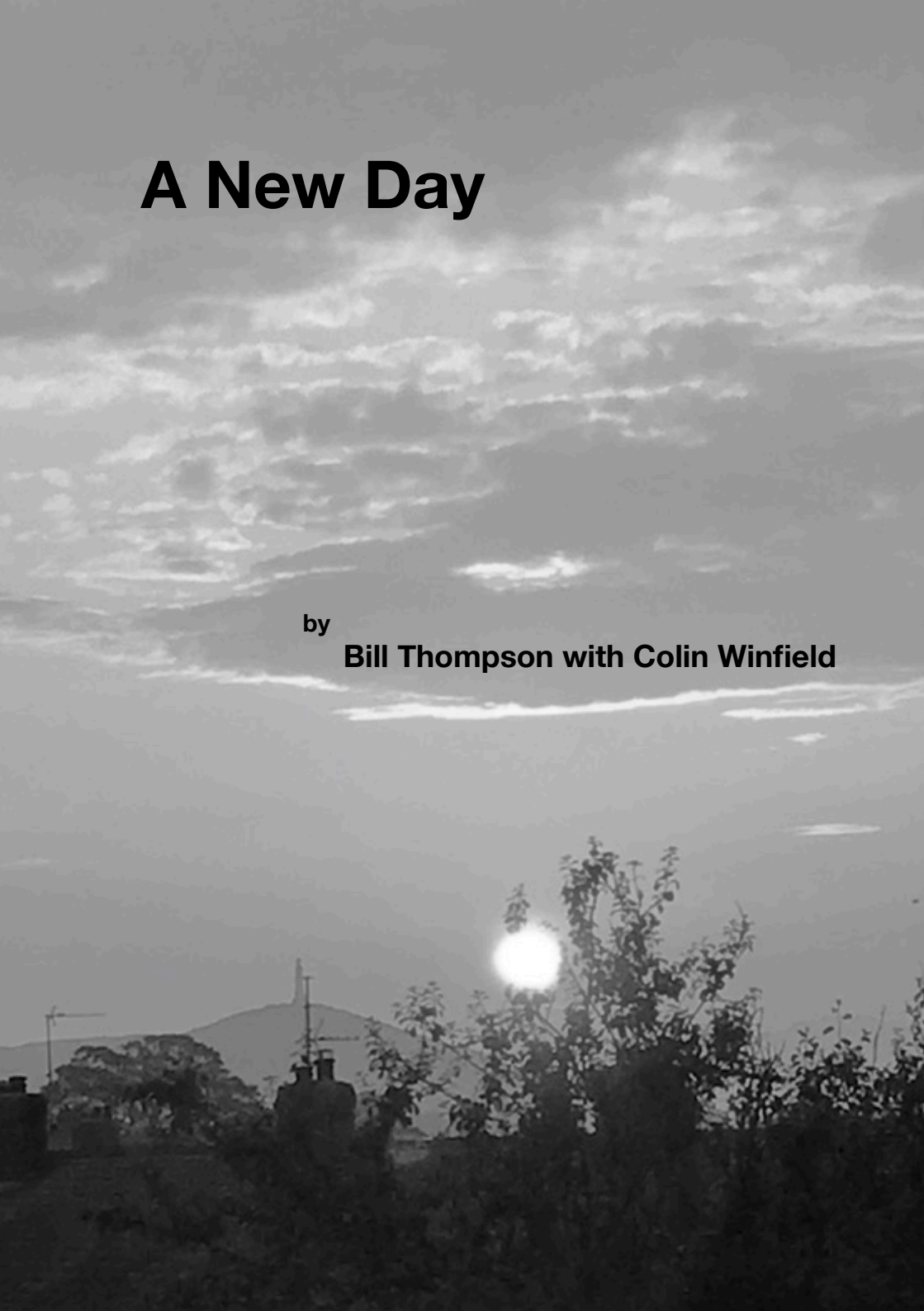


# A New Day

by

**Bill Thompson with Colin Winfield**





# A NEW DAY

## Introduction

This booklet is about a writing by the late Bill Thompson of Carlisle. Bill was one of the early members of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International in the UK. A Saville Row tailor by profession, he is mentioned in the book, 'The Happiest People On Earth', which tells the story of this Fellowship that was instrumental in the start of the Charismatic Renewal that became the name for a move of God which came to Britain in the 1970's.

