



## Why Does God Allow Evil and Suffering When He Can Prevent It?

This past Sunday, November 5, 2017, a young man full of evil walked into the first Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs Texas. Within moments he begins to gun down every human being insight. Men, women, and even children were murdered in cold blood in a church that was riddled with bullet holes and dead bodies. And just a few weeks earlier we saw man who from the 13<sup>th</sup> floor of the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas Nevada... Began to rain down bullets on innocent men women and children who were attending a country music concert.

And just a little earlier than that, we saw man go to a congressional baseball practice, and gun down as many innocent people as he possibly could. We thank our father in heaven that these three gunmen no longer exist in this world. And can rest assured, that they will indeed answer for their deeds in the next.

Over and over again on today's mainstream news media we hear people asking why? All over social media we hear and see people asking why did God allow this to happen? Why did God not save those people in Sutherland Springs Texas? Why does God allow evil to happen when he has the power to stop it? Why does God allow suffering when he has the power to stop it?

And I must say... that the answers that I have heard from today's Pastors, Priests, Bishops, and Popes are for the most part, the most lame and ridiculous answers I've ever heard from someone who is supposed to be a man of God.

As a pastor and a man of God I expect that the world would be asking these questions. Because the world neither sees, nor knows the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. But to see Christians asking these questions, tells me just how far away from the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob that we have all become. To hear Christians, ask these questions proves what we at Holy Impact Ministries have been saying for years.

Today's modern-day Christians have been led so far away from the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, that they no longer understand, nor do they comprehend the spiritual warfare that we are engaged in. Today's modern-day version of Christianity has taught them that God is a loving God... and that there is nothing else. Today's modern-day version of Christianity teaches that God is all about love and love is God and there is nothing else. Today's modern-day version of Christianity teaches a "do as thou wilt is the whole of the law lifestyle". Today's modern-day version of Christianity wrongly teaches that we are once saved always saved, so it

really doesn't matter how you live or what you do. And that we are all living in a manmade, man created dispensational state of grace apart from God's laws, apart from his precepts, and apart from his commandments, and apart from his appointments.

Today's modern-day version of Christianity teaches us that when things get really bad, we're all going to be whisked away into the sky in a pre-tribulation rescue, and that there will be no persecution for the Christian here on earth, because God love us more than he loved the Prophets who were persecuted and put to death. God loves us more than he did the Apostles who were all persecuted and put to death. God love us more than he did his only begotten Son who was persecuted and put to death. Today's modern-day version of Christianity teaches us that if we pray and simply profess with our lips that we believe in God... That we will be prosperous and live a life of lollipops and rainbows because our God is a loving God and love is all that God knows.

What today's modern-day version of Christianity does not teach, is the truth. And so, it is no wonder why people ask why it is that God did not save the people of the First Baptist Church in Southerland Springs Texas. The truth is my friends... is that God gives us freedom of choice. God does not create little wind up robots that obey his every command. Suffering reveals to us the consequence of sin. If when we disobeyed our Father in Heaven, we did not suffer for it... we would just continue to sin. It is the suffering that comes from evil that teaches us why we don't want to sin, and why we don't want to be... evil. We must remember... it was man who decided that he wanted to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. It was man who decided that he wanted to worship the creature, rather than the creator.

We have to remember that our father in heaven gave us everything. He gave us life. He gave us that little spark that continues to ignite in our hearts every second of every day so that we may live. He gave us all the plants and the beasts of the earth to multiply and to subdue them. Everything that our father made in the beginning was perfect and without flaw, including man.

Our father had no intention of creating robots that obeyed his every command because they were programmed to obey his every command. Even the angels in heaven were given free will, and free agency to choose between good and evil, just like man was created with free agency to choose between good and evil.

As we've already learned from our study into the book of Genesis over the past few weeks, man is a unique creature unlike any other creature that our father in heaven has ever created. Our father in heaven created man and gave him his own breath that he might live. And God loved man so much that it made one particular angel jealous. And that jealousy festered into anger, and that anger festered into self-righteousness and that self-righteousness festered into disobedience, and that disobedience caused a third of the angels in heaven to fall.

