

Innocent Blood

2 Kings 24:1-4

I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** The apostle Paul spoke of the Old Testament (OT): *“whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”* (Rom. 15:4)
2. In order for Christians to have a thorough “religious education” and a complete understanding of the great God we serve we should all diligently study the *“things written aforetime.”*
3. As we consider the OT there are some very important principles revealed in it concerning God’s dealings with civil governments, or nations.
 - A. Civil governments owe their very existence to God because *“the powers that be are ordained of God”* (Rom. 13:1; cf. **Psa. 67:4**: *“Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, and govern the nations on earth.”*; **Dan. 4:17**: *“...the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men.”*).
 - B. Furthermore, God requires nations (i.e., *“the powers that be”*) to rule according to godly principles. These principles are clearly and succinctly stated in the Psalms and Proverbs:
Psa. 9:17: *“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.”*
Prov. 14:34: *“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.”*
Prov. 16:12: *“It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness, for a throne is established by righteousness.”* (Prov. 16:12)
4. **3** When nations stray from the principles of righteousness, God eventually judges them and will destroy them if they do not repent. The OT provides example after example of this concept.
 - A. Antediluvian world: In Genesis 6-10 all people and nations became so corrupt *“that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time”* (Gen. 6:5). As a result God told Noah *“The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.”* (Gen. 6:13)
 - B. Sodom & Gomorrah: In Genesis 19 God judged the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and He: *“overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including all those living in the cities”* (Gen. 19:25).
 - C. Heathen nations: Numerous other examples are abundant in the OT and NT: Babylon (Isa. 13), Moab (Isa. 15-16), Damascus (Isa. 17), Ethiopia and Egypt (Isa. 18-20), Babylon, Edom and Arabia (Isa. 21), Judah and Jerusalem (Isa. 22), Tyre (Isa. 23), Israel (Matt. 23 & 24), Rome (Revelation).
5. In His dealings with nations, as with individuals, God is longsuffering (Gen. 15:6; 18:16-33).
 - A. However, inevitably if a nation continues to ignore God’s longsuffering and continues to walk down the path of unrighteousness God will pour out His wrath upon that nation.
 - B. As the Psalmist said, *“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.”* (Psa. 9:17)
 - (1) To my knowledge only one heathen nation, Nineveh (book of Jonah), ever repented and avoided divine judgment (at least temporarily).
 - (2) Unfortunately all nations ultimately become the subjects of God’s wrath due to their obstinate disobedience.
6. **4** If one looks at all the nations that ever existed there is probably none, except for ancient Israel, that was founded upon the principles of righteousness emanating from God’s word as was the United States of America.
 - A. Our constitution and legal system are built upon the so-called “Judeo-Christian” ethic.

B. However, anyone who is even half observant of American culture knows our culture, unfortunately, has been on the decline for several decades.

- (1) Our nation has a lot of “national bad habits”: crime, political corruption, divorce, alcohol and illegal drug additions, child abuse, etc.
- (2) To add insult to injury, this year (2015) the U.S. Supreme Court (*Obergefell v. Hodges*) ruled that homosexual marriage is now the law of the land.
- (3) But, the most graphic evidence of our nation’s moral and ungodly decline is legalized abortion.
- (4) In the 42 years since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion (see *Roe v. Wade*) in 1973, 57,762,169 legalized abortions (murders) have taken place (Source: *LifeNews.com*).
- (5) This source states the number of abortions in the U.S peaked in 1990 at 1.6 million per year.
- (6) Currently there are over one million abortions performed in the U.S. annually (1.06 million).

C. **5** Reflect on those numbers for a few minutes.

- (1) I live in the state of Indiana with a population just slightly under seven million people (2014: 6,596,855). Therefore, since 1973 our government has sanctioned the killing of enough people to populate the state of Indiana almost nine times over!
- (2) Since 1973 the number of aborted babies is approximately equal to the total combined population of the states of Indiana, Michigan, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, Missouri, Idaho and Colorado!
- (3) The number of murdered children amounts to an average of 3,768 per day!
 - (a) That would be the equivalent of seven fully-loaded Boeing 747’s and two Boeing 737 airliners crashing every day with no survivors! **
 - (b) Could you imagine the outcry if we even saw such a carnage from such airliner crashes in an entire year, even an entire decade, much less in one day?!