'A New Day' gives a prophetic description of how Bill understood what the true church should be like. In its day this message was perhaps revolutionary, and certainly quite different to how many were hoping that the denominational churches could be changed.

Within its pages lie an insight that is still pertinent today when we still look for the true church to arise, and still wonder what it might look like in the final days of this age.

Back in the 1980's, what Bill shares in these pages we began to understand and realise was what the Holy Spirit was saying; to not only understand the errors that had brought the denominations into being, but understand something of the practicality of the true church being an organism, not an organisation, and which should be under the true, and only Headship of the Lord Jesus Christ, not under the headship of men, but rather with every member led by and taught by the Holy Spirit. I believe this writing still has much to say to us.

Colin Winfield - 2020

# **A New Day**

by

**Bill Thompson**

The dawn of each new day is preceded by great darkness. The saying goes, "It is always the blackest before the dawn." This in some way depicts the history of the people of God. The pattern has repeated itself many times over. For example, there is a record of God's people in Egypt suffering hardship under harsh taskmasters. But after many years of bondage the day dawned when God with a strong hand and a mighty arm delivered them. Their powerful enemies were destroyed in the Red Sea. They became a free people. Their history, however, does not read as a steady progress to fulfil all that God had in mind for them, but rather alternating between years of enjoying God's blessing upon them and of falling away into sin and the awful consequences of their rebellion against God.

The history of the people of God after Pentecost is very similar. It all began with outstanding growth and development during the first years after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. However, the history of the rise and decline of the Church is well known. There have been many dark periods as well as periods of great revival. The day in which we live is a very interesting one indeed. On the one hand there are ominous signs of great crisis, but at the same time, encouraging signs of a worldwide outpouring of God's Spirit bringing hope and revival to many hearts.

Not all agree as to what the future has in store for the people of God. There are many who are predicting that we are at the end of the present dispensation. They see a coming of the wrath of God upon the nations. They point to an amazing sight of the

resurrection of the natural stock of Abraham in Palestine. The nation of Israel in the Land of Promise is once more an established fact. They predict the gathering of armies to this focal point in the earth and the ultimate attempt to exterminate the Jewish people again. They are predicting the final Battle of Armageddon. For the Jews they see a time of great persecution and bloodshed, but eventually, coming to their rescue and salvation, is their Messiah.

These prophets in the church, while declaring disaster for Israel and the rest of the world, have a different word for the people of God. The message they give to the Church is, "Look up... your redemption draweth nigh." The only ray of hope in these days of worldwide collapse and disintegration is 'The Rapture'. They predict that the Church will escape the final days of disintegration by being caught up to meet the Lord in the air.

It is true that darkness and disaster are not only being declared by prophets in the Church, but men in all walks of life are fearful. Many are filled with despair as to the future. Their hearts are failing them for fear. In a great measure there is a unanimity of thought across the board that we are heading for days of great darkness and calamity. Many see that great changes are to take place; some even see the collapse of Western civilisation as we know it, and the development of the Third World. But there is a divergence of opinion amongst the people who acknowledge the Lordship of Christ. All do not agree that the only hope is the 'Rapture' - the catching away of the Church out of the appalling disasters which are to come upon the earth. There are a growing number who interpret the signs of the times quite differently.

In the midst of the present darkness and evil there are many encouraging signs. There are worldwide indications that once again God is pouring out His Spirit upon His people. There is a fulfilment of the prophesy of Joel which was quoted by Peter on

the Day of Pentecost. Once again it can be truly declared. “This is that.... I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh.” It is very important however, to interpret aright the purpose behind the “outpouring”. Some see that the great final purpose left for the people of God is to get as many people saved as possible. By that they mean a personal soul-salvation so that they will be able to participate in the ‘Rapture’ and so escape the certain judgment that is coming. However, not all are agreed that this is the only purpose of the Church at this hour.

As a parallel, we can compare the darkness of today to the darkness preceding the coming of Jesus Christ, God’s Son in the flesh. In the darkness prior to His coming the prophet proclaimed, “Repent, the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

The majority, including the prophet, expected that the coming of the King meant the overthrow of the Roman yoke and the establishment of the Kingdom of Israel. John, perplexed at what Jesus was doing, said, “Art Thou He that should come, or look we for another?” The disciples asked, “Will you at this time restore the Kingdom to Israel?”

