

A graphic of a white sun with rays rising over a blue horizon, set against a dark blue background.

Morning Glory

“The Coming of the Lord Draweth Nigh” — James 5:8

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • February 2016

Obey The Law

Pastor Paul Larson, Faith Lutheran Church,
Detroit Lakes, MN

Our text this morning is found in Romans, Chapter 13, versus one through seven, in Jesus Name:

“Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil. Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience’ sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. Render to all that is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.”

This is a familiar portion of Scripture. The apostle Paul is writing to the Christians in Rome and talks about obeying the government – obeying the laws of the land – but I want to focus in on a particular phrase, as it really is important to have a good understand-

ing of what is being said here. Many times we take these verses and only preach on the fact that, as Christians, you need to obey the law and that’s very true. These verses apply to that and we need to be law-abiding citizens. It’s important to have a good example as our testimony but these verses teach us something deeper than that. You might say, and I want you to take notice of it because, what it is talking about here is not just government; in fact, it doesn’t even use the word government. Paul speaks and the Lord instructs him to say these words. He says every person should be in subjection to the governing authorities and there’s a big difference between governing authorities and government. In fact, when this was written back in Paul’s time, the time of Christ, back then they had dictators, they had the Caesars, and kings and queens, all kinds of people who are simply in power because they were born into the family of the king and inherited their power, but the Lord says, “obey those who are in authority, the governing authority.” Back then there was never a situation like the one that we have here in America. So it’s important that you know the meaning of this phrase, the “governing authorities”. Who is the governing authority?

Well, first of all obviously, the ultimate governing authority is God. It says in this first verse that there is no authority except from God and those which exist are established by God; so God is the ultimate authority. However, when America was created our founding fathers gave a unique government, something the world had never seen before. From the very beginning of this Country, the governing authority was placed in the hands of *we*

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the people, not the government. In America it would be a little different than other countries around the world. The governing authority is the people; they're the ones who establish a government to make laws through our Representatives but they never relinquished their authority. That's why we have elections, that's why we go into the voting booth because we're the ones ultimately that are the governing authorities in this Country, and when you look back at our beginning you realize that's exactly the way they intended to set up this unique system. A system that never before been tried. Jefferson said we don't have anything to following as an example. America was set up in a unique way. They showed this from the very beginning. In the Declaration of Independence the preamble says, "we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator". I had a question not too long ago about whether it was fair for creation to be taught in our public schools. The answer was simple. It's not fair for anything else to be taught because this is a country established by people who believe that they were "**created**". The preamble of the Declaration of Independence says we are endowed by our Creator, we are creationists. That's who we are as a nation and that's what they should teach in our schools. This teaching our schools have abandoned. What the founding fathers taught did not continue on, but in the preamble of the Declaration of Independence which these founding fathers put together to send over to the King, it says that the governments are instituted

for a purpose, but also it goes on to say, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. There were many reasons why they were sending this to the king, but one was because the king did not follow his own laws – the laws of the land that he was living in. So these Christian men said they were declaring Independence. We are going to make our own Constitution. The beginning words of the Constitution say, *‘we the people’* of the United States and goes on to state the fact that we the people establish this Constitution. The constitution wasn’t something that was brought in by a king or someone else. We the people decided what the laws were going to be. We’re the governing authority. In fact, they were so concerned about not falling back into the same situation that had happened in England and many other places around the world where you would have a dictator, a tyrant, or a king simply do whatever he wanted to and ignore the law. So the very first thing our founding father put together was the *Bill of Rights*. In the very first amendment it says that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion. This simply means Congress could not say you all have to be Catholic or you all have to be Lutheran, they could not do that, they could not establish a religion. The next phrase is important, *“or prohibiting the free exercise thereof”*. This is what our founding fathers were looking for. They were people who believed that God created us and they wanted to freely worship God, this was the reason our country was started. They wanted the freedom to worship God when and where they wanted to. Not to be told you can’t kneel down here and say a prayer because this is a football stadium or you can’t do this over here because this is public land. The very reason they established this country was so they could do that. That was the purpose behind it, that their religious freedom would not be hindered and yet today we live in a country where Christians are being persecuted. They are constantly being told they can’t do this and they can’t do that. That First Amendment goes on to state that not only for freedom of religion, but also freedom of free speech, and freedom for the right of the people to peaceably assemble. The First Amendment was a powerful amendment and it was put there to prevent the government from controlling the people rather than the people controlling the government. We the people are the governing authority in America. Now you are probably saying, “What is the preacher getting at?” Am I saying we don’t have to obey the government? No, absolutely not. The rest of this text continues on and it is very clear that as Christians we are to obey the government because we’re the ones that set them up. We’re the ones who elected the Congress, the House of Representative, the Senators, and the President. We gave them power to run the country but they, on the

other hand, should never forget that they are representing us for their governing authority. What has happened in America today is that the government has sort of forgotten who’s the real boss and this text is saying you need to respect the government authorities. So, when **34 States** vote and say that they are not going to approve of gay marriage, what right does the government have to turn around and say we are going to approve of it? You see, the ones who are disobeying God’s Word is the government leaders themselves. When God says that those who resist authority and oppose the ordinances will receive condemnation upon themselves, those who resist the will of the people, the governing authority in this Country, will bring condemnation upon themselves. That’s what this text is saying. Does that mean we can ignore the laws? No, we gave our representatives the authority to set down the laws we wanted, and when they set down those laws, as Christians, you obey the laws of the Land. We will talk about the exception to that *rule* in a minute.

Editor’s Note: Lord willing, this Sermon/article will be continued in the next issue of the Morning Glory; but most certainly in the mean time pray earnestly for ‘our’ present leaders: especially for their Salvation and then pray earnestly for ‘godly leadership’ and looking to GOD to intervene, and GOD is the only real hope for our many complex problems as a Nation!

* * * * *

Wisdom is better than jewels... I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me... My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver.
Proverbs 8:11, 17, 19 (ESV)

God’s treasures are better than jewels, better than pure gold and choice silver. Sadly, there are many people today adorned with jewelry and not with wisdom. Wisdom is not in anything you can put around your neck or on your wrist or fingers. It only is found with the Lord. His Word is full of His wisdom, and God’s Son, the Lord Jesus, is Wisdom. In Him *“are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”* (Col. 2:3). Love the Lord and His Word, and let His wisdom adorn your life.

Carl Knott

If you don’t come to God on His terms, then you don’t come.

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation & Morning Glory

Dear Friends of this – the Lord’s Ministry,

Greetings with the words of Revelation 3:8; “*I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.*”

February is also a very special month of GRACE; when family and friends send ‘greetings’ to one another and gather together as family and friends, and thank God again for the ‘gift of life’, and for His unconditional LOVE in our lives. EACH gathering and conversation is made even the more meaningful when the Lord’s presence is with those who are assembling. Malachi 3:16.

