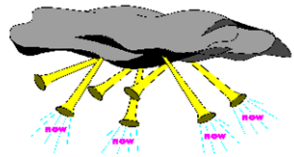
TRUMPET SOUNDS



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"And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to fulfil His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled." Revelation 17: 16, 17

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Towards the End

Where are we on God's prophetic time line? I would place us at Revelation 17:16, 17. The harlot, to which these verses refer, is the kingdom of this world. In our time it is represented by what we call, 'the West'. Europe and America have led the way in building the modern world. They are the prime source of the technical developments which have catapulted the world into an era of unrivalled prosperity. The nations of the world have gown rich through trading with her. They will weep when she is finally overthrown (Revelation 18).

Islamic Supremacy

There is a concerted campaign in progress to undermine and destroy the West.

Under the heading, **"The trillion-dollar campaign to conquer the West"**, Melanie Phillips writes:

> "The Islamists are playing the longest civilisational war game in the world. More and more information is surfacing to reveal that the Islamic holy war against the West isn't just being waged on the battleground of the Middle East.

Even more significantly, it's also being waged through a trillion-dollar influence campaign to colonise and subvert the Western mind, organised by extremists from the Islamic world.

These have tunnelled into the West through a vast civic infrastructure whose real purpose and sources of funding have been as well concealed, and in their own way are just as deadly, as the subterranean genocide factories in Gaza and Lebanon.

To those with eyes to see, it was obvious from the start that the hate marches springing into existence after October 7, 2023, even while the Hamas-led atrocities were still going on, weren't spontaneous protests against Israel.

They were instead a globally co-ordinated campaign to turn gullible Westerners into the unwitting army of Islamic jihad through support for the Palestinian cause.

An important new report by 'NGO Monitor' shows that this post-October 7 protest infrastructure in Britain has used the signature liberal causes of humanitarianism and human rights to launder the Islamic jihad against the West".

Self-Destruction

To the Islamic threat we can add the West's own desire for self-destruction. The United Nations Agenda 2030 sets out 17 sustainability goals. On the surface the agenda seems commendable. Who can disagree with aims such as the eradication of poverty and hunger, the provision of access to education and health care coupled with global peace and justice. It sounds like the millennial reign of Christ, but it's not.

The global economy will go through a crisis which will lead to its collapse. The solution is already waiting in the wings. It is called Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). It will be offered as a way out of the financial chaos providing value, security and convenience, but behind it is the potential for control.

Joshua Philpp writes under the heading, **Debanking Is the New World Gulag**:

"Imagine a world where political prisons no longer exist. Abusive regimes no longer need frozen gulags. Re-education through labor is a distant memory. But tyranny isn't gone; it's pervasive, everywhere. Mass surveillance keeps tabs on you, from roadside cameras, to online trackers, to the phone in your pocket. You hesitate to say what you think, even if it's true. You weigh your actions against social trends. What you risk by

stepping out of line is that the system itself, society as we know it, will lock you out. You can't work because you can't get paid. You can't rent a home because you can't digitize the payments. You can't buy food because cash isn't accepted, and you have no bank account.

You might say you don't believe in sci-fi dystopias like this. But you'd better start believing, because this reality is already here."

Do not Fear

The prospects of what is coming whether Islamic extremism or Globalist control could fill us with fear. How will we survive with no money, no home, no food! The Bible assures us that on the last day when we are caught up to join our Lord we will be part of a vast multitude (Revelation 7: 9, 14). Not only will a vast multitude survive, they will triumph. Satan's great plan to deceive the world and establish his kingdom will fail. For *"He that is in us is greater than he who is in the world."* 1John 4: 4. Jesus will be with us. Some will go to prison for their faith. Some will be executed for not denying their Lord. But all will be for the glory of God.

The state of the world after Christ returns

We are living in a period of rapid change. The last century has seen dramatic changes in almost every area of life. The pace of change is accelerating every year and that is not just the view of one who is getting older.

The proposition of these articles is that **even greater change is yet to come**. The first article looked at the present state of the world. As foretold in the Bible we live in a turbulent time of wars, plagues, earthquakes and famine. It is also a time of widespread deception. The second article reminded us that Jesus will return to a world in rebellion. His arrival will not be welcomed. It will be a world in which Satan will be allowed to perpetrate his final great deception causing many to believe the lie.

