

In Times Like These

Harmony M.B.C., September 24, 2011

(Job 9:24) The earth is given into the hand of the wicked: he covereth the faces of the judges thereof; if not, where, *and* who *is* he?

As we look at the history of mankind we can't help but notice that there seems to be cycles of abounding wickedness among men. Job must have lived in such a time. Some scholars say he almost certainly lived before the flood, but we find in **Job 22:15-16** scripture seems to deny that: "Hast thou marked the old way which wicked men have trodden? **16** Which were cut down out of time, whose foundation was overflown with a flood." But, we have no doubt that he and his contemporaries saw the society of man corrupting itself greatly, even as he lived. We can guess that by the time he wrote these words, there was far more in the world that was wicked than was good.

It is a sad situation, and one that appears bleak when upright men must say that the earth is under the control of the wicked. This was Job's assessment in his day. Sadly, this must be our assessment of the day that we live in. We can feel a kinship with Job, and we can identify with his solemn words when we look around us and see that in every facet of human endeavor, wickedness rears its ugly head again and again.

Today, we want to consider the tragedy of the reality Job writes about, and we want to consider what God's people need to do in times like these. We need the fortitude of Job in the horribly wicked day in which we live. May the Holy Spirit help us to find our strength in the Lord for the trials that are ahead for us as mankind plunges headlong toward another reckoning day with the Judge of all the earth.

In our first heading, we will be considering some very bleak facts about times like these we live in. But, if you will bear with me, I will close with words of comfort and hope for every true believer.

I. Consider the seriousness and tragedy of Job's statement, and what this means - "...the earth is given into the hand of the wicked."

- The forces of wickedness have hijacked the outcome of human events on earth
 - Why is the statehood, and the right to exist for Israel even being questioned by the so-called global community today? And why are the legal boundaries of their country being challenged?
 - Why is it that Hamas and Iran can openly talk about annihilating Israel without one word of condemnation from the global community, but Israel cannot defend itself without being condemned by every would-be authority on the planet?
 - Why is it that homosexuals can openly flaunt their perversion in the U. S. Military today, and have nationwide marriage ceremonies hosted by national media as they are praised and pandered to by enemies of God, but every witness for Christ, who declares that God has condemned this behavior as reprobate and cursed, is accused of committing a hate crime?
 - Why is it that women in America can go to the nearest abortion clinic and commit "legal" murder today, while the laws of the land sanction it, and we the taxpayers have to pay for it?
 - Why is it that the Supreme Court can rule that a bill which commands Americans to participate in, and pay for other people's health care; and commands us to buy a specific product that the government will define; and commands that if we do not buy that product we will pay a fine...why is it this can happen in the face of legal facts, which a third-grader that knows anything about the Constitution is able to understand, show plainly that such a law is unconstitutional.
 - Why is it that Christians can't have a prayer meeting or bible reading in American schools and

in many businesses today, but Muslims can have prayer rooms provided for them, and time out for prayer?

➤ Why is it that a group of politicians can get together and without your approval or input agree to spend almost a trillion dollars of your tax money to fund a bunch of special interests and buddies who campaigned and contributed toward their election - and call it economic stimulus?

➤ How is it that a group of lying politicians, compromised scientists, and greedy, conscienceless businessmen can conspire to fabricate a hoax about global warming in order to enslave mankind to a global power grab, but anyone who opposes them with the truth is called a racist, a bigot, and a hater of humanity?

➤ How is it that the Attorney General of the United States can refuse to answer Congress and the President of the United States give him the cover to do it? And this is a matter that has led directly to the deaths of American people and Mexicans as a direct result of what the Attorney General and his lackeys did with Operation Fast and Furious

■ Having hijacked the outcomes of human events, wicked men will make sure they are the main beneficiaries of the events unfolding on the earth.

➤ On the issue of Israel's rights: Hamas and Iran stand to gain great power and influence in the world of Islam by discrediting or destroying Israel

➤ On the issue of homosexual ascendancy in the world: Now that the law has come to champion the perversions of homosexuals, we are told that we must keep silent about it. This perversion can infiltrate our schools, our businesses, our family lives, our churches. The homosexuals of the land can now turn America into another Sodom. The law will back them up. They have everything to gain as they drive the morality laid down by the Lord to the wall and force this culture to give them all the freedom they need to defy the living God. Lest we forget, the men of Sodom defied angels of God in their lawless lusts...they had no sense of rightness about them, nor any care about it.

