

Kingdom Report

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Protestant Radicals 2.0

The movement that radically changed the world 500 years ago...is about to do it again. Alec Ryrie's new book **"Protestants: The Radicals who made the modern world."** Get ready for world changing New World Order. Here is what to look for....

I am enjoying reading Alec Ryrie's newly released book. He is an Oxford and Cambridge scholar and a professor and getting great reviews from the British establishment. Here is the back cover of his book....

"Five hundred years ago Protestant Christianity began with one stubborn monk - today it includes a billion people across the globe. The upheaval Martin Luther triggered inspired one of the most creative and destructive movements in human history, Protestants is the story of the men and women who made and remade this quarrelsome faith by demanding alarming new freedoms and experimenting in novel systems of government. Inspired by their newly accessible Bibles, they transformed their inner lives, a change that spilled over into social upheavals and political revolutions. Alec Ryrie's dazzling history explores how Protestantism's restless energy made and is still making the modern world."

Hats off to Prof. Ryrie and his fascinating 500+ plus page overview of Protestantism for two interesting conclusions:

- The Protestant revolution made the modern world!

Meaning forget about this nonsense that the roots of the modern world came out of Athens....it came out of Jerusalem! The movement that broke feudalism and created the modern world did not do it reading the Greek classics....it was Bible reading Protestant radicals who laid the foundations of the modern world. And classical scholars like Prof. Ryrie are starting to acknowledge that.

- And his last chapters "Pentecostalism: An Old Flame : Becoming a Global Faith" acknowledges that the future of the Protestant movement is Charismatic Christianity. All other expressions of the Christian faith are dying out. The Catholic church is dying. The old "mainline Protestant churches" are dying out. The only vibrant and rapidly growing expression of the Christian faith in the world today are Pentecostal, or Charismatic, or Renewal churches becoming a world wide phenomenon.

This is what he says about Africa and South America....

"In 2010 it was estimated that there were over 177 million Pentecostals in Africa spread between independent churches, classic Pentecostal denominations and charismatic movements in the old denominations. The 2010 study estimated that 47% of South Africans, 48% of Zimbabweans, and 36% of Ghanians were Pentecostals. In Nigeria the proportions were slightly lower at 30% but that still comes to 48 million people,"

About Latin America....

"Africa's total is pipped by Latin America's estimated 181 million. Many of these are charismatic Catholics, but the dramatic story of Latin American religion in the past half century is growth of Pentecostal-led Protestantism....this wave of Latin American converts (from Catholicism) is one of the most dramatic religious shifts in modern history."

Yesterday someone sent me a Youtube on Facebook of the new Australian Prime Minister leading prayers in a large Hillsong church where he is a member. On this morning news the leader in the polls for the Presidential elections coming up in Brazil is a Pentecostal with an outspoken testimony about his faith.

This is being repeated across Asia, China, Korea. A new revival in Europe as thousands of young people are meeting in arena's praising the Lord. Dramatic conversions happening all across the Islamic world.

Ok, so I don't want to belabor the point....Protestant Christianity is the world's most dynamic and growing faith system and what drives it, what is now "the mainstream church movement" of Protestantism is Charismatic Christianity. We radically changed the old world order 500 years ago, we created the conditions for the modern world....but what of the church of the 21st Century?

Can we do Radical Protestants 2.0 and change the world again? Yes we can and yes we will! Let me explain to you what the outline of Radical Protestant 2.0 is going to be. But to understand that I need to just backtrack a bit and explain the nature of the Protestant Revolution 1.0 and how it changed the world. And then I will explain what Protestant Revolution 2.0 is going to be...and why the world will not be able to keep up with us.

Protestant Revolution 1.0

The essence of the Reformation of 1517 is that it destroyed the feudal system of control by the monarchy's of Europe and the priestly control of the Catholic church. The onslaught of the Lutherans and Calvinists did this:

- The Lutherans destroyed the control power of the Catholic church by declaring that every believer was a priest, scripture alone is authority and not the Papal traditions of the Church and salvation was not dispensed by priests but through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

This destroyed the financial income of the Catholic church and the threat of hell through excommunication.

- The Calvinists destroyed the "divine right of kings" mythology. That myth rested on the divine election by birth of a king to rule over people. Calvinist doctrine taught that all the saints of God are elect and anointed by God from the foundations of the earth. They must rule their lives by the law of God to which kings must also submit. Which is why the Puritan armies defeated Charles...the rule of law through Parliament or the autocratic rule of a king through divine election by birth? Protestants won the

battle for all mankind of the concept of the rule of law, the right to private property, the right of freedom of association and freedom of thought.

Between the Lutherans and Calvinists the space was created in the public square for people to freely associate, to freely think, to freely create new ideas, new wealth creation.

In this freedom space two very important institutions were allowed to emerge on the basis of people allowed to freely associate and freely work for their own benefit:

- 1) The nation state emerged on the basis of people coming together to draw boundaries according to those of their own kind and to rule themselves.
- 2) The concept of the company was formed. The first companies being the Dutch East India company, the British East India company. In addition the first central banks, the first insurance companies etc.

