

## Straining at a gnat, and swallowing a camel

Our title comes from the biblical passage of Matthew, chapter, 23 verse 24, a reproach to religious leaders, and leads us to reflect on its modern practice by a more general audience. In Western societies, many are abandoning the moral values of our Christian heritage, even to the point of opposing them. The uncalled for murder of innocent babies, and the legalization of what divine standards call abominations are widely promoted (camels). The media praises adherence to these as dissenters are mocked and ridiculed. Individuals and even corporations are being brought to task about a word, an expression used or other behaviour they have had recently or in the remote past (gnats). Perhaps it is something sounding remotely racist, anti-gay or pro-life or anything interpreted by people who have differing views from theirs. Some have lost their livelihood or positions for taking a moral stand on these issues as their convictions differ from those now made law in many countries. We notice that this trend is unidirectional, as only those holding traditional moral values are the target. These values come from God Himself to mankind, through His Word and ultimately through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, the One will be the judge in the end.

In the same light, Isaiah, the prophet speaks of making a man an offender for a word and the consequence of such in the following passage: "*For the terrible one is brought to nought, and the scorner is consumed, and all that watch for iniquity are cut off: That make a man an offender for a word, and lay a snare for him that reproves in the gate, and turn aside the just for a thing of nought*" (Isaiah 29:20-21). The prophet adds later in his oracle: "*Judgment is turned away backward, and justice stands afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. Yes, truth fails; and he that departs from evil makes himself a prey: and the LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment*". (Isaiah 59:14-15)

We read "*it displeased the Lord that there was no judgment*", indicating that, having already given the moral base for such, He holds man responsible to judge. But there will be judgment, be sure of that, but it will not be man's judging but God's. "*He has appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man whom He has ordained; whereof He has given assurance unto all men, in that He has raised Him from the dead*" (Acts 17:31). Clearly, the judge is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, the rejected One, the One most have heard of and many have now rejected.

I am convinced that we are living the last moments of God's patience with this world. The dominating trends in Western societies deny the Creator God attributing His power to evolution and also, much more perilously, the Redeemer God, ignoring the true condition of fallen man. Dear reader, ask God to make you conscious of the times we are living in. Momentarily, all that was prophesied by the Lord will come to pass. Our prayer is that you will be part of those who have accepted the truth of God and have received the great salvation the Lord Jesus Christ paid for you on the cross. Do not wait for judgment as you would assuredly be found guilty and lost forever.

Michel for Vision 2020 in 2021

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