

The Trumpet Herald

Giving the trumpet a certain sound

September 2012

Jesus said in Matthew chapter 16 verses 2 and 3 that *When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?* It really doesn't take much observance of this world to see the signs of the times today, which clearly reveal the time is at hand.

The 'Batman' Shootings: Something is Broken

It was just past 2 on Friday afternoon when The Associated Press moved the bulletin of the latest news from Aurora, Colo.: A total of 71 people had been shot, 12 had been killed and 10 bodies still lay inside the cineplex.

Earlier, America awoke to the news of another horrific mass shooting, this time at a midnight showing of "The Dark Knight Rises," the third film in the "Batman" trilogy. A lone gunman had walked into the crowded theater complex, donned a gasmask, tossed two smoking cannisters into the crowd and began firing away. Casually and coldly, he made his way from the lobby into one of the theaters, shooting indiscriminately as he went.

When he was done, he simply went outside, crouched by his car and waited to be apprehended by the police. Later, in his nearby apartment, police came upon one boobytrap after another, designed to take even more lives.

And so, on Friday, the list grew longer: Virginia Tech 2007, Fort Hood 2009, Tuscon 2011... and most ominously of all, only a few miles away from Aurora, Columbine 1999...

(July 25, 2012, The News & Advance Lynchburg, Va)

Inspired commentary

We are living in the time of the end. The fast-fulfilling signs of the times declare that the coming of Christ is near at hand. The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude.

The agencies of evil are combining their forces and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones.

The condition of things in the world shows that troublous times are right upon us. The daily papers are full of indications of a terrible conflict in the near future. Bold robberies are of frequent occurrence. Strikes are common. Thefts and murders are committed on every hand. Men possessed of demons are taking the lives of men, women, and little children. Men have become infatuated with vice, and every species of evil prevails.

The enemy has succeeded in perverting justice and in filling men's hearts with the desire for selfish gain.

(*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p.11)

Shootings in Sikh temple and Arizona: Which crime is worse?

Which is worse? The Sikh temple shooting in Wisconsin by Wade Michael Page, or the shopping mall shooting in Arizona by Jared Lee Loughner? They both killed the same number of people. Yet one would be classified as a hate crime, with tougher penalties. Why distinguish?

Last Sunday, Wade Michael Page killed six people at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin before being wounded by a police officer and taking his own life. Two days later, Jared Lee Loughner pleaded guilty to killing exactly the same number of people at an Arizona shopping mall last year...

In America, after all, we're free to say and think whatever we want; we criminalize behavior, not belief. So how can we interdict some behaviors more strongly because of the belief that seemingly lies behind them?

Here defenders of hate-crime statutes invoke the principle of harm, which is deeply inscribed in criminal law: The greater the injury resulting from a given act, the more we punish it...

...the Supreme Court said in a 1993 decision upholding Wisconsin's hate-crime law, under which Wade Page would probably have been prosecuted. Citing briefs by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Anti-Defamation League, then-Chief Justice William Rehnquist noted that bias-motivated crimