

PRELIMS. I heard a sermon this week from an American preacher, speaking on Predestination, God's choice of people **before** they were born. I believe everything He said was correct and accurate and very Biblical. But there was **no application** whatever! He stopped the sermon as soon as he finished outlining the doctrine! No call to duty or responsibility! No 'What does that **mean** for us?' 'What are we supposed to **do** about our future?' 'How can we get to heaven?'

Now, this week has been dominated by the riots in London and major cities in England. Its been quite a few weeks - **Phone Hacking** + the **Norwegian massacre** + the **Economy** + now the **Riots!** All very **serious** events - and very **puzzling** for some people! Parliament was recalled to deal with the crisis! Many ask what has **gone wrong?** And more importantly, what's the **solution?** It was a **relief**, and cause for **thankfulness** that the **whole House of Commons** was in **agreement** that the riots were **not acceptable** and were **inexcusable!**

The riots, of course were **not** the **first** crisis that we in the UK have had and we are sure it will not be the last! But we not only need a **proper diagnosis** of what went wrong, but it is vital we find the **solution!** Because it **will** happen again! **Thankfully**, God has spoken on this subject of **rebellion/chaos** - and, unlike the preacher I heard, He **HAS GIVEN** us an **answer**, He **has** given us a **SOLUTION!**

The PRESENT CHAOS and PSALM 78

Israel, God's covenant people, had received one blessing after another, and forgiveness after forgiveness - yet we read several times in this psalm alone *they rebelled + they sinned still more against Him!!* They were a **stubborn and rebellious generation** [8]

One newspaper headline, for me, put it well 'Years of **liberal dogma** have **spawned a generation** of amoral, uneducated, unparented, welfare dependent brutalised youngsters' [Mail 10 Aug 11].

Notice: **Spawned a generation!! YEARS** of **liberal dogma!** The problem has come about over the years - a 3 or 4 **generation job!**

Our present generation of young folk have come to **think/believe** it is **ok** to desecrate property. Manchester youths: 'I'm not going to miss this chance to get stuff **for free**' + 'I'll **keep doing** this every day until I get **caught**. When I get home **nothing** is going to happen to me'! There was no **moral restraint**, far less **self-restraint**! The **attitude** to other people's property!! Just **NO RESPONSIBILITY**! One young girl looter told a BBC reporter 'it showed the rich and the police 'we can do what we like! They believed it **wasn't** that **wrong**!

A generation with '**no moral compass**' to make them feel guilty or shameful'. There are **no family role models** to emulate. Many whose parents were on **drugs** and **drink** as well as the children! They came from **broken homes** where there was **no moral codes or teaching**!

And we might ask as a society, 'Where are the **EXAMPLES** of **responsibility** which our young people can look up to among the **previous** generation?' With scandal after scandal, have the **Bankers** been an example of responsibility to their investors? The **Parliamentarians** to the tax-payers? The **Press** respected privacy laws? Millions/billions of £s lost because of irresponsibilities in **HIGHER SECTORS** of society! So our young folk have no models to copy - their heroes are no examples Tiger Woods - Wayne Rooney, John Terry, Ryan Giggs, Amy Winehouse, Harry Potter actor, etc , etc

You see, **over the years**, from generation to generation, there has been a **removal** of the **values** and **ideals** and **principles** and **commandments** of God's Word! So, lets look more closely at God's Word re the **Generation Gap**! The 'gap' is the **empty space** where God's Word used to be! Hear Asaph the **instructor** (Maskil) in Israel.

He **reminds** them, that as a **generation**, they **FORGOT** something **very important** - *the glorious deeds of the Lord + the works of God* [4,11] Yes 'simple' things like God's works of **Creation/Providence/Mercy**! Forget=not re bad memory as 'to be oblivious to', to ignore!

