

The Land Is Filled with Crimes of Blood

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Unfettered crime has ended civilizations and now in this “enlightened age”, which often refuses to learn from history, we are on the brink of an utter collapse of everything that was considered normal, sane, and decent only a few decades ago. This is occurring, in part, because the policies of our leaders condone criminal behavior. Examples of this will follow later.

Meanwhile, for those who believe historical events are important reminders of what can go wrong again, the example of King Manasseh should confirm that we are in serious jeopardy right now, and time is running out if we do not reverse course quickly.

Manasseh actively and passively allowed criminal behavior to spiral out of control in the nation of Judah. The first step in this process involved dismantling the value-system that had guided the nation in previous generations. This system had laws that contributed to peace, unity, and stability within the country. However, instead of continuing to enforce these laws, Manasseh replaced them with a self-serving ideology that devalued the rights of citizens. Even children were not safe because Manasseh’s monomaniacal behavior led to the removal of parent’s rights, just as governments are doing today when they circumvent parental authority over issues such as gender identity, mask mandates, pressuring children to take COVID–19 vaccines, and indoctrinating them with critical race theory. Manasseh even had his son “pass through fire” to demonstrate he would do anything, no matter how outrageous, to bend the nation to his will.

Also he (Manasseh) made his son pass through the fire.... (2Kgs 21:6a; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. note in parenthesis).

This act was prohibited by God’s law, but Manasseh ignored it.

And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through the fire to Molech... (Lev. 18:21a; cf. 20:2-5).

This religious system associated with the pagan god Molech did not recognize God’s law and commandments, one of which includes “you shall not murder” (cf. Ex. 20:13). And this is exactly what occurred every time a child was burned to death by their parents, or with the tacit approval of Manasseh’s government.

*.... for every abomination to the Lord which He hates they have done to their gods; for **they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods** (Dt. 12:31b; emphasis added).*

Today, many of those who are comfortable with abortion would be aghast at the thought of taking a child and burning them in fire to a god. But murder is still murder, no matter the methodology. Therefore government funded abortion is akin to what Manasseh was doing. He also killed many of his opponents who were innocent of any crimes.

Moreover Manasseh shed very much innocent blood, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another... (2Kgs 21:16a).

In today’s society, when politicians, media, or corporations “cancel” someone because they hold a contrary ‘world view’, it is a form of “shedding blood” because of the mental anguish it can cause; not to mention that some who are

"canceled" commit suicide. Sadly, this is going on today at an ever-increasing pace and it is similar to what Manasseh was doing, or allowing to happen,

*University of North Carolina-Wilmington criminology Professor Mike Adams' death has been ruled a suicide by police. Jerry Brewer, a spokesman for the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office, stated in a news release Monday that Adams died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, adding "No other people were in the home and foul play is not suspected." In the months leading up to his death, **Adams was subjected to a massive online cancel culture bullying campaign to vilify his reputation and force his employer to fire him.** At issue were two tweets his detractors claimed were racist and sexist because he mocked women's studies and compared a Democratic governor to a slave master (all in the context of draconian COVID-19 regulations in North Carolina). **Four different online petitions were launched in June to get him fired** ("Conservative professor hounded by vitriolic cancel culture mob. Police have ruled his death a suicide"; *The College Fix*; Jennifer Kabbany – Fix Editor; July 28, 2020; emphasis added).*

Any government that appoints, or allows to be appointed, law enforcement officials who do not believe in applying consequences for criminal behavior, guarantees that innocent people will suffer at the hands of thieves and thugs who understand they will not be punished for their harmful behavior. In a recent appointment to lead Massachusetts' US attorney's office, the following was stated about Rachel Rollins.

After taking office in January 2019, (Rachel) Rollins released a policy memo identifying more than a dozen charges she said should be declined for prosecution entirely or recommended for diversion, such as mental

health or substance abuse treatment. Such low-level offenses included trespassing, shoplifting, larceny, disorderly conduct, receiving stolen property, driving with a suspended license, wanton or malicious destruction of property, threats, underage drinking, drug possession, possession with intent to distribute and resisting arrest (by Jessica Chasmar, published July 27, 2021; Fox News; Ed. note in parenthesis).