The message and charter of the Kingdom in Matthew 5, 6 and 7 was not fully appreciated as it was given by the King on the mount: “Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.” We are living at a time which has great similarity to the first coming of Christ.

What, then, is the alternative viewpoint concerning the purpose of the present outpouring of God’s Spirit? It surely is, firstly, to prepare the people of God, the Church, for the serious days that lie ahead of us, and to strengthen and revitalise us so that we can have a “voice” in the earth, to declare with great confidence that the King is reigning in our midst; that we are a people living under divine authority and protection; that righteousness is

manifestly seen to be amongst us, and that because of our right relationship to God and to one another, we are a joyful and peaceful people although all around us there is decay and corruption. In other words, the vision that Ezekiel had of the Valley of Dry Bones is now taking place. The bones can, and will, live and they will stand upon their feet a mighty army, fearful with banners waving. That is the alternative vision which is being declared today in contrast to the hope of the 'Rapture', which is the only hope that many Christians have today. It is one thing to have a vision such as given by Ezekiel, but it is another thing to interpret the voice of the Spirit aright as He speaks to His people to bring such a vision into actual being.

## **THE CHURCH OF THE FUTURE**

There are a growing number who interpret the present outpouring of the Spirit as not only a preparation which will enable the Church to endure the calamities which are being forecast, but to bring together the people of God into a collective force under God that can speak with authority and actually be the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world". As Peter declared, "You are a chosen generation; a royal priesthood; an holy nation; a peculiar people, that ye should shew forth the praise of Him Who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light."

The Church has still its final role to play in the earth before the King returns. Not only has the message of, "Repent, the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand," to be declared again as in John's day, but the Church has to be a manifestation of that Kingdom, living in righteousness, and thereby enjoying the fruits of righteousness - peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Just as Queen Esther was raised up by God at a crucial moment, so the Church is being prepared “for such a time as this.” Let us therefore consider what the Spirit is saying to the Church to enable the vision to become a reality.

“If the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself for the battle.” There are many voices sounding forth today and words are coming to the surface which are taking on new meaning: ‘Renewal’, ‘Restoration’, ‘Submission’, ‘Discipleship’, ‘Authority’. The trumpet is sounding. It is well to examine the sound of the trumpet. In a brief sketch of the 2,000 years since Pentecost we see periods of triumph and victory for the people of God, and also times of great declension and failure and weakness. Each period of darkness has been interrupted and broken by a flash of light, recapturing a truth that had been lost in the darkness. The evolution of what is known as the ‘Denominational System’ gives an outline sketch of this fact.

Each denomination came into being, not as a denomination, but as a torchbearer or herald of some truth that had become obscure. E.g. Luther proclaimed the truth, “justification by faith, not of works”; the Wesley brothers proclaimed the truth of holiness and sanctification; the Quakers, the authority of the Spirit of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit; the Brethren, the priesthood of all believers; the Pentecostals, the recovery of the gifts of the Spirit. The list is not by any means a comprehensive one. Each trumpet sound was not acclaimed by all with joy, but quite often bitterly opposed - hence, the splintering off into denominations to preserve the truth and to proclaim it. There are even at this moment indications of a regrouping forming out of the present outpouring of the Spirit. The words ‘discipling’ and ‘authority’ are being discussed at great length. All unanimously agree that another denomination would be a tragedy.



When will the pattern of the past be broken or changed? Surely this is the challenge of this very hour. It would appear that the beginning of the sad history began around the early century, say approximately 300 A.D. It was then found to be desirable, even considered essential, for the establishment of an organisation. The early years had been so productive and fruitful. The church had become so big it needed to be organised. There is, of course, the wide acceptance in theory that the church is a living organism and not an organisation. However, we still continue to organise. The answer to this dilemma, I believe, is the key to solve the problem of the function of the church amongst the nations of the world.

The institutional church today expresses its life and authority in a very similar way to that of an organisation or business. Its government is that of an hierarchical system. A company of high priests, bishops and local priests who rule the church. Just at this time this institutional system is experiencing great difficulty. There is a failure to recruit suitable men for the ministry. Church membership is severely declining. Yet in the midst of these difficulties there is a significant movement at the “grass roots level”. This clearly confirms the fact that the church is a living organism. Even if the “system” begins to fail, the ‘life’ is sure to break out from the roots. A significant manifestation of this in our day is the universal movement of the Spirit which men have labelled, the ‘Charismatic Movement’. Many, many thousands have been influenced all over the world by the present-day outpouring of the Spirit. In a large measure the thrust of the break-out has come from the grass roots level and not from the leadership at the top.

