

**GREAT INDIGNATION RISING OUT OF THE SMOKE
A MESSAGE CONCERNING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON WTC
9-11-2016**

II Kings 3:21 And when all the Moabites heard that the kings were come up to fight against them, they gathered all that were able to put on armour, and upward, and stood in the border.

II Kings 3:22 And they rose up early in the morning, and the sun shone upon the water, and the Moabites saw the water on the other side as red as blood:

II Kings 3:23 And they said, This is blood: the kings are surely slain, and they have smitten one another: now therefore, Moab, to the spoil.

II Kings 3:24 And when they came to the camp of Israel, the Israelites rose up and smote the Moabites, so that they fled before them: but they went forward smiting the Moabites, even in their country.

II Kings 3:25 And they beat down the cities, and on every good piece of land cast every man his stone, and filled it; and they stopped all the wells of water, and felled all the good trees: only in Kir-haraseth left they the stones thereof; howbeit the slingers went about it, and smote it.

II Kings 3:26 And when the king of Moab saw that the battle was too sore for him, he took with him seven hundred men that drew swords, to break through even unto the king of Edom: but they could not.

II Kings 3:27 Then he took his eldest son that should have reigned in his stead, and offered him for a burnt offering upon the wall. And there was great indignation against Israel: and they departed from him, and returned to their own land.

- I. AND THERE WAS GREAT INDIGNATION BECAUSE OF A BARBARIC HEATHENISTIC ACT**
- II THERE WAS GREAT INDIGNATION WHICH CAUSED THE PEOPLE TO BE DIVIDED**
- III. THERE WAS GREAT INDIGNATION WHICH CAUSED THEM TO LOSE FOCUS AND HEART FOR THEIR GOAL OF WINNING A WAR ...**

What I see after 15 years since 9-11, is that for the most part, Americans have lost their heart to win the war on terrorism. So we shake our heads in indignation and do nothing—but go home!

What would make a person take his own son and sacrifice him on the wall?
This was an act motivated by the Moabites' religious customs and beliefs.

Think of this atrocity. It was so repulsive that the Bible says there was great indignation against Israel.

I really can't understand this, except that the people were so repulsed by this that they feared that God was going to punish them for allowing this to happen. To me I would think this should have enraged them and given them further resolve to utterly destroy the city. Instead, they retreated.

There are a lot of things that nations do that do not make any sense.

But there are lessons we can learn from this account that we can apply to this day as we commemorate and remember back to a day that brought great horror and indignation to America.

The modern Moabites are represented by the country Jordan today, where 93% of the people in Jordan are Moslems.

It is interesting that Moslem terrorists today seem to still be sacrificing their sons for their god.

This is exactly what happened September 11, 2001. There were 19 Moslem sons sacrificed on the walls of the World Trade Center exactly 15 years ago.

Again whether people will admit it or not, the motivation for doing this was a religious motivation.

Consider:

I. THE FIRST LESSON WE SHOULD LEARN FROM THIS MOABITE KING—AND EVEN FROM THE TERRORISTS OF 9-11—IS THAT WHAT YOU BELIEVE RELIGIOUSLY WILL AFFECT HOW YOU LIVE. DESPERATE TIMES BRING OUT THE NATURE OF THAT BELIEF SYSTEM.

There is much confusion in the world, but not with God.

So even today our nation struggles to understand the tragedy of the 9-11-2001 attack on our nation.

I remember 15 years back when the planes rammed into the world trade center. There were prayer vigils all over the U.S. People were praying and seeking God it seemed.

I remember immediately that there was much being said about the need to be careful not to indict all Moslems for the actions of those who committed these atrocities.

I agree we should not go about persecuting other Moslems who are not terrorists; this is not Christian, this is not right, but we do need to understand the religious reasoning of terrorism.

What is also right is that we should challenge these Moslems to reconsider if there are certain things that their religious founder taught that lead these so-called “conservatives” to do what they do.

