

October Seventh Remembered One Year Later

Yesterday was the anniversary of the most grizzly and barbaric spate of atrocities against Israel since the holocaust. It has irked me how little detail about Hamas' attack on the Israeli settlements near Gaza, had been reported by the mainline press, but when I tuned in to TBN's report on the details of those raids, the footage was so horrific I had to turn away from it, knowing I wouldn't be able to sleep if I watched much more of it.

Whole unarmed villages were invaded by bands of terrorists on motorcycles with automatic weapons and grenades and all the people slaughtered. Many were mutilated, many raped, some even burned alive, embracing each other in a "strong toil of grace" in death, while the fiendish murderers danced about in gleeful celebration.

Babies too were butchered and little kids made too watch the murders of their parents before they too were slaughtered. It was enough to wrench the heart of any civilized person who had the stomach to look on.

Anyone still ignorant of the gruesome reality of those atrocities needs to understand what is at stake if we embrace radical, Palestinian, and Iranian style antisemitism, such as is now springing up even in some of our elite universities. If that kind of ingrained hatred spreads, America too lies open to the very "tribulation" described by Jesus in Matthew 24 and John's Revelation (6:12-17.) Hell on earth. Some of that devastation is already showing up in the extreme weather related destruction hitting America.

Imagine the kind of devastation now being belatedly addressed by FEMA in North Carolina, Florida and other parts of the south where hurricane-related storm surge, high winds, torrential flooding rains, tornadoes and mud slides have cut off the means to even get through for help.

Add to that the likelihood of gangs of pillagers and terrorists ranging about killing anyone trying to stop their looting. Then add starvation, pandemic and the onset of a relentless winter, and you might get a little sense of what “the great tribulation” Jesus spoke of might be like.

Consider also the possibility that all the born-again Christians, such as Franklin Graham and others of the kind most likely to bring help, have been *raptured*, and the grim picture begins to take shape. (The *Left Behind* Books describe surviving in such a world.)

That’s what a world governed by the evil spirits of hatred and vengeance might be like. These present uncertain times, rife with, crime, dishonesty, drug addiction, dwindling church attendance could prompt God’s wake-up call to all His beloved children. God doesn’t unilaterally bring these calamities upon us. That’s the work of “the god of this world,” Satan. But if God’s people abandon the wisdom, righteousness, and biblical obedience they once walked in, that opens the door to “envy, hatred, and every evil work.”

Now, more than ever, it is time for people to return to God and open their hearts to his good council. During the flood of 97 in North Dakota, this scripture was given to us: “If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from Heaven, I will forgive their sin, and I will heal their land. (II Chron. 7:14.)

People who think they can handles any trial that comes along are not humbling themselves. Self reliance, of the kind Emerson wrote of, was once thought to be a virtue. It is, up to a point; but the Bible says, “Whosoever shall call upon the name of the lord will be saved.” If you are at the breaking point, it’s time to say, “Jesus, I need you; help me.”