For many this is giving a new hope for the renewal of the institutional church. A number of people, however, feel that this move of God’s Spirit is to bring a new concept of church government and authority. Quite a number of people have been

led to meet in homes and halls, and some of these groups have no connection with any denominational system. Nearly all who are in any way involved in this move of God's Spirit are anxious to recapture the fervour and the freedom of the early church Christians. Community and commitment are once again being practised by many Christians. A phrase often used amongst the groups is 'Body Ministry'. This is a real attempt to interpret the practical outworking of the truth that the church is a "living organism". Paul often writes in his epistles concerning the human body and likens it to the 'body of Christ' - one body but many members.

The present move of God's Spirit is no doubt bringing a oneness amongst Christians which has not existed for some time. Roman Catholics and Protestants are meeting to worship and pray together. Some are even active members of Christian Communities, sharing their lives together. Some are even partaking together of the bread and wine celebrating in Holy Communion the glories of Christ's death and the fact that there is only one loaf, one body. Some ten years ago these things would have been thought impossible. The church, which is His body, is taking on a new meaning.

Many people, as a result of all these things are seeking to discover how the early Christians functioned. How did the church operate during, say, the first 200 years of its life? Many believe it resembled much more a living organism than a well organised structure.

It is very hard for us to free ourselves from the concept we have been cradled in, but many today, with the help of the Holy Spirit, are asking themselves what the Bible has to say about the body of Christ. How does it express its life? How does it function? The secret of the living organism is that its life is in God. Every individual member of the body has a direct contact with the

Head and derives its life and energy from Him. We have all been made to drink of that one Spirit. We have all received the Spirit of adoption whereby we cry, "Abba Father". Life not only depends upon contact with the Head, but each member of the Body depends upon other members in order that the body functions correctly. We see the importance of each individual. The Bible declares, "Each member is a member in particular," and that God has placed each person in the body where it pleases Him.

The health and effectiveness of the body depends upon the harmonious relationship of each member to the other, as well as the harmonious relationship to the Head. There are "many members, but only one body", and the body ministers to itself in love. As in the human body, each member does not function in the same manner. In fact, it would appear that some members are more important - the hand, the ear, the eye, the tongue, and so on. But never is one independent of the other. The foot never says to the eye, "I have no need of you". It is only when all members work harmoniously together that you can say you have a "body".

Paul, writing in the Ephesian letter, mentions gifts of men, such as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Here is a list of important members in the body. There are other gifted members mentioned in other parts of the Bible. However, this list in Ephesians is certainly a very important one. These men represent the extended ministry of Jesus Christ, when He was on earth, He certainly was the perfect Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher. The purpose of these ministries is to serve the body in such a way that the body grows, develops and becomes mature. While it is true that the purpose of these special ministries is to serve the body, they also have great authority. The power and authority is in the anointing upon them as they declare the counsel of God. However, they must

also be an example - power not only manifest in word but in deed.

One final act of Jesus recorded in John 13 is the moving story of Him taking a towel and washing the disciples' feet. "You call me Lord and Master, and you do well, for so I am." Even so, in taking the towel He declared, "I have left you an example." The true role of these important ministries is that of a servant, not a master

We have to remember that the body of Christ and its divine function in no way resembles that of business or organisation. The present organisational systems which control the institutional church quite often militate against the whole concept of the living organism of the body of Christ. Does this mean then that the body has no members whose function in the body is to exercise authority? The Bible declares that some are to "rule" the house of God. These specific members are called "elders". (But these words require correct understanding and correct translation. This 'rule' is not by virtue of position, but by persuasion, as in a family. The authority is also, not by virtue of position, but in speaking the word of God that the hearer can recognise as the voice of the Spirit. Elders, are not to be controlling elders, therefore, but older brothers ministering in love for the benefit and welfare of their kinfolk, as in a family.)

The qualifications of an elder are clearly spelled out. There is a change in the choice of words. The Ephesians letter speaks of the "Gift of the ascended Lord" - "Gifted men". Whereas the letter to Timothy, speaking of "Elders" gives a list of qualifications. The authority of those who are in this office doing the ministry of Jesus Christ in serving the body in both word and deed. The authority of an elder is linked with his relationship to his wife and family, his sobriety and ability to rule his own house well.

