an accountable system based upon the rule of law that itself was founded upon God's law. The original basis of Parliament goes back to the Saxon Witan and Moots.

The Witan was when the king called his chief advisors to discuss necessary social issues. Later this developed into a Great Council. Usually the king would rely on a small number of permanent advisors (like a cabinet) while the Great Council, which involved nobles and churchmen, was called when necessary (such as to approve taxes). This later became the basis of the House of Lords.

Moots were in use in Saxon times which were regular meetings for each county (shire) where cases were heard and local issues discussed. The 'Shire-Moot' was attended by the local nobles, bishops, sheriff and four representatives from each village. After 1066 this became known as the County Court and involved the idea of representative government. This became the basis of the House of Commons.

Parliament was the combination of these two gatherings; two houses, one for aristocrats and the other for commoners.

It is noteworthy that Parliament still convenes with prayer and bishops still sit in the House of Lords. Christianity is intertwined in Parliament; church legislation is passed by Parliament and senior appointments are made by Parliament. Calls for the coronation service to be more multi-cultural would require a complete revision of the constitutional position of the monarchy. Unless this is done, future monarchs will still have to pledge to support Christianity as the state religion, whatever they may personally think.

The legal system

No one denies that the British system of law and justice was originally developed on the basis of God's law as revealed in the Bible.

The original system goes back to the Christian king Alfred the Great who collated existing Wessex and Mercian laws and blended in the moral tenets found in the Biblical Mosaic Law.

Henry II institutionalised common law, that had been based on county courts presided over by the diocesan bishop and the sheriff, by creating a national standard system. Biblical principles held great sway in this, indeed bishops retained considerable power in the legal system.

This system was opposed to the older Roman civil laws, which developed into the European system. However, Roman civil law did have some influence upon British laws.

This continued until Parliament acquired legislative powers to create statutory laws, established on the foundation of historical common law, based upon precedent by judges. From that point there were two layers in English law: common law precedents and parliamentary statutes.

The further development of British law and jurisprudence (the theory or philosophy of law) is complex, but the fact remains that English law is essentially based upon God's law as revealed in the Bible.

Magna Carta

This famous charter, determined by nobles to constrain any tyrannical power of a king, is shot through with Christian principles. It was a charter of liberty and political rights obtained from King John of England by his rebellious barons at Runnymede in 1215, which came to be seen as the seminal document of English constitutional practice.

The calendar

The chief holiday seasons in the UK year are based upon Christian festivals (Christmas, Easter). Less important seasonal festivals are also Christian in origin (such as Harvest Festival, which was originated by an Anglican vicar about 200 years ago).

Certain days are highlighted with Christian themes throughout the year, such as Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Whitsuntide, the Epiphany, Advent, Christmas Day, All Saints Day, various saints days and so on.

The BBC

The BBC was founded on the basis of Christian moral principles and for decades each night programmes ended with a Christian monologue of some sort (the 'epilogue'). The first Director-General of the BBC, John Reith, adopted rather prudish dictatorial methods, based on Christian principles, even insisting that a divorced person should be sacked.

Blasphemy laws

In the UK, the blasphemy laws for centuries only applied to slanders against Christianity. Blasphemy against the God of the Bible was a criminal offence until 2008. Witchcraft was a criminal offence until repealed in 1951.

Evolution

Many will be surprised, since the media constantly tries to bombard people with evolutionary brainwashing, that more than half of the population believes in Creationism.

Conclusion

There is no doubt that the media / government / education systems driven animosity towards historic Christianity is trying to subvert traditional mores and standards in this country on the basis of a plea for tolerance. In fact what occurs is less tolerance and bitter division.

What this subversion cannot deny is that Christianity is the historical basis of English culture, education, government, law, religion, monarchy, Parliament, judiciary, the calendar, charity, hospitals, orphanages and almost everything that sane people hold dear about Britain. If you destroy Christianity, you destroy Britain.

People need to become aware that the severe changes occurring in the culture and laws of the UK today are really about making war on Christianity.

Why legalise abortions? Because Christians hold that all life, including a foetus, is sacrosanct. The government says that it is about giving a woman freedom of choice to be able to do what she chooses with her body, even if it means murder of an unborn but real baby. The result: destruction of the sanctity of life.

Why legislate Gay marriages? It is because marriage is held by Christians as sacrosanct between a man and a woman in order to procreate and provide a secure family home. The government says it is to give rights and freedom to homosexuals. The result: destruction of the sanctity of marriage.

Why legislate various anti-discrimination laws. It is so that Christians can be restricted from performing various expressions of free speech, such as preaching the Gospel to mixed races and homosexuals. The government says that it is to secure the rights of homosexuals and prevent racial discrimination. The result: destruction of free speech; hindrance or forbidding of Gospel preaching, and restrictions on businesses.³⁴

Why such a strong affirmation of the theory of evolution in schools, colleges and the media in general, as well as restrictive government policies in certain institutions?³⁵ It is to try to destroy the belief in God as Creator who holds man accountable to him and to suggest that the Bible is a lie. The government says that it is being scientific. The result: the denigration of Christian teaching and Scripture.

We could go on and on. The EU considers Evangelical Christians to be a cult and to warrant suspicion. In America Christians are already under threat by the Federal Government as being targets for breeches of Homeland Security and the Patriot Acts. Christians are already being imprisoned for preaching the Gospel peacefully in both America and Britain. What was once seen as worthy of national heroes is now outlawed.³⁶

We are on the verges of outright persecution of Christians in the west. This will come as God foretold. However, this paper seeks to show you that it is entirely hypocritical of governments to do this. Britain was built on Christianity.

³⁴ Such as prosecuting people who refuse to allow homosexuals in their home, which is run as a B and B.

³⁵ Such as forbidding the teaching of Creationism in science classes.

³⁶ Both in America and in Britain Gospel preachers (before the age of television) were adulated and lionised by society. The high and the mighty went to hear Spurgeon or DL Moody and Gospel sermons were syndicated in national newspapers.

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