What these groupings had in common was that people discovered that if they work together, if they put their resources together they can do many greater things.

New nations were formed on the basis of common ideals or language or traditions. The idea of swearing allegiance together to a common set of rules, a Constitution, to bind people to common purpose.

New commercial associations were formed. Each person working alone on a farm can create but very little wealth. But people working together investing ideas, capital, skills, to do great things allowed a major increase in wealth creation.

This is what allowed the world to engage in the scientific revolution and the industrial revolution. It created unprecedented levels of wealth and freedom and creative discoveries.

But the fruits and growth of the world's associations of corporations, nations, banks, universities, cultural achievements....these are now seriously in crisis. For many reasons. But chief among these is this....the faith and trust and common interests that brought people together to form these huge political and commercial and cultural associations are now crumbling.

Every association or grouping that mankind puts together is at its core a faith venture based on common myths and stories that people tell each other: "We the people...have been endowed with certain inalienable rights...". We have faith in who we are as mankind, as people and we believe in certain rights. We trust others in this covenant relationship that they also believe in these rights and these norms and these rules and these responsibilities. That is what makes the world work.

The world created a civilization based on faith in certain covenant relationships. The world learned those principles from the Bible; faith and covenants. But the world decided it could have a world of faith and covenants without God. They like the ideas of the Protestant Revolution 1.0. They just did not want the God that goes with it.

They formed faith and covenants in their political ideals. We all covenant together over this set of rules we call a Constitution and we have faith that we will all obey these rules and that our elected leaders will always follow the rules and rule for the benefit of the people.

They formed faith in financial covenants among each other. Faith that the money is sound. Faith that my money is safely entrusted to the banking system. Faith that the market will allocate scarce savings to the most productive enterprises. Faith that property is secure in law, that labour will be paid its due wage. Faith that those who control the nations finances will spend the money for the benefit of all. Faith that those who are entrusted with the savings of the people will invest wisely for the future.

The parents entrusted their children to the nation's education system with faith that all their taxes to support that system will produce an educated child who upon graduation will have the necessary skills to get productive employment to start a family.

And I can go on and on....

We live in a world that is faith based and covenant based. We trust in our political and economic and social covenants and we have faith that they will work as covenanted.

But that world of faith and covenants which proceeded from the faith and covenants of the Protestant Revolution 1.0 is now unraveling. They forgot about the God of covenants and the faith that changes the hearts of men so that those men will keep the covenants of God even when no one is looking.

You see this was all prophesied and predicted by the Lord thousands of years ago. In Daniel's vision of the various world empires that will arise to rule the earth he finally saw the last world system as "iron and clay". Crumbling iron and clay. No strength to keep things together.

Here is where every prophecy writer I know gets eschatology wrong. The last world system is not a "One World Government". The last world government is not Antichrist ruling the world with a rod of iron. The end of mankind's experiment in self rule, in rule without God is....CHAOS. Things just falling apart. Iron and clay, covenants breaking, faith lost in politicians, faith lost in bankers and money systems...people against people, nation against nation, capital vrs. labour, ideology vrs ideology.

And like the field sown with wheat and then the enemy comes and sows tares in the field...the Lord has allowed for the last 500 years for mankind to see if the world and its systems can produce fruit. They cannot. They will soon acknowledge that they have no more ideas. It's not working, politics as usual is not working, communism, socialism, capitalism...its not working. They got some great ideas from us and ran with it....but they forgot about the God of creation.

But during this era of iron and clay Daniel saw another vision...a rock coming down from heaven, a solid rock that grows and grows and grows to fill the earth. Jesus

said..."Upon this rock I will build my Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."

And this is the coming of Protestant 2.0....the coming radicals for Jesus that will once again change the world. But they will come with a new type of people who can form a new type of association of people to do the great work of Genesis 1:26-28...a people who will form new nations, new companies, new economic systems that will stand for eternity and will be able to do the impossible.

Yes we need a new radical Protestant 2.0 revolution:

- Because the common people of the world are once again facing a new feudalism whereby the few own the assets of the earth and the people are once again serfs and peasants.
- Because things are falling apart and new covenants and new faith is needed.
- Because the only transnational, international, cross cultural world force that can create a new world order are the charismatic Protestant radicals now numbering 700 million and soon to be over 1 billion. We did it 500 years ago...we can do it again!
- Because God has been preparing us with restoration of teachings and ministries and a new outpouring of power for the last 500 years for a purpose: And that purpose is not to take us out of the world but to change the world!
- Because the coming 4th Industrial Revolution plus the three before have given us all the skills and resources to build a new world and take dominion over all the works of God.

In next week's blog I want to give you the outlines of the coming Protestant 2.0 revolution that will change the world. I want to give you the reason why the time is now right, why the 5-Fold ministry of the church is going to change drastically in the coming years and why we are going to be able to out-produce, out-compete the world system and thereby redeem the earth to reposition it fit for God's purpose and God's agenda.