This rule in the house of God is that of a father-and-children relationship. It must never be that of a master-and-servant relationship. It must never be overbearing. The picture of an elder is one who shows deep concern and love for his wife and family, not shirking responsibility, willing to correct, but always motivated by love.

There are many references in the Bible to God's dealings with His people as a family. In fact, the intimate relationship between the man and his wife is spoken of as that of the mystical union between Christ and His Bride, the Church.

The family is the basic unit from which the building of God's house is constructed. It may be difficult to appreciate how vital this is when firmly fixed in our minds is the present structure of denominational churches with a pastor or priest over a company of 100 - 1,500 people. Nevertheless, in view of the necessity to discover how the living organism of the early church operated, it is essential to develop the theme of the family.

There is an urgent need for a great improvement in relationship between the husband and wife, and parents and children, because elders are formed in the family. True and godly elders are one of the desperate needs today within the body of Christ.

Once these two offices are clearly seen operating in love then a mutual recognition and submission can be developed which will result in the strengthening of the body of Christ.

The practical outworking of their recognition can only be possible as we appreciate the concept of the New Testament truth of the local church - in other words, the church representing a town or city or village. For instance, in any town there will be many manifestations of the church. These will be

small groups. It is essential for the church to meet in intimate groups as well as any large gatherings. Both have their part to play in the life of the church.

The small groups will be based on a family, and to this family would be attracted other families and single people. The discipline and protection provided would be that of an 'elder brother or sister'. Each unit should be kept small so as to preserve intimacy.

A town would have many of these groups in happy and good relationship with one another. These groups would be considered as cell formations, capable of reproducing. There would be quite a variation of style and development of each of the groups. Uniformity would not be good, but rather the preservation of unity and love whilst allowing variety. The elders of each group might meet from time to time to share and fellowship together. Eventually, out of the maturing of elders, would emerge the elders in the town.

These elders would have the responsibility of caring for and guarding the church in the town. The gifted "ministries" in the town would circulate between groups and also between other towns and even abroad. The "minister" would be free to proclaim the "Word of the Lord". He must, primarily, be responsible to God. If, however his "Word" is not altogether acceptable to any group, he must rely upon the ministry given to him of God to do His penetrating work in the heart of his hearers. He must be patient and allow for the Holy Spirit to witness to the hearts of others.

The loving relationship between the ministries, eldership and the local body is the key to the healthy building of the body of Christ. True and godly eldership can be likened to the pillars in the building of God as this reality unfolds.

The freedom to proclaim the whole counsel of God must at all costs be preserved. Also, the responsibility of the eldership must be recognised and never dictated to. The results of this cell formation will be the production of good responsible elders, the development of strong and healthy families. The church will become a self-producing family, knit together in love, capable of standing against the wiles of the devil.

There are many today who look forward with hope to the new day which is dawning. The darkness preceding this may well turn out to be the shaking which is spoken of in Hebrews 12:26-27 which foretells of God shaking not only the heavens but also the earth that only His Kingdom might remain.

Let us see to it that we do not seek to strengthen organisations which, when the shaking comes will not be able to stand, but let us rather strengthen those things which cannot be shaken. The words of Jesus today are as true as ever - "I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

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## **Conclusion**

Bill's writing, a New Day, was written in the 1980's, shortly after the so called 'Charismatic Renewal' reached the United Kingdom. Those who were part of, and witnesses to this move of God, were in no doubt that God was at work, moving by His Spirit. Unlike other moves of God over previous centuries, that Bill mentions, this move of God seemed to be taking place within the denominations, not outside them. There was an expectation that God could put wine even into stone cathedrals, contrary to the scripture that declares that you cannot put wine

into old wineskins, (see Matthew 9:14–17, Mark 2:21–22, and Luke 5:33–39)

What Bill addressed in this writing, however, pointed to a different possibility, pointing prophetically to the move of God that would be seen at the very end of the age, in what Bill describes as a time of coming darkness.

What was happening in that day when Bill wrote his booklet was thought by many to be the beginning of the last move of God before the return of the Lord, after all it was a true move of God accompanied by many miracles. But even the most mature at that time were still in infancy, and the church corporate still contained a mixture of true and false, truth and error. Soon false signs and wonders appeared amongst the true. The love and unity that was very much part of those wonderful early days of that move of God soon began to fade.