But now we come to **the greatest change of all, the reign of Christ.** We are accustomed to living in a corrupted fallen world. It is the only world we know. What will it be like when, *"the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea."* Habakkuk 2: 14. In this present world that is the stuff of dreams. But dreams which are founded on the solid foundation of God's word.

Then there is the promise that wars will be ended. "*He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword*

against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore." Isaiah 2:4. Imagine waking up in the morning to news which does not carry a hint of conflict. If war is mentioned it will only be in the context of how to convert redundant military hardware to peaceful uses. Corruption and scandals will no longer dominate the news because the righteous judge is incorruptible.

The people of the Kingdom

A central question with regard to the coming kingdom is who will populate this restored world? When Jesus returns all the faithful believers will come back with Him. In our resurrection bodies we are coming back to reign (Revelation 5:10). When we return our initial task will be to pick up the pieces of a shattered world.

Prior to the return of Christ, Satan will stir up rebellion. It is a desperate attempt to reassert his crumbling authority over the world. In Revelation it is described as the reign of the beast. Second Thessalonians refers to it as the apostasy under the 'man of sin'. God allows this rebellion *"that they may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness" 2 Thessalonians 2: 12.*

When Christ returns to claim His throne, Satan will incite the armies of the beast and kings of the earth to resist Him. All those who have followed the 'man of sin' to make war on Christ, will be destroyed [Revelation 19: 21]. As will those who worship the beast and his image or receive his mark. They will be subject to the wrath of God [Revelation 14: 9 -11].

Who will be left for us to reign over?

This rebellion has often been portrayed as global and absolute. If that is correct it raises the question, who will be left for us to reign over? If all have followed or worshipped the beast, all will be destroyed.

Jesus is coming back to reign over the nations [Isaiah 2: 4, 42: 1]. We will share in that rule as confirmed in the Lord's word to the church at Thyatira, *"and he who overcomes and keeps my works to the end, to him I will give power over the nations, …"* Revelation 2: 26. Therefore there will be nations and peoples who are not condemned in the judgment that falls on the beast and his followers.

Sheep and Goats

To understand this we look to one of the fundamental qualities of God, which is mercy. The deception of the 'man of sin' may be widespread and severe but many will not be taken in. Those who show mercy will receive mercy. This is I believe the interpretation of that much debated parable of the sheep and the goats found in Matthew 25: 31 - 46.

At the end of this age there will be a judgment. If there is no literal reign of Christ on earth the judgment in this parable would be the final judgment. If it is the final judgment it throws up problems for here, salvation is based on works, not faith. A tiny act of mercy will be rewarded with a ticket to heaven. This contradicts the New Testament teaching that salvation is by faith not works.

If we understand that the parable of the sheep and the goats is not the final judgment but is about who will populate the millennial kingdom, then the problem is removed. It becomes a parable about mercy.

The parable identifies three groups of people. The Sheep, who are selected because they showed compassion to 'My brethren'. The Goats, who are rejected because they had no compassion, and My Brethren.

My Brethren

Elsewhere Jesus defined His brethren as *"those who hear the word of God and do it". Luke 8: 21.*

'My brethren' will stand out as a distinct group because by this time they have received their resurrection bodies. They have been judged and found worthy. Those who are part of the first resurrection are described as blessed and holy. The second death has no power over them and they are not part of this judgment.

The Sheep and the Goats

The sheep are those who showed mercy. In the brethren's time of need the sheep had compassion on them. The reward for mercy is to be shown mercy. The goats however showed no compassion. They followed the beast in his persecution of the saints. Now they follow him into everlasting punishment.

A problem many have with this interpretation is the reward given to the compassionate sheep. They are to; *"inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."* The sheep are welcomed into the kingdom of Christ on earth. If we understand that from the foundation of the world it was the intention of the Father to establish a kingdom ruled over by His beloved Son, then it can be said of this kingdom that it was prepared before the foundation of the world. On the ground of their mercy they are granted a foretaste of the eternal kingdom in which all the righteous will dwell.

If the sheep now accept the rule of Christ they will enjoy eternal life. This is not a second chance. It is prolonging their first chance because they have not died. These are the people who will make up the nations which populate the planet during the reign of Christ.

