

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS –25.02.2024

Praying for our Nations and Government

The issue of Israel and the Gaza Strip has dominated the news even more than before. The images of innocent victims being killed or injured and operated on without any anaesthetic are truly gut crunching. In response, the recent parliamentary debate on a ceasefire in Gaza has thrown the spotlight on the Speaker of the House of Commons, Sir Lindsay Hoyle, with calls for his resignation parroting through the halls of Westminster. What was anticipated to be a straightforward discussion quickly devolved into chaos, leaving Hoyle at the centre of a controversy.

The crux of the issue lies in Hoyle's handling of the vote, which saw unexpected twists and turns resulting in many MPs being blindsided. The Scottish National Party (SNP) had tabled a motion calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, placing pressure on other parties, particularly Labour, to take a clear stance. However, amendments proposed by the government and Labour complicated matters further.

In a breach of convention, Hoyle prioritised Labour's amendment over the SNP's motion, which sparked outrage and accusations of parliamentary bias. Consequently, this resulted in tensions flaring, and Hoyle found himself in the unpleasant position of attempting to navigate a turbulent sea of conflicting interests.

While Hoyle has issued an apology, citing concerns for the safety of MPs as a factor in his decision-making process, confidence in his impartiality has been shaken severely. Ultimately, this has cast a shadow of doubt over Hoyle's ability to fulfil his role successfully and efficiently as

Speaker of the House and therefore calls for his resignation to the point of becoming deafening.

The situation remains fluid, with discussions ongoing between party leaders, but a motion of no confidence in Hoyle has been tabled, signalling a potential showdown in the coming days.

While conversations are in place, it is clear that the fallout from this debacle is anything but over.

In the Psalm we are instructed to pray for the peace of Jerusalem so that we may prosper.

Ps 122:6-9 KJV -

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee. Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good.

May we continue to be in prayer for Gaza, Israel, Palestine, our government, and the various nations around the world.