As newly Spirit-filled Christians experienced this sad reality many left whatever group they were part of to start or join something new, not realising that the mixture was still within themselves!

This reality by no means denies the prophetic aspect of Bill's writing. Indeed, what Bill wrote was used to begin to open our eyes why things were as they were, and point to a further horizon that could now be seen by those who had eyes to see.

At the time I was given a copy of this writing in the 1980's I was a National Director of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International, in the UK. Along with other members of the Fellowship here in the North West of England, we began to seek the Lord as to the reason why, what had so obviously begun in the Spirit, was beginning to wane.



This writing of Bill's was one of many ways our understanding began to be opened so we could hear the answer to our question as to why that move of God was slowly dissipating.

What the Holy Spirit began to show us was that much of what we understood about 'Church' was just not scriptural. We were driven to study the scriptures and check our own hearts.

Before we were able to fully repent, as 1992 drew to a close a brother in our midst asked if he could share with us a revelation he had received from the Lord. So it was that we met on 6th January 1993 to let our brother share what had been revealed to him by the Lord. What he unfolded and explained was that the Church was a mixture, a compromise of truth and error, and that God was beginning to separate this mixture, the Harlot from the Bride that had been mixed together for 2000 years.

We didn't immediately understand the importance of what we heard that evening, but within days, two of us who were National Directors of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship, were asked by our fellow directors to either appoint one of our fellow directors as head of the UK part of the Fellowship or else resign. This ultimatum had come about as the National Directors in the UK could not find unity as to the way ahead for the Fellowship.

Our request for us to seek the Lord and wait for the unity of the Spirit, and thereby not remove Jesus as our Head, were ignored. With this ultimatum all we could do was hug our brothers and resign as Directors.

Within weeks, this resulted in our memberships of this organisation being removed by those who were once our equals.

But before this happened, on the International scene, the Fellowship had also a division in progress! This came about

after the founder, Demos Shakarian, who was getting on in years, legally made his son, Richard, head of what had also become increasingly only an organisation of men, not an organism - part of the body of Christ under the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Soon it became evident that within the denominations division was also at work. Local churches found themselves dividing, and dividing again, with strange spirits manifesting within their meetings, that some thought were of God and others seriously questioned.

Different methods were thought up to try to rectify the obvious spiritual decline, attempts to instil life into what was obviously dying. But nothing was successful, except perhaps for just a short time.

What Bill had identified in his writing was manifest in the events that seemed to begin in late 1992.

So this writing has lain in my papers until I came across it recently after another brother from Carlisle asked me a question, "When did I consider the preparation of the end-time church had begun?"

We had recently been talking together about all we had been through and experienced over the years that had been a seeming 'preparation' for what is yet to come.

The answer to his question was, for me, quite easy, as I recalled the prophesy and vision which had been shared with us in the very first days of 1993, the revelation that God was beginning to separate the Harlot and the Bride.

After receiving that prophecy and revelation in 1993, and experienced its working out in our lives, I had sought scriptural agreement for this revelation we had received. As I sought the Lord, the Spirit began to give me an understanding of the parable of the Tares and Wheat which Jesus said would grow together until the end of the age, when, in the the time of harvest, they would be separated. Only then would the sons of the Kingdom begin to shine. It is in this parable and the parable of the Dragnet and the fish, that we find the only scriptural agreement to the prophecy we had received.

Some have sought to understand when this separation would take place but Jesus Himself explains it will be at the end of the age, at the time of harvest.

In 1993 we thought this separation would be quick but nearly thirty years have elapsed! Except for a few it has seemed that most have remained within the denominational structures. Even new fellowships and church groups have only seemed to rebuild that which they have come out of.

Meanwhile, world events have enabled us to see that the we are getting nearer to when end-time prophecies could be fulfilled, even recognising that some of these are now in progress; divisions the like of which we have not seen before with men deceived into thinking they had the means of being their own salvation.

However, these years have not been wasted, for in these intervening years the spiritual understanding of many has increased. In all this time, the expectation of the coming of the Lord has not diminished but rather increased. As we have watched world events, the nation of Israel, and the state of what goes by the name of 'Church', the fulfilment of prophecy that Bill could see in the 1980's is far more distinct today. It is with

hindsight that we can see the preparation of the saints for what lies ahead together with an increase in spiritual understanding as prophecy of scripture has been opened to many.

