

The Terror of God

By
Michael Bray

What shall we say about God and September 11? If He is almighty and sovereign, then He must have been involved. This is the God we confess. He is good and just and works His good and holy will in history. His fingerprints are all over the chaos and destruction.

Every day, say the Scriptures, the holy God has indignation. The Scriptures also teach that His mercies are new every morning. He shows mercy even when wrath is over due. The conclusion of the ancient creeds proclaims: "He will judge the living and the dead." A day of reckoning will come because sin will not go unpunished. What escapes the fire in this life will not be spared when the Kingdom of God reigns unopposed. However, during that unknown span of time preceding the culmination of history in the triumphant and glorious final return of Jesus, the wrathful Lamb of God – that Lion of Judah, that spectacular warrior from whose mouth proceeds a sword of judgment upon the earth (cf. Rev. 1:16; 6:8; Is. 9:7; 11:4) —will bring judgments on the earth. He is the one of whom the Apostle John says fear-stricken victims will cry out to the mountains: "Fall upon us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath has come; and who is able to stand?" (Rev. 6:16,17).

He judges the living, not just the dead on the final Judgment Day. The Psalmist spoke of the messiah's rule which was surely inaugurated at His coming when he cast out demons and declared that the Kingdom of God had arrived (Matt. 12:28). He warns rulers of the earth to heed His law: "Therefore, O kings, show discernment; take warning, O judges of the earth. Worship the Lord with reverence, and rejoice with trembling. Do homage to the Son, lest He become angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath may soon be kindled" (Ps. 2:10-12).

His anger, His hatred for wickedness is purer and greater than any human indignation. And he can back up his anger with His omnipotent strength to apply his whippings or annihilations. He who judged His people, Judah, by an instrument known as the Chaldean Empire was harder on His people than Hitler was two and one-half millennia later. The Almighty's whip, the pagan Babylonians, were a nation was much less civilized than Muslim terrorists. These idol-worshipping Babylonians were "nation slayers" respecting no authority but their own power (Habakkuk 1:7,17). And God, through this chosen tool, locked up his arrogant and wayward children inside the walls of their own hometown, the very citadel of safety, Jerusalem. There, says Jeremiah, He permitted the unbelievable: "See, O Lord, and look! With whom have You dealt in this way? Should women eat their offspring,

the little ones who were born healthy? Should priest and prophet be slain in the sanctuary of the Lord" (Lam. 2:20)? Indeed this desperate condition driving hungry mothers to boil and eat their own babies was brought about by God Himself as a just punishment for the sins (not of the mothers individually but) of the nation corporately. Jeremiah proclaims to God, "You have slain them in the day of Your anger, You have slaughtered, not sparing. You did call as in the day of an appointed feast my terrors on every side" (2:22). Indeed, He took away the peace of Jerusalem.

There is little doubt that He is angry with this formerly-Christian land, a disgraced land—given over to adultery, sodomy, and the daily slaughter of thousands of innocents. And yet when a sole well known preacher puts forth this truth, however pusillanimously, he is rejected and derided by all the rest of pop Christian spokesmen. That Jerry Falwell's feeble attempt to declare this truth was scorned by the popular media was to be expected, but when consonant Christian voices are scarcely to be found, we see not only that God's people are lacking ability to discern simple ethical matters regarding the legitimate use of defensive force by private citizens (a la anti-abortion building demolitions or abortionist terminations); but that they are also lacking in basic knowledge concerning the character of the biblical God they profess to know.

It is important that the Messiah's direct involvement with judgments in the earth be acknowledged publicly by His followers. This is part of our confession of Him as Lord of all. He is the judge of all the earth. Jeremiah says of that terrible cannibalistic judgment that his God had brought upon His people, "The Lord has done what He purposed; He has accomplished His word which He commanded from days of old. He has thrown down without sparing, and He has caused the enemy to rejoice over you" (Lam. 2:17).

And so, they do: infidels, Muslims around the world are dancing with delight over the assault on the "Great Satan" United States. They rejoice.

It is important to recognize that the jihad fighters are nothing but a pagan whip but that in the hand of God they are powerful. God's discarding of the whip depends (inasmuch as His will can be affected by human actions) upon our repentance. The nation (not every ACLU-blinded fool, but the nation as represented by its legislators, governors, and rulers) must repent from the shedding of innocent blood and the

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normalization of sexual perversion. The President must shun the foolish and Godless barbarism of the Court as Lincoln did when he issued the Emancipation Proclamation. Regardless of the President's success in delivering such an act of contrition, the states must reject outright the usurpations of the federal government which command them to permit and protect evildoing. In summary, all authorities, responding to the outcry of preachers and citizens, must repent from the perversion of Law which they have tolerated.

I saw very few responses to September 11 which exhibited the insight displayed by one of my co-defendants in the \$1.4 billion lawsuit brought by Planned Parenthood against a dozen Christians. Andrew Burnett and we, the rest of the sued, called abortionists murderers whom we declared might some day be tried and executed. In anticipation of that time, we had drawn up posters in the fashion of wanted posters, much after the fashion of the picture the Department of State has posted all over the world in search of Osama bin Laden (see www.heroes.net). Andrew Burnett wrote as follows on 24 September via email: "What if a group of terrorists managed to get into this country? What if they were highly educated and highly trained? What if they targeted only small children? What if they killed 4000 every day of the year? What if they said it was for the benefit of most people in America? What if most of the country did not know or did not care about their mission? What if we made it safe and legal of them to operate? What if we gave the terrorists medical degrees and treated them like folk heroes?"

What is the conclusion of the matter? Shall we refuse citizen support for the secular powers and wait for their demise? Ought we refuse to defend a country which is under God's judgment? Shall we cheer for the Muslim whip and praise rather than prosecute Osama et al? After all, "Who can stand before His indignation? Who can endure the burning of His anger?" (Nahum 1:6).

No. God can use His whips as He chooses and we are not be presumptuous regarding His plans with other nations. Just as Assyria and Babylon where God's tools for judging Israel and Judah respectively, does not mean that these tools will not themselves be subjected to judgment. God pronounced judgment upon Assyria through the prophet Nahum. And he pronounces judgment upon Babylon through Isaiah, saying, "I gave them into your hand. You did not show mercy to them. . . Evil will come upon you which you will not be able to charm away" (47:6,11).

God's purposes and the duration of His judgments are not revealed. Our duties are manifold and we perform them even when they may seem to be contradictory. A Christian judge has a duty to evangelize, bringing eternal life; he also had the duty to pass death sentences. The converted centurion remained in the Roman army serving to maintain order in the empire, even though Roman soldiers had crucified Christ and would later behead Paul.

The Christian American soldier in Afghanistan has a duty to hunt down al Qaeda murderers even though al Qaeda has been used by God to bring chastisement to a nation which flagrantly sins in His face. We do not act presumptuously, speculating upon the will of God.

The nation has two things to do: repent and defeat its attackers. God may grant success to the second if we accomplish the first. Preachers must preach the word of repentance.

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