Our father in heaven gave man a paradise that is unimaginable. Food that grew without tilling the ground. An abundance of water and trees and plants and animals that reproduced from their

own kind. And a loving father that personally walked with him through paradise in the cool of the evening. Man had it all. And things went well for man until he was faced with evil. Man was promised by the serpent that he himself would be like God, and he was told by the serpent that God was a liar. So rather than clinging to his creator, man decided to worship the creature instead.

The very day that Eve took of the forbidden fruit, and shared with her husband, was the very day that the devil himself put the shackles on the wrists and on the ankles of mankind. And yet even though man disobeyed God... God was merciful, and he allowed man to make his own choice.

Because man had chosen to worship the creature, instead of the creator... He was forced to till the ground for food, and the woman was given great pain in childbearing, and the serpent was given his own brand of punishment. Genesis chapter 3:14-15:

*Gen 3:14 The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.*

*Gen 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."*

Notice in Genesis chapter 3 verse 15 that our father tells the serpent that he will put enmity between the serpent's offspring and the woman's offspring. In other words, both the serpent and the woman would indeed have offspring. Those who would choose to worship the creature would become the creature's offspring. And those who would choose to worship the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, would become the offspring of Abraham through the seed of the woman, who would be... the only begotten Son of God Yahshua Hamashiach.

What we as Christians understand clearly, is that our father in heaven created a perfect world. He created a perfect habitat, a perfect environment, and a perfect people. The Babylonian style world that we now live in today is the way it is because man has chosen to worship the creature rather than his creator.

When a man walks into a church and decides to murder everyone in that church... this is clearly a product of what man has created, not what God has created. This man was a man who chose to be the seed of the serpent. This event took place because this man had chosen to follow after the little "g" god of this world rather than following after the one true God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Many people will ask "why didn't God save those people who were there to worship him". And the reason that people so ignorantly ask this question is because they don't know that he has already saved those people who were in that church. He's already saved every person that has chosen to turn back to him, and it is through his grace, and our faith in his only begotten son

that all of God's people have already been saved.

Those people in that church are not dead. They are sleeping, just like everyone else who has shed their earthly bodies. Just like you and I will soon shed our earthly bodies. It happens to us all.

*Heb 9:27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,  
Heb 9:28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.*

Were we not told that we would be persecuted and put to death for his names sake? Matthew 24:9-13:

*Mat 24:9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake.*

*Mat 24:10 And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.*

*Mat 24:11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.*

*Mat 24:12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.*

*Mat 24:13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved.*

How quickly we forget what is written in the very God breathed Scriptures that we all hold in our very hands! Why are we so shocked when a man walks into a house of God and puts people to death because of the name of our Messiah? Why do we think that this man came to a church? He came there to persecute our people, who were there to worship our Father and his only begotten Son.

You see the world does not understand because the world does not know him. John 14:15-17:

*Joh 14:15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*

*Joh 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,*

*Joh 14:17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.*

Why is the world so dumbfounded about why these things happen? Because they are unstudied, and ignorant of what their own Messiah told them. And why are they so ignorant and unstudied? Because they willfully choose to be that way. Let's face it my friends... while you and I are here teaching and preaching, and combing through the scriptures, they are sitting in front of the boob tube having their brains sucked out of their skulls. Sports, Sitcoms, Soap Operas, Movies, Game boxes, Cell Phones, Ipads, Ipods, Laptops, you name it. The world does not use these things for good my friends. They use these things for their pleasure and their

pleasure only.

*Jas 4:4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

These people who do not understand the world that we live in, do not understand because they choose not to understand, and this is exactly why our Messiah spoke to them in parables.

Matthew 13:10-17:

*Mat 13:10 Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?"*

*Mat 13:11 And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.*

*Mat 13:12 For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.*

*Mat 13:13 This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.*

*Mat 13:14 Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: ""You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive."*

*Mat 13:15 For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.'*

*Mat 13:16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.*

*Mat 13:17 For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.*

When our Messiah says in verse 13 *"Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: ""You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive."* He got that from his Father's God-breathed scriptures, in Isaiah 6:9-10:

*Isa 6:9 And he said, "Go, and say to this people: ""Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'"*

*Isa 6:10 Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."*

God was calling on Isaiah to preach against this wicked generation that had closed their ears, and hardened their hearts against him. They had made themselves friends of this world, and in doing so, they had made themselves enemies of God, and so, just as our Messiah tells us in the book of Matthew... they are not of God. So, don't expect them to understand. We as Christians should not expect the world to understand, but we as Christians should understand. We should understand without the shadow of a doubt.

