

The Seed of Rejection turns on the Seed of Promise

by Fred Peatross

I knew it was a war unlike any my generation had seen. No boundaries, no country, a web of terror with many tentacles and a religious component. On the last Sunday in November it happened. Six masked Islamic fundamentals parked their motorcycles, pulled out AK47 assault rifles from their bags; murdered the security guard posted outside, entered a packed church building and indiscriminately sprayed bullets into the crowd massacring sixteen Christians. This is a ruthless bunch of killers.

The Taliban is a sort of religious proletariat; an inseparable part of Afghans social fabric. During their reign of terror the Afghani soccer fields were transformed into the killing fields of the innocent; public hangings and point blank shootings were used to dispose of all who threaten their rule. Women lived under the constant threat of persecution and beatings. Taliban policy ruled all religious schools, mosques, shrines and all religious affairs; they distinguished themselves as the mujahideen (holy warriors) willing to die for the cause of Islam or, for that matter, the cause of Afghanistan as a Muslim country.

In the first month of the war Afghani oppositional leader, Abdul Haq, made a trip inside Afghanistan. His trip was arranged and financed by the United States government in an effort to improve the fighting capabilities and coordination of Northern Alliance. Abdul Haq was also asked to attempt to persuade Taliban forces to lay down their arms or defect to the opposition.

Abdul Haq was captured and hung to death. Hours after his death, the rope was cut and his body was riddled with bullets from Taliban machine gun fire. This is a ruthless band of killers who come through the bloodline of Ishmael. The bible prophesied that this bloodline would be as wild donkeys; living in perpetual hostility toward their fellow man. (Genesis 16)

The promise made to Ishmael's mother, Hagar, was that her son (Ishmael) would father a prolific line and he would be an unruly warrior. The promise remains true and has produced centuries of warring tribes divided among themselves and hostile to the men and women of the seed of promise. Today we live in an era of international terror and tension.

On different occasions, I have asked Christians what they would do if men armed with machine guns entered their assembly and asked all professing Christians to put their hands on the wall? I'm afraid this thought question has potentially become a real question.

These fanatical fundamentalists ramped the cost of being a Christian and defined the future nature of this unconventional war when they indiscriminately murdered disciples of Christ living as minorities in an Islamic state.

September 11, 2001 changed the world. Our country has increased internal security. India and Pakistan have upped the ante over a rich green mountain region North of Pakistan called Kashmir. Both hold the trump card. Nuclear capability. Pakistan is ruled by military force. The terrorist would love to have control and are actively plotting the overthrow the Pakistan government.

Stay faithful and vigilant and, as never before, let's boldly take Jesus to this world. Landlocked Afghanistan could potentially be the flash point for the beginning of what the Bible calls "the Day of the Lord."

Fred Peatross is a pastor and author of the newsletter "GraceAwakening". Fred is attempting to help the grace oriented; Christ-centered churches of Christ redo the world by giving postmodernism's aimless present a useable past and hope-filled future.