

~ Why Kill Thy Brother? ~

Why?

With the recent shooting in an Aurora, Colorado movie theater, questions are asked by the families of the victims, by the news reporters, and by many around the country. Why does someone want to kill someone else? What was the shooter's reason for the unspeakable act? What could have been done to prevent this horrible event and prevent the loss of innocent lives?

Added to these emotional questions, the world is asking their religious leaders to provide an explanation for the world's evils. And what can they say?

Reasoning by The World

The news media wants to find and report answers. They will research the killer's background to find a clue. They may reason that the person belonged to a radical organization, or he had a troubled home life, or he was fired from his job. Thus if they find a plausible cause then they will assign a motivation.

Various reports place the USA's murder rate at an average of over 16,000 per year for the last ten years or about 44 deaths each day. Governmental officials declare "War on Crime" to remove the criminals from the streets and place them in prisons. Yet, in a *New Yorker* article by Adam Gopnik on January 30, 2012 titled *The Caging of America Why do we lock up so many people?* he writes, "Over all, there are now more people under 'correctional supervision' in America—more than six million—than were in the Gulag Archipelago under Stalin at its height. That city of the confined and the controlled, Lockuptown, is now the second largest in the United States." We acknowledge man's war for justice and peace is never ending. What is wrong?

Accountability

Psychology Today published an article on May 9, 2011 by Stanton E. Samenow, Ph.D., *Discounting the evil, they assert their decency - Inside the Criminal Mind* " 'If I thought of myself as evil, I couldn't live,' said one murderer. 'Just because I killed someone doesn't mean I'm a bad person,' asserted another.... No matter how long their trail of carnage, no matter what suffering they caused others, every one of them retained the view that he is a good person."

Just as many of the incarcerated will say "I am not guilty"; so, many who commit crimes have a reason or a justification for their actions. However, they have failed to take accountability of their actions. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

In Genesis the 4th chapter we read of the account of Cain and Abel offering to God a portion of their labors in a sacrifice. God accepted the life of an animal offered by Abel but not of Cain's grain. Why? Cain was the first born and he, most likely, was responsible for the care of his younger brothers and sisters. Pride might have developed in his heart, and self-will in mind. Cain's self-will might have led him to offer evidence of his hard labors rather than what was requested by God and pride developed in Cain's heart. "And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee *shall be* his desire, and thou shalt rule over him." (Gen. 4:6-7) Is it true today? When we do something with perceived good intention and the service is not accepted, then jealousy or anger might develop within our minds to affect our behavior. Even though evil thoughts would be a sin, the greater sin would be to act upon feelings.

"And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. And the LORD said unto Cain, Where *is* Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?" Gen. 4:8-9

Permission of Evil

The question cries out, "Why can't an all loving God prevent this killing." God warned Cain, but He did not stop the shedding of first-blood. The raising of one's hand against his own brother has continued to today. Matthew 23:35

If God has the power to move heaven and Earth and does not stop the killings, then how loving can He be? How can we believe? "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." (1 John 4:8) The answer is found here: if love for others is not in our hearts, how can we understand God's love?

In addition to love, God has three more attributes which govern His actions. These are Wisdom (Isa. 40:13,14 & Acts 15:18), Power (Psa. 89:13 & Isa.

55:11), and Justice (Psa. 89:14 & Deut. 32:4). God cannot violate any one of His attributes. He cannot turn away Justice to allow Love to rule His decisions. For God, all four traits operate in balance with each other.

Then how can a loving God permit His Creation to exist with evil? WISDOM! God's wisdom for mankind's development permitted self-willed decisions to teach the effects and consequences of our choices. Life is a classroom with trials and errors. Some hear "touching the flame will burn your finger" and reject the wisdom of instruction. The thrill of the flame entices them onward.

Love Your Enemies

Where is God's Justice to help those suffering at the hands of the oppressors? Doesn't God have the power to stop evil when it appears that injustice rules the world?

In a perfect world (Eden), love would rule every thought and action toward oneself, toward others, and especially toward God. Yet with Adam's fall, man's love is only a small measure of the perfect standard once instilled in Adam. Only Jesus demonstrated such absolute love. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13) Then what lessons can be gained about love from a world filled with hatred?