A person who is a “conservative” is a person who wants to preserve the original teachings of their great leader. At first they called these Moslems “Fundamentalist Moslems.” Now they call them radicals. Our president doesn't like to call them Moslems at all.

Now what motivated the King of Moab to sacrifice his son on the wall?

He sacrificed his son to his sun god, Chemosh. In his religious belief system (to get the attention of his god), he needed to sacrifice what was most valuable to him. In this case it would have been his SON who should have ruled on his throne.

When are we going to realize that our religious beliefs will affect our actions? In fact, our beliefs affect our actions whether we want to call them religious or not.

What is scary about all of this is that our secular beliefs in the United States today are more base than those of Hitler's. It was Hitler's belief system that allowed him to seek to exterminate the Jews of Europe with no remorse or guilt! It was the great depression that motivated all of Germany to follow.

What motivated the King of Moab to burn up his son on the wall? Desperate times brought to the surface his belief system. All America needs to bring to action all the diabolical things that our secular society believes in, is hard times.

YOUR BELIEF SYSTEM IS BEST REFLECTED IN DESPERATE TIMES!!

II. ANOTHER LESSON THAT WE SHOULD LEARN FROM THIS SACRIFICE OF THE TERRORIST AND THE KING OF MOAB IS HOW MUCH GREATER AND NOBLER OUR COUNTRY IS BECAUSE OF THE BIBLICAL INFLUENCE OF OUR CHRISTIAN FOREFATHERS—ESPECIALLY OUR BAPTIST FOREFATHERS ...

IT IS CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIANS WHO FOUGHT TO GIVE US THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS THAT WE ENJOY IN THIS COUNTRY. THE REASON THEY DID WAS BECAUSE THEY KNEW FIRST-HAND WHAT IT WAS TO BE PERSECUTED FOR THEIR FAITH.

NOW PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR USING THE BIBLE AS A STEPPING STONE FOR A MESSAGE. I NORMALLY DO NOT DO THIS—I USUALLY JUST TRY TO PREACH WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS. BUT IN LIGHT OF THE OCCASION, THIS DAY BEING THE 15th ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE WORLD TRADE CENTER ...

I AM USING BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES TO SHARE SPIRITUAL INSIGHT ABOUT THIS HORRIBLE ATTACK.

Consider how noble our faith is and the history behind it.

1. The first Baptist in this country was Roger Williams in 1631. He was an Episcopal who turned Puritan. Roger Williams preached at Salem and then at Plymouth. He was the third pastor of the Plymouth Church and because of his views for separation of church and state, he was rejected both at Plymouth and Salem, and established the colony of Providence, Rhode Island.
2. In 1651 Baptists were persecuted in Boston for having home Bible studies. Henry Dunster, the second president of Harvard University, was fired because he was baptized by immersion. Obadiah Holmes, Dunster, and others established the first Baptist church in Boston in 1665. That group was persecuted in Boston for several years. In those days, in most parts of our country, Baptists were a persecuted minority.
3. Isaac Backus was saved under the Great Awakening and formed an alliance with Madison and Thomas Jefferson to insure religious liberty and the First Amendment clause.

READ A QUOTE CONCERNING THESE EARLY DAYS OF OUR NATION'S HISTORY:

In colonial Virginia, Baptists were frequently jailed for preaching, and they lobbied the legislature for religious liberty. The grievances of this "heretical" sect were ignored until their support for the War for American Independence, and their request to send chaplains for the soldiers helped to change the public's perception of them. They also formed a coalition with Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and others who also wished to disestablish the Church of England (now

becoming the Protestant Episcopal Church), and they achieved that in Virginia through the Statute for Establishing Religious Freedom (1786).

Later, Virginia Baptists, led by John Leland and others, persuaded Madison to include a firm guarantee of religious liberty in the amendments to the U.S. Constitution known as the Bill of Rights. Hence, the First Amendment opens as follows:

Amendment I - Freedom of Religion, Press, Expression. Ratified 12/15/1791. Note:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Now it is one thing to enjoy the freedom we have in this country. It is quite another to have it as an intricate part of your church's doctrine.