Let us praise and thank GOD for the privilege of living in this great nation – USA of Freedom and Liberty! Also let us *seek* to thank Him for the trials and hardships that teach us to lean more on JESUS.

NONE of us really know what is in store tomorrow – physically, etc., in our ‘earthly journey’ in regards to the future as on this side of Eternity: BUT God has promised us enough GRACE, and if need be, Grace upon Grace; so that we might be found ‘faithful’ unto HIM. Isaiah 43:1-3a, Psalm 23.

While ‘we’ occupy in and through HIM: the clear purpose and ministry of the HLIF/MG is ‘*Praying and seeking to win/nourish Precious Souls for/in the Kingdom of God & working for the Restoration of the United States of America and Beyond.*’

Perhaps *today*, the ministry of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation/Morning Glory is NEEDED more, or certainly as much as any time in the history of the same. (The HLIF was organized in 1920)

In these ‘*Perilous times*’, we most certainly need to stand together, and this vital part of true Christianity and patriotism means to keep on praying for each other and for America no matter how bleak and seemingly impossible the conditions may appear. We are preparing for the certain and often unexpected ‘**Morning Star**’ – Revelation 22:16. WE definitely know that it was and is GOD ALMIGHTY that made the USA great and HE is really the only ONE that can restore the USA and Beyond; but you know the Lord very often uses cleansed ‘vessels’ to accomplish His purpose. (Those washed in the Blood of the LAMB)

Finally, Christianity and Patriotism means remembering the BLOOD, *tears and sacrifices* that were and are given by fellow Americans from the Revolution of 1776 to the present. Thus we who know JESUS as our personal Savior need to take a clear, bold STAND in obedience to His Word. It is out of LOVE that we will accomplish ‘res-

toration’ – both secularly and Spiritually. We need to Stand TOGETHER in “Team-Work”: which is made up of individuals like you and me. **Only one life will soon be past, only what’s done WITH Christ will last!** Are YOU a ‘fellow-teammate’ – OR are you willing to become one?

Let us exercise faith together (in reality) in supporting this ‘ministry’ in 1) Prayer, 2) encouragement and 3) financial support. YOU can do at least one, two or all three of these! NO kidding, the ‘financial support’ is needed and is very real. Prayer is essential as well and encouragement is vital.

ALSO, please seek to inquire IF an “Open Door” may be in your midst to host a Hauge Bible Conference/Evangelistic Meetings in your Congregation, or by ‘Gospel Tent Meetings’, etc.

I would so like to hear from you; as that is why I am sending you this ‘letter’ *indirectly*.

FAITH WITHOUT ACTION IS DEAD!

By the Grace of God, the HLIF/MG is determined to help in the ‘restoration’ of America and Beyond by continuing to publish the *Morning Glory and having Bible Conferences, Evangelistic Meetings, etc.* Because JESUS cares; we also care: Because of CALVARY and A Risen Savior, **Who is coming again!**

Rodney Stueland, Editor & Part-time Field Rep.

P. S. Over the past several years, we have witnessed attacks by our own Government on Christianity and individual liberties. We have watched as these same leaders have violated our Constitution and dared the American people to stop them. We have witnessed the withdrawal of our Nation’s support for the country of Israel. WE need to take a clear, bold stand for TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS.

One of the most effective weapons that we have as Born-again people is specific prayer. Every Christian and every Congregation should be storming the gates of Heaven with unceasing prayer for our Nation. Another effective weapon in our beloved USA at our disposal for the restoration of America is the ballot box. If all eligible Christian voters would determine to enter the voting booth; voting not particularly for their pocketbook, but conscience, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, would cast their ballots only for candidates who support and defend biblical values; then *likely* the restoration of USA and beyond. Otherwise the judgment of GOD will likely fall on us in what is now the inevitable downfall of our nation.

Editorial

RES

DISTINCT DIFFERENCE

“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness, Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” (Isaiah 5:20)

“Praise the LORD, call upon His name; Declare His deeds among the peoples, Make mention that His name is exalted. Sing to the LORD, For He has done excellent things; This is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, For great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!” Isaiah 12:4b – 6.

Fairly recently I was told of a ‘Intern-Pastor’ from a relatively conservative ‘church-group’ who said, “All that is needed for Salvation is attendance at the Lord’s Supper.” I assume he included ‘Baptism’ as well.

HERESY from the very ‘pit of hell’ and thus the first part of this ‘editorial’ we are going to deal with Primary Doctrine; which is dealing with a person’s INDIVIDUAL SALVATION! Even though there may be a goodly number of people coming to know JESUS as their personal Savior at a given time/location: Yet it is on an *individual* basis! John 3:1-18. Most certainly JESUS was not ‘talking’ about “Baptism” to Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; in this portion of His Word; for the New Testament ‘Baptism’ was not instituted yet! John 6:35, 37, II Cor. 5:17, Revelation 3:20, etc., for JESUS came to seek and save the lost – Luke 15:10, Isaiah 64:6, 53:6, “*not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit*” Titus 3:5.

Clearly I believe in ‘Infant Baptism’ which is ‘biblical’ as I not only was raised as a “Lutheran”, but definitely a Lutheran by biblical doctrine/conviction: but being a Lutheran nor any other denomination will not save you or even being raised in church for salvation it still is on a personal ‘Gift’ and by Grace – Ephesians 2:8-9, John 1:12-13, I John 5:11-13, Joshua 24:15, Matthew 7:13-14, John 10:1-10, v. 3 “*To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out*”. Isaiah 43:1-3. God has no-grandchildren!

It’s nonsense to try to even believe that ALL roads lead to Heaven: for Jesus clearly states that no person come to God His Father except through Him. Acts 4:12-13.

When God says ALL have sinned and have come short of the glory of God: God says ALL because He means ALL and ALL includes **ALL**.

ALL ‘religions’ other than ‘Christianity’ have at least one ‘do’ in order to be saved; while Christianity knows and experiences ‘done’ – ***It is finished/completed, in and through Jesus*** – Matthew 1:21.

The driving influence of ‘Muslims’ is hate, while Christianity is LOVE.

Secondly let’s look at a fine-line but Scripturally the clear distinction between PRE-DESTINATION AND FORE-KNOWLEDGE.

WHEN GOD CREATED Adam & Eve and placed them in the ‘Garden of Eden’; which was a ‘sinless atmosphere’: HE yet gave them a ‘choice/free-will’. The husband and wife were not created at ‘Robots’. Now ‘we’ know that since the fall of man, man is born with a sinful nature and in reality under the influence of Satan – spiritually dead towards God. Man is ‘sinful’ to the very core and does not learn to ‘sin’, but sin is the result of a ‘depraved-sinful heart.’ YET Adam and Eve made a choice is listening to and obeying the “Father of lies.” Genesis 3:1-15. AN innocent life evidently had to be ‘killed’/sacrificed in order to provide a ‘covering’ for Adam and Eve. Cain rose up and killed his brother Abel which was not God’s will and there are many incidents in the Bible and TODAY; articles which I believe are not (according too) God’s will; BUT take place because ‘we’ live in a sinful world and are sinners driven by SIN; such as envy, jealousy, pride, hate, greed, bitterness, etc.