D. **6** Excuse me for adding more statistics, but I want to drive home these appalling facts.

- (1) First, in America’s 239 year history (1776-2015) the total dead from all of our wars (Revolutionary War to the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars) totals 1,434,338. In just 42 years, legalized abortion has claimed 40 times more lives! Our total war dead represents only 2.5% of the unborn dead caused by legal abortion.
- (2) Second, the tsunami of 2004 that ravaged Indonesia and Thailand claimed ~230,000 lives. Legal abortions in the U.S. have claimed the equivalent of 251 great tsunamis!
- (3) Third, the average number of abortion deaths in the U.S. each day are 772 more deaths than America experienced in the 9/11 attacks.
 - (a) Remember how the nation mourned and wept for months over those deaths and the monuments that were rightly constructed to perpetuate their memory?
 - (b) But few, if any, tears are shed for the 3,768 innocent victims of abortion each day and their memory has been swept under the “national rug” of consciousness.

E. I’m a student of World War II history.

- (1) Adolf Hitler was undoubtedly one of the most evil and wicked mass murderers in all of history. But Hitler cannot hold a candle to the barbaric efficiency of the U.S. abortion industry.
- (2) Most of us are familiar with the “Holocaust” in which Hitler and his Nazi henchmen murdered approximately two-thirds of the Jews who lived in Europe.
- (3) Hitler’s reign of terror against the Jews lasted approximately five years in which one million

children, two million women, and three million men of the Jewish race were killed.

(4) If you examine those numbers Hitler did not kill Jews as fast as America kills babies!

(5) Furthermore, Hitler's murderous pogrom lasted only about five years. America's bloody campaign against the unborn has lasted for forty two years and there is no end in sight!

7. **7** All good Bible students are familiar with the Babylonian captivity of Judah.

A. During the time period from 606 B.C. through 587 B.C. the Babylonians attacked Judah and Jerusalem three times.

B. In these attacks many lives and much property was lost and thousands of Jews were enslaved and deported to Babylon.

(1) In 2 Kings 24:2-4 we find one of the primary reasons for this divine judgment was that the Judean king, Manasseh, "*had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood.*"

(2) This is probably in reference to the offering of children as sacrifices to the god Molech.

(3) How many children were offered as sacrifices? No one knows for sure, but I would venture a guess it was likely in the hundreds and certainly no more than in the thousands.

(4) But what was the Lord's attitude toward this innocent blood? In reference to this innocent blood we find the divine record noting "*the LORD would not pardon*" it's shedding.

8. If one compares the shedding of innocent blood in America due to abortion with Manasseh's there is no comparison.

A. Surely Manasseh and his fellow Judeans were guilty of terrible crimes, but they are small when compared with the ocean of innocent blood shed due to *Roe v. Wade*.

B. If "*the LORD would not pardon*" the relatively small (by comparison) amount of innocent blood shed by Manasseh and his fellow Judeans, will the Lord pardon America's ocean of innocent blood shed by abortion? I certainly don't think so, do you?!

9. **8** I am surely not a prophet, but I'm regretfully confident the divine judgment of America is somewhere on God's calendar.

A. Each day the toll mounts and each day God offers America an opportunity to repent, but alas, the carnage continues and national repentance is nowhere in sight.

B. ****** God's judgment of America, in my opinion, is not a matter of "if," but a matter of "when."

C. As God's people, what shall we do?

II. DISCUSSION:

I. **9** Take being a Christian seriously!

A. We all will face God in the final judgment and give an account of our lives (**Eccl. 12:13-14**: "*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.*"; 2 Cor. 5:10). That being the case, we need to take being a Christian seriously!

B. I fear our nation is surely facing a divine judgment for this ocean of innocent blood. When will that judgment come? I don't know. It may be tomorrow, ten years from now, or fifty years from now. But I'm convinced it will come. I don't think it is a matter of "if," but a matter of "when."

C. The judgment of Judah shook the faith of even those who were the most faithful among the Jews.

(1) If we live to see the divine judgment against America it will surely challenge the faith of even the strongest of Christians.

(2) Therefore, it behooves every child of God to take being a Christian seriously and striving each

day to strengthen our faith (2 Pet. 1:5-11).