Biblical basis for this teaching is Rom 13 and such verses as:

Matthew 22:21 They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

In the founding of our nation, it was primarily the Baptists who fought to establish the freedom-of-religion clauses that guarantee us religious liberty in this country.

THE REASON WE HAVE FREEDOM IS BECAUSE A GROUP OF CLERGYMEN SAID THAT THE MERITS OF A PERSON'S FAITH SHOULD SPEAK FOR ITSELF IN AN OPEN SOCIETY.

Baptists, unlike any other group, believed in evangelization. When they were free to evangelize, they grew.

The Puritan Church.
The Episcopal Church.
The Reformed churches.
The Catholic Church.
The Lutheran Church.

These were all state church leftovers, and since so many of these groups came to America, our forefathers wanted to establish a nation that would allow all Christian faiths to co-exist without animosity and strife.

Now, the same freedom that was bought and paid for by our forefathers—the freedom to come to this great nation and worship freely as you choose—is being taken advantage of.

Many who do not believe in this same principle of freedom are enjoying this freedom here.

You cannot build an independent Baptist church in Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Iraq, Jordan, Afghanistan, and other Islamic-dominated countries.

In the modern land of Moab, it is forbidden for a Moslem to be converted to Christianity. How is it that in America since 9-11-2001, we have allowed 1.5 million Moslems to immigrate to this country—some of whom that have committed acts of terrorism in our country?

The 2 young men who bombed the crowds at the Boston Marathon in 2013 were allowed to immigrate to America in 2002---one year after the bombing of the World Trade Center.

Who recruited them? They just read the Koran, listened to some preaching on the Koran, and were radicalized.

Why would we allow 1.5 million people who have a religion that does not teach freedom of conscience into our nation?

It is time to speak out and say, "If you want to send your missionaries to us, let us send our missionaries to you!"

Today the Moslems are the fastest-growing religion in this country. Since 9-11-2001 our country has allowed 1.5 million Moslems to immigrate to the United States. The religion has grown, mostly by way of immigration. There is also another reason it is growing ...

They are growing fast not only because our leaders have allowed them to migrate here, but also because many people are tired of wishy-washy Christians, and they are looking for moral absolutes and order. The Moslems are perceived by many to have more moral absolutes than wishy-washy Christians.

That is the appeal of the Moslem religion. In an open society they are free to evangelize—and should be—but they are very hard to talk to.

Countries that are dominated by Moslems don't believe anyone else has the freedom to evangelize, and there are severe penalties if a Moslem converts to Christianity. No Moslem-dominated country allows freedom of speech and religion.

III. ANOTHER LESSON TO LEARN IS THAT THERE WAS GREAT INDIGNATION WHEN THE KING OF MOAB SACRIFICED HIS SON. NOW SHOULD BE THE TIME TO SHOW THE SUPERIOR QUALITY OF CHRISTIANITY. OUR INDIGNATION SHOULD BE AGAINST THE ONES COMMITTING THE ATROCITIES.

Why do we not show indignation to those tenants of Mohammad who would justify acts of terrorism?

The ethic of the Judaic Christian Bible based teachings is far superior morally to the teachings of Mohammed.

We give them freedom to speak and teach their religion; but now, it is time to share with them the error of their faith.

THIS IS THE DANGER OF UNITING CHURCH AND STATE.
THE JOB OF THE STATE IS TO BEAR THE SWORD.
THE JOB OF THE CHURCH IS TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL AND CHANGE HEARTS.

BECAUSE WE ARE NOT CHANGING HEARTS, WE SEE PEOPLE GOING TO ISLAM, MORMONISM, THE CULTS, HUMANISM, ATHEISM, AND EVEN FORMALISTIC RELIGION.

None of these teach what the Bible teaches about separation of church and state.

Real interpretation of “separation of church and state” is that the government should not establish one Christian denomination as supreme; but all people should be free to believe, or disbelieve. The government should not hinder anyone the freedom to share their faith.