Fairly often I hear God is in Control!

First of all ‘we’ need a definition of ‘control’ so ‘we’ know exactly what we are talking about!

(Most certainly **God is Sovereign, Almighty, All-knowing, everywhere present, etc.**) Satan is mighty, but GOD is ALMIGHTY!

Control— “To exercise authoritative or dominating influence over; direct. Authority or ability to manage or direct”.

YES, God is in ‘control’, but many times He lets mankind have their own fleshly desires and as ‘individuals’ that is true with also nations!

The unregenerate person is an ‘enemy’ of God and spiritually blind! He is also his own attorney in disagreeing with God.

A true ‘believer’ has two natures: the old sinful nature and a new nature that is transplanted by God in giv-

ing him a New Heart. These two natures are in conflict and it depends upon which one is on the 'throne' and which on the 'cross' in his life; which also depends upon which one 'wins', depends upon which one is nurtured/fed the most. As this is true of 'us' as 'individuals' it is also true of our communities, churches, nations. REMEMBER 'we' live in a sinful world and even 'we' who know JESUS as our personal Savior are foreigners/strangers in this 'sinful world' and looking forward to a CITY whose Founder and Maker is God. What is true of the individual is also true of nations and the 'direction' nations go depends much upon its' leadership.

'God is in Control'; but that doesn't mean all the evil is taking place is pleasing; God-sent and is of God. Don't forget it is 'individuals' that make up 'nations'! **"Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is as reproach to any people"** Proverbs 14:34. **"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,...Psalm 33-12a.** (Jeremiah 2:11-13)

I will give you a few examples: In the Old Testament Israel wanted to be ruled like their heathen neighbor nations and God let them have a king when He wanted them to be ruled by prophet(s). AND as a result God said they would experience 'weakness of soul'.

IN Amos 8, God said there would be a famine/drought for His WORD; but that isn't what God really wants: but in His Fore-knowledge, He knew Ananias & Sapphira would LIE and sorely grieve the Holy Spirit: (Acts 5), YES, God's **'Fore-knowledge, but not predestination'**.

God knew the sin(s) that would be so rampant in Lot's era in Sodom and Gomorrah – HOMOSEXUALITY, but this was not God's will. Genesis 19.

In God's 'fore-knowledge', HE knows in the latter days things will be like in the days of Abraham and Lot; but that's not what He wants! **Genesis 6:5, 13, 13:13.**

PLEASE do not say when "evil" is prevalent or prevails that God is in control; because in a certain sense the

sinful world is, Satan and self are! Being God is Sovereign and as He is Almighty; HE CAN turn bad into good; because of whom HE is.

We are living in 'perilous times' and 'apostasy/falling away' as there are many false prophets; but the will of God is **"who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."** 1 Timothy 2:4. Satan is a 'deceiver and a thief'; but JESUS SHED HIS **BLOOD** for the sins of the whole world. Revelation 12:7-12.

In what 'we' call the Lord's Prayer, we pray 'lead us not into temptation'. Temptation is not SIN, yielding to 'temptation' is! **BUT GOD** does not 'tempt' us; what 'we' are praying for here is with His empowerment (Word, Holy Spirit): that 'we' be overcomers! **"Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone."** James 1:12-14, 17. God is LOVE – notice 1 Corinthians 13:6, Galatians 5:16-26, Romans 8:1-9.

Please do not accuse or become careless in using the term GOD IS IN CONTROL and falsely imply it is God's fault for sin/evil.

Remember 'we' are living in a 'sinful world' and are sinners and that GOD does not for example choose some to be saved and others lost; as it cost HIM His very own SON to die in our stead that 'we' might be in Heaven forever with HIM!

IF predestination apart from God's Fore-knowledge were Scripturally correct; why do 'we' make an effort in God's Love to proclaim the WORD to both the saved and the unsaved? No, we are not forced to obey as 'robots'!

GOD CHANGES NOT!

To be continued in the next issue of the Morning Glory.

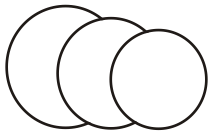
The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the forward (perverse) tongue shall be cut out. The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable. Proverbs 10:31-32a.

Is it true? Is it kind? Does it need to be repeated? We would do well to remember these injunctions before we pass on some bit of new information about others. Oh, the damage that has been done to the cause of Christ by those who are more intrigued by the lives of others than their own. Do we want our speech to build up or to tear down?

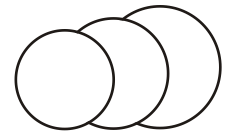
To be like choice silver or of little worth? To pass along empty words or to give our listeners something to remember? Edifying speech is of great worth.

G. Frear

Editor's Note: James 3:1-13. "Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips." Psalm 141:3. "Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." Matthew 12:34.



From Our Fellowship Circle



C. Roland, IA
Praise the LORD! Same-sex Marriage is wrong as God created Male and Female.

A. T. Seattle, WA
Thanks for all the good articles in the *Morning Glory* as they are needed and you folk are doing a wonderful work. The Lord has blessed you all and me as a reader. Thanks.
The Lord has and is good to us – Praise His Name!

R. S. Ferryville, WI
Thanks for sending the *Morning Glory!* Keep up the good work and sending out the real Message of God; which naturally is the Word of God, the Bible..

Mrs. D. L. Des Moines, IA
Dear Friends at *Morning Glory*.

Enclosed please find a check that has been a long time in coming. As we get older the days just seem to go by in a flash. Anyway, I'll be 86 years old and this tabernacle of clay is wearing out; thus things get harder to do. I am also losing my eye-sight and one eye is totally blind and the other getting more dim...

At the end of November I'll be moving in with my Son and Daughter-in-law ... And I will be doing some – what they call a 'sitter' – as he is home-schooled... I watch over this Grandson and he watches over me like an old mother hen. He is a very intelligent and a great Grandson Physically I am looking forward in not living alone.

My address will be...

I'm waiting each day for the call "come up hither" and I know you are also! It seems to me that it can't be too far off!

Thanks again for the *Morning Glory* and I enjoy every issue, and read it from cover to cover, and it is such a blessing to me along with being informative on other things too!

God Bless you all,

In Christ,

R. F. Fergus Falls, MN
It is hard to believe that we, who receive the *Morning Glory*, don't respond with more of our resources. I am guilty of that but now I am enclosing a gift to help defray expenses that you have each month.

My gift is in memory of my dear sister, ...who went Home to be with the Lord on October 13, 2015 and she was 91

years old and had lived a wonderful life.

