



## *When Did We See You?*

*Matthew 25:31–46*

*“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.*

*November 23, 2014*

## **Thought For The Week**

Scripture Reference: Micah 4: 3

*“They will beat their swords into ploughshares”*

The Union Flag has been lowered for the last time at Camp Bastion in Helmand Province. After 13 years British troops are being withdrawn from Afghanistan and Bastion has been handed over to Afghans.

Bastion was once the largest British military base in the world housing up to 14,000 troops with a 20 mile long perimeter wall and up to 600 aircraft deployments a day. Bastion’s memorial wall, which bears the names of the 453 British military personnel killed in the conflict, has been removed and will be rebuilt at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire, England.

The conflict in Afghanistan has been long and costly. Thousands have died, both military personnel and civilians, and many more have suffered life-changing injuries. The British military personnel have been a great example of courage and commitment as they have fought alongside others to give the Afghan people a chance of a better life.

The conflict is not over but, across the country, 6.7 million children now attend school, nearly 50% of them girls. This would have been unthinkable under Taliban rule. Healthcare has improved and life expectancy has increased.

The history of the world is scarred by wars and armed conflicts. In their lust for power and domination nations and individuals have been willing to sacrifice the lives of countless people.

The military personnel in Afghanistan have stood between evil men and ordinary people who lived every day in fear and oppression. As they have served in a very difficult place far from their own homes, their presence has given hope to many.

We pray that the Afghan people will find peace and security and that those who have lost loved ones, or suffered serious physical and psychological injuries, will know God’s comfort and his love for them.

What is the future for our world where seemingly irresolvable conflicts abound? The prophet Micah spoke of a coming day when God will intervene decisively in his world.

*“In the last days the mountain of the Lord’s temple  
will be established as the highest of the mountains;  
it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it.*

*He will judge between many peoples  
and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.  
They will beat their swords into ploughshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks.  
Nation will not take up sword against nation,  
nor will they train for war anymore.  
Everyone will sit under their own vine  
and under their own fig tree,  
and no one will make them afraid."*

*Happy Birthday Nils (11/28)*

## **Prayer For The Week**

Adonai, God of all nations and all people, we come before you in praise and thanksgiving. Guide us in the joy of being, and in the desire for joyful peace for all people.

We pray particularly for the people of Cameroon this day. May they know the peace that only you provide. May they strive to foster peace in all they do.

Great God, we also ask you to sustain us as we try to live by your vision of shalom in our daily lives. Forgive our selfishness and pride, we humbly ask.

We pray for the concerns of those gathered here today. Hear our collective prayers, O God of peace, that your peace may become the peace of this world.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## **Stewardship Thought For The Week**

If you planted hope today  
In any hopeless heart

If someone's burden was lighter  
Because you did your part,

If you caused a laugh  
That chased some tears away

If tonight your name is named  
When someone kneels to pray

Then your day has been well spent.

Go break to the needy, Sweet Charity's Bread  
"For Giving is Living" ...the Angel had said.

"But must I keep giving again and again?"

"Oh no," said the Angel, chilling me through,  
"Just give 'til the Master stops giving to you!"