

**THE VOICE OF A PROPHET**  
**A Tribute to Alexander Solzenhitsyn**

By the late Paul E. Grant, May 2012

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Under brutal rule and repression  
More than sixty million people died<sup>1</sup>,  
This was unprecedented oppression  
A ghastly history of genocide

People of every ethnic and cultural legacy  
Across the vast spaces of a nation,  
From nineteen seventeen to nineteen fifty three  
A national killing and decimation

This is not exaggeration, rather, fact;  
How could men and women take on brutality  
Of such a kind, sustain, and enact  
A holocaust of such monstrous ferocity?

One man stood out in protest  
Against this ghastly slaughter,  
It seems he was God-sent to contest  
This evil, and become a universal reporter

Alexander Solzenhitsyn is his name  
An extraordinarily heroic figure,  
His passion was to fearlessly declaim  
This diabolic evil with vigour

From Czar regimes, then Lenin and Stalin  
There came totalitarian rule,  
Anti-God communism treated millions as vermin,  
Monstrous oppression unspeakably cruel

A brilliant scientist and mathematician  
He distinguished himself as a soldier;  
Sent to prison camps for alleged sedition  
He endured their horrors and torture

What helped him to survive  
Those harsh, degrading conditions?  
Not only so, he was to survive  
Then publicise their terrible dimensions

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<sup>1</sup> Dimitri Panin (1976) quoted in *Alexander Solzenhitsyn – A Century In His Life* by D.M. Thomas, 1998.

His granite faith in God and teaching  
In the traditions of Russian orthodoxy,  
Also, his astonishing endurance in suffering;  
At his core, he championed Christianity

Born in the year nineteen eighteen  
Of the revolution and humanist state,  
He watched anti-God teaching contravene  
Bible values and the nation depreciate

He saw his motherland corrupted  
But also the West as decadent,  
All nations seemed to be driven and fated  
In a whirlpool of moral impediment

“His target was modernity,  
The flight from the spiritual world”<sup>2</sup>  
Beginning with Renaissance currency,  
A revelation for many unparalleled

He began to declaim, protest and expose,  
A prophet indeed with a goal;  
Not only against the corruption of those  
Who were leaders, but society as a whole

An embarrassment, just like Noah,  
“He put the whole world in the wrong”,<sup>3</sup>  
But his Nobel prize for literature<sup>4</sup>  
Would not be sung by him as his song

His denunciations of a world’s idolatries  
Have awakened millions to discern  
The temporalities and vanities  
Of God-less systems we need to unlearn

The voice of a prophet! Is the world listening?  
Are people hearing, perceiving and heeding?  
Is the church awakening, responding and obeying  
To such warnings and bestirring?

Within and without the church today  
God has his prophets to carry his voice.  
When Christ returns on his judgement day  
Will we fear or will we rejoice?

Church prophets – there seem to be few,  
At times bring some inspiration,  
May God send prophets to bring a debut  
Of national transformation

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<sup>2</sup> From *Alexander Solzenhitzyn*, 1998 by D.M Thomas Page 461

<sup>3</sup> Hebrews 11:7 New English Bible

<sup>4</sup> 1970