Thank you for all of the blessed articles I find on every page in your publication. May the Lord bless you in return.

W. M. O. Valley City, ND
Thank you for such a wonderful Christian Magazine as I enjoy reading all the articles.

I am sending a donation and please keep sending it.

* * * * *

Minor Prophets

By Toby Knutson, Fargo, ND

The reading of the Minor prophets of the Old Testament give us, who live in America, quite a "Heads up" as to what will happen to our great Nation if she continues on her path of rejecting God and the truths found in His Scriptures. For example, in Nahum 3:1,3 we are told, "*Woe to the bloody city (Nineveh)! It is all full of lies and robbery; ...*" "*...a great number of corpses, and there is no end of their corpses; they stumble upon their corpses:*" It is becoming more evident each year (Ed. week/month) that there is more slaughter in our cities of America in the past number of years than ever in our history. Up until our judicial system "outlawed" God from our schools, court houses and other levels of government, violence within our borders was seldom in the news. Our local governmental agencies continue to issue liquor licenses with a feeble warning to the potential consumers to "drink responsibly". The Prophet Habakkuk pens these words in Chapter 2:5, "*...he transgresseth by wine, he is a proud man, neither keepeth at home...*" (Ed. Also note Chapter 2:15-17).

With the spiritual dumbing down of our nation we can readily see that the backbone speaking of Scriptural truths, as a society, has turned into a "politically correct speak" mentality. Well, my Oh my, we could go on and on about the ungodly issues lacking and consuming our beloved America. However, the prophet Micah gives to us wonderful news that has come to pass many years hence, "*But thou Bethlehem Ephrata, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*" The prophet Habakkuk also says in Chapter 2:4b "*...the just shall live by his faith*". So there is hope in our risen and returning Lord Jesus Christ. Praise ye the Lord.

Believable...Yet Unbelievable

The Coded Message Obama Delivers When He Says Isil Instead Of Isis

When referring to the Muslim terror super-group ISIS, United States President Barack Obama will use the term ISIL instead of their former name ISIS or current name Islamic State...

DECODING OBAMA'S SPEECH REVEALS SOME STARTLING REVELATIONS

"And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." Genesis 12:3 (KJV)

In one press conference after another, when referring to the Muslim terror super-group ISIS, United States President Barack Obama will use the term ISIL instead of their former name ISIS or current name Islamic State. Have you ever wondered about that? We have.

ISIL stands for the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant. Now, to us Westerners we don't really make much of a distinction, do we? No, honestly from our perspective it's all about the same. But how would a Muslim living in the Middle East view it? Just what is the Levant anyway? Let's take a look.

The geographical term LEVANT refers to a multi-nation region in the Middle East. It's a land bridge between Turkey in the north and Egypt to the south. If you look on a map, however, in the near exact middle of the nations that comprise the Levant, guess what you see? Come, on guess! *It's Israel.*

WHEN BARACK OBAMA REFERS OVER AND OVER TO THE ISLAMIC STATE AS ISIL, HE IS SENDING A MESSAGE TO MUSLIMS ALL OVER THE MIDDLE EAST THAT HE PERSONALLY DOES NOT RECOGNIZE ISRAEL AS A SOVEREIGN NATION, BUT AS TERRITORY BELONGING TO THE ISLAMIC STATE.

Now you know why Obama says that he has no plan, no goal, and no stated aim for dealing with ISIS. But he does have a plan, and it's a really nasty, diabolical one. Obama's plan is to drag his feet for as long as he can doing only the bare minimum that Congress forces him to do. His "plan" is to buy ISIS as much time as possible to make as many gains as they can.

Listen as Obama painstakingly spells out the letters I-S-I-L so there is no doubt in your mind: And it's working.

The Islamic State has garnered millions of dollars, a vast cache of weapons, and in their latest foray have captured Syrian fighter jets. With each passing day that

Obama fulfills his stated aim of doing nothing, the Islamic State grows by leaps and bounds. The ultimate goal, of course, has not changed and will never change.

THE ULTIMATE GOAL IS THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL.

Now you know a little bit more why Obama chooses his words so carefully, and what's really in a name. Shakespeare had it right.

Editor's Note: The above information is from *Conservative Byte Alerts*, 11/19/15 – 'remember' this is a copy of the material already stated – Check It Out!?!?!? *If this is 'true' – HORRIBLE – MAY GOD HAVE 'MERCY' UPON "US"!*– 'We the People'.

Guns used by San Bernardino shooters were bought legally in the USA, an ATF spokesman said. The city of Chicago has the strictest 'Gun-Control' measures in the entire USA, and yet has one of the most dangerous (percentage ways) of 'fatal shootings'!

A Muslim group (CAIR) praises President Obama on Islam and Gun Control Speech and there is also a plan in the 'making' to BANKRUPT the USA – *Maybe through 'Climate Control' financial funding!*

The reaction to Jerry Falwell Jr.'s comments on encouraging students at Liberty University to be armed in case there is a ISIS attack at the School had led to a great deal of theological and political angst. BUT take a 'good-look' at Exodus 22:1-4, Proverbs 25:26, Matthew 24:43, Luke 11:21, 22:36-38, John 18:10, Matthew 26:51, Luke 22:50, 10:29-37.

GOD has clearly told us in His Eternal Word, the Bible, that WE are to pray for our "enemies" as 'they' also will spend all-eternity in either Heaven or Hell! Most certainly, **not that evil should succeed, but for their salvation in and through Jesus ONLY!**

BE SURE TO PRAY 'SPECIALLY' FOR "WE THE People" (Nation), THAT GOD WILL EXTEND HIS MERCY UPON US AND THAT 'WE' MIGHT REPENT OF OUR SIN AND TURN BACK TO OUR LIVING GOD!

Encouragement: remember Abraham, Jonah, Elijah, Esther, Jeremiah, Paul, Martin Luther, Hans Neilsen Hauge, Wesley Brothers, Spurgeon, Billy Sunday, D. L. Moody, etc.

PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE CHAPTER OF 1 THESSALONIANS 5!

Christian Teachers in Kenya Quit in Fear of Attacks

At least 95 schools in Kenya were forced to shut their doors after 2,000 teachers quit over fears of attacks by Islamic extremists. These schools will be closed indefinitely, and 500 others are at risk of closing as they suffer from the lack of faculty members.

Most of the teachers who resigned were Christians and feared being targeted by terrorists after Al Shabaab militants attacked Christian students at Garissa University in April. In the attack, four Al Shabaab militants shot and killed 148 Christian students. The terrorists separated Christian students from Muslim students in the methodical slaughter.

The Church Around the World, September, 2015.

Paris Attacks

The Paris Attacks (11/15) took place amidst strict gun control laws and an open border!

* * * * *

Order and Steadfastness

“For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. Colossians 2:5

Apparently, the church at Colossae had a reputation for structure. No doubt godly elders kept vigilance on their behalf. Perhaps they were guided by the clear rules in Proverbs 4:20-26.

