

## 2002 Futurology

Writing for *Prophecy Today* does not inevitably constrain the Lord to reveal the future to you! But current trends seem at least to hint where the battle-lines might be drawn in the coming year.

At home there seems no sign of a halt in the moral decline of the nation, and we must pray that this itself might provoke a response of repentance. There are signs of greater political disillusionment as New Labour's "Purer than pure" government continues to tolerate sleaze and undermine democracy. Cynicism will increase as its "Ethical Foreign Policy" slowly succumbs to British self-interest. Recession is likely to curtail the promised renewal of public services, and as their coal-face workers increasingly abandon the pit to its fate chaos will grow.

Deliverance is only likely to come if Christians do what they were called to do – to bring what is dark into the light. This means to walk according to the word of Christ (which means to study it and live it), and to hold it out to the world (which means to proclaim it).

Internationally I do not know whether Islamic terrorism, and the Western reaction to it, will escalate or peter out. But despite the hopes of the liberally-minded, I believe that the ideological divide between Islam and the West is more likely to deepen than dissolve. Enough has been said during the recent conflict to show that, even apart from Al Qaeda, a substantial proportion of Muslim opinion is deeply hostile to Western democracy and America in particular.

But this covers an even deeper hostility to the Gospel of Christ, and to the nation of Israel, which will outlast it because it goes back to the Qur'an itself. Christians must recognise this and accept their share of suffering, or risk being asleep on the Day of the Lord.

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