

HOLY VIOLENCE #7

“What On Earth Is God Doing?”

Introduction

Tonight, I want to tackle the great question of these turbulent times:
What on Earth is God Doing?
The church needs to be able to interpret the times, as in...

2 Chronicles 12:32

The men of Issachar understood the times and knew what Israel ought to do.

If we ‘understand the times’ we can know what we ought to do.
The problem is, ‘who understands the times’?
Who can tell us ‘What on Earth is God Doing’?

I. What On Earth is God Doing?

A. Two Conflicting Opinions on What is About to Happen

1. On the one hand, there are many Prophets, Pastors, and teachers, men I greatly respect, who are predicting that we are at a ‘Red Sea Moment’; a repeat of a when God is about to work a miracle by destroying His enemies and delivering His people. These voices tell us...

- a. Joe Biden will never be President.
- b. Donald Trump will be re-elected.
- c. God will save us from the evil agenda of the Socialist Democrats who stole the election.
- d. Justice will finally fall on the evildoers who will finally go to jail.

2. This can happen! The Bible contains many examples of how God worked a dramatic deliverance, against all odds, to save His people from evil enemies.

3. For myself, I want to believe these prophecies are right. I want them to be right with all of my heart! It is hard to believe that God would not save America from what is nothing less than an overthrow of our nation as we have known it.

4. Plus, I am optimistic by nature. The glass is always half-full. ‘It ain’t over until it’s over’ and God can make a way where there seems to be no way. In spite of the evidence I believe in a God who works miracles!

5. But as a Pastor and shepherd of God’s flock, I do want you to know that I have had to struggle with one great question: “What if the Prophets are wrong?”

6. Some of you may think less of me or even be angry with me for even considering the question!

a. One leader, a man I greatly respect, warned his congregation last weekend to not even allow one moment of doubt about a good outcome to enter their minds.

b. Another Pastor/Prophet even hinted that if we doubt his prediction of a 2nd term for President Trump that our unbelief might prevent his prophecy from coming to pass—in other words, if Biden becomes President it’s our fault because we doubted the prophecy. (I have to admit I’m still struggling with that one—after all, if God really says something is going to happen it is going to happen whether we believe it or not).

7. Now let me be clear: I admire men who speak a ‘thus saith the Lord’ and stand by it in the face of all contradictory evidence.

8. But here’s the problem: if you are quoting the Bible when you say ‘thus saith the Lord’ it’s one thing. But if you are making a prediction about future events with a ‘thus saith the Lord’ I do not believe it’s a sign that we have no faith if we step back and say, “Okay, let’s see if your word comes to pass”.

9. In other words: “I hear your optimistic prophecy. I want to believe it and I know God can bring it to pass. But please do not judge me defective if, as a Pastor, if I prepare my people with what we need to do if you happen to be wrong.

B. What If the Prophets Are Wrong?

1. The Bible tells us that we are to ‘walk by faith and not by sight’; we are to believe God in spite of the circumstances; but He never told us to ignore or deny the circumstances. We should never be afraid to look the facts in the face. fearlessly face the facts.

John Adams

“Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passions, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence.”

2. Here are some facts:

- In spite of what the media tells us, there is abundant evidence that there was widespread voter fraud in the election
- Nevertheless, the fact is that the Electoral College has voted and pronounced Joe Biden the winner
- The President’s team is fighting back and victory is possible
- But the Supreme Court, led by the cowardly Chief Justice John Roberts, has refused to hear the case
- There are still some ‘longshot’ chances Donald Trump can be reelected; but the fact is that as of right now, Joe Biden is the next President.

3. Nevertheless, I say again, this is not over! There is a biblical precedent for a ‘Red Sea’ kind of deliverance; but there is also a biblical precedent for a day of danger when the prophets got it wrong.

II. The Judgment of God in the Days of Jeremiah

A. Context

1. From the beginning of their deliverance from Egypt, God warned His people that He would bring judgment upon His people if they turned their backs on Him and His word.

2. Yet when the Army of Babylon approached the gates of Jerusalem, all the prophets *except for Jeremiah* were speaking, in the name of Yahweh, that everything was going to be fine; and that God would deliver them. (Jeremiah 6:14)

Matthew Henry

They said, "Peace peace—all shall be well." And if there were some thinking people among them, who were awake, and apprehensive of danger, they soon stopped their mouths with their priestly and prophetic authority, boldly declaring that neither church nor state was in any danger; declaring ‘peace, peace where there would be no peace.

