



Terrorism and War - Where is God?

By M. Basilea Schlink

Dear Friends,

There is no doubt it is getting harder for Christians to live out their faith in today's world. Various situations come to mind: the threat of a Russian invasion of Ukraine, the surge in antisemitism, the appalling laws regarding the unborn and euthanasia, and the lack of religious freedom many countries are facing. Current anti-discrimination legislation offers no protection for Christians not prepared to go against their conscience by opting for society's newer, 'trendier' social standards. Recently we came across Mother Basilea's booklet 'Terrorism and War - Where is God?', which we would like to share with you, as it deals with issues we are facing right now.

Terrorism and War - Where is God?

All her life Mother Basilea had stressed the importance of turning to God in repentance and prayer in the face of calamity.

Terrorist attacks of unprecedented dimensions. Wars and rumours of wars. Recent events have left people reeling. Stunned, they ask, 'Where is God? How could such things happen?' Numerous negotiations were supposed to guarantee peace. Has diplomacy failed after all? Why?

The Unconsidered Factor

One factor has not been taken into consideration. Man cannot bring about world peace. He just cannot. The peace euphoria of recent years was an illusion. One alone is in control. One alone is Lord, Ruler over all nations, directing the course of human events, including war and peace. What He says comes to pass. The Old Testament gives various examples of God announcing to His people that war would suddenly break out with the invasion of enemy armies.

This was God's response to their refusal to turn from flagrant sins.

So apart from enemy aggression, is there perhaps another cause for the present situation? Undoubtedly. How can there be peace among the nations if people go on committing atrocious sins? The unborn are killed by the million. Children are abused, kidnapped, misused for pornographic purposes and even as victims at satanic rituals. Young people are unscrupulously led astray, introduced to sadism through horror shows, demoralised through heavy metal, rap & rock music with perverse and diabolical lyrics. They are driven into addictions, reduced to pliable instruments of the evil one, and raised to be godless, and antagonistic towards authority. All kinds of esoteric practices, sorcery, witchcraft and occultism are the order of the day. Satanism is spreading like wildfire. Justice is perverted. Divorce is prevalent. Families are being destroyed. Perverse forms of sex are legitimised, euthanasia and assistance in 'dying humanely' increasingly legalised. Through genetic engineering man encroaches on the Creator's sovereignty. Most horrific of all, man dares to blaspheme the thrice-holy God. But often we are so proud of our nation that we don't notice when it is approaching its downfall.

Sin calls down divine judgment: God's response to the almost unbelievable and appalling sins now characterising our nations. God has borne with these sins for many long years. In His love and compassion He has kept extending the time of grace. He has to force Himself to send judgment. If there is any way that He can prevent it, He will. He is the God of patience: He is longsuffering and merciful (Exodus 34:6; 2 Chronicles 7:14).

Sin Has Reached a Climax

However, the satanic sins of humanity have reached a climax. The nations speak of peace, while hatred and murder are commonplace. Is it logical to assume that peace can be had with other nations in which sin and hatred are just as prevalent? Or with those nations that demand that the 'infidels', i.e. all non-Moslems, be killed and eradicated, as the Koran instructs? 'Take not the Jews and Christians for friends...' – 'When ye encounter the infidels, strike off their heads till ye have made a great slaughter among them ...'(Suras 5:51; 47:4; see also, for instance, Sura 9:5, 29).

The hour has come for God to break His silence. His grief over this sin-polluted world cannot but express itself in divine wrath, born of His anguish. But how does divine wrath tally with a God of love? When sin is turning the world into hell, is it not ultimately a wise and loving plan of God to intervene? Through the shattering events of our times, people are jolted out of sinful activities. Many wake up, realising that their lives might soon be over. Such events are a warning from God, a call to repentance.

How was it that sin could gain such a hold over us? In the Western nations people are strongly motivated by pride. Self-realisation and self-assertion are encouraged.

Obedience and every form of authority are widely rejected. But now the almighty, holy God steps in. He is the Lord and Maker of heaven, earth and all mankind, the Creator of the stars in the sky and of the whole cosmos. Before Him we are but a speck of dust. So that we dare not act as if we were masters of our own destiny, He shows us, in His love, where we stand in relationship to Him.

God allows calamity to happen so that those who are willing may be rescued from the boundless pride and arrogance so characteristic of humanity today and instilled from an early age. Now the time has come when God is beginning to reveal Himself in His majesty. He teaches us to bow down before Him in reverence and to submit to His leadings, which are inspired by love. He allows disaster to strike, so that man might take his rightful place before Him: turn to Him and be saved.

Divine Chastening—A Mark of Love?

As we see God's judgment today, we need to recognise His love reaching out to us. God says in His Word: 'I am going to take her into the desert ...; there I will win her back with words of love' (Hosea 2:14 GNB).

God is Love, and whatever He does comes from His loving heart. It was because of His love for mankind that He sent Jesus to be our Saviour. Tragically, those who have sold themselves to doing evil neither want nor sense any need for a Saviour. But in the face of death it becomes evident that we all need a Saviour and that the only One who can save us from eternal damnation and reconcile us with God is Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:5-6). Those who commit themselves to the Saviour and follow Him, by taking up their cross, have found the meaning to life.

In recent years the Christian world has largely succumbed to 'prosperity teaching'. Many were interested in God only for what He could give them: they wanted to enjoy life more, to acquire wealth, to live in comfort. Now 'prosperity teaching' lies shattered. It has nothing to offer people. It cannot help them cope with the growing troubles, fears and terrors we all face. Where, then, is help to be found?