In Matthew 5:43-48, Jesus taught "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. (Lev. 19:18; Psa. 139:22) 44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? 47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more *than others*? do not even the publicans so? 48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

During the period of the permission of evil, God is not exercising his Justice on all. He is permitting a degree of blessings, the sun and rain, to fall on all His creation. The greater lesson is for those Jesus spoke of earlier in the same chap-

ter. Those poor in spirit, who mourn and are meek, who desire righteousness, who demonstrate mercy, who develop a pure heart and are peacemakers, who are righteously persecuted by the other; they develop not only a brotherly love toward even their enemies, but they learn an unselfish, agape, perfect heavenly love.

Will the Permission of Evil End?

This same question has continued for over 6000 years of mankind's history without an answer. Added to this dilemma, Bible readers refer to Isaiah 45:7 and say that God created evil. "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these *things*." The prophet Isaiah is comparing opposites to a standard. When the world lives within harmony to God's laws, there is peace. When His laws are violated—sin—there is evil or woe. Thus sin is always an evil. However not all evils, effects of nature, are sin.

The permission to allow mankind to choose evil and live outside God's standard has been permitted since Adam's test in Eden. Man choosing evil is Sin. And all the power on Earth has not stopped man from knowingly or not from sinning.

Prince of Peace Shall Rule

Mankind's police forces and armies could never establish true peace between brothers. All the religious leaders could never bring man into a state of peace with God. Yet Isaiah spoke of one who will bring peace. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6) Within God's plan for mankind's experience with sin, He included a plan for the expiation of sin. (Romans 3:24, 25) Isaiah spoke of God's only begotten son to become a man who faithfully did his Father's Will including a perfect ransoming sacrifice for Adam and his families' sins. Yet Jesus came and left and the world has continued downward on the path of sin and destruction.

"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." (Dan

12:1) Daniel spoke of Michael, our Lord Christ Jesus, returning and standing up to begin his rule as the "Great Prince". However the beginning of his rule will require a time of trouble, a "War on Sin", not against man in general, but against religious, governmental, and social establishments in opposition to the "New Heavens and New Earth" (Isa. 65:17; 66:22; 2 Pet. 3:13)

The Tearing Down

"For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if *it first begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?" (1 Pet. 4:17) The existing "Heavens", the current religious organizations, who were not true to the gospel message of Jesus and his Apostles will be held accountable. Their power and authority over the masses will be removed to allow the people to not be blinded by man's gospel. (Mark 13:22; 2 Tim. 4:3,4, Rev. 18:4) They will receive the true living waters. John 7:38

The present earth, the existing social and governmental powers will receive their judgment. Laws and rules written, of which many were conceived for good intentions were not always just. Wars generated by pride, greed, or hatred whether social or religious based will come to an end once mankind finds that the returned Lord is mightier than all nations' armies. His great army, the dissatisfied masses, will help to tear down these mountains. Isa. 40:4; Joel 2:11

God's Power to Build Up

"And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." (Isa. 2:4) Once the tearing down of present order is completed, the establishment of God's order, His Kingdom on Earth, will begin. The implements of war will be melted down and recast into implements to feed and care for the world's population.

The schools of the world will become the Lord's classrooms to teach righteousness, obedience, accountability, love, honor, etc. These laws will not be written in stone, but within each heart and mind. All will know the will of the Lord. Jer. 31:33, 34

The Lord will come with healing to every soul to remove the Adamic curse.

"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing..." (Isa. 35:5-6)

The ransomed of the Lord (Isa. 35:10) both the just and the unjust will be released from the world's prisons, will be released from captivity of Satan, and will be released from the prison house of death. "To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, *and* them that sit in darkness out of the prison house." (Isa. 42:7)

No More Killing

There will be no more killing. "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it *shall be* for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err *therein*. No lion shall be there, nor *any* ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk *there*: And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." (Isa. 35:8-10)

On that day – Everyone will love thy brother.

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