

# Ready to Rule the World

EARLY in November I was startled to see the words of our title in very large print on the front page of a newspaper. It was a



journalist going 'over the top' on the victory of Lewis Hamilton in the Formula 1 motor racing World Championship.

At the same time, it is very clear, from all that we hear about today's

politics and economics, that there is a very pressing need for a world leader who can solve the problems now facing our world. Lewis Hamilton is highly skilled as a racing driver, but not as a world ruler. Where is such a person to be found?

## What Sort of Person?

This raises a question. What would the necessary qualities be? Firstly, total and unquestionable honesty so that everyone would know that when this person spoke, their words could be relied on absolutely. In turn, this would require someone with a phenomenal intellect and a capacity for absorbing and retaining an immense amount of information as well as having the ability to recall it and clearly communicate his decisions

Secondly, total impartiality would be needed so that no one person or cause

would be favoured at the expense of another. Thirdly, this leader would have to be able to command respect and loyalty from all. Fourthly, absolute power would be needed to deal effectively and permanently with any opposition or rebellion.

Humanly speaking, no one alive would meet these criteria. Neither would any great leaders of the past, however illustrious or brilliant.

Nor is this the only problem. There are too many varieties of government and political philosophies existing in various states of disharmony, tension and even open conflict in various parts of the world. No one human individual could reconcile them. Certainly, none could impose a universal form of government acceptable to all.

Does this mean that as population increases, and finite resources run out, mankind is heading inexorably towards inevitable disaster and absolute chaos? The gloomy answer is "Yes, if left to itself". There are some words of Jeremiah that sum up the situation perfectly:

*O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps (Jeremiah 10:23).*

## The Coming World Leader

To our great relief and joy there are many positive words in the Bible that do indicate

a great and wonderful future for this world and its inhabitants. Paul the apostle said this to the Greeks in Athens:

*He [God] has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising him from the dead (Acts 17: 31).*

The Lord Jesus Christ is the one person who exhibited all the qualities necessary to make him fit to be a world ruler. He was the only man who ever achieved perfect morality throughout his life.

For his fellow men and women, he had abounding love and sympathetic understanding. On the other hand, he had a righteous hatred of oppression in rulership, of dishonesty in business, of all kinds of immorality. Throughout his ministry he demonstrated his unique fitness to rule over men and women.

Paul's words show us that in God's good time there will be a dramatic intervention in the affairs of men. A leader, appointed by God, and therefore beyond question – to use a modern phrase – 'fit for purpose', will assume control of world affairs.

## **A Life of Preparation**

When the Lord Jesus first came to this earth it was as a weak defenceless child, born to poor parents who within a short time had to flee with him into exile. When he began his ministry, Jesus had to face being misunderstood, maligned and finally crucified. It seems a very sorry story.

Thankfully it didn't end there. God raised him from the dead and Jesus ascended to heaven. He is the one man who is capable and qualified to be leader of the world. We can be assured that the words of Jesus himself will come true in God's good time:

*There will be signs... and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity... men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near (Luke 21:25–28).*

Jesus Christ will return from heaven to the earth, with the necessary authority and power of God to sort out the world's problems and transform this earth into the peaceful, harmonious place that God intended it to be at the very beginning.

There is something very reassuring to look forward to; much more so than the prospect that naturally faces mankind at the moment. To implement that change, the Lord will use a lot of helpers. By turning to him now, examining his claims and what he requires of us, we can begin to prepare ourselves for the great privilege of assisting him in this glorious work.

The choice is ours to make. When the Lord returns will he find you "ready to rule the world" with him?

**Michael Buckler**