

Metropolitan Tabernacle

London

HM Queen Elizabeth II

We express our gratitude to God for the life of our late Queen.

Of course we cannot read the heart, and we cannot be sure or certain about our late Queen's personal standing before God, but we thank God that she was never ashamed to name the Name of Jesus Christ our Saviour – regularly, and concerning specific things.

She named Him as the source of forgiveness, as the source of love, as the source of her personal strength and the objective and purpose of her life. And all those things she would utter regularly, on several occasions throughout the year. We praise and thank God for giving us a Sovereign for so many years who named the Name of Christ.

And then, further, while others around her discarded the laws of God and stood for moral liberalism – often to please themselves and to pursue only their own interests – she stood, remarkably, through her very long reign, for moral carefulness.

She committed her life to serving the interests of the nation's charitable causes, relating to them and making herself available to them – more than any of her predecessors. These things are very noteworthy, and we express our gratitude for them.

Many have drawn our attention to her strong sense of duty and her loyalty to the nation. Rather fewer have mentioned her faith; and almost no-one has mentioned her moral carefulness. That is not surprising in these days, but we remember and salute that.

Our constitutional monarchy has evolved, and one of its purposes is to provide a check against the emergence of a dictator or tyrant. So we have a head of state who has, really, no executive power, but whose existence prevents the rise of such things. It is not necessarily the only way of safeguarding against that particular danger, but it is *our* way. And our late Queen certainly fulfilled that role without ever bringing her office into disrepute, and without ever overstepping the mark.

So we thank God for her and for the privilege of so long a reign. We pray for King Charles, that the Lord will guide him and bless him. And we pray that the Lord will raise up many others conspicuous in public life who are not ashamed to name the Name of Jesus Christ.

Peter Masters
Metropolitan Tabernacle
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