

12/5/2013. *The Babel principle, I: How to make sense of the Euro crisis*

At Babel, God divided the human race by language (Genesis 11). The only way that man is united is in sin; and wars between nations, terrible as they are, are less bad than man united in sin against God. (Also, from Babel onward, God can also use one nation to discipline another – he used the pagan Babylonians to chastise the Israelites.) We're going to find this out the hard way, for the Bible prophesies a world government – undoing Babel – perhaps in an idealistic reaction to a terrible war. Idealism (as in John Lennon's song *Imagine*) neglects sin, but sin never sleeps and a world government would be a totalitarian terror without refuge. Scripture divides humanity into two: not good and bad (for all have sinned), but the repented and the unforgiven – the church and the world. This world government will persecute the church everywhere. When it sends its forces against Israel, this triggers Jesus' return. 2000 years ago the Bible prophesied globalisation and the return of the Jewish people to the Holy Land, and for better or worse Britain has played a key role in bringing these about. Globalisation began here with the Industrial Revolution, and the 'Balfour Declaration' by our Foreign Secretary in 1917 facilitated the return of the Jews.

The EU is a spurning of the Babel principle on a smaller scale. The EU came about as a reaction to two terrible wars, but it is shifting from a set of treaties among nations into a single totalitarian entity. It comprises peoples of different language, so God means them to be distinct nations, and if they can't learn to be friends then getting married will only make things worse. Many of its people are already paying a price in the Euro currency crisis. If a rich man lends money to a poor man but it does not get the poor man out of financial distress then they are locked into an interdependency that is bad for both of them. The rich man has to decide whether to write off the money, or throw good money after bad in the hope of turning the situation round and eventually getting all his money back, while the poor man has to do what is good for the rich man rather than what is good for himself, and their interests are not identical. Because exchange rates no longer exist that can change to compensate for changes in the relative health of national economies in the Eurozone, this is happening among European nations, and it is poisoning international relations – the opposite of what was intended. How does this relate to the Babel principle? With the means of production no longer primarily agricultural, it is reasonable to expect people to move within their own language zone in order to find better employment (although land and property still comprise the main collateral for everything else). But it is inhumane and unrealistic to expect people to respond to economic forces by moving to lands with a different language, cutting them off from the local culture and their own.