

The Terrorist Attack!

Brian Coatney

As one of millions, I too, as a simple citizen and common man, write as one shaken deeply by the terrorist attacks and subsequent questions concerning where all this will lead, for surely life will never continue the same. Despite the bold confidence that the USA will seek out and destroy the menace, the Lord ordains the time when even a superpower stands powerless in the face of the enemy, so that we do not trust in horses and chariots, to use biblical phraseology. This does not mean that I do not support all efforts justly executed to bring all things into the light and render to each his or her due.

But then the question of Job arises, for the Lord incited the enemy against Job though declaring Job a righteous man. The commentator at the end of chapter one declares that Job did not charge God with wrongdoing, and this theme persists throughout the book. Elihu rightly confronts Job as a prelude to God's direct voice, and Elihu warns Job not to prefer evil to affliction. Job was learning his Psalm 22 and Romans 8. A rereading of Psalm 22 reminds me that no redemption of others comes without suffering for them. Therefore, unbelieving nations will not be bombed into faith, but wooed by the Christlike suffering that extends justice to a level not found anywhere in the world outside of Jesus Christ. Once again, this does not militate against justice, but proclaims that finally we incorporate justice into the Cross, offering forgiveness, while mindful of our own sins.

Some offer already the view of the terrorism as God's punishment on America. Surely, God does chastise when necessary. Yet, many in the USA have gloriously labored in helping to fulfill the Great Commission, and though Christians constitute a minority opposed to the evil policies of our day, God surely has blessed the USA for the sake of those faithful in the household of America. So I think it simplistic to speak only in national terms and not recognize those like Job and the many righteous that already live intercessory

lives--those that will use this adversity to see even greater glory in the name of God come forth.

There are those that need to repent; there are those that need to take the next step of growth into a faith large enough to bear a burden this heavy; there are those invited to the table of Rees Howells, a man who without guns, but not opposing guns, interceded in the effort to overthrow Hitler that the world might remain open to the spreading of the Gospel. As the Lord calls us, may we respond in an enlarged faith. Surely, these events open the marrow of our bones and expose eternity. Oh, holy and loving God, we stand like the writer of Psalm 22; our hearts and bones have melted as wax. No God but you can keep us. Keep us now. Praise your name, that you are keeping us unto your glorious consummation, in the name of your only begotten son, Jesus Christ.