So this philosophy by a leader in the justice system sends a clear message to criminals that they will get away with offenses that ordinarily would result in fines or imprisonment. Also, this so-called leader shows no regard for the victims of these crimes, who are often law-abiding citizens. Another example of this pertains to government officials turning a blind eye to illegal immigration while citizens pay the price.

*Mission, Texas – Two innocent people were killed when **a human smuggler ran a stop sign and T-boned their car** while being pursued by law enforcement on Saturday. The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has confirmed that the victims were a mother and daughter ages 59 and 22, who lived in the area. Their names have not yet been released (Citizen Stringer News by Lauren Jessop – December 13, 2021).*

A government that has contempt for its own citizens by promoting its WOKE agenda of "open borders" earns the disdain of other countries. In an article entitled, "Will American Ideas Tear France Apart? Some Leaders Think So" the following criticism should confirm that America's current ideologically-driven agenda is being mocked by other nations.

*Paris – The threat is said to be existential. It fuels successionism. Gnaws at national unity. Abets Islamism. Attacks France's intellectual and cultural heritage. **The threat? "Certain***

social theories entirely imported from the United States,” said President Emmanuel Macron (by Norimitsu Onishi. Published by The New York Times on February 9, 2021).

The same disregard for the welfare of its citizenry occurred just before the destruction of Jerusalem during the time of Ezekiel when the leadership in the nation of Judah adopted lawless policies that contributed to the bloodshed of its own people. If America thinks it is immune from what happened anciently, it needs to think again.

Those near and those far from you will mock you as infamous and full of tumult.
⁶***Look, the princes*** (leaders) ***of Israel: each one has used his power to shed blood in you*** (Eze. 22:5-6; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

*"In you (nation of Judah) **they take bribes to shed blood**; you take usury and increase; you have made profit from your neighbors by extortion, and have forgotten Me," says the Lord God.* ¹³*"Behold, therefore, I beat My fists at the dishonest profit which you have made, and at **the bloodshed which has been in your midst.**"* ¹⁴*Can your heart endure, or can your hands remain strong, in the days when I shall deal with you? I, the Lord, have spoken, and will do it."* (Eze. 22:12-14; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Unless the leadership in America changes course, their fate and that of the entire country will be no different than ancient Judah just before it was destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar.

Make a chain, for the land is filled with crimes of blood, and the city is full of violence (Eze. 7:23; emphasis added).

Sadly, many in leadership have encouraged or enabled the very violence that is harming innocent people today. The following appeared in an August 17, 2021, Reuters article by James Oliphant and Nathan Layne. The headline was entitled: "As Murders Surge, Democrats Find a New Message: Fund the Police".

WASHINGTON, Aug 17 (Reuters) – Last summer, Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser played a high-profile role in the protests sweeping America over police killings of black suspects. She renamed a street Black Lives Matter Plaza and joined thousands of demonstrators there, many shouting what had become the movement’s slogan: "Defund the police!" Earlier this year, the mayor, a Democrat, proposed cutting the police budget and redirecting money to social services. Now, however, Bowser and many other Democratic city leaders are scrambling to boost police budgets and hire more officers amid the deadliest crime wave in two decades. Local and national Democrats are distancing themselves from "defund" politics and policies, a reflection of how deeply unpopular the concept has become among most voters. The crime wave has laid bare tensions between progressive Democrats, who still aim to overhaul U.S. policing, and mainstream Democrats now pushing traditional enforcement to combat crime.

Historically, if it advances the interests of a political party to knowingly "throw someone under a bus" in order to control a narrative that keeps them in power, they won't hesitate. We saw this modus operandi during the time of Christ's ministry when "the political party of the day" hid behind the guise of religiosity in order to achieve its goals. In reality they were corrupt to the core and, instead of being concerned about law and order, they were prepared to release someone convicted of theft and

insurrection if it facilitated "throwing Jesus Christ under a bus".

But you have a custom that I (Pilate) should release someone to you at the Passover. Do you therefore want me to release to you the King of the Jews? ⁴⁰They all cried again, saying, "Not this Man (Christ), but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber (Jn. 18:39-40; Ed. notes in parentheses).