In fact they **rebelled** against the idea of God's works - even His **kindest** works to them, ie, His **covenant**! *They did not keep God's covenant...refused to walk according to His law. They forgot His*

works and the wonders He had shown them [10,11]

Over the years, one generation did not take care to **pass on** to the next generation the **vital teachings given by GOD** - as a **trust and privilege!** That is what Asaph is recognising and saying, so...

*Give ear O my people to **my teaching** (God's law and truth) things which we have heard and known that our fathers have told us. We will **not hide** them from their children but **tell the coming generation the GLORIOUS DEEDS of the LORD**...He (God) has **established a TESTIMONY** and **appointed a LAW** which He **commanded our fathers to teach** their children that the **NEXT GENERATION**...the children yet unborn and arise and **tell them** to their children! [1-6]*

The Law of the Lord? Yes - the **TEN Commandments!** God's Law! We as a generation certainly have forgotten them! **Stealing!** What has been happening these past weeks but revelation after revelation of stealing people's investments, taxes, lives and privacy! Not to mention the **5th/6th/7th** commandments and 10th Commandment! It is amazing how **few** people in UK now know the 10 Commandments - the important Commandments is: Thou shall **not be CAUGHT!** And re the 7th command 'Be sure you have **protected sex!**

So what did **God do?** *the **anger of the Lord** rose against them [31]* Our generation (even of Xns) need to remember that God **does** get **angry!** There is a limit to God's patience - especially with His people! He chastens - very **severely** at times! He warned Israel (with forgiveness, time and time again) and then we read of **punishment** - and it was this: *He **killed the strongest of them and laid low the young men of Israel**[31]!!* We are reading in the press that the Social Services are warning **not** to deal **harshly** with the young!!

Read on: *When they **killed them, they sought Him; and REPENTED and sought God earnestly. They remembered that God was their Rock, the Most High God their REDEEMER** [34,35]* Wonderful!

My friends, God is **ALWAYS** open to repentance - even of the worst of sins and the worst of sinners! Ie, **genuine** repentance! Deep/real repentance! You see, even **then**, there was **superficial** repentances!

There were those who, taking God's grace **for granted** as they had done so much in the past. They were **not genuine**. *they flattered Him with their mouths; they lied to Him with their tongues. Their heart was not steadfast towards Him; they were not faithful to His covenant* [36,37] The generation generally, as a whole, **rebelled** against God, but there **WAS** a number who **were faithful** to God, and He, *being compassionate atoned for their iniquity & did not destroy them* [38] Instead of the whole nation, only a few, only a remnant were saved! All because they did **not faithfully pass on** the covenant/Testimony!

FOR WHAT PURPOSE were the Israelites to pass on **the Testimony**? It was **NOT** to be kill-joys! But rather for their **eternal good and happiness - so that they might set their HOPE in GOD** [7] You see, one of the great problems with those who were responsible for the destruction/chaos this past week, was that many of them had **NO HOPE!** Life was **boring!** They had nothing to look forward to. This life is all they are taught there is, and when this life is no good, then there is only death and then nothing - so they believe - so we might as well 'Do what we like'. If it gives us a 'kick', then great!

Paul went to prison because of the **HOPE of Israel!** There is **still** that hope. Israel, because of **persistent** unfaithfulness have lost the privilege of being the custodian of God's covenant - but it has been transferred to the Church of Jesus Christ! Do **YOU** have that hope? Are you **looking forward** to a **great future** in heaven with the Lord? The solution for our nation is to **REPENT** and turn to God and embrace **real/true HOPE!** And **where** can people find that...in

The **GOSPEL** of Jesus Christ is the **solution**. Listen to Paul *We always thank God...for you...because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard...in the Word of truth, the GOSPEL* [Col 1:3-5] **APP** Doesn't that inspire you to be faithful - to think of what is **laid up for you in heaven?** What a wonderful **promise** to the very **type of people** who have been in the news this week: *and you who ONCE WERE alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, He has NOW RECONCILED....if indeed you continue in the faith...not shifting from the HOPE of the GOSPEL* [Col 1:21=23]