3. Jeremiah said it's over; God is judging the sins of the nation but all the rest of the prophets were saying, 'Watch, there's a miracle coming.' God would never allow us to live under a Babylonian government. Randall Terry, a champion of the Pro-life movement for 35 years (arrested more than 40 times) sees a parallel:

Randall Terry

There is a real danger of prophesying false hope as in the days of Jeremiah. The result of believing the optimistic prophecies was that the people did not prepare for what was coming.

4. I remain among those who believe God will give Donald Trump a 2nd term; but if He does not...

B. What May Be Coming?

1. If the prophets have missed it and Joe Biden is sworn in, we will soon find ourselves living under something even worse than the Babylonian government of Jeremiah's day; I am speaking of a Biden-Harris administration.

Randall Terry

"The Biden regime is ready to crash in on us. *These people are not playing.* And I don't see that the Church is ready to deal with this."

2. The Biden team is poised to take over the White House; they have a razor thin majority in the House of Representatives and have a chance to control the Senate based on the result of the Georgia vote on January 5th.

3. I do not believe they will win in Georgia; but even if they don't, in one sense it won't matter because they are planning to rule by "Executive Orders".

Biden Administration Executive Orders

- **They will reverse most of President Trump's executive orders**
- **They will reinstate the economy killing government regulations President Trump delivered us from**
- **In the name of 'saving the planet' they will use EO's to shut down the oil industry**
- **In the name of 'health and safety' they will lockdown the economy**

Biden Administration Executive Orders

- In the name of ‘social justice’ they will seek to defund the police
- In the name of ‘compassion’ they will open the borders and lift travel bans
- In the name of ‘safety’ they will begin to erode the 2nd Amendment right to bear arms, probably by taxing guns or instituting a ‘buy-back’ policy

4. If they do manage to obtain a super-majority in the Congress...

Product of a Super Majority

- Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. will become states
- They will ‘pack’ the U.S. Supreme Court with liberal judges
- They will give amnesty to 12.5 million undocumented aliens and give them Medicare and Social Security benefits
 - They will fund bailouts for ‘Blue State’ budget deficits
- They will implement the ‘Green New Deal’ environmental program which will eventually destroy the oil and gas industry in America

5. Most of these will take time to implement; but there will be one thing that will affect Christians immediately: an all-out assault on our 1st Amendment rights of free speech.

C. The Assault on the 1st Amendment

1. Here is how they will do it; they will attempt to silence the Church by prosecuting Christians for ‘hate speech’. Examples:

Biblical Answers to These Questions Will Be Banned As “Hate Speech”

Is abortion murder?

(They will say that is an attack on women)

Is homosexuality a sin?

(They will say that is homophobic and offensive to gay people)

Is transgenderism a sin?

(Joe Biden says he is OK with an 8-year-old deciding to change their gender.)

Is Christ the only way to salvation?

(This will be considered hate-speech toward other religious faiths)

2. If we do speak out on these issues-as we must...

- They will claim that our speech is, of itself, criminal
- They will charge us with spurring acts of violence and unrest because of what we say or preach
- They will use the charge of ‘hate speech’ to take away the tax-emption for donations to churches and ministries

3. They will continue the practice of mandating church lockdowns or seek to severely limiting the number of congregants allowed in in our church services.

4. We have already seen how they will single out certain individuals, families, or businesses for special attack with the idea of making examples out of them.

a. Like the government litigation against the Christian bakery that refused to bake a cake for a homosexual wedding

b. Like the couple in St. Louis who were arrested for confronting trespassers with guns in their hands

c. They will single out individuals and companies for special attack

Randall Terry

Someone will be in the headlines. They will make examples of some to instill *fear* in all; which will compel most people to shut up and go along with whatever they are doing.

5. Think about how many freedoms we have already allowed to be taken away from us in the last 12 months without any pushback from the people or the pulpits! 90% of the Christian church is committing...

D. The Sin of Silence

1. I call this sin “The Silence of the Lambs”.

Randall Terry

Never mind the practicing pagans of various Protestant denominations who have embraced homosexual marriage, supported Black Lives Matter and abortions. Those people have betrayed the faith by their actions and their words. But the collusion with evil that exists within the leadership of the Christian community in America—that collusion is based upon silence.

You can count on one hand the Christian leaders will focus on speaking to the issues based through a Bible-based grid worldview, a theocentric law of God, eternal grid.

2. I will never forget Dr. David Martyn Lloyd-Jones saying that you can identify a false prophet not only by what they say but by what they refuse to say.

Randall Terry

“In this country you have evangelical superstars, mainline Protestant denomination leaders, Roman Catholic bishops and priests who have, by and large, committed treason against heaven by their silence. They have become wedded to evil by their silence.”

a. 30 million Christians are not even registered to vote! Why should they when they listen to men like...

