
GOD'S CONTROVERSY WITH OUR LAND

Contributed by Jim Jordal
Sunday, 15 May 2016

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By Jim Jordal

Hear the word of Yahweh, you children of Israel; For Yahweh has a charge against the inhabitants of the land: "Indeed there is no truth, Nor goodness, Nor knowledge of God in the land. There is cursing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; They break boundaries, and bloodshed causes bloodshed. Therefore the land will mourn, And everyone who dwells therein will waste away. All living things in her, Even the animals of the field and the birds of the sky; Yes, the fish of the sea also die. Hosea
4:1-3 WEB (emphasis mine)

All you have to do to see the modern fulfilment of these God-breathed words is to open your newspaper or turn on your TV. It's everywhere as violence captures our streets; falsehoods demean our political campaigns, and nobody--- not even churches--- pays attention to God's law.

Because of this egregious sin the land mourns and even animals, birds, and fish in the sea die needlessly. It's happening because God said it would when humans persuade themselves that they know more than God, and that their abundant technological innovations will somehow prevent onrushing disaster.

Nature these days seems to be at war with humanity. Monster storms, floods, forest fires, earthquakes, drought---all indicate that something is seriously wrong, but again, we're not listening. One wonders how much it will take for us as a nation to turn finally to our Creator and his rules for national health, peace, and prosperity.

Will it take rising seas to inundate our coastal cities? Or weather-related crop failures creating food scarcities, and possibly even mass starvation? Or rampant, unchecked diseases like Ebola and other new viruses? Or fires like the recent one that devastated a Canadian town? Or race warfare in our streets? Or

computerized robots threatening the jobs and financial welfare of our already-damaged middle and working classes? Or---probably most feared of all---a massive collapse of our Wall Street-dominated financial system as human needs far outweigh our ability to pay for them?

If this list

scares you and you think I spend too much time on negatives like these threatening problems, please open your Bible and prayerfully consult with God on what he wants to teach you. This message of God's anger at human betrayal of his priceless, timeless message of righteousness, justice, truth and mercy appears throughout Scripture, but again, we don't hear.

Hosea

perhaps said it best: "I [God] have given him [God's people] the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing" (Hosea 8:12). Yes, some biblical law in the form of sacrificial and ceremonial ordinances was superseded by Christ, but the vast bulk of God's law remains to guide leaders and nations into the benefits and blessings readily available to those persons and institutions ready to apply them to human affairs.

Is it

already too late? No, not at all! God promises along with various and sundry disasters, to turn the hearts of his people to the Lord. The outcome is not in doubt: We will turn back to God. The only question is how much will we have to suffer before we turn to the Lord?

Isaiah 61:11

is a promise for deliverance we can all find comfort in: "For as the earth brings forth its bud, as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations."

When we

consider the circus-like atmosphere of our on-going political campaign, it's difficult to see any good coming out of it. But God sits in the heavens and laughs at the antics of his poor, clueless creatures posturing as people of wisdom and good-will. Out of this turmoil will come the collapse of human institutions and structures not fit for God's kingdom, and a rising national recognition that we cannot continue the path we have chosen. Pray that it be soon and that God in his anger will remember mercy.