“Incline thine ear unto my sayings.”
“Keep them in the midst of thine heart.”
“Keep thy heart with all diligence.”
“Put away from thee a forward mouth.”
“Let thine eyes look right on.”
“Ponder the path of thy feet.”
“Let all thy ways be established.”

There was an obvious steadfastness to their faith – a “stiffened” and even “obstinate” faith, as the Greek term implies. These believers were not babes in Christ, nor were they easily swayed by “enticing words” (Colossians 2:4). But as important as those attributes were, it was necessary to extend the church atmosphere and function into a lifestyle that each member embraced (Colossians 2:6).

The reader may remember that the disciples were first labeled “Christians” in Antioch (Acts 11:26). The name was meant as a derogatory comment, but it was given be-

cause the lifestyles of Christ’s followers reflected His teachings.

The basis for this identity is “that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not practice the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 5-7). “Ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8).

Henry M. Morris, Ph.D.

Days of Praise, Institute for Creation Research
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* * * * *

“Strengthen, O God, that which thou has wrought for us.” Psalm 68:28

IT is our wisdom, as well as our necessity, to beseech God continually to strengthen that which HE has wrought in us. It is because of their neglect in this, that many Christians may blame themselves for those trials and afflictions of spirit which arise from unbelief. It is true that Satan seeks to flood the fair garden of the heart and make it a scene of desolation, but it is also true that many Christians leave open the sluice-gates themselves, and let in the dreadful deluge through carelessness and want of prayer to their strong Helper. We often forget that the Author of our faith must be the Preserver of it also. The lamp which was burning in the temple was never allowed to go out, but it had to be daily replenished with fresh oil of grace, and we can only obtain this from God Himself. Foolish virgins we shall prove, if we do not secure the needed sustenance for our lamps. He who built the world upholds it, or it would fall in one tremendous crash; He who made us Christians must maintain us by His Spirit, or our ruin will be speedy and final. Let us, then, evening by evening, go to our Lord for the grace and strength we need. We have a strong argument to plead, for ***it is His own work of grace*** which we ask Him to strengthen – ***“that which Thou hast wrought for us.”*** Do you think you He will fail to protect and sustain that? Only take hold of His strength, and all the powers of darkness, led on by the master fiend of hell, cannot cast a cloud or shadow over your joy and peace. Why faint when you may be strong? Why suffer defeat when you may conquer? Oh! Take your wavering faith and drooping graces to Him who can revive and replenish them, and earnestly pray, ***“Strengthen, O God, that which thou hast wrought for us.”***

Morning & Evening, by Charles Spurgeon, Hendrickson Publishers, Inc. Copyright © 1991

SOMETHING YOU WILL NEVER ESCAPE!

For many years I have prayed every day, “Lord, give me a burden for unsaved people. This concern for the unsaved is often non-existent with many because, by nature, we are selfish and self-centered. But this is what the LORD laid upon my heart when I was reading the Bible. God speaks to us through His Word. This is what I was reminded of. *“Whenever you receive a message from me (God says) pass it on to the people immediately. IF I warn the wicked, saying, ‘You are under the penalty of death,’ but you fail to deliver the warning, they will die in their sins. And I will hold you responsible, demanding your blood for theirs. If you warn them and they keep on sinning and refuse to repent, they will die in their sin. But you will have saved your life because you did what you were told to do”*⁽¹⁾.

It was one night this week that I woke up early in the morning, and the Lord gave me these thoughts. Write a letter and send it to those of your acquaintances that are unsaved, so that is what I am doing with this letter.

I have been thinking and praying about how I could say this to you in a caring way. Even though I have known you for some time, yet I have not had an open conversation with you about spiritual things. It just hasn’t worked out so I thought I would like to write this letter and send it to you.

I am a believer in Jesus Christ, He is my Lord and Savior. I want to talk very openly with you about Biblical things today. The Bible says there is a place called heaven that God offers to those who accept Him as their personal Savior and there a place called hell for those who reject Him (Jesus). (As you see, God had YOU in mind for the ‘gift’ of Salvation, as Salvation is a personal ‘gift’). God’s Word speaks of “God and Satan,” what is “right and wrong,” and many other things like this all throughout the Scriptures. I want to tell you about ‘the good and bad’ today! I know you may not want to hear or even think about what your future holds, but it involves you as well as me directly. The Bible says it like this, *“And as it is a appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”*⁽²⁾ No one is going to get around this fact. We can try to excuse it away, but that doesn’t nullify the truth. We all know of people that have already died. Jesus said: *“But I’ll tell you whom to fear: Fear God, who has the power to kill people and then throw them into hell”*⁽³⁾. Do you know that Jesus talked more about hell in the Bible than He did about heaven? Jesus tries to warn as many people as he could, that hell is a real and terrible place. The Bible speaks of hell in this way: in hell people *“shall be tormented day and night forever and ever”*⁽⁴⁾. If you

honestly think of what God’s Word says about hell, a sensible person would say to themselves: *“I don’t want to go to hell and spend eternity in torment.”* Shouldn’t we honestly ask ourselves: “How can I omit going to hell? How can we get it right with God?” He is the only one who can rescue and save us! Ask the LORD who has **“the keys to death and hell,”** HOW can I get it right with You?”

Here is the “Good News.” I want to quote a verse you should know. **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”**⁽⁵⁾ I don’t know if you realize it, but this is why Jesus came. He came because we are all sinners, and we are condemned to hell because of SIN. We are all under the judgment of God’s wrath unless we get our sins forgiven. That’s why God wants you to know that Jesus came and died on the Cross for you and me. He took your sin and my sin upon himself. Notice what it says in this next Bible verse. **“He is the sacrifice for our sins. He takes away not only our sins but the sins of all the world.”**⁽⁶⁾ It can’t get any better than this! Think of this a little bit. He is willing to take all your sin that you have committed in thought, word or deed, and HE pays (paid) the price “for your sin.” You didn’t even ask him to do it, but that’s what He did! That’s why God asks us to confess our sin. Ask Him to take over your life so He can change you and make you a new person. Yes, Jesus says, we must be **“born again.”** That’s what happens when He moves into our life.

This is God’s proclamation: *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”*⁽⁷⁾ Are you aware of the fact, that death and hell is the only thing that can pay for the price for sin. God’s Word says; *“The person who sins will be the one who dies.”*⁽⁸⁾ You see, that’s why **“Jesus took our place.”** He died and went to hell instead of you. The LORD God tells you that Jesus paid the price for all your sin! Do you want your sins forgiven? You can receive forgiveness right now, if you “confess your sin to Jesus.” He’s the One who paid the price for your sins. That’s why God says: *“But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong (sin)”*⁽⁹⁾. Isn’t that “Good News?” God’s Word continues with a similar thought when He says: *“I am writing to you, my dear children, because your sins have been forgiven because of Jesus.”*⁽¹⁰⁾ WOW! It’s all taken care of, just **“ask for forgiveness.”**

Are YOU willing to accept JESUS today as your Lord and Savior? If your answer is “yes”, pray this simple sinner’s prayer that I have written or something similar to it. Pray with a sincere heart!