The Messiah's Reign

Psalm 72 closes with the words, *"The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended."* In his closing words King David asks for a blessing on his reign and that of his son who will follow him. As we read the Psalm it is clear that, as a prophet, David is being inspired to see beyond his own time to the reign of a future king. A king whose reign will last forever and will extend to all nations. It is a psalm which gives an insight into the kingdom which the sheep will enter during the reign of Christ.

It will be a righteous reign. People will be judged according to God's law not the arbitrary laws of man. Because of this there will be justice for the poor. The children of the needy and those who have no helper will be delivered. There will be no more violence or oppression.

Famine and starvation will not exist in Christ's kingdom. There will be an abundance of grain. Harvest will be plentiful. Creation will be restored. Worship will be continuous.

His reign will, as the psalm expresses it, lead to an abundance of peace. Isaiah picks up the theme with those well-known words, *"They shall beat their swords into plough shares and spears into pruning hooks" Isaiah 2: 4.* There will be no more war between nations.

This is the kingdom intended by God from before the foundation of the world. It is a kingdom which will last for one thousand years [Revelation 20: 4] and then, for all who gladly accept the reign of Christ, it will continue into eternity.

The enduring rebellion

Not all will gladly accept His rule. Psalm 72 states that He will have to crush the oppressor. Just as the roots of rebellion remained in the descendants of Noah so the 'good people' who inherit this kingdom will still have sin in their hearts. There will be those whose hearts are inclined to wickedness. To maintain the reign of justice and peace Jesus will have to rule with an iron rod. Of this time we read in Isaiah, *"He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked".* Isaiah 11: 4. Revelation takes this up describing the King of Kings and Lord of Lords as one who will rule the nations with a rod of iron, [Revelation 19: 15].

Many in this kingdom will pay lip service to honouring Christ. When the opportunity arises they will rebel. The rejection of Christ's rule will lead to the final judgment.

Next time we will look at some of the other benefits of Christ's reign.

Behind the Scenes

At the beginning of June President Trump is reported to have lashed out at Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over Israel's escalation in Lebanon in an expletive-laden call. "You're ******* crazy. You'd be in prison if it weren't for me. I'm saving your ass. Everyone hates Israel because of this".

Israel Today reports that things are not necessarily what they outwardly appear. "According to Middle East expert Dr. Dan Diker, security cooperation between the United States and Israel remains close and intensive. The tensions visible in public may therefore be less a sign of a rupture than part of a political game that gives both governments room to manoeuvre.

Is President Trump forsaking Israel and abandoning the goals set out at the beginning of the war? Is it a case of reality setting in? One of the initial goals was to remove the current theocratic leadership allowing the people of Iran to be free. That was the only goal which would have protected Israel's security. However the hoped for uprising by the people did not take place. They have been let down by empty promises in the past. Without a popular uprising the alternative was to put American troops on the ground to overthrow the regime. Trump is aware that the majority of people in the US will not accept that sort of military operation. Therefore he has been left with the distasteful alternative of negotiating with the remnant of the current regime.

According to the report published by Israel's i24News, Kurdish militias were preparing to launch an attack on Iran, with the aim of instigating a nationwide rebellion against the ayatollahs' tyrannical rule, when the US halted the operation due to pressure from Erdogan. If armed Kurdish Militias had intervened it would probably have encouraged a wider uprising.

What did they expect!

One of the more bizarre features of the regular anti-Israel hate marches has been the participation of people carrying placards with slogans such as 'Gays for Gaza' or 'Queers for Palestine'. These members of the LGBTQ movement see themselves as progressives. They stand for causes which in their mind represent justice and equality. Therefore they will support what they see as the oppressed people of Palestine. Do these members of the LGBTQ community not know what is likely to happen to them if they visited Gaza?

It would appear that they have no idea. Recently passengers aboard a LGBTQ themed cruise received an unexpected lesson in reality. The 'Athens to Venice' cruise on the ship named 'Scarlet Lady', departed Greece on the 5th

July. Next stop was to be the Turkish port of Kuadasi, followed by a trip to Istanbul for the 2000 passengers. Before the ship arrived in Kuadasi the event was cancelled by the local authority. They banned the ship because it was chartered by groups, in their words, “known for behaviours incompatible with the fabric of our society and our moral values”.