BUT NOW WE SEE A GROUP THAT SEEKS TO USE TERROR TO PROMOTE THEIR RELIGIOUS CAUSE.

IV. ANOTHER THING WE SHOULD LEARN FROM THE HORRIFIC ACT FROM THE KING OF MOAB AND THE TERRORISTIC ACTS OF 9-11 IS THAT OUR RELIGIOUS PRESUPPOSITIONS DICTATE MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH.

What greater answers can a person’s spiritual faith give them than to answer the questions about the value of life and the meaning of death ...

All faiths, except the biblical faith, have a skewed view of life and death.

The King of Moab was willing to sacrifice his own son on the wall of the city for his heathen god, Charchemish. The Islamic radicals sacrificed 19 of their own sons for the cause of Allah.

Today we see the heathen sacrifice to the heathen god of Allah by some militant Moslems. And today our country is in great strife and there is indignation. We abhor this act. We can't believe that any people would commit such an atrocity.

Religion seeks to answer questions concerning life and death issues that will determine a person’s actions:

There is no doubt that these suicide bombings were motivated by the strong militant Islamic beliefs that the terrorists harbored.

They believed that they were performing that ultimate religious sacrifice.

Laying down their lives for the cause of Allah. Not all Moslems are militant, and I think this is not a time to persecute Moslems ... but would be a perfect time to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

It is the government's job to seek vengeance—not the church's.

But even young people who have terrorized our schools prior to these bombings were also motivated by false beliefs, that though we might not label them “religious,” they were motivated by false thinking which was based on a belief system.

THEY WERE UNDER THE BELIEF THAT THERE WAS NO AFTER LIFE.
THEY BELIEVED THEY WERE JUST A BY-PRODUCT OF CHANCE OR EVOLUTION.
THEIR BELIEVED THEIR LIVES LOOKED HOPELESS AND THEIR FUTURE BLEAK.

THEY DECIDED TO EXPRESS THEIR ANGER TOWARD OTHER FELLOW STUDENTS WHO SEEMED SUCCESSFUL AND HAPPY!

Since they feared no eternal repercussions and could not care less about the temporal repercussions, they decided to commit the ultimate atrocity—they thought!

We should learn this lesson well.

A person's religious beliefs are powerful because they can motivate him to make the supreme sacrifice of his life.

If their belief system is false or erroneous, their actions will be devastating and horrific.

As seen with this Moabite king:

- Heavens Gate Cult
- Jim Jones Cult
- Moslem Terrorists

Even the teaching of Christianity admires those who have given their lives for the cause of Christ. The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church. However, the martyrs were willing to lay down their lives, and they did not take other lives in the process. Terrorism is a perversion of martyrdom.

Unlike these terrorists, Christ never taught His disciples to take up arms for their cause and kill others. Though we are called to be faithful unto death, we are not told to go out and kill those who are unbelievers.

HERE IS A QUOTE FROM ONE IMAN:

Jihad in Islam is STRIVING IN THE WAY OF ALLAH by pen, tongue, hand, media, and, if inevitable, with arms. However, jihad in Islam does not include striving for individual or national power, dominance, glory, wealth, prestige or pride.

A. Satan is in the business of blinding minds to the truth so he can get them to sacrifice themselves and others for his abominable causes.

II Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

II Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

We may see millions of people flocking to churches today to remember back to 9-11, but do they know the Lord? Do they know who they are praying to?

You say, "Well, as long as they are praying to God, it is all right."

So ... the Moslems pray to Allah.

The Jehovah Witness to Jehovah.

Some pray to Mary.

Some pray to the Saints.

Who knows who is right? And some say, "As long as we all pray to God ..."

John 4:21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

John 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Salvation comes through Jesus Christ.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

We need to tell people, "No—we are not all praying to the same God."

Is Allah the same God as the God of the Christians? No, he isn't.

Jesus said, "Ye worship ye know not what."