The first thing we need to understand as Christians, is who the ruler of this world is. Let us hear from our own Messiah... who the ruler of this world is and what will happen to the ruler of this world. John 12:24-43:

*Joh 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.*

*Joh 12:25 Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.*

*Joh 12:26 If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.*

*Joh 12:27 "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour.*

*Joh 12:28 Father, glorify your name."* Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

*Joh 12:29* The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him."

*Joh 12:30* Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine.

*Joh 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.*

*Joh 12:32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."*

*Joh 12:33* He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

*Joh 12:34* So the crowd answered him, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?"

*Joh 12:35* So Jesus said to them, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going.

*Joh 12:36 While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."* When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them.

*Joh 12:37* Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him,

*Joh 12:38* so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"

*Joh 12:39* Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said,

*Joh 12:40* "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them."

*Joh 12:41* Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.

*Joh 12:42* Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue;

*Joh 12:43* for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

We as Christians need to fully comprehend who the ruler of this world is, and who gave this ruler his authority. It was man who gave the ruler of this world his authority over him. It was man who gave the ruler of this world his authority clear back in the garden when man decided to listen to the serpent rather than to listen to his creator. And it is man who continues to follow after the ruler of this world to this very day.

What today's modern-day Christian needs to understand is that God's people are in this world, but we are not of this world. You see the devil has turned this world into an incubation area if you will. It is here on this Earth, and in this life, that we must choose. Life consists of a choice. And it's just like that old Bob Dylan song says... "You're going to serve somebody, it might be the devil, or it might be the Lord, but you're going to serve somebody". And we've already been told that if we are lukewarm, our father will spit us out of his mouth.

Our Messiah clearly tells us in John 12:31 that the ruler of this world will be cast out. 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:19 tells us that we know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. So why then are we surprised when a man full of demons walks into a house of God and murders as many of God's children as he can? Did we not hear what our Messiah said with his own tongue and with his own breath and in his own red letter words in Matthew chapter 24 verse nine, when he told us that we would be delivered up to tribulation and put to death and that we would be hated by all nations for his namesake?

You see as the world laughs and mocks as we are being slaughtered all the day long... They do so at their own peril, not ours. They do not understand because they choose willingly not to understand. Our Messiah has already come to deal with sin. And our father in heaven has already provided his grace to us through our faith in his only begotten son. The world asks "why didn't God save his people in that church that day?" But what they fail to realize and to understand and to know, is that God has already saved his people. God saved his people the day his son took his last breath and was buried in the tomb of rich man. Listen to the prayer that our Messiah prayed before he saved the world. We can find that in John 17:14-26:

*Joh 17:14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*

*Joh 17:15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.*

*Joh 17:16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*

*Joh 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.*

*Joh 17:18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.*

*Joh 17:19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.*

*Joh 17:20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,*

*Joh 17:21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*

*Joh 17:22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,*  
*Joh 17:23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.*  
*Joh 17:24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.*  
*Joh 17:25 O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me.*  
*Joh 17:26 I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."*

You see my friends we have already been saved, but when the world sees our earthly bodies fall, it ignorantly laughs and mocks what it does not understand. Matthew 10:28-42:

*Mat 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*  
*Mat 10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.*  
*Mat 10:30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.*  
*Mat 10:31 Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.*  
*Mat 10:32 So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven,*  
*Mat 10:33 but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.*  
*Mat 10:34 "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.*  
*Mat 10:35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.*  
*Mat 10:36 And a person's enemies will be those of his own household.*  
*Mat 10:37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.*  
*Mat 10:38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.*  
*Mat 10:39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*  
*Mat 10:40 "Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.*  
*Mat 10:41 The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward.*  
*Mat 10:42 And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."*

You see the world sees death as the end. When they see the bodies of those who have become

the martyrs of our Messiah laying on the ground... They see the end of life for them. But for those of us who have picked up our crosses and are following him, and who have studied to show ourselves approved... we know that these bodies were never meant to last forever. We know that the Scripture clearly tells us that man is appointed to die once, and then the judgment.