After this rebuff by Turkey the trip was rapidly rescheduled to call at Alexandria in Egypt. Following the example of Turkey, Egypt also banned the ship from entering its territorial waters. To be fair this was not the first such cruise. Previous sailings did not encounter any resistance. Islam’s growing confidence now allows the expression of what they really feel.

When participating in these hate marches or waving Palestinian flags at Pride events, these people need to ask, what do the people they are marching with really believe. In time Islam will reveal its true colours. They may then realise, in Lenin’s phrase, that they were being manipulated as ‘useful idiots’.

Kairos 2

This article arises from the July 2026 Synod of the Church of England debating the Kairos 2 document.

Kairos 1

I commented on the first Kairos document in April 2014 edition of Trumpet Sounds. The content of Kairos 2 is similar but much more aggressive in its false accusations.

The stated aim of Kairos 1 was to encourage the furtherance of the boycott, disinvestment and sanctions campaign and also persuade our elected representatives to cease supporting Israel.

Kairos 1 contained the following paragraph, “We call for repentance for Britain’s historic, and current, complicity in the on-going Palestinian suffering, and for those times when churches have promoted theological interpretations that support discrimination, dispossession, segregation and occupation……. occupation is “a sin against God and humanity”; we repent of apathy that allows it to continue.”

Kairos 2

From that background we come to Kairos 2. I started to go through the Kairos 2 document highlighting the falsehoods, lies, inflammatory language, unproven assertions, and Jew hatred. I gave up as most of the page was being covered in yellow pen.

Rather than go through every falsehood I quote from the opening paragraphs to give a feel of the document. The emphasis is mine

From the Introduction paragraph 2, we read; “We live now in a time of genocide, ethnic cleansing and forced displacement unfolding before the eyes of the world. This moment - a moment of truth - demands from us a new stand unlike any before it.”

Then in Part 1

1.1 “We raise this cry from the heart of the assault on Gaza — a war that has left behind hundreds of thousands of martyrs and wounded, and nearly two million displaced people. Many were buried beneath the rubble, burned alive, tortured to death in prisons or forcibly displaced more than once. Others endured starvation, targeted even as they ran in search of food. Tens of thousands of children were killed in the most horrific ways.

1.2 The Nakba of our people is our daily reality. This genocide has been carried out by Israel after decades of apartheid, settler colonialism, political repression and the deliberate policy of killing any possibility of a political solution.

1.7 Settler colonialism, past and present, is built upon genocide, ethnic cleansing and the forced displacement of indigenous peoples - all for the sake of exploiting land, resources and wealth to serve the colonizer’s gain

1.8 In Jerusalem, clear settler-colonial policies of a religious and demographic nature seek to Judaize the city at the expense of its pluralism. There are continuous assaults on Muslim and Christian holy sites, attempts to burn churches, desecrate and destroy cemeteries, and the writing of racist graffiti slogans upon them. Attacks on Christian clergy are increasing, as are restrictions on Christian religious celebrations such as Palm Sunday and the Holy Fire Saturday. Financial coercion, through the imposition of taxes and the freezing of church bank accounts - in violation of the “status quo” - has also intensified. The Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem have described these acts as part of a systematic policy to empty the Holy Land of its Christians.

1.17 We affirm, as Palestinians of all faiths, that we are **the indigenous people** of this land and that our very existence today faces an unprecedented threat.

1.22 In light of all this, we must call things by their proper names: Israel is a colonial, settler, and exclusionary entity built upon the displacement of the indigenous population and its replacement with new settlers. For this reason, we reject the very concept of “conflict.” The reality on the ground is tyranny and an

oppressive regime of settler colonialism and apartheid. Any denial of this reality is an evasion of manifest truth — one that reinforces and perpetuates the injustice."

Worst of all is paragraph 3.7

"We reject the oppression and injustice produced by the theology of racism, colonialism and ethnic supremacy embodied in Christian Zionism, a theology that has produced apartheid, ethnic cleansing and genocide of indigenous people. Christian Zionism calls on a tribal, racist god of war and ethnic cleansing, teachings utterly alien to the core of Christian faith and ethics. Christian Zionism must therefore be named for what it is: a theological distortion and a moral corruption. After all efforts to invite Christian Zionists to genuine repentance have been exhausted, moral, ecclesial and theological responsibility requires that they be held accountable and that their ideology be rejected and boycotted. The time has come for the churches of the world to repudiate Zionist theology and to state clearly their position on Palestine: this is a case of settler colonialism and ethnic cleansing of an indigenous people."