NOW IS THE TIME TO SHARE CHRIST AND SHOW PEOPLE THE TRUTH

1. They need to be told the truth.
2. They need to be exposed to the true Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is not going to lead us to go to the Moslem who owns a gas station and burn down his store or his mosque. Jesus doesn't teach this. And when His disciples suggested they destroy those who did not believe and asked the Lord to send fire from heaven to destroy them, Jesus rebuked them.

LUKE 9:54 they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?

LUKE 9:55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

LUKE 9:56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.

V. THE FIFTH LESSON WE SHOULD LEARN FROM THE KING OF MOAB AND THE 9-11 TERROIST ATTACK IS THAT A PERSON'S RELIGIOUS PRESUPPOSITIONS DICTATES IN HIS MIND WHAT IS GOOD AND EVIL.

Bin Ladin, when interviewed about the bombings said he didn't do it, but he praises Allah for what has been done. He calls these acts "good."

Suddam Hussein has called the U.S. the great Satan, the evil one.

Today Bin Ladin and Suddam Hussein are both dead, but why are there still terrorists?

You cannot defeat Islamic terrorism by killing its leaders. It must be defeated by converting people out of it. But how can you do this when the countries that are dominated by this religion kill those who convert to Christ? And we turn a blind eye to all this ...

Modern-day Moab is located in Jordan.

Jordan is an Arab Islamic state.
So we can rightly equate this Moab king to an ancestor of the Arabs.

How is it that this ancient Arab could actually think that it is right to burn his own son to his god Chemosh?

How could so many Palestinians actually celebrate this terrible act and proclaim it as good?

Cannibals ... homosexuals ... amazing what people think is right.

As the Israelites saw the Moab king take his son and burn him on the wall of the city, it horrified them that any king could ever commit such an atrocity. And this produced an amazing reaction: instead of punishing that king for committing such an atrocity, they got angry at their leaders and let that wicked king get away with it.

These Moabites arose later and caused havoc in Israel.

Most disturbing, about what happened Monday 9-11-2001, was that our government knew that these atrocities were taking place before this and politicians let it go. They feared the public opinion of people rather than do what was right to stop these wicked men.

So sad that this barbaric act caused Judah and Edom to get angry at Israel for bringing them into this battle. Even today as the smoke clears and as it sinks in as to what happened, there are some who get angry at our leaders and forget who is the real perpetrator of these crimes.

Are we ready to deal with people who will sacrifice their own children for their cause? Those who would tie a bomb to their own son and let him loose to kill others? I don't know if we are ready to deal with such an enemy.

Since the garden of Eden, the trick of Satan was to get men to try to determine right and wrong by their reason rather than the Word of God.

We have become so far removed from the teaching of the Bible, that right and wrong have become relative.

People will argue about whether it is right to go after the perpetrators of this terrorist act. They will claim we should forgive them.

We can forgive them and punish them at the same time.

Romans 13:4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

CONCLUSION

VI. THE FINAL LESSONS THAT WE CAN LEARN FROM 9-11 AND THE KING OF MOAB IS THAT AS THE SMOKE ARISES FROM THIS HORRIFIC SACRIFICE, I BELIEVE GOD IS TRYING TO GET OUR ATTENTION:

God could have thwarted the efforts of these terrorists just like he did the 4th plane and other planes that were supposed to be hijacked.

We need heavenly, angelic air support going up every day for our nation—not just when catastrophe strikes.

We need more people in God's army praying.

A new generation is arising that doesn't know the Lord. There is a decline in the character of contemporary Christianity.

MORE PEOPLE NEED TO BE SAVED.
MORE PEOPLE NEED TO BE LIVING RIGHTEOUSLY.
MORE PEOPLE NEED TO BE WITNESSING.

VII. MORE ACTS OF TERRORISM WILL INCREASE IF WE DO NOT SEE REVIVAL!

In the Book of Revelation we read that the saints will be beheaded for their faith.

The only people I know who are beheading people today are Moslems.