What is important to note is that the religious/political party during Christ's time "worked the crowds" to create a false narrative about him and then drove it forward; just as politicians do today using various news organizations and social media platforms.

*Now at the feast he (Pilate) was accustomed to releasing one prisoner to them (religious/political leaders), whomever they requested. ⁷And there was one named **Barabbas, who was chained with his fellow insurrectionists; they had committed murder in the insurrection.** ⁸Then the multitude, crying aloud, began to ask him to do just as he had always done for them. ⁹But Pilate answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?"¹⁰For **he knew that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy.** ¹¹**But the chief priests stirred up the crowd, so that he should rather release Barabbas to them** (Mk. 15:6-11; Ed. notes in parentheses, emphasis added).*

Logically, it makes no sense to release criminals who are then able to re-offend and cause harm to innocent citizens. But this is exactly what some in positions of political power have been doing in America through the various "initiatives" mentioned previously. The consequence of these "initiatives" to reduce, or remove, penalties for criminal behavior is that "the land is filled with crimes of blood" just as Ezekiel warned a long

time ago. Unfortunately, many people are easily misled by their corrupt and power-hungry leaders; just as the citizens of Judah were under the manipulative actions of their ruling elites.

The good news is that eventually the citizens of this present evil age (cf. Gal. 1:4) will become completely fed up with their leaders who have been abusing them in one form or another (cf. Mt. 20:25-28), as well as lying and cheating their way into power. When this occurs, the general populous will cry out for a leader who will speak the truth and introduce "just policies" that benefit everyone. This righteous leader is Jesus Christ who will faithfully teach and enforce his heavenly Father's law and commandments universally.

It is time for You to act, O Lord, for they have regarded Your law as void (Ps. 119:126; emphasis added).

Christ stated plainly that when he returns to rule this planet it will be during a period of unprecedented lawlessness; just as we see happening in America today.

And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold (Mt. 24:12).

Whomever Almighty God loves He corrects, and this dynamic will be realized shortly if violence and lawlessness continues to grow unchecked (cf. Prov. 3:11-12; Heb. 12:5-11). The consequence for this will be similar to what occurred in the city of Jerusalem when it was destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar.

*And say to the people of the land, 'Thus says the Lord God to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the land of Israel: "They shall eat their bread with anxiety, and drink their water with dread, so that her land may be emptied of all who are in it, **because of the violence of all those who dwell in it.**" ²⁰Then the cities*

that are inhabited shall be laid waste, and the land shall become desolate; and (then) you shall know that I am the Lord” (Eze. 12:19-20; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Even though a better king followed Manasseh, the people of Judah had already been irreparably harmed by Manasseh’s reckless and evil policies. Therefore, Almighty God allowed the nation to be destroyed by its enemy.

*“And I will appoint over them four forms of destruction,” says the Lord: “the sword to slay, the dogs to drag, the birds of the heavens and the beasts of the earth to devour and destroy. **4I will hand them over to trouble, to all kingdoms of the earth, because of Manasseh the son of Hezekiah, the king of Judah, for what he did in Jerusalem.**”* (Jer. 15:3-4; emphasis added)

At the end of the day, the leadership of any nation has the responsibility to administer justice in accordance with God’s value system. Failure to do so results in the suffering of its citizenry. In fact, it is a form of violence against those who are trying to obey the laws of the land.

*‘For **they** (the nation’s leaders) do not know to do right,’ says the Lord, **‘who store up violence and robbery in their palaces.’*** (Amos 3:10; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

*For **her rich men are full of violence...*** (Micah 6:12a; cf. Zeph. 1:8-9; emphasis added).

*Her princes in her midst are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves that leave not a bone till morning. **4Her prophets are insolent, treacherous people; her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done***

violence to the law (Zeph. 3:3-4; emphasis added).

Is it too late to change the course we are on?

*But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, **let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. 9Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?*** (Jonah 3:8-9; emphasis added).

So it is not too late to reduce violence but time is running out, and sadly many in positions of leadership feign ignorance when it comes to the consequences associated with lawless and violent conduct. In the end, if left unchecked, this behavior will destroy a nation.

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