“Dear LORD Jesus, I want to confess my sin before you now. (right now, confess all known sin before Him.)

LORD, you tell me if I confess my sin, you are willing to forgive me of all sin. Thank you for doing that. Jesus, help me to turn my back on sinful things. I can't do this in my own strength. I need your Holy Spirit to remind me and help me. I need you in my life! Without your help I will fall back into sinful things again. Change me LORD, help me, lead me, thank you because you want to save me. I pray that you will reveal yourself to me through your Holy Word, the Bible. Help me to understand your Word as I read it. Amen.

If you want to talk to someone about your spiritual situation, ask a believer in Christ to help you. A Spiritual person will gladly help you get it right with the Lord. I pray that you will respond as the Spirit of God draws you to Jesus.

Greetings from Pastor Willmore Gundersen,
Fergus Falls, MN

The verses I referred to above are: (1) Ezekiel 3:16b-18. (2) Hebrews 9:27. (3) Luke 12:5. (4) Revelation 20:10b. (5) John 3:16. (6). 1 John 2:2. (7) Romans 6:23. (8) Ezekiel 18:4b. (9) 1 John 1:9. (10) John 2:12.

* * * * *

***Eli perceived that the LORD
had called the child.***

1 Samuel 3:8b

Eli recognized that God was in the call to Samuel. That may seem like a fundamental observation but it was critical to a young man with very little spiritual experience. We need leaders of such discernment today! As mature believers who are getting older, we need to immerse ourselves in mentoring the next generation – and all that that involves. It will be challenging. It will take time. But it is a great necessity. God wants us to prepare His workers for the next situation and the next generation. May we not let this divine trust slip.

Norman Craig Funston

*O use me, Lord, use even me,
Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where,
Until Thy blessed face I see –
Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.*

Frances Ridley Havergal

Editor's Note: There is a statement that goes like this: I am old enough now that I think I have some 'answers'; but I can't find *anyone* to listen! There *seems* to be more 'truth' in that phrase than humor. WHY??? *WHY? Is it that in even Biblical Congregations you see and hear the 'elder' pushed out of 'leadership positions' and sort of put*

on the shelf. Because we are not listening! ***1 Timothy 3:3:1-13, 5:17-20, Titus chapter one and chapter two. "But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine, that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; the older women likewise..."*** vv. 1-3a.

ISN'T this also 'True' when it comes to the calling of an "Evangelist" and conducting/holding 'evangelistic meetings' in the 'church'?

Frank, but TRUE!!! ARE YOU "Listening"? NOTICE how the 'early church' operated in the Book of ACTS!!

HOW WE NEED a *prayed down* – God Sent REVIVAL in our midst and throughout our beloved USA!

"Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?" Psalm 85:6.

There are a number of "God Sent" Revivals recorded in God's Holy Book, the BIBLE! For example: UNDER Moses, Samuel, Elijah, Hezekiah, Ezra, Josiah, and Nehemiah in the Old Testament. It is very significant, however, that each 'revival' was centered around the Word of God.

Analysis of all of the other revivals will reveal that they also were based on reception and acceptance of God's Word, the Bible.

There *may be other ingredients* in these 'revivals', but the Word of God was always the fundamental foundation, and there can be no real true and lasting revival without it. In our 'day' the need for a Heaven Sent Revival is so very important and so desperate, that we first need to get back to a serious study of the Holy Scriptures, and seeking to obey the same out of LOVE for and unto JESUS!

FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT THINK WE DESPERATELY NEED A HEAVEN SENT REVIVAL; I AM CONCERNED THAT THEY MAY BE IN A COMPLACENT LUKEWARM ZONE!

**His grace is sufficient
No one can exhaust it;
Be strong in that grace
Abundant and true.
Draw largely, continually out of
His fullness;
His grace shall be always sufficient for you.**

Testimony of how God Works!

The working 'theme' of our life has been Evangelism and Missions.

While in my 2nd year of Seminary in 1950, Ruby and I were invited to travel with Evangelist Clarence Haaland and his wife, Mary. We each pulled a house-trailer and two single girls drove his truck with the tent and chairs for our meetings. The girls, with Ruby, formed a good trio and I was the song leader. We traveled with Evangelist Haaland that summer to four states and many souls came to know Christ as their personal Savior.

How did I first come to experience that God uses His Word to change lives? Of course, I knew that from my own conversion at the age of 17. Shortly thereafter, in the midst of the Second World War, I joined the Navy and after training was sent as a signalman to New Guinea and assigned to a Landing Craft Ship with General McArthur's 7th Fleet, then ready to invade the Philippine Islands. We spent nine months occupying various islands and were then sent to Okinawa to join the Fleet that was about to invade Japan. The two Atomic bombs were dropped, Japan surrendered and our ships spread all over Japan with occupation troops. Several of our LCT ships harbored in "Sassebo", Japan's most southernly large Naval base. On shore in many barracks were hundreds of marines and soldiers. Chaplains had arranged for large Saturday night meetings. As a Signalman I was allowed to send information and invitations to many ships.

Returning from a Saturday evening meeting with a sailor named Ernie Gilmore from a sister ship, I asked him if he died, did he have the assurance that he would go to Heaven? He said he wasn't sure. As we reached my ship I invited Ernie to let me show him some promises in the Bible, which is God's Word. The only private place was in the "paint-locker" (room), but it had no lights. However, I had been using the "Navigator Memory System" and knew the Gospel promises by heart.

We entered the pitch dark room, I shared, we prayed, and Ernie came to assurance of his Salvation.

A few days later Ernie's Ship got orders and left, soon our ship also left.

Now fast-forward 10 years.

Ruby and I had just finished Missionary language school in Campinas, Brazil. We were packed and ready to move some 500 miles into the Frontier and begin our church planting ministry. We thought that I should go into the City and check for the last time if we had any mail.

The Post Office building was very large and as I walked along I heard someone call out my name: "Abel, Abel, is that you?" I looked and responded, "Yes and are you Ernie Gilmore?" Sure enough, he had gotten a little heavier; but it was Ernie. I asked, "What are you doing in

Brazil?" He said: "I'm here as a Presbyterian Missionary ready to start Language school. Abel, a lot has happened in my life since we prayed in the paint-locker, but God has never let go of me, and now I'm here to serve Him." I'm sure I responded with something like: Praise the Lord! Ernie came out as a single man, later married and served many years in north Brazil.

It is not often that God shows the fruit of sharing His Word, but we must share His Word anyway and leave the results with Him! Has He not promise: **"So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me empty. But it shall accomplish what I please and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."** Isaiah 55:11.