2. **10 Pray without ceasing!**

- A. Personally I don't think praying will result in a permanent postponement of God's judgment against America (Gen. 18:16-33).
- B. However, it may forestall it so we may continue to strengthen our faith, preach the gospel, etc.
- C. We must believe in the power of prayer! Lk. 18:1-8; 1 Thess. 5:17
- D. Pray often and remember to pray for:
 - (1) Our nation in general:
 - (a) In Genesis 18:16-33 Abraham interceded for the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.
 - (b) Abraham didn't excuse the sin of these cities, his concern was for the righteous: "*Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?*" (Gen. 18:25)
 - (c) Abraham pleaded with the Lord to not destroy the cities if even ten righteous could be found in them; evidently not even ten could be found because chapter 19 records the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.
 - (d) May we have the heart of Abraham and pray for our wicked nation!
 - (2) Women who may be considering abortion,
 - (3) Our government leaders (1 Tim. 2:1-4),

3. **11 Let your light shine!**

- A. God intends Christians to serve as the salt of the earth and lights to the world (Matt. 5:13-16).
- B. In the process we may influence some soul to not have an abortion and become a Christian. That being the case, God may then extend His longsuffering to allow us more time to exert a positive influence.
- C. Remember Abraham's intercession for Sodom and Gomorrah: The single best thing we can do in this situation is to live lives of righteousness and fidelity to God and His word. By doing so perhaps God will continue to spare our nation and give it more time to repent.

4. **12 Preach the gospel!**

- A. The gospel remains "*the power of God to salvation*" (Rom. 1:16) and our fellow countrymen desperately need to hear this message.
- B. Again, our preaching may not permanently forestall God's judgment against our nation, but it may cause Him to extend His longsuffering.
- C. And, it still has the power to convert the coldest heart to Christ and salvation.
 - (1) Polls consistently show ~50% of Americans favor legalized abortion in some form.
 - (2) An NBC/WSJ poll on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade found 70% of Americans favored retaining Roe v. Wade and only 24% thought it should be overturned.

5. **13 Take Action!**

- A. We need to take action within the bounds of the law! 1 Pet. 2:13-14
- B. Those who support abortion want you to be silent and feel ashamed for rightly condemning abortion; they say pro-lifers are:

- (1) Religious fanatics,
- (2) Waging the so-called “War on Women,”
- (3) Against “reproductive rights,”
- (4) Intolerant and judgmental.

C. **14** Who is the true “fanatic”?! They are waging a “war on children”!



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D. **16** We can’t allow ourselves to be intimidated! Abortion is murder and it is bringing down our nation as surely as the innocent blood shed in the days of Manasseh: “*which the Lord would not pardon.*” (2 Kgs. 24:4)

E. The worst thing we can do is allow the intimidation tactics of abortion supporters to silence us!

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” Edmund Burke

F. What can we do?

(1) Speak Out!

- (a) We must take advantage of every opportunity to speak up to defend the defenseless!
- (b) Make sure your legislators (local, state, national) hear from you concerning important issues affecting the pro-life cause (e.g., defunding Planned Parenthood).
- (c) Can you imagine facing God on the Day of Judgment and having to admit you let the intimidation tactics of abortion supporters silence you!
- (d) Take advantage of every opportunity to speak out...you just may be a tool of God’s providence at work!

Esther 4:14: “*For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*”

(2) Join Up! Consider joining and/or supporting a pro-life advocacy group.

(3) Vote!

- (a) I hate politics, but I still think it is important to vote for those politicians who at least say they oppose abortion.
- (b) In my years as a voter I have been very disappointed in “pro-life” candidates. But I certainly would never give my vote to a “pro-choice” (i.e., pro-murder) candidate.
- (c) Abortion was legalized in a 1973 Supreme Court ruling, therefore, it is ensconced in American law and will be very, very difficult to overturn (especially in our current political climate).

- (d) However, regardless of the odds for success we need to put people in public office that respect the sanctity of life.

III. CONCLUSION: 17

1. In summary, the best thing we can do as Christians for our nation is to be faithful.
2. In Genesis chapter 18 faithful Abraham interceded on the behalf of Sodom with God.
 - (a) As a result of Abraham's pleadings, God promised he would not destroy Sodom if ten righteous souls could be found there.
 - (b) Alas, ten were not found. I don't know how many righteous souls must be found to forestall America's judgment, but I know I can be one of them by being "*steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord*" (1 Cor. 15:58).
 - (c) I exhort and encourage you to do the same.

- Black women were 3.7 times more likely to have an abortion in 2011 than non-Hispanic white women (CDC).

WHY DO ABORTIONS OCCUR?

- On average, women give at least 3 reasons for choosing abortion: 3/4 say that having a baby would interfere with work, school or other responsibilities; about 3/4 say they cannot afford a child; and 1/2 say they do not want to be a single parent or are having problems with their husband or partner (AGI).
- Only 12% of women included a physical problem with their health among reasons for having an abortion (NAF).
- One per cent (of aborting women) reported that they were the survivors of rape (NAF).
 - Abortion fact: Abortion is legal in America through all nine months of pregnancy. Over 1.3 million legal abortions occur in America each year. A sad irony: **over two million couples wait to adopt – and that includes children of all races and those with special needs.**