➤ On the issue of Obamacare, there will be megalomaniacs who will stand in positions of power who will see more and different ways to enslave the American people and take away their freedom of choice. This law is the pathway for government to become totalitarian and mimic governments like Soviet Russia, Nazi Germany, Cuba, Iran, Venezuela, and a dozen others.

➤ On the issue of spending our tax money as corrupt men see fit: Politicians, socialists and Marxist billionaires, and their cronies will realize huge profits in power, influence, and money, as long as they control the purse strings, control the media, and limit the efforts by constituents to dethrone them.

➤ On the issue of the global scam about global warming: Socialists across the world would have a slush fund to spend in launching a worldwide program to enforce Marxism across the planet. This enforcement would guarantee that the elitists of this movement would not only be immeasurably rich, but would have vast powers over the people of the earth.

➤ On the issue of hiding information about Fast and Furious: Obama and Holder have everything to gain by keeping hidden what they have done, and everything to lose as soon as Congress and the American people find out that they broke the law with premeditation.

■ Wickedness will prevail in positions of power as well as in lowly positions

➤ The unregenerate beggar and the billionaire alike will be consumed with the spirit of evil and will act out wickedness according to his means and opportunity.

- The millions that are defrauding the American people today by getting on welfare through deception are representative of a beggar society that has no scruples, and billionaires who fleece America by back room deals with crooked politicians are representative of the rich that have followed the spirit of evil.

- Note the panhandling scams being run across the country where people have begun to playact as disenfranchised street people and extract millions of dollars a day from the public by

pretending to be destitute

- Note the wicked programs such as those run by multi-billionaire George Soros in which he spews liberal propaganda from dozens of sources; the main purpose of which is to undermine and destroy conservative strength and agenda across the world.
- The wicked will pervert and ruin every way of the earth
 - (Remember that Jesus said [**Mat. 24:37**] But as the days of Noe *were*, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.)
 - How was it in the days of Noah? **Gen. 6:11** The earth also was corrupt (ruined) before God, and the earth was filled with violence. (Violence here carries both the idea of violent dealings of men against men, but also unjust gain)
- The wicked will revile and slander upright men
 - Of all the generations of mankind there has never been a generation in which wicked men seek to discredit men with principle as they are doing today. More than that, preachers and patriots in this country are called liars and troublemakers when they try to expose the evil that is running rampant.
- The judgment of just men who would point out this dominance of wickedness will be set aside, overruled, and they will not have influence (“he covereth the faces of the judges thereof...”).
 - I only need to point to last week’s supreme court ruling legitimizing Obamacare to illustrate what this means.

II. So, here we are, in a time when the earth has been given into the hand of the wicked. But Job’s statement gives us the key we need to not despair. The key lies in one word: “given”

- Start with this fact: the Lord owns the earth (**Psalms 24:1** A Psalm of David. The earth *is* the LORD’S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.)
 - So He MUST be the one who has “given.” How does this work?
 - The scriptural proof text of this reality is found in a statement by Satan. Note **Luke 4:6** (where the temptation of Christ is recorded) The devil takes Jesus to a high mountain, shows him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time : And the devil said unto him (Christ), All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: **for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.**
 - **1John 5:19** “... the whole world lieth in wickedness.” is a powerful warning to us to make us aware of the fact that it is a short distance from the whole earth being in a state of wickedness to the whole earth being given over to the wicked.
- Now, we can spend a lot of time pondering why God gives the earth into the hand of the wicked one...Satan; only to have Satan give it into the hand of wicked men. We can think a lot about this and waste a lot of time doing it, OR we can accept that it is fact which the Lord has allowed for His own reasons, and move on.
- THEN, when we are sure that the Lord has given the earth into the hand of the wicked one, who in turn gives it into the hand of the wicked, we can rest about the outcome. Why?
 - **Isaiah 46:9-11** Remember the former things of old: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else; I *am* God, and *there is* none like me, **10** Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *the things* that are not *yet* done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: **11** Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken *it*, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed *it*, I will also do it.
- This does not mean we are to rest and keep silent about the wickedness
 - Noah spent 120 years preaching against the wickedness
 - See **Mat. 10:27-28**: What I tell you in darkness, *that* speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, *that* preach ye upon the housetops. 28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able

to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

- While wicked men continue to profit and prosper from their godless management of the affairs of earth, we still have eternal benefits to gain while we walk through this world and know that Christ will point the way for our trip:
 - **Isaiah 48:17** Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I *am* the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way *that* thou shouldest go.