The following is one outline from the "Navigators" that we have used over the years to help hundreds of people to come to Assurance of their Salvation: 1) Fact of Sin – Rom. 3:23. 2) Penalty of Sin – Rom. 6:23. 3) Penalty paid by Christ – Rom. 5:6, 8. 4) Salvation a free Gift – Eph. 2:8-9. 5) The Gift Must Be Received – John 1:12, Rev. 3:20.

After sharing these verses offer to lead them in prayer and ask them to pray out loud with you. Who knows what the Holy Spirit will do so we share His Word. Yes, on occasion He may even be so gracious as to show us His fruit.

Sincerely, Pastor John & Ruby Abel

THOU LOVEST ME

*Grant me, O Lord, a heart content,
To face each trial as it is sent.
That I may see in all Thy ways,
A love that governs all my days.*

*Save me from doubt and dark despair.
Teach me to trust Thy tender care,
The distant scene I would not see,
Suffice to know Thou lovest me.*

*Thy love so vast, so full, so free,
That reaches down to even me,
In this assurance I am blest,
No matter what may be the test.*

*I cannot drift beyond Thy care,
In every burden Thou wilt share,
Grant me this rest of faith, dear Lord,
According to Thy precious Word.*

*Open mine eyes that I may see,
Each promise written there for me;
When Thou dost speak, attune my ear,
That I might hear Thy accents clear. — Walter Vater*

“As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.” Ps. 103:12.

Sin is anything contrary to the will of God. Our hearts are full of sin and they need to be cleansed by the blood of Jesus. We are apt to go against God’s will – that is sin. God invites sinners to come to Him and to confess their sins. Then He removes and blots out their transgressions for His name’s sake. This He does *“as far as the east is from the west.”* That is very, very far, and God will remember them no more.

A school teacher in London kept record of all the mischief his boys in the class did. One day, after a good heart-to-heart talk with this boy, the teacher went out into the schoolyard and built a bonfire. Then he took his record-book and threw it into the flames, while the boys stood around and rejoiced because their records were burnt up forever. The boys loved their teacher more after this.

God is like that teacher. He does not want any sin to come between Himself and us. Let us confess our sins to Him, and He will wash them away.

Lord, let us be Thine forever, and may we never try to hide from Thee. Help us to confess our sins. Then let us rejoice more and more in the forgiveness of sin. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

*Let me be Thine forever, my gracious God and Lord,
May I forsake Thee never, nor wander from Thy Word:
Preserve me from the mazes of error and distrust,
And I shall sing Thy praises forever with the just.*

This ‘family’ devotional book called *Altar Steps* by Pastor R. P. Haakonson is available through the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation for a donation of eight dollars, plus two dollars for handling and shipping.

True Love vs. Self-Love

J.B. Phillips gives these definitions which contrast with one another greatly: one of them, from 1 Cor. 13 defines what love is; the other, a definition of the opposite of Christian love, which is, strangely enough, not hate... but love turned in upon itself. Here they are:

“LOVE suffers long and is kind: love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth, bears all things, believes all things, hope all things, endures all things. Love never fails.”

“SELF-LOVE is impatient and uncharitable, and is a mass of jealousy; it keeps all its goods in the shop window, and cherishes inflated ideas of its own importance.

Self-love has a secret sympathy with sin and is always rather scared of the plain truth. It must never be put upon, it is suspicious and cynical and has little power of endurance. Self-love has little consideration for others, is always out for ‘Number One’; it is touchy and highly critical of other people’s conduct. Self-love soon tires of doing good.

If we are honest, we can easily see how much of the second definition there is in ourselves... Jesus Christ calls for a definite denial of the desires and impulses of the self-love that is in all of us, and a willingness to be guided and inspired by the power of true, not sentimental, love. Christians believe, and have proved, that God gives the ability to effect the change-over, once the decision to be done with self-love is sincerely made.” Selected

Human Goodness Fails

Many people do not understand why God cannot accept human character as a basis for salvation. The natural mind, accustomed to weighing all matters by purely human standards, cannot understand that God must reject human goodness because it comes from a heart that is fallen. An anecdote about little Jimmy furnishes a good example: He was being admired because he had crawled out on the ice and rescued a playmate who had fallen through. “Tell us, my boy, how you were brave enough to risk your life to save your friend,” said an old lady. “I had to,” was his breathless answer. “He had my skates on.” If we are honest with ourselves, we will realize that very often our acts of goodness, down underneath, have a selfish motive.

Power

Editor’s Note: “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.” James 2:10. Example: “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.” James 2:10. God says so and that settles it!

Woe unto you who call evil good, and good evil...therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, and the flame consumes the chaff, so their root will be rottenness, and their blossom will ascend like dust; because they have rejected the law of the Lord of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy one of Israel. (Isa. 5:20,24)

Will God Judge Islam?

“Woe to the bloody city...” (Nahum 3:1)

We have seen the senseless killing, the ruthless be-headings and the merciless plots carried out against innocent people. At home and abroad, people espousing Islam as their religion are at war with anyone who is contrary to them. They kill, murder and maim with no regard for human life, others or even their own. How long will this carnage go on? If these people have their way, it will continue until all the world bows the knee to Allah, every tongue confesses Muhammad as their prophet and vows to follow the teachings of Islam. These people have vowed to the death that this is what they will do. Does God just sit by idly while this sort of mayhem occurs against even women and children? Will God judge Islam for their acts of terror?

Well, Islam is not the first nation that has resorted to ruthless terror to devour and control other countries. In Old Testament times, another nation that was ruthless in bloodshed was Assyria.

Ashur-nasir-pal was king of Assyria from 883 to 859 BC. During his reign he embarked on a vast program of expansion ... then invading Aram (modern Syria), conquering the Aramaeans and neo Hittites between the Khabur and the Euphrates Rivers. His harshness prompted a revolt that he crushed decisively in a pitched, two-day battle. According to his monument inscription, while recalling this massacre he says, “their men, young and old, I took prisoners. Of some I cut off their feet and hands; of others I cut off the ears, noses and lips; of the young men’s ears I made a heap; of the old men’s heads I made a minaret. I exposed their heads as a trophy in front of their city. The male children and the female children I burned in flames; the city I destroyed, and consumed with fire”.¹

Well, it was to this very country that God sent Jonah; in fact, to the very capital, Nineveh. God said, “... *their wickedness has come up before Me.*” (Jonah 1:2) God did not just sit idly by when great atrocities were being done against people. But His first action was to offer them forgiveness, which sounds incredulous, but this is the Love of God to fallen mankind. Before He sends final judgment, He offers an opportunity for people to amend their ways and avoid the great judgment.