Prophet Jim Laffoon

“God told me not to vote in this election

b. Excuse me, sir! You think *God* told you to be silent in the face of outright evil? May God have mercy on those who look to you for leadership! You need to heed the words wisdom from a man who saw silent Christians hand German over to Hitler in the 1930’s.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Silence in the face of evil is evil itself. God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”

3. I warned you months ago that if we did lose the election that God would lay the blame on the pulpits. (See “The Power of the Pulpit”, Parts 1 & 2)

Charles G. Finney

“If Satan rules in our halls of legislation, the pulpit is responsible for it. If our politics become so corrupt that the very foundations of our government are ready to fall away, the pulpit is responsible for it.”

Dr. Michael Youssef

“As goes the pulpit, so goes the pew. As goes the pew, so goes the nation.”

a. A Barna survey revealed that 9 out of 10 American Christian pastors choose not to speak out on political issues for fear of offending their members. No wonder we've come to the crisis we're in.

b. The great revivalist had a word of warning for these Pastors.

Rev. Charles G. Finney

“God cannot sustain this free and blessed country which we love and pray for unless the Church will take right ground. It seems sometimes as if the foundations of the nation are becoming rotten, and Christians seem to act as if they think God does not see what they do in politics. But I tell you He does see it, and He will bless or curse this nation according to the course that Christians take in politics.”

c. We are accountable for the current crisis.

Randall Terry

We have gotten into place, this hellhole we are in right now, because of the treachery, the silence of so many Christian leaders—and now we are in for a real mess—and I don't see us coming out of it with anything easy. I see the judgment of God.

4. God in His mercy may still deliver America; but God in His righteousness would not be unjust if He judged America.

a. In 1965, Billy Graham wrote a book entitled, “World Aflame”, that included a section calling America to account for her sins and the need of repentance. His wife Ruth, upon reading the manuscript, made a comment that was picked up everywhere...

Ruth Graham

“If God doesn't punish America, He will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.”

b. If Billy Graham thought America was sinful enough for the judgment of God 55 years ago, I wonder what he would say today!

c. I know what the Bible says...

1 Peter 4:17

For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God.

5. This does not speak of condemnation, or destruction, or the great tribulation; judgment is the Greek word 'krima'.

Albert Barnes

The word "judgment" here (Greek 'krima') seems to mean "the severe trial which would determine character." It refers to such calamities that would settle the question as to whether there was any true religion or not, trials that would test the value of that which was professed.

a. If a shaking comes there will be a further exposure of the wheat and tares; God always has a remnant of faithful ones.

6. When was the last time you heard a sermon that mentioned 'judgement must begin at the House of God'? Or a sermon on how to handle suffering or persecution?

7. How about a mini sermon on 'the chastening of the Lord'?

a. Here is what Moses told Israel in the Old Testament:

Deuteronomy 8:5

You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the Lord your God chastens you.

b. And here in the New Testament:

Hebrews 12:5-6 NIV

"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

c. And what Jesus said to the lukewarm Church of Laodicea in the Book of Revelation:

Revelation 3:19

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

d. Here is the Pastor Ray version:

Pastor Ray McCollum

**God is good, loving, merciful, gracious and kind.
But He will also spank your butt.
(I speak from experience)**

III. Conclusion: Review What on Earth is God Doing?

A. We Need the Wisdom of the Sons of Issachar

1. We need to Understand the Times

2. We are either at a miracle moment like the Red Sea or at the beginning of a season of the persecution of Christians.

3. It is no contradiction to believe for the best but be ready to weather the worst.

a. In the days of Daniel and evil government required God's people to bow down to their idols or face the fury of the fiery furnace. What they said is a model for us...

Daniel 3:16-18 NLT

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."

b. They had faith God could work a miracle and rescue them from the fiery furnace. This is where we should be right now.

c. But they went a step farther:

But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.

4. This is solid ground for you and me today; God is able to deliver us. (The prophets are right). But even if He doesn't we will never serve your God or worship the system you socialists have set up!

Randall Terry

Prepare. Be ready. Count the cost. What are you willing to do? What are you willing to say? How much are you going to hide? How much are you willing to fight? These are questions that now must be answered.

5. Let me leave you with this: no matter which way things go, be prepared in your hearts to stand up for God!

6. There is great power in preparing ourselves to follow Christ no matter the cost; as a minister I try to always remember the words of the great revivalist...

George Whitefield

“He is unworthy of the name of a minister of the gospel of peace, who is unwilling, not only to have his name cast out as evil, but also to die for the truths of the Lord Jesus.”

Closing Prayer