

Maximising Redemption: Bloodlust & Aggression

Woe to those who go to great depths to hide their plans from the LORD.

From Isaiah 29:15

Bloodlust and Aggression

Woe to you, O destroyer, you who have not been destroyed! Woe to you, O traitor, you who have not been betrayed! When you stop destroying, you will be destroyed; when you stop betraying, you will be betrayed. (Isaiah 33:1)

The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men. Therefore once more I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder; the wisdom of the wise will perish, the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish." Woe to those who go to great depths to hide their plans from the LORD, who do their work in darkness and think, "Who sees us? Who will know?" You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, "He did not make me"? Can the pot say of the potter, "He knows nothing"? (Isaiah 29:13-16)

Although 2005 was a tragic year (and my prayers and thoughts go out to those who have suffered loss or continue to suffer misery) one of the benefits was that it gave God a chance to distinguish shepherds that are faithfully teaching and ministering to their flocks faithfully, from the unrepentant with idolatrous self-serving wasteful edifices.

The Pakistani earthquake was one a major sifter in 2005. I was grateful that a few months earlier I had published a prayer point for Mushareff and his people. The world seemed to be naively assuming that if you sent all terrorists back from where they came (in this case Pakistan) that the problem of terrorism would go away. At the time, I pointed out this was an erroneous perspective, and all that it would achieve would be the festering of an even more vicious and organized form of terrorism (a bit like putting soft criminals in with hardened criminals, the hardened criminals brain wash and train the new criminals into more cunning and vicious forms of crime). (And as an editorial insert, how outrageous for the CIA to undertake a military strike in Pakistan, without the country's consent. What are they trying to do? Spark a civil war against Mushareff so the arms merchants have somewhere new to ship their merchandise? My congratulations and prayers go to the Muslims who have not risen to these war mongers' provocations.)

In the aftermath of the earthquake, I had prayed for the wasteful shepherds to realize they were facing a biblical worst case scenario and for them to acknowledge that God was intervening and calling people to turn to God and away from human endeavors to impose God's will.

"... alas for those who are with child and for those who give suck in those days! Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a sabbath. For then

there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be." (Matthew 24:15-21)

The tragedies of 2005 gave humanity a chance to recognize that when God intervenes no single country or people can stand on their own, and that we all rely on co-operation to mitigate the worst of God's anger. 2005 was also the year where God proved that all our plans and schemes were meaningless and could be swept away in an instant if God saw fit. Thus we all live and we all die by God's grace alone.

Fortunately, a significant portion of humanity came to understand these key lessons and gone on to make a commitment in their hearts towards building a more just and humane world that gives honor and praise to God in the highest. The struggles and mechanics of how to do it, the fear of letting go of existing paradigms, the faith to ride the storms as we restructure our social and economic systems still lie ahead; but there is the deep core of acceptance that this work can and must be done.

God has promised that although there are times that he will hand us over to wasteful shepherds, he can and will redeem a remnant as and when he sees fit e.g. [Jeremiah 23:1-6](#), [Jeremiah 32:32-44](#), [Job 12:13-25](#), [Zechariah 11:4-17](#), [Ezekiel 17:11-24](#), [Ezekiel 34](#), especially:

I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice. (Ezekiel 34:15-16)

There are still two elements that would sabotage and stall this fundamental process. On one hand we have those who have linked their identities into Babylonian delusions such as war machines and global economic domination. For those who think that the only way to bring about world peace is through war, there are many texts that challenge this basic precept. Two texts that I have found particularly useful are Desmond Tutu's "God has a Dream" for example page 15: "*The tyrant is on a road to nowhere even though he may survive for an unconscionably long time and even though he may turn his country into a huge prison riddled with informers. This may go on for too long in the view of the victims, but the end can not be in doubt. Freedom will break out.*" Another excellent text is Caleb Carr's "Lessons on Terror", which gives example after example of how the bible has been used to justify violence, war and terror; but that ultimately each and every regime that has such foolish paths has eventually collapsed. (As an aside, you can tell a war has not been initiated by God if the problem becomes protracted. God never uses violence unless absolutely necessary, and if God does use violence it is so absolute and definitive that the matter is closed.).