Jonah’s proclamation to this wicked city was this: “*Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown.*” (Jonah 3:4) The city, from the king on down, repented before the Lord. “*Both man and beast must be covered in sackcloth and ashes; and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands.*” (Jonah 3:8) This is the heart of true repentance before the Lord: They acknowledged their wrong and turned away from it. In response to this heart-felt repentance, “...*God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them.*” (Jonah 3:10) So even the most blood-thirsty and ruthless people can repent and change before the Lord. There is hope for those who are caught up in Islam!

However, their repentance was short lived. The repentance under Jonah took place about 760 B.C, and the book of Nahum predicts the destruction of Nineveh which took place in 612 B.C by the Babylonians. In about 150 years, the people of Nineveh forgot what happened between them and the Lord and reverted back to their horrid ways of bloodshed and murder.

Now God was going to judge them and judge them severely. As ruthless as Nineveh was against others is how ruthless God would be against them. “*Also her small children were dashed to pieces.*” (Nahum 3:10) As the Assyrians devoured even small children, so the Lord had the invading nation devour her children.

Will God judge Islam? He will judge any nation or people who act wickedly. The timing of when He does this is in His decree. Interestingly enough, God used Assyria as a scourge against Israel when they turned away from Him. “*Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger and the staff in whose hands is My indignation. I send it against a godless nation and commission it against the people of My fury, to capture booty and to seize plunder, and to trample them down like mud in the streets.*” (Isa. 10:5-6) The Assyrians invaded the Northern Kingdom of Israel and took them captive in 722 B.C. So before God judges them, He used them as a means of chastising His own people. Perhaps the Lord is using Islam in the same way against the nations of the world, including our own. Have you noticed that the increase in terrorism around the world has come at the same time as the wide-spread acceptance of homosexuality? Deliverance will only come if we repent and come back to Him. Will we?

1 Wikipedia

“A jealous and avenging God is the Lord; The Lord is avenging and wrathful. The Lord takes vengeance on His adversaries, and He reserves wrath for His enemies. The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and the Lord will by no means leave the guilty unpunished.” (Nahum 1:2-3)

Pastor Jim Haga
Shoreview, MN

What Great Love!

Jesus said, *“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”* (John 15:13)

The greatest act of love, the greatest sacrifice that a man can make is that which he is willing to die for. The greatest act of love that one can show to their friends is to be willing to die for them.

Yet Jesus does have a greater love than this. He not only laid down His life for His friends, but He laid it down even for His enemies! Romans 5:6-8, 10 says, *“For while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the **ungodly**. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet **sinners**, Christ died for us....For if while we were **enemies**, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”* Note the words that the Holy Spirit uses to describe those who Jesus died for: **ungodly, sinners, enemies**. These are people who are openly breaking God’s Laws and rather unconcerned about it; it is people who curse and swear at the name of Jesus. They are without God and God’s enemies.

Yet God showed His love toward them. It was not just a box of chocolates or a beautiful arrangement of flowers, but it was His own Son. It was not just a sentimental “I Love You,” but God’s love was demonstrated by Jesus giving His life in a horrid death on a cruel cross. He did it to save you, forgive you all your sins, and reconcile you to Himself so that you can spend eternity worshipping and serving Him. This is the love that Jesus has for you. Have you personally experienced this love in your heart? It will happen only as you repent of your sins and open your heart to Jesus as your Lord and your Savior. *“And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”* (Rom. 5:5)

Selected

And his disciples say unto him, Whence should we have so much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude? Matthew 15:33.

This statement, when examined in the context of Matthew’s gospel, is incredible. It wasn’t long before this incident that the Lord had satisfied a greater company of people with even less provisions and yet the disciples wondered how the current problem could be resolved. Sadly, we are not better. We see the Lord work in our lives in a remarkable way one day and then lose faith in His ability the next. O me of little faith!

Brian Russell

Prove Him! He is God eternal, an unchanging Friend,

With a love that never knoweth bound or end.

Author Unknown

* * * * *

Jesus...said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things.

Occasionally there are days when everything wants to go wrong. Vance Havner commented on such times as, *“being vexed by the mosquitoes of petty care.”* Small irritations spring up unawares to gnaw at us. If allowed to fester they create bigger issues. It is interesting that some are able to endure a big trial better than small annoyances. Havner also said, *“It may take more grace at the breakfast table than at the Lord’s table on Sunday morning.”* When a peevish spirit threatens, may we be quick to turn Godward. He provides grace for the moment.

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee” Isaiah 26:3.

E. Dyck

Oh God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,

Be Thou our Guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.

I. Watts

* * * * *

UpDate

DO YOU LOVE JESUS AND HIS KINGDOM'S WORK?

Indirectly, supporting this 'Ministry' is one way of "Tending, Caring-for, Admonishing, Enlightening, Nourishing, etc. Jesus' Lambs and Sheep!

"So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?' ...' John 21:15 – 17.

The Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation and Morning Glory ministries are determined to help in the restoration of America and beyond: FIRST of all – Spiritually and then secularly, by continuing to publish the *Morning Glory* and holding Hauge Bible Conferences, Evangelistic Meetings, and for suggested 'donations', solid biblical Literature.

We intend to continue to speak the '**truth**' about real *Liberty* in Jesus and abiding in His Word, and secondly, upholding the Constitution.

You can help us, not only by specific prayer intercession; but also financially and by sending us the names and addresses of people you believe would benefit from receiving the *Morning Glory*.

IN the Grace of God, making No apologies for the Old Time Christianity and seeking to practice and proclaim the same!

Let's Bring HOPE to Many More

Approx. **150,000** individuals meet the appointment of 'death' each day. The vast majority of them aren't prepared (ready) to stand before GOD as they don't know His Son, Jesus Christ, as their personal Savior; who died to rescue them from their sin and Hell. Without JESUS, the Bible clearly states they are LOST, "***having no hope and without God***" Ephesians 2:12.

Will you, as an 'Individual', help us in reaching the 'lost', 'nourishing' and challenging fellow pilgrims, before it is too late?

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The cost of publishing and mailing the *Morning Glory* each month is approx. \$2,000 PLUS noticeable other financial obligations as function in His Work by faith.

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"Let the Redeemed of the LORD say So"

The Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation Board has prayerfully decided to compile a book with personal testimonies of Jesus' saving grace.

Would you be willing to share your personal testimony of how you came to Jesus as your own personal Savior? If you are willing to do that, you can submit it in writing to the editor: Rodney Stueland, 508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529; or by email at: haugerep@midco.net. The editor will then review them.

We would especially like to encourage anyone who came to salvation through the Innermission, or has had close ties with the Innermission, to share their testimony. It is not limited to only those individuals, but we are encouraging them to do so.

WHAT a wonderful opportunity for you to share your personal testimony and to seek to *glorify Jesus* for what HE has done and is doing in your life!

Will you prayerfully consider this and be obedient to the Holy Spirit? Your testimony could be something that could help someone else come to the Lord.