Picture Credit:
Benny Hinn Ministries

Repentance—A Unique Opportunity

The sins of our generation are crying out to heaven. They exceed those of Sodom and Gomorrah and those of the pre-Flood world. The people living then did not know Jesus; nor did they know His love and forgiveness. They did not know the One who is our Saviour and Helper, the Victor over sin and Satan. Because of their depravity and violence God was forced to send judgment. Almost every living being on earth perished in the Great Flood. Noah, however, who feared and obeyed God, was rescued.

God is now waiting for us to repent. He rejoices over everyone who repents, confesses their sins and trusts in Jesus' act of salvation and in the transforming power of His blood. Lot, who refused to have anything to do with the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah, was rescued before fire and brimstone rained from heaven as a judgment on these cities. Again today, the Lord provides deliverance – for those who believe in Jesus, who break with sin, who live according to His commandments.

When our hearts are heavy because loved ones are endangered, do we hear the Lord's call? Do we hear Him when an economic crisis looms on the horizon? When acts of terrorism are committed? When fear of the devastating results of terrorism arises in one country after the other? Can we hear Jesus calling to us now?

God allows calamity to happen as a judgment upon our sins. From a spiritual viewpoint, the root cause behind God's judgment is the sins of humanity. Everyone is to blame.

Let us not make God wait any longer for our repentance. Repentance, a genuine about-turn, is truly nothing to be afraid of. It won't make us miserable – on the contrary, repentance produces a life that is full of joy. Repentance means turning away from sin and Satan. Repentance means turning back to the heart of God: receiving His forgiveness and His grace. The more we repent, the more we bring our sins into the light, confess them, and claim Jesus' redemption in faith, the more inner peace, joy and strength He will give us.

Those who fail to repent not only forfeit any deliverance for themselves, but lack the power to pray effectively for their nation to be protected, or for deserved judgment to be made less severe. By contrast, when anyone does repent, their prayers will have far-reaching results.

When Abraham prayed that God would avert the judgment upon Sodom, God agreed on the condition that there were still some righteous people in the city. Righteous people are those who have already been judged, that is, those who have accepted God's chastening and repented. Judgment begins with the household of God (1 Peter 4:17). Had there been only ten righteous people in Sodom, the Lord would have been willing to spare the whole city (Genesis 18; cf. Jeremiah 5:1).

*The Lord is good,
a stronghold
in the day of trouble;
he knows those who
take refuge in him.*

Nahum 1:7



‘The Lord is Compassionate’

God has placed a great deal of responsibility into our hands. How successful the terrorists will be in their assaults, and how far they can damage or destroy vital facilities – all this and many other possibilities depend partly on whether we repent and pray. Where there is repentance, God relents and holds back His judgment (Jeremiah 18:7,8), for He is merciful. Praying people help to influence events. Through prayer we can move the hand of Him who rules the world. How was it, for instance, when the Amalekites warred against the children of Israel at Rephidim? As Joshua opposed the Amalekites, Moses prayed on the hilltop, and through his prayers the Israelites prevailed (Exodus 17:8-13).

We don’t need to be petrified with fear or so depressed that we are incapable of going about our normal business. No difficult situation has ever been mastered through despair. God has given us a mission, by which we ourselves will also benefit.

That mission is to repent and pray. Then the judgment that God as the righteous Judge has begun to send upon our corrupt nations will be lessened in its severity. Then the terrorists will not be able to cause destruction on the scale they had planned. So let us not succumb to our fears, or allow worries any place in our hearts. They will only wear us out.

The Lord is waiting for our repentance and faith. When we are in a desperate situation, we can experience His closeness and help as never before (Psalm 46:1). In order to go through this critical time victoriously, we need to be strong. Strength comes when we turn to God, when we are honest and admit that it is our sinning that has brought on this judgment.

Not only that. If we are willing to repent and devote ourselves to prayer, then judgment will be tempered with mercy. Who would want to miss such a unique opportunity!



Picture Credit: Danny Hahlbohm

Prayer

O great and everlasting, holy God,
You judge the world with righteousness.

Your wrath is kindled over the sins crying out to heaven from our nations,
which are Christian only in name.

This is why You have taken from us the peace we thought we could establish
on earth by our own efforts.

This is why You are judging us through current events.

Help us not to grow discouraged,
to despair or lose confidence in You.
Help us to trust in Your love always,
even when we don't understand You.

We now come to You, Lord Jesus, and confess:
We have sinned. Forgive us.

May our pleading be accompanied by repentance;
then You can hear our prayers and temper judgment with mercy.

In this time of testing,
grant that we may prove ourselves as Your children –
by not falling into despair or rebellion,
but humbling ourselves beneath Your hand of judgment,
knowing that we have deserved Your wrath.

Help us to grow in our love for You and for one another,
and keep our love from growing cold.

With the winds of adversity driving us to You,
help us to grow strong through the experience of Your help
and to go through this critical time in a way that honours You.

Amen.

1st Edition: © 2002, Evangelical Sisterhood of Mary, Darmstadt, Germany

2nd Edition: © 2022, Evangelical Sisterhood of Mary, Canaan of God's Comfort, AUSTRALIA

Condensed and printed posthumously with minor editorial changes. Original manuscript completed by early February 1991.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Unless otherwise stated, all Bible quotations are taken from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyrighted 1946 and 1952.

Quotations from the Koran are taken from Marmaduke Pickthall, 3rd ed., *The Meaning of the Glorious Qur'an* (Holy Quran), Delhi, Kutub Khana Ishayat-ul-Islam (Regd.), 1981; J. M. Rodwell, *The Koran*, London, England, J. M. Dent & Sons Ltd., Everyman's Library, 1978.