The very idea that we now live in a perfect world is ludicrous. If we read our fathers Torah, which is the first five books of the very Bible that most of us hold in our hands... We would be able to clearly see that our father in heaven gave us the guidelines, and the court system, and the judicial system that is needed to live in a perfect world. But you see man has rejected all of that. Man wants to make up his own rules, and his own guidelines, and his own court system, and his own judicial system, all of which is clearly corrupt and brimming over with wickedness.

Why are people sick? People are sick because man has polluted the air, the ground, the plants, the water, and even the beasts of the earth. There are whole islands of trash floating in our oceans. Billions of tons of radiation has been dumped into our oceans from Fukushima. Hundreds of thousands even millions of gallons of oil have been spilt in our oceans. Man has changed the natural food that God has given him into genetically modified organisms that cause cancer and sickness because they are not natural and they are not ordained by God. The very water that most of us drink is polluted with a deadly poison called fluoride not to mention at least a half a dozen other chemicals that are used to kill organisms in the water, and then we make our infants drink more man-made concoctions like powdered milk that's a mixed with this poison water that we all drink each and every day.

And on top of all of this, man has now decided to mix a concoction of disease and Mercury and aluminum and to force vaccinate our children with literally hundreds of vaccines. And even as we speak some states are now force vaccinating children whether the parents like it or not. In certain states your child can now forcibly be strapped down to a gurney, and a needle full of their man-made potions and concoctions will now forcibly be injected into the veins of our children. And some of these vaccines have even been proven to actually change the natural DNA of a person.

Who makes people sick? People do. People all over the world as we speak, are being radiated to death with radio waves from cellphone towers and satellites, and GPS devices, and computers, laptops, and all kinds of wireless devices that we all use each and every day. Who makes people sick? People do.

Why does God allow pain-and-suffering? God allows pain-and-suffering so that we can discover who we are. There are things that we learn through pain-and-suffering that we cannot learn any other way. Pain-and-suffering refines us. Pain-and-suffering defines us. Man chose in the garden to know the difference between good and evil. And so now we are being taught the difference between good and evil. Man could have listened to God and continued on in a perfect world. But man chose not to, and still to this day chooses not to. Man continuously chooses to go his own way. There will always be those in this world who have made themselves the

offspring of the serpent. And that's why our Messiah tells us in Matthew chapter 13 verse 11 *"To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given."* He said *"this is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. Indeed in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says you will indeed here but never understand and you will indeed see but never perceive for this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed."*

You see my friends there is an "us"... and there is a "them". "We" who are the body of the Messiah live amongst "them", who are not part of the body. Our father in heaven did not protect our Messiah from them did he? Our father in heaven did not protect the apostles who were all murdered except for John, from "them" did he? Our father in heaven didn't protect the prophets from "them" they murdered them all!

So, if our father in heaven didn't protect the prophets from being murdered, and he didn't protect the apostles from being murdered, and he didn't protect his only begotten son from being murdered, then what makes us think that we are so far and above them? Man is subjected to live in the world that man has created.

If I choose to go next door and punch my neighbor in the face. I can do that. But there will be repercussions for my actions. I can choose to lie and steal, and Rob and cheat if I want to. And nobody's can stop me. But I will have to live with that choice. Many of us have lived horrible lives before we came to the knowledge of the truth. And once we were baptized in both the water and the spirit we were made clean in the eyes of our father in heaven. But not by those who are here on earth. And so, even though we have been forgiven by our father in heaven, we are still persecuted by those here on earth for what we've done. And many Christians today still live with the scars of humiliation, of their past lives before they became Christians. Just because God forgives us does not mean that this world forgives us.

What we as Christians must understand is that we are in this world but we are not of this world. There are traps and snares, and potholes in this world that have been set by our adversary to sift us, and to snare us in his evil net. And this is exactly why Paul tells us in the sixth chapter of the book of Ephesians that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places.

