

The Messenger

A Prophetic Bulletin Published by Prepare the Way International

Malachi 3:1 "Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me."

Volume 10, No. 4

December 17, 2012

"Hands That Shed Innocent Blood"

By Rob Winters

My wife Kay and I, along with millions of other Americans, have grieved over the senseless massacre of twenty innocent children and six heroic teachers in Newtown, Connecticut this past Friday morning. Our prayers of comfort and peace continue to be extended toward heaven in behalf of the families and friends of the victims. The prevailing question that continues to ring out in the hearts and minds of multitudes throughout our nation is "Why?"

Establishing a Culture of Death

Some have used this tragedy to promote stricter gun control legislation. However, these measures only address effects and not the root cause of our problems - America's gradual departure from the living God. Indeed, our last fifty years have been characterized by a myriad of iniquitous practices, resulting in the moral degradation of our culture and the passage of laws that have paved a road to perdition. Hallmarking our highway of shame are the removal of prayer in public schools by the United States Supreme Court on June 25, 1962 and the legalization of abortion in 1973.

The legalization and widespread practice of unjustifiable abortion in our nation has not only drawn measurable judgment, but also fostered a culture of death that has permeated a generation that we have largely abandoned. America's pervasive practice of abortion has sent a crystal clear message to our children - "You are a burden, a distraction, and not worth my time. My comfort and convenience are more important to me than you. Therefore, instead of laying down my life for you, I am willing to take yours."

Other Americans have unwittingly abandoned their children in favor of a pursuit of the American dream. For years our narcissistic "pursuit of happiness" has become a quest for pleasure and treasure at the expense of our children. Consequently, our children have largely been left to themselves, becoming victims of the death culture that surrounds them. The popularity of *The Hunger Games* and *Twilight* book and movie series among teens is evidence of a youth culture fascinated and obsessed with

blood and death. In recent years, video games have joined music, television and movies as our youth’s favorite past times. Unfortunately, death and destruction have permeated the video game industry as well. For example, titles of America’s top video games for 2012 include *The Walking Dead*, *Darksiders II*, *The Darkness II* and *Max Payne*.

As our youth are continually surrounded by darkness, death becomes more attractive and life less sacred. Moreover, the theme of death that is repeatedly rehearsed in our youth’s music, movies and video games has become the anthem and essence of their existence – resulting in tragedy. Unfortunately, without a radical dismantling of and departure from the death structures we have erected, America will most likely continue to experience tragedies similar to those of Columbine, CO and Newtown, CT.

The Ascension of a Principality of Death

Shortly after the advent of humanity, the innocent blood Adam’s slain son, Abel, cried out from the ground for justice and redemption. How much more does the innocent blood of millions of unborn babies cry out from our soil? Our murderous ways have not only defiled our land, but also have granted Satan legal authority to engage the demented, demonic, death dealers of our society, who would have otherwise been thwarted by divine or angelic intervention. In other words, America’s legalization and widespread practice of abortion has opened a gate of hell that will be difficult to close (Genesis 4:10).

Moreover, the infiltration of death throughout the American culture over the past several decades has accommodated the ascension of an ancient principality of death, namely Baal. Although there are many aspects of Baal, this violent and bloodthirsty principality primarily seeks to destroy our children – the future of America. To accomplish this mass destruction, Baal demands the sacrifice of our children. In Old Testament times, Ammonite parents burned their children in sacrificial worship to appease Molech. In this same manner, the Moabites slaughtered their children to gain the favor of Chemosh, also known as Baal of Peor (II Chronicles 33:6).

Jeremiah 19:5-6 “They have also built the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or speak, nor did it come into My mind. “Therefore behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “that this place shall no more be called Tophet or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter”.

However, Americans are guilty of a greater sin than our Old Testament counterparts. The Ammonites and Moabites sacrificed their children out of ignorance, whereas we have committed these atrocities predominantly out of selfishness and convenience. To realize the magnitude of our sin, we must look at the statistics. Since abortion was legalized in America in 1973, we have slaughtered more than fifty-four million innocent human beings. In fact, excluding miscarriages, 22% of all pregnancies

in America end in abortion. At the current rates, nearly one-third of American women will have an abortion.

Regrettably, many U.S. governmental and humanitarian agencies consider abortion a morally acceptable option in dealing with the social hardships associated with unwanted pregnancies. The problem has become such an epidemic that some churches in America have adopted a pro-choice, abortion tolerant theology. Instead of addressing one of the root causes of abortion - sexual promiscuity, some preachers have conformed to our death culture and succumb to the dictates and doctrines of Baal.

A Solemn Call to Repentance

I pray that the Lord would use this tragedy of diabolical origin in Newtown, CT to wake up the Church in America to the darkened and depraved condition of our nation. I also pray that our tears of grief over the senseless slaughter of twenty innocent children last Friday morning would catalyze tears of repentance for the 3300 unborn children that are unjustifiably butchered in silence and obscurity every day in the United States. Scripture clearly identifies “hands that shed innocent blood” as one of the six things that the Lord hates. However, in order for us to corporately hate and depart from this heinous sin, we desperately need a nationwide outpouring of the spirit of the fear of the Lord. Therefore, I pray that the Lord corporately releases a spirit of judgment that will convict us, and a spirit of burning that will cleanse us of our sin of shedding innocent blood (Proverbs 6:17, 8:13, 16:6, Isaiah 11:2).

Through profound, genuine repentance, and the application of the precious blood of the Lamb, a remnant can initiate our redemption from the curse of death that shrouds our people and contaminates our land. Only then will we possess the authority to dismantle Baal and Molech, and initiate a revolution of righteousness necessary to transform our culture of death into one of life. Without a doubt, nothing less than a third Great Awakening will turn back the tide of wickedness that has overcome America. Therefore, it is high time that we, the Church of America, awake from our slumber, and answer our divine summons to repentance. Then and only then will the light of His glory rise upon us, causing kings and commoners alike to be drawn to the brightness of our rising. This is my hope and prayer for America (Isaiah 60:1-3).

Prayer: *Father, we pray that the peace of Christ and comfort of the Holy Spirit envelop the families and friends of the innocent victims of the Newtown massacre. Awaken the Church of America and grant us repentance for the widespread abortion and abandonment of our children. Hear us from heaven, forgive our sins, and heal our land, in Jesus’ name, Amen.*

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