The above paragraph is so shocking that it is very difficult to know where to start. To sum it up Christian Zionists are evil people who need to be held to account and if not repentant, rejected and boycotted. Does the Archbishop, who presented the document to Synod, believe that? If so there is no longer any place within the Church of England for those who support Israel

Towards the End

This hostility to true followers of Christ is a foretaste of what is to come in the final years of this age. In those closing years we will be rejected by the compromised church, scorned as heretics and denied fellowship.

The Promised Land

The Kairos 1 and 2 repeatedly makes the claim that the Palestinians are the indigenous people of the land. On that topic I recommend my booklet 'The Promised Land'. The booklet exposes the lie that the Palestinian Arabs are the indigenous people of the land. Before the Jews arrived the land was desolate, empty and impoverished. The peasant farmers were exploited and, if they were able, abandoned the land to seek a better future elsewhere. By hard word and ingenuity the Israeli's have transformed the country into the desirable real estate it is today. The book can be read on line by using the link:

https://www.trumpetsounds.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/The-Promised-land.pdf

Kairos 2 a response

In response to Kairos 2 a group of Christian leaders launched an opposing declaration which those who disagree with Kairos are invited to sign. See link:

https://declaration-against-kairos.com/

Love Never Fails

Love Never Fails also wrote a response

https://lnf.org.uk/admin/userfiles/downloads/A-Loving-Challenge-to-Archbishop-Mullally.pdf

Melanie Phillips

A more robust dismissal of Kairos 2 came from Melanie Phillips

"Every lie that's been thrown at Israel over its war of self-defence in Gaza — starvation, ethnic cleansing, war crimes — is thrown at it here. While it includes the weaselly caveat that it doesn't justify civilian killings, it portrays opposition to Israel's existence and "resistance" — aka the killing of Jews — as an act of religious faith.

"It asserts that the Hamas atrocities in Israel on October 7 2023 were "born out of decades of injustice, oppression and displacement since the Nakba of 1948" (the war of extermination waged by the Arabs to destroy Israel at its rebirth in the Jews' ancestral homeland, but which today's would-be exterminators falsely describe as a Jewish war of colonial aggression).

"It casts Zionists — not just Jews, but also Christian Zionists — as utterly diabolical, hell-bent on violence and killing for their own sake. This echoes the blood libels by medieval Christians that incited the mass slaughter of Jews in Europe over many centuries. Yet this document presents accusations of antisemitism primarily as a tool of political manipulation.

"This document is monstrous. It stands comparison with some of the most vicious and deranged expressions of Jew-hatred that have been produced over the centuries. Just to give it serious consideration is itself an act of moral bankruptcy.

"Yet the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dame Sarah Mulally, told Synod yesterday: "This document reflects the pain and trauma of the Palestinian people." "What does that reflect about Dame Sarah Mulally? The document is a malevolent, mendacious and unhinged attack on Israel, on Zionism and thus on Judaism, casting Israel and Zionism as demonic forces and regurgitating some of the most infamous tropes of ancient Christian Jew-hatred.

Does Mulally know nothing about this terrible history of the church? Is she really so ignorant of the Middle East that she doesn't understand the first thing about the never-ending Palestinian Arab war to exterminate Israel and its strategy of demonising Zionism and the Jewish state?

Remarkably, in a previous **pastoral letter written in 2024** by Archbishop Naoum with Mulally's predecessor as Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, the two men made exactly the same claim that they feared for "the long-term future of the indigenous Christian Palestinian presence in the Holy Land that stretches back to the time when our Lord walked this land".

The identical wording is a giveaway. The lie that Palestinian Christians were indigenous to the land, and that Jesus was one of them, is a propaganda line that has been pushed by Palestinian Arab Christians for decades.

The Church of England has itself been pushing this lie for years. Hence the same boilerplate wording. Lambeth Palace just cut and paste. The only thing that's changed is the identity of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Read the whole article at:

https://melaniephillips.substack.com/p/the-unfathomable-darkness-of-the

Mullally

In the following quote Mullally demonstrates that she is both divorced from realitiy and extremely ignorant of history.

