

HOW LONG WILL GOD WAIT?

By Keith Greer

Today in the morning paper the lead story was about a fifteen year old boy killing his parents, grandparents, and sister. Some years back a preacher's wife in California was brutally murdered. Do I need to go on? Crime, murder, mayhem, and suffering seem to be the theme of the day. Why is it so?

Yet, another question is more compelling to me-how long will God allow this world to continue on this course? What must God think when He looks down on His creation? Does it bring God to grieve in His heart?

"Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them. "{Genesis 6:5-7}

Yes, God had enough of man's wicked ways and destroyed him from the face of the earth. Sadly, man did not waste any time before he corrupted the earth again. God's greatest gift-freedom of choice-- was the most abused of all God's blessings.

God decided to bring His Son to the earth through the nation of Israel. This nation would be a special people. God wanted them different from all other nations. He gave them a law and made them a mighty nation. God also gave them some words of warning.

"When you beget children and grandchildren and have grown old in the land, and act corruptly and make a carved image in the form of anything, and do evil in the sight of the LORD your God to provoke Him to anger, I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you. "{Deuteronomy 4:25- 27}

How did they respond? Three things God warned them not to do as they went into the Promised Land: not to intermarry; have no covenants or pacts with the heathen nations, (drive them out); have no altars, images, and groves. Did they obey? What did God do?

"For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them, until the LORD removed Israel out of His sight, as He had said by all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria, as it is to this day. "{2 Kings 17:22,23}

"And those who escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon, where they became

servants to him and his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years. "{2 Chronicles 36:20,21}

Israel and Judah were carried away in captivity to Assyria and Babylon. God's patience had run out!

How long will God wait? I'm not sure, but one thing is certain, one day His patience will run out. One of God's greatest blessings is time! Longsuffering of God is given to mankind to give him time to repent and be prepared for His coming. Unfortunately, men will continue to squander such opportunities and continue on their own selfish and reckless course. Yet, when it's all said and done none will be able to point a finger at God – He warned them. Questions is--Will you be ready? ***