

THE BLESSING OF SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION

My focus over recent months is that in the covenant nations the love for Almighty God is growing cold. Since the 1950s the devil's evil and unclean spirit forces are growing more insidious and destructive towards our Christian civilisations. Covenant nation Britain has been faithful in carrying out Our Lord's commands:

Matthew 28:18-19: "Then Jesus came to them and said, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Britain **has** done this for over 400 years – taking the Gospel and

Empire to all covenant nations and many territories. Jesus predicted this:

Matthew 24:12-14: "Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

It is on my heart thus to focus on spiritual perception. I remember a true report* on perception:

"In Washington, DC, at a Metro station in 2007, a man with a violin played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time approximately 2,000 people went through the station, most of them on their way to work. After about

3 minutes, a middle-aged man noticed that there was a musician playing. He slowed, stopped for a few seconds, and then hurried on to meet his schedule.

About 4 minutes later the violinist received his first dollar. A woman threw money in the hat and continued to walk. **At 6 minutes** a young man leaned against the wall to listen, then looked at his watch and started to walk again.

At 10 minutes a 3-year-old boy stopped but his mother tugged him along hurriedly. **At 45 minutes** the musician played continuously. Only 6 people stopped and listened for a short while. About 20 gave money but continued to walk at their normal pace. The man collected a total of \$32. **After 1 hour** he



finished playing. No one noticed and no one applauded. There was no recognition at all.

No one knew this, but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the greatest musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written, with a violin worth \$3.5 million. Two days before, Joshua Bell sold out a theatre in Boston where the seats averaged \$100 each to sit and listen to him play the same music.”

This is a true story. Joshua Bell, playing incognito in the DC Metro station, was organised by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about **perception, taste and people’s priorities.**

If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world, playing some of the finest music ever written, with one of the most beautiful instruments ever made...How many other things are we missing as we rush through life?

This is a wonderful article on perception – true insight. It’s all to do with knowing – with knowledge. Knowledge deals with the insight or discernment of what is certain – what is real.

Remember this wonderful truth from Jesus:

Mark 4:11-12: “He told them, The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables so that they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!”

This truth has to do with blindness – spiritual blindness. I have very

low vision. Physically I am legally blind, but I can ‘see.’ Jesus is teaching that many people can physically see but are they able to spiritually ‘see’ – that is perceive? Also, they may physically hear but do they spiritually understand? Holy Scripture has much to say about spiritual blindness.

In c. 701 BC the prophet Isaiah recorded: *“This is what the Lord says: Where is your mother’s certificate of divorce with which I sent her away? Or to which of my creditors did I sell you? Because of your sins you were sold; because of your transgressions your mother was sent away” (Isaiah 50:1).*

Almighty God sent His unfaithful people into captivity but would redeem the faithful: *“For your Maker is your husband – the Lord Almighty is his name – the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth. The Lord will call you back” (Isaiah 54:5-6).*

Jesus came to save His people now and eternally. I believe a Scripture which teaches perception and knowing is Jesus’ transfiguration – knowing His Glory: *Mark 9:2-4, 7-10: “After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ... Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him! Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what*

they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what ‘rising from the dead’ meant.”

Jesus was bringing the Old Covenant truth into the reality of the New Covenant truth about His Mission to help Peter, James and John to perceive and understand. He wanted them to overcome spiritual blindness and ‘see’ His glory. When Jesus came in His second nature – His humanity – He demonstrated His divinity but left His Glory aside. Now He reveals His Glory. Moses represents the Old Covenant Law – the lawgiver. Elijah represents the prophets of the Old Covenant. And now Jesus makes it clear who He is. The Apostle Paul records: *“In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven” (Hebrews 1:1-3).*

From Holy Scripture we remember that following Moses was Joshua – ‘a deliverer’ making the exodus a reality. His Hebrew name means ‘the Lord saves.’ On the mountain we see Moses standing with a ‘new deliverer,’ an eternal deliverer whose Greek name Jesus means ‘the Lord saves’ (*Matthew 1:21*). We see a new exodus by a new Joshua – Jesus Our Saviour. And we see Elijah with Moses and perceive a new Elijah.

Malachi 3:1, 4:5: “See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to