"In light of the International Court of Justice's Advisory Opinion of 2024, we urge you to advocate with political representatives to take all necessary measures to establish a credible path towards ending the occupation. This must lead to a viable two-state solution enabling Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace, dignity and security. Jerusalem's status should be determined through negotiation as a shared capital, fully respecting the religious rights of all faiths and preserving both the historic Status Quo and the Hashemite custodianship of the holy sites in Jerusalem as ratified in Article 9 of the 1994 peace treaty between Israel and Jordan". Quote from Sarah Mullally pastoral letter following her 5 day visit to Israel June 2026

A final Comment

Heading theKairos 2 report is the following statement

"We look toward the day when we shall live free in our land, together with all the inhabitants of the earth, in true peace and reconciliation — founded upon

justice and equality for all God's creation, where "mercy and truth meet, and righteousness and peace kiss each other." (Psalm 85:10)."

The context of that final quote from Psalm 85 is "His salvation is near to those who fear Him." The Biblical concept of 'the fear of the Lord' combines, awe, reverence and deep respect. When Jesus Christ reigns from Jerusalem He will receive the fear He deserves. Then Jew and Arab will live in peace. I find the fear of the Lord lacking in Kairos 2.

As a footnote; there is one truly indigenous owner of the Land. Jesus was born there, grew up there, worked there, taught and died there. Finally He rose from the dead and ascended into heaven from there. Above all Jesus claims Israel as his land (Leviticus 25: 23, etc). Only He has the true right to the Land.

What is humanity?

A New York School now employs Sally. She will teach Artificial Intelligence and robotics classes. She will also be involved in tutoring long after the school day is ended. She doesn't get tired or need sleep and food. Sally is a humanoid robot.

In the past robots were machines which were programmed to perform repetitive tasks. The new robots powered by artificial intelligence can learn, navigate unfamiliar environments, adapt, hold a conversation, recognise a face, remember previous interactions and respond naturally. A BMW factory in the US already has humanoid robots working alongside humans.

The image of man

The rise of physical AI changes far more than technology. It forces us to ask and seek an answer to one of the oldest questions: what does it truly mean to be human?

Adam and Eve were created in the image of God. Sally has been created in the image of man. She will no doubt have a vast fund of knowledge and be able to answer student's questions. She will solve problems at lightning speed and constantly be learning and adapting.

But unlike Adam and Eve she will not have a soul. No machine, no matter how convincing, possesses a soul. Sally may have programmed responses to a range of situations and appear to interact with humans and always be learning from those interactions. But there are things the soul can do which a machine cannot. A machine cannot repent, worship, love and bear moral responsibility. A wonder of creation is that we are not robots. We can form a relationship with our creator because we have been granted the ability to either love or rebel. We can genuinely choose how to respond.

Tying the Knot: Reforming wedding in England and Wales

The Ministry of Justice has published its proposed shake up of wedding law. The consultation runs until the 24th September. It is said to be the biggest shake up of wedding law in nearly 200 years. One change is the move to license officiants instead of buildings. Provided the registered officiant is present the marriage can take place anywhere. It could be on the beach, in a forest, in the pub or private home. There will be restrictions on gimmicks. Marriage while sky diving or white water rafting etc. will be ruled out.

The reforms will enable non-religious belief organisations, such as Humanists, to conduct legally binding ceremonies. It would also allow Muslims, Hindus, and other minority faiths to marry according to their religious practices without needing an additional civil ceremony.

The introduction states one objective to "strengthen the institution of marriage". The next 171 pages propose the opposite.

In the proposals the marriage ceremony is thinned down. All that is required is for the parties to say "I accept you as my husband, wife or spouse." No promise to stay faithful or to forsaking all others, no commitment to stay with spouse for better or worse.

In some religious and belief ceremonies, even that line could go. Consent could be deemed "through actions", if an officiant and witnesses "share an understanding" of it. An example is the nikah exchange. It permits a Muslim bride, veiled and silent throughout the nikah, to be married on others' account of what her gestures meant. This could take place in a private home. It will make forced marriages harder to identify. GB News found sharia-based services in Britain teach that a virgin bride's silence is "considered as implicit agreement".