It was this thought of 'preparation' that had my brother in Carlisle, one of those who knew Bill Thompson well in those far off days, think about when this did this 'preparation' begin, and which prompted his question to me.

After I gave him my answer he explained that as he had been thinking about this time of preparation he had realised that December 31st 1992 was perhaps when this preparation began and it was this thought that had me going through my old papers as I had written about this same date many years ago. As I looked through my old papers I came across this writing of Bill Thompson's.

What I then found in my old writings were these words I had written in 1995; "I believe the countdown to the end of the age has now begun. It began on the 31st December 1992. The 'Bride' and the 'Harlot' have begun to be separated..."

In writing about our personal experience of being asked to leave the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship, I also wrote, "All this coincided with this possibly very significant date which Barry Smith wrote about in March 1989 in his book, 'Final Notice' - 'Has it occurred to you that December 31st 1992 IS THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF THE WORLD SYSTEM AS IT EXISTS TODAY?' - referring to the increased sovereignty of the European Community as the other trading frontiers were to be taken down within them etc..."

The significance of this event is perhaps not immediately obvious but we have seen since that time the manifestation, particularly portrayed by the European Union, of the Tower of

Babel. The parliament building of the European Union in Strasbourg, modelled on the Tower of Babel, and the various statues and symbols of the EU portraying Europe as the woman, Europa, from which its name derives, who in Greek Mythology rides a beast in the form of a bull representing Zeus (Satan).

In this search for global unity we see the opposition to God's separation of mankind into nations after men tried to build a tower up to heaven so as to be as God. This event in 1992 was part of man's endeavour to build again what God had destroyed in those far off days in Babylon. So it is, today we see Satan trying to coerce mankind once more into rebellion against His Creator.

This drive towards unity of European nations has continued until the United Kingdom voted to leave this union they had been coerced to join. As the finalisation of this separation is still in progress, we see divisions erupting throughout the world, kingdom against kingdom and nation against nation, with hopes of globalisation being shattered.

Denying God and His plans and purposes, men are seen to be divided all over the world, on national, political, gender and racial lines. Mystery Babylon, the Great Harlot, we see is not just religious in nature, as we might define religion, but political in nature also, as it embodies the beliefs of men that are contrary to God's word.

The battle line between Satan and the Lord that began in the Garden of Eden, we see outplayed as scripture foretells in the soon coming rise of the Antichrist which is far nearer than many might realise.

The Harlot rides the Beast, scripture tells us, but it is given over to the Beast to destroy the Harlot before the Lord returns. Many

have speculated as to the nature of the Beast, likening it to the one world system with increased control in a cashless society. Others have looked more specifically to a revived Roman Empire in the form of a confederacy of European nations, not recognising the European Union is more akin to the Harlot than the Beast.

Scripture tells us that the rise of the Antichrist will result in great tribulation such as has not occurred since there was a nation, for he has great wrath knowing his time is short. The only way of escape is to enter the Kingdom of God, that reality of where Jesus is truly our King, our one and only Master and Lord; reality that ensures we are in the Father's will and walking in His plan and purpose.

With this conflict coming to a head, how long will these days of preparation last? We see in the life of Jesus that He was prepared for His three and a half years of ministry for thirty years. Will the true Church, the body of Christ with Jesus as its Head, be similarly in preparation for thirty years before her three and a half year ministry during the great tribulation?

Are we getting near to that time Jesus told us to watch for, the abomination of desolation standing in the holy place, that would see the great tribulation begin, and end with His return to catch away His saints before He pours out His wrath upon the last wicked generation who have not repented and so entered His Kingdom?

What Bill Thompson prophetically wrote about is perhaps difficult to imagine. Our image of how the Church should be is marred by our experience of the corporate gatherings we have experienced. But Bill Thompson describes a little of how the true Church should be, a many membered body with Jesus Christ as Her head, each member led and taught by the Holy Spirit who is

in them, each member laying down their lives even unto death that others might also be saved from the wrath to come.

This was what Bill Thompson was talking about. The 'New Day' that will lead to the Day of the Lord that will ultimately see His Kingdom coming upon earth as it is in heaven. But not before His Kingdom is manifest in His true Church, those who are the sons of God.

Colin Winfield - 2020

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