Proverbs 14:34 - Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

Why is it that when these attacks occurred suddenly -

- Football games were unimportant.
- Concerts were unimportant.
- Bars closed.
- Even the commercials seemed inappropriate.

Now we get back to normal, should we?

Now it is more important to pray than when this happened.
Now our leaders are trying to figure out a response.

Application:

As the smoke cleared,

we read:

II Kings 3:27 Then he took his eldest son that should have reigned in his stead, and offered him for a burnt offering upon the wall. And there was great indignation against Israel: and they departed from him, and returned to their own land.

There was great indignation against Israel.

There was anger, bitterness, wrath, strife, division, and instead of finishing the war, they all went home defeated !!!!!

If we do not pray for a proper response, our leaders, like Israel of old, will fail to see the war through and like the King of Moab who slayed his son on the wall, his repulsive action brought indignation against Israel instead of wrath against Moab. Doesn't make sense, does it?

Things then will get worse.

How is it that since 9-11-2001, we have allowed 1.5 million more Moslems into this nation?

Why can we not go to Moslem-dominated nations with freedom to share our Christian faith, but they are allowed to come here and share their faith? Is that right?

Of the 1.5 million Moslem immigrants who have come here since 9-11, some horrific terrorists attacks have occurred—brought about by some of those who immigrated. One could argue it was only a small number of people percentage-wise. Yes, so was it before 9-11. Look what 19 men did on 9-11 ...

Who were some of these Moslem immigrants?

The Boston Marathon attack - 2 immigrated after 9-11.

The San Bernardino terrorist attack – caused by Moslem immigrants who came here after 9-11.

There was no connection between these and any known terrorist group—except they were Moslem.

What is the answer? Why do we not witness to these people?

Why do we not give them the gospel?

Why do we not share the superior nature of the Christian faith?

As the King of Moab took his son and offered him up as a sacrifice we read:

II Kings 3:27 Then he took his eldest son that should have reigned in his stead, and offered him for a burnt offering upon the wall. And there was great indignation against Israel: and they departed from him, and returned to their own land.

The beat goes on. The descendants of Moab, by and large, are Moslems today. They are still sacrificing their children in fires upon the wall for the whole world to see. And there is great indignation and repulsion and these horrific acts of what we call terrorism today. What is ironic is that every time it seems we are at the gates of defeating these wack-os, we retreat in disgust at the price it takes to defeat these people. Instead of defeating them, there is great indignation against the United States?? They are the ones blowing up buildings, strapping bombs around their children, flying planes into buildings, going into shopping malls and shooting people. But there is great indignation because we are a little too rough with prisoners at Guantánamo Bay. Instead of getting upset at the King of Moab for what he did to his son, Judah and Edom got upset at Israel, in disgust at the cost it was going to take to defeat this insane King. War is dirty business. I think of what David said,

PSA 120:7 I am for peace: but when I speak, they are for war.

The King of Moab burns his son in the fire on the walls of the city and there is great indignation against Israel. These Moslem terrorists kill about 3000 people and wound about 6000 others on 9-11-2001 and there is indignation against our military for treating terrorist prisoners too roughly.

WHAT PARALLEL LESSONS SHOULD WE LEARN FROM THE KING OF MOAB AND THE 9-11 TERRORIST ATTACKS? I would suggest we learn to have great indignation against the terrorists and not the ones trying to defeat them. Let's see the war through and defeat them completely.

9-11-2016 Evening Message

This morning I shared some verses concerning our nation's conflict with terrorists. I shared the parallel between the King of Moab in II Kings, chapter 3, who burned his son on the wall and the terrorists who in the name of their god and religion, sacrificed their sons in terrorist acts. The beat goes on. Instead of defeating the king of Moab and punishing him for this horrific and diabolical act of sacrificing his son in a burnt offering to his idol god Chemosh, the people had great indignation against Israel, being repulsed at what it was going to take to defeat this wacko king. Tonight I want to give a few positive thoughts from the New Testament concerning terrorism and the crazy state of affairs of the world and our nation.