Officiants will face a 'Fit and Proper' test every five years before being relicensed. We can imagine where 'Fit and Proper' will lead: a requirement to be willing to officiate at same sex weddings (godly Ministers will be ruled out).

These proposals continue the steady undermining of the institution of Marriage. We have had civil partnerships and same sex marriage. More recently in 2022, no fault divorce drained marriage vows of any legal meaning. The reason for this attack is Satan's hatred of marriage. The family under the headship of a husband (male) and wife (female) is a bulwark against his corruption. It provides the secure environment in which children can be guided to grow into responsible adults.

To help us respond to the consultation the Coalition for Marriage' has published a guide: https://www.c4m.org.uk/storage/media/47/C4M-Weddings-Consultation-Guide-2026.pdf

The IDF rules of Engagement

In an interview on Times Radio Gen. Sir John McColl, NATO's former Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, said after visiting Israel in July that the IDF's procedures under the law of armed conflict "are as strong as ours." He was accompanied by representatives from 6 other NATO countries. All on the trip had previous military experience. Sir John served with the British Army for over 40 years in a number of different conflicts.

Asked if he was accompanied the entire time by the IDF he answered "no we were not". Most of the time we had civilian hosts. Sir John said that he went to Gaza as a sceptic. He went there believing that there had been a reckless use of force and that the IDF approach to operations needed review. His views had been formed by what he read in the newspapers and the media commentary on the way that the war was being conducted.

The group started their tour by visiting the kibbutz and the site of the musical festival where the massacre took place. They saw the video footage of the Hamas fighters. The sheer brutality was shocking. Sir John recognised that Israel can't let that threat stand on their borders. After the reminder of the savagery of the attacks they received briefings from operational commanders who had just finished commanding in Gaza. They explained the operations which they were conducting. Operations which it is important to understand because of their complexity. They talked about suicide bombers and civilians as human shields. They spoke of booby traps while operating in densely populated areas with heavily armed and well trained enemy.

Sir John compared the complexity if the operation to what he experienced in Fallujah in 2004. The main difference is that in Gaza there are miles of underground tunnels. The difficulty of clearing the tunnels was unlike anything any of the nations represented had seen before. Fighting in such a situation forces the adaptation of the normal rules of engagement.

Asked if he was confident that the IDF would call off an operation if civilians were in danger, Sir John replied that he was confident. Not only are the IDF's operational procedures as strong as Britain's, they engage in additional precautions such as dropping leaflets warning where an attack is going to take place. They fire small munitions at the top of a building to indicate an attack is coming. The IDF has very strict investigative procedures when things go wrong.

Sir John's verdict from his visit to Gaza is that it is a highly difficult, highly complex environment where Israel is doing its level best to minimise civilian casualties.

Albania

During World War 2 the Jewish population of one NAZI occupied country grew. It became the only Nazi occupied country to finish the war with more Jews than it started. How did this come about?

The welcome to Jews began in 1933. Following Hitler's rise to power, King Zog of Albania instructed Albanian consulates in Europe to issue entry visas and passports to Jewish people seeking safety.

In April 1937 the Albanian government officially recognized the Jewish community. This ensured that Jews received full legal and religious equality.

Italy invaded Albania in April 1939 as part of Mussolini's plan to establish his own Adriatic empire. Following the invasion, King Zog fled the country for exile in Greece. The Albanian parliament agreed to Albania becoming an Italian protectorate. As the occupying power, Italy enacted basic anti-Jewish registration and restriction laws but they were weakly enforced. There was little systematic deportation of Jews to death camps during Italian Rule.

Germany took over control following the Italian armistice in September 1943. Despite the occupation local authorities and villagers repeatedly refused to hand over lists of Jewish citizens to the Axis authorities. Both Muslim and Christian families defied the German forces by hiding Jews in their homes, basements and remote mountain villages. They provided Jews with local clothing, food, Albanian names and forged documents. In this way the Jewish refugees blended in posing as farmers and shepherds.

The welcome afforded to the Jews by both government and people is, according to Albanians, due to their tradition which goes under the name of Besa. It is a code of honour which requires families to protect and shelter any guest or stranger in need even if it may jeopardize a person's own safety.

This link will take you to Yad Vashen with more information about Besa: https://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/besa/index.asp

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