Our father in heaven told man to multiply and subdue the earth, and this is exactly what man has done. Our father in heaven gave man this earth. He did not give it to the evil one. We did. Our father in heaven did not give this world to the devil and say to him *"Go ahead and do whatever you want with the man that I have created."* Man took the perfectly created world that God had given him and he handed it over to God's adversary. And this is why God no longer tabernacles with us. The one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob cannot live in a sinful world. Adam used to walk with our father in heaven through the garden every day. But this was before

man opened the door for sin to come in the world. And even still our father in heaven tried a second time, and he had Moses build the tabernacle in the wilderness, but man simply would not learn. Our father has set before us life and good, death and evil, and he has given us the choice to make. And still we hear today's modern-day professing Christians proudly proclaiming that no one can keep his laws, commandments, precepts, and his appointments. I have heard Christian time and time again tell me that it is impossible to keep the laws of God. And I know full well when I hear them say these kinds of things, that they have never sat down and actually read the Scripture for themselves. Deuteronomy 30:11-20:

*Deu 30:11 "For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off.*

*Deu 30:12 It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?'*

*Deu 30:13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?'*

*Deu 30:14 But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.*

*Deu 30:15 "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.*

*Deu 30:16 If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.*

*Deu 30:17 But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them,*

*Deu 30:18 I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess.*

*Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live,*

*Deu 30:20 loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."*

There is a mediator between man and God. And it is a man whose name is Yeshua Hamashiach. He is the door that no man can shut. He is our Passover Lamb, who was the one and only propitiation for our sins that we will ever need. Psalms chapter 23 verses four through six says "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil, and my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of Jacob off forever."

Nowhere in these verses are we told that we will be protected from persecution or even death. As we've already seen man is appointed to die once. His soul is saved... not is fleshly body.

Our Messiah clearly tells us in Matthew chapter 24 verse nine that they will deliver us up to tribulation, and that they will put us to death, and that we will be hated by all nations for his namesake. He tells us that many will fall away from the faith and betray one another and hate one another. And he tells us that many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And he tells us the reason that all of these things are going to happen is because lawlessness will be increased and the love of many will grow cold. But he also tells us that the one who endures to the end, will be saved.

As Christians we need to remember that the very reason that we were baptized in both the water and the spirit was to symbolize our earthly bodies going down into that watery grave and then being raised up a new creature. This was an earthly symbol of a spiritual event that will ultimately take place in all of our lives. Our earthly bodies will indeed go down into the earth exactly like our Messiah's body went down into the earth. And we will be raised up, exactly as our Messiah was raised up. Baptism symbolizes this event, and reminds us of what is to come.

That gunmen who took the earthly lives of God's people in that church that day only thought that he was going to get rid of those people. You see the devil had tricked him, and fooled him into thinking that he could get rid of the people that he most hated, but the truth is that we do not fear what men can do to the body. And the reason that we do not fear what men can do to the body is because we know that our earthly death is nothing more than the beginning of our eternal life.

My advice to my brothers and sisters today is to strap yourselves in and prepare. The abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel is soon to come. And there will be great tribulation such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, and never will be again. But we know that for the sake of the elect, who will still be here, those days will be cut short. And as sure as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the West, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Our Messiah tells us in his own red-letter words in Matthew chapter 24 verse 32 through 35 that we are to learn the lesson of the fig tree. He says as soon as its branches become tender and it puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. He said so when you see these things... we can then know that he is near, even at the very gates. And he tells us that this generation will not pass away until all of these things take place.

On May 14, 1948 David Ben-Gurion, the head of the Jewish agency proclaimed the establishment of the state of Israel. And United States president Harry S Truman recognized the new nation on the same day. 69 Years ago, the branches of the fig tree became tender and it began to put out its leaves. This event, along with all of the other prophecies that we see in Matthew chapter 24 were written for our encouragement. So that we would know that he is near, even at the very gates.

If I die sitting in a church. Pew, or if I am hit by a truck driven by a demonically inspired

Muslim extremist, or if I am beheaded in a parking lot, or set on fire in a cage, I will fear no evil for thy rod and thy staff is with me, and I know that my father prepares a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. And he has already anointed my head with oil. And so, my cup truly does indeed overflow.

And so, in closing I will leave you with these famous words from the apostle Paul found in Romans chapter 8:36-39:

*Rom 8:36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."*

*Rom 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*

*Rom 8:38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,*

*Rom 8:39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*