As I think of the confusion we face in dealing with acts of terrorism and wicked people of this world, there are some special verses that come to mind:

I. First - Consider What the Bible has to say about peace in the world ...

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

How can we have peace while there is such turmoil in the world?

None of us like conflicts.
No one likes war.

We can have peace as we trust the Lord through the turmoil.

1. Through drawing nigh to God in prayer, we can have peace.

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

2. Through the turmoil and strife we have a great hope..

John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

John 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

John 14:4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

John 14:5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

3. Through tribulation we can know that God is working in our lives for His good ...

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

James 1:3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

James 1:4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

II. Being careful of deception:

Luke 21:8 And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them.

Luke 21:9 But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by.

Luke 21:10 Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:

Luke 21:11 And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.

Luke 21:12 But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake.

Matthew 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

1. Paul warned that deception will become greater in the end time:

II Timothy 3:11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

II Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

II Timothy 3:13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

II Timothy 3:14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

One of the greatest persecutors of Christians are radical Moslems.

In Indonesia: tens of thousands of Christians have been killed because of Islamic persecution.

Malawi Africa:

However, by 1994 Malawian voters (80% of whom profess to be Christians), voted in a Moslem, Bakili Muluzi, as their President. Apparently the Christian voters had accepted the claim that the religious beliefs of the political candidates were not important. However, despite promises of prosperity, government policies since 1994 have resulted in devastating inflation which has destroyed the savings of the average family. The government has turned overwhelmingly pro-Islamic, offering special grants for students who study Islamic religion. Bible classes have been dropped from the public school curriculum.. And Bible clubs are forbidden access to the public schools.

In Morocco, it is against the law to "proselytize" (evangelize) or to "shake the faith" of a Moslem. The Islamic government refuses to recognize any church that has Moroccan nationals as members. Christians have even been imprisoned for years merely for handing out Gospel literature.

In Algeria, Islamic groups such as the National Salvation Front and the Armed Islamic Group have been waging a brutal war of terror to enforce an Islamic state upon the nominally secular (formerly Marxist) National Liberation Front dictatorship. The NLF government's move to declare Algeria an Islamic state is unlikely to satisfy the aspirations of the Islamic extremists. Most of the tens of thousands of victims of this Islamic campaign of terror have been Moslems. But many of the victims are Christians who have been bombed, shot, or hacked to death. Many Algerian women have had acid thrown in their faces by Islamics determined to force all women to wear a veil!

Christians accused of "apostasy" or "proselytizing" in Egypt face imprisonment and torture from the authorities, as well as kidnapping, forced conversions to Islam, rape, and murder from Islamic militants.

In Nigeria, where Moslems are a large minority, Moslems have burned down hundreds of churches and killed thousands of Christians in recent years. Christians in the area claim that they are facing a systematic campaign to "wipe out any traces of Christianity in the northern states" of Nigeria.

2. We need to be careful of deception from lukewarm Christians:

A. Doctrinal error -

Galatians 3:1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

Galatians 3:2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Galatians 3:3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

B. Immoral Behavior:

Galatians 5:7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

Galatians 5:8 This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you.

Galatians 5:9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

What would Jesus say to us today?

III. Jesus would say, "Hold fast till I come:"

Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Revelation 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Revelation 3:9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

Revelation 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Revelation 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Revelation 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

Revelation 22:6 And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

Revelation 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

Revelation 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22:21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Mark 13:32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

Mark 13:33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

Mark 13:34 For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.

Mark 13:35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:

Mark 13:36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

Mark 13:37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

Let us hold fast.

Remember—our hope is not in this world. If our hope was in this world, we would be of men most miserable.

THESE ARE MY THOUGHTS ON THIS, THE 15th ANNIVERSARY OF THE 9-11 ATTACKS BY ISLAMIC RADICALS AND THEIR ACTS OF TERRORISM.

GOD BLESS YOU ON THE 15th YEAR OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE ATTACK ON OUR NATION AND THE WORLD TRADE CENTER IN NEW YORK.