

Exclusive to johnproblem.com - The Archbishop of Hackney Wick.

Known for his deeply felt views on the human condition, the Archbishop has kindly allowed us access to a copy of his next sermon.

"Brethren,

I speak to you today of those twin peaks of depravity in our land - the Sodom and Gomorrah of our country - Westminster and the City. Woe unto them! For they know - too well - what they do!

Brethren, know ye the Lord hates two things above all? Yes! And I will tell you what they are. Haughty eyes and a lying tongue (Proverbs 6, 16-19). Where do we see these now? In our own Sodom and Gomorrah! In Westminster and in the City.

The terrible fate of those old evil places was visited upon them by the Lord, because of what? Because the people of those places were - listen carefully my brothers and sisters - arrogant and overfed (Genesis 19, 24-25)! Yes! Do you see the connection, brethren? And they committed economic crimes - listen carefully my brothers and sisters - they hit people on the head and made them bleed and then they charged them for blood-letting.! (Genesis 19, 26-29). Do you see the connection, brethren? They were unrighteous in the eyes of the Lord. And the same, I say, is true of those beings who frequent Westminster and the City. They are unrighteous! They take from the people to aggrandise themselves, to build themselves palaces, to have new kitchens and bathrooms, and alcoholic champagne and yachts and Rolexes.

And they care not who shall speak against them. Their regulators do not regulate them. They are above the law of the land! But, brethren, they are not above the law of the Lord whose vengeance is a terrible thing to behold. And he is coming for them with fire and brimstone! And the Freedom of Information Act, and legal suits, and the wrath of the people - horribly enfeebled though they are. He will avenge himself upon your enemies and take away their tin! (Isiah 1, 24). And we shall rejoice!

In Sodom and then in Gomorrah the Lord asked if there were 50 righteous men (Genesis 18:23-26). There were not. Were there 45? There were not. 30? 20? Even 10? Alas, not.

Look towards Westminster, brethren, and towards the City. Do you see 50 righteous men? 45? 30? 20? Even 10? No you do not!

So, in our Sodom,

(Note to parish clerk: I know this is the correct ancient spelling, but I have seen a different spelling in certain newspapers, viz 'Sod 'em.' Is this a modern variant?)

and in our Gomorrah, where they gambled and stole as though there was no tomorrow, the

unrighteous shall soon be smitten! Take heart and be comforted, my brethren, ye shall not be repossessed. The exploiters of expenses and allowances, and the purloiners of huge bonuses - their time is nigh!

I give them a global warning! Down shall rain snakes and fire and brimstone and a horrible tempest on them (Psalm 11:6). Amen.