



REPENT AUSTRALIA

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

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FREEDOM WEARS A CROWN

Prime Minister Rudd has again spelt out his intentions to have another referendum on severing Australia's links with the British monarchy in his first term of office. He will not accept the result of the 1999 referendum when Australians soundly rejected a proposal to change the basis of our entire system of government which has served us well for over a century. "We're going to consult the people again," he said. "I think the time will come before much longer when we do have an Australian head of state." At such a crucial time as this, it's vitally important to understand what is at stake in this move by the prime minister to re-ignite the republican debate. By God's grace throughout our existence as a nation since 1901 we have enjoyed remarkable political stability---due in no small measure to the Crown, which has played a most important role. Queen Elizabeth II is not just a pleasant woman who rides in horse-drawn carriages, confers knighthoods and opens parliaments. She personifies the ancestry, unity and historical continuity of the nation. She is a living symbol of the Christian values and heritage upon which Australia was built. Her very presence has drawn together Australia's diverse political and ethnic groups into a single, cohesive nation. It is often argued that the Queen is not really our monarch but merely the Queen of England and lives so far away we see little of her. But this misses the point, for her influence lives here in the midst of us. She is symbolically present in every court of law and every sitting of parliament, because our social order is rooted in the monarchy and our freedom is intrinsically bound up in it through our Constitution.

No Mere Matter of Sentiment

"The royal form of government," writes John Farthing in *Freedom Wears a Crown*, "is not a new idea. It is as old as human civilisation, and for that reason provides the surest means of preserving, not only our civilisation as such, but all true humanity as well. Being British or being loyal to the throne is no mere matter of sentiment; it has to do with a fully enlightened attachment to the highest ideal of democracy. That we should find it enshrined in the British monarchy we share is due, not to any claim that the ideal of itself is the monopoly of the British, but to the historical fact that it is the British monarchical order that a certain universal ideal has been preserved and most highly developed." The Constitutional Monarchy has given us a system of government that provides a delicate balance between order and liberty, rights and responsibilities, justice and mercy. The threefold division of powers guarantees freedom far more effectively in a time of crisis than any bill of rights that can be amended or abolished at the whim of politicians under a republican government. The Monarchy joins spiritual and temporal powers in perfect balance as our Christian heritage is embodied in the Queen who, at her coronation, promised to "maintain the laws of God and the true profession of the Gospel". Moreover, on receiving the Golden Orb she was told, "And when you see this Orb set under the Cross, remember that the whole world is subject to the power and empire of Christ our Redeemer...the Prince of the kings of the earth...so no man can reign happily who derives not his authority from Him". She stands as God's representative, upholding His laws by the office she holds, thus recognising that God is sovereign over all. Furthermore, she is the living testimony of that singular institution, the royal throne of England, which bound together the greatest empire in the history of the world, the British Empire. The Crown is also our greatest safeguard in times of uncertainty. For example, in India in 1975 when the prime minister was under threat she and the president together exercised dictatorial powers and imprisoned hundreds of her opposition. The Queen, too, is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, who pledge their allegiance to her---a much safer system than when the armed services swear their oath of allegiance to a godless political leader, such as Adolf Hitler.

Reigns but Does not Rule

It should be remembered that a Constitutional Monarch reigns but does not rule. The importance of the Crown is not what it does, but what it prevents others from doing, that is, the power of the Crown is not the power it exercises itself--but the power it denies to others. Moreover, the Governor-General and State governors form a necessary part of the checks and balances on the executive government. Republicanism on the other hand poses a real risk of autocracy and is a huge leap from the tried and tested Constitutional Monarchy into the constitutional and political dark. Every day, all around the world, governments threaten their own citizens. Yet the last English Monarch who threatened his subjects lost his head. At least since the Glorious Revolution of 1688 the Monarch, under our system, has been the best friend freedom ever had. As for our Constitution, it was designed by Australians for Australians and approved by Australians. Our Constitutional Founders were wise men. They took the Senate from the United States, federalism from Canada, referendum provisions from Switzerland and the idea of constitutional conventions from France---as well as the Crown from Britain. We have the best Constitution possible within the framework of the least imperfect system of government this side of heaven---one designed to ensure freedom from power-hungry politicians and the havoc they have wrought in other places. So why change it? Let us be thankful that because of the Crown God's hand has been on us.

Left-wing Politicians

The push to separate us from the Crown comes mainly from left-wing politicians and intellectuals who despise Britain. They have long argued that it is offensive to compel newly arrived immigrants to swear allegiance "to an elderly Englishwoman who for the most part resides in Berkshire". Yet, in fact, many Greek, Italian and Vietnamese-born Australians voted in large numbers at the last referendum to retain the Queen as head of state. But eight years have passed and, due to the pressure of political correctness and a biased media, many people are ignorant of our nation's history and indifferent about something so apparently outmoded as the throne of Britain, and are easily persuaded to support a republic. Yet Prime Minister Rudd's eagerness to turn his back on Britain's monarchy exposes a deep lack of spiritual understanding of its importance to Australia's past, present and future. Or is there more to it than that?

Anti-Christian Forces

Obviously, anti-Christian forces are at work to make Australia an atheistic, socialist republic. The republicans no doubt would impose a brash jingoism on us, a "dinkum Aussie" image of warped ockerism. They too would impose the myth of Australia being the victim of English deception and exploitation. Get rid of the Queen and it becomes all downhill to their cherished socialist republic. Abolish all meddling governors-general and gain control of the armed forces. In next to no time, ex-prime minister Hawke or Keating would be president with wider powers than the prime minister. They must not succeed! We have all the benefits of the Crown---stability, continuity, a non-political head of state in the Governor-General without the hazards of costly, messy elections, a power-hungry president and political shenanigans in the country's highest office. Furthermore, the Crown is divinely ordained. If we cannot give honour to an earthly monarch who has acknowledged that her authority comes from the King of kings, we shall also find it hard to give our allegiance to Him when He comes to reign on earth. We must not lose our Christian Queen, our Christian Constitutional Monarchy, our Christian Westminster parliamentary system, our Christian flag and our Christian Commonwealth Constitution. Let us resolutely defend our present system of government that promotes national unity and social stability; that is our greatest safeguard against tyranny and totalitarianism. Indeed, may God "confound their politics; frustrate their knavish tricks; on her our hopes we fix; God save us all". (From the second verse of God Save the Queen.)

PRAYER

Almighty God our loving heavenly Father, the Alpha and Omega, how matchless is Your name in all the earth. As blood-bought joint-heirs of Your holy kingdom of righteousness, peace and joy, we humbly come before Your throne of grace and mercy filled with the love of Christ to worship You as our Great I AM. Holy Father, we ascribe all glory, honour and power to You in *Freedom Wears a Crown*. Sovereign Lord God, we thank You for a risen Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, whose finished work on the Cross conquered all the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms and who gives us victory over human forces at work here on earth. Equip us, O Lord, in the battle against the deceptive powers in our midst opposed to Your will and purpose for our nation. Abba Father, help our leaders and ordinary citizens to repent and have their minds renewed through Your Living Word in the power of Your gracious Holy Spirit. Thank You, Father, for gracing this land in Christ's righteousness through Your Holy Spirit. Enthroned JESUS CHRIST as King of kings and Lord of lords of this Great Southland of the Holy Spirit, we ask in Jesus' victorious name, to the glory of God. Amen.

R.A: Led by our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify the Fatherhood of God with the Brotherhood of Man, in love and in faithfulness to bring glory and honour to His holy name.

REJOICE IN COVENANT PRAYERS FULLY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT DAILY FOR AUSTRALIA'S REVIVAL.