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Dear Friends,



It is sadly easy to declare horrible events in this nation as signs of God's judgment since we are now officially godless by self declaration. But those on both the left and the right who reject and even abhor invoking God as the direct source of such evils are correct. It is Satan who comes to steal, kill, and destroy. (John 10) When the prophets asked "Is there evil in the city and God has not brought it?" (Isaiah 45:7; Amos 3:6), such statements refer to the calamities that come where God has been rejected. It does not mean God does the evil. It does not even mean that the calamity strikes the guilty, or misses the innocent. When the evil comes, because it IS evil, it hits, even aims, at the innocent. God is the One who must oversee the terrible ramifications of rejecting His grace. So though He does no evil, He oversees the tragic results in a nation where His goodness has been willfully supplanted by evil. In other words, He sadly says to us, "Thy will be done."

When a national Christian radio personality stated recently that God did not act to protect because we have told God to get lost, he was speaking

clear and indisputable truth. But the hue and cry that went up over his statement was typical. What was also typical were the talking heads that always pop up after these horrors, making statements about the need for more gun control (we had guns a long time before these evils began happening) and more gun laws. Connecticut has some of the most stringent gun laws in the country, which the killer seemed to ignore. When evil plans to kill people, it won't stop to consider that it may have to break a few gun laws to do it. Chicago just surpassed its 500th homicide for the year. The strictest gun laws in the nation oversee this slaughter.

Daniel tells us that in the last days none of the wicked will understand but the wise will understand.

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Understand what? Among other things, they will understand spiritual power and how it affects the earth. To the lawless and godless these words will either be inscrutable or foolish. It is not written to them. It is written for those who belong to the Lord.

There is a clear Scriptural connection between lawless rebellion against God and the groanings of the earth. To cite only one of many, Leviticus 25 tells Israel that if they embrace the evils of the pagans, the earth will vomit them out of it. This is not poetic language but literal. Paul speaks of the groaning of the earth under the weight of man's corruption. Jesus refers to the sea and the waves roaring as men look with terror at what is coming on the earth, for its powers will be shaken.

Blood cries out from the ground. When Lincoln warned that the blood of slaves would call for the blood of American sons, in less than a decade the warning gave way to the War Between the States. Cain's blood cried out from the ground. Slaves' blood cried out from the ground. What will be the ramifications of the blood of millions (52 million and counting) of murdered babies crying out from this ground? The day 20 precious innocent children were slaughtered in Connecticut, only a few miles away infants were being torn to pieces in their mothers' wombs. Social Service organizations report on the daily homicide of children behind closed doors. Most professionals in the field of child protection say these reports are about half of the real numbers. The murder of children happens every day. We only awaken to its horror when it is dramatically performed in public. As long as it is behind the closed doors of the abortion clinic or the house across town, we seem unaffected.

70% of Americans claim to follow God, yet we cannot overcome such evil? From our point of view we are only concerned with the dramatic events. I say this with all due respect for the suffering in Connecticut, which is truly agonizing. Yet from heaven's view, the quiet private murders are directly connected to the more public ones in Connecticut. Blood cries out for blood. What terrible portals of murderous evil have we been opening for years now?

Will any real issues be examined? Will Holly-wood or the video game industry be put in the dock for its obvious contribution? Of course not. So on Christmas Day, Quinton Tarantino's film *Django Unchained* opened in theaters with reports that it is so violently bloody it nearly (and should have) received an NC-17 rating. Star of the film, Jamie Foxx, stated that he knows film is directly related to increased violence and that it should be held accountable for that fact. But at the same time he stated how much he enjoyed killing all the white people in the film.

The only help and hope is the intercession of the people of God. We are indeed kings and priests before God on behalf of men. It is time to take our place to stand in the gap, to repent of our own sin, and to cry out on behalf of the innocent blood, pleading for the spirit of repentance to descend. All other attempts at answers are already cursed before they begin. God has indeed given the nation over to itself. Yet there is still hope as God's people awake to the call.



Happy New Year!





CHILD

I am your laughing, crying, possibility:
I keep on coming as
I did before,

hoping and hungering and with no visible means of support whatever.

Naked need is all I offer: my extremity is your opportunity,

my Bethlehem is where you can be born. And will you be King Herod to yourself?

Look in the mirror of my cradle, see your laughing, crying, possibility,

hoping and hungering and with no visible means of support whatever.

Sydney Carter

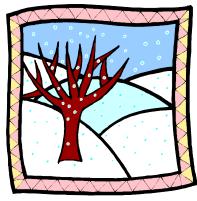


Closing Thoughts...



Let us go to our knees, confessing the evils of sin. Let us ask God for intercessory power to plead the Blood of Jesus as the antidote for the poison of shed innocent blood. Let us pray for the cleansing and healing of the land, decreasing the nesting ground for such demonic evil. Let us intercede for angelic forces to police and resist the rising demonic powers. Let us spread the gospel, not only in word but in righteous action, overflowing with our Heavenly Father's love. Let us become a wise and understanding people who will respond to our Father's prompting to pray for all men. Let us surrender afresh our lives to Love Himself. Let us, more than ever, adore and obey the one who is Faithful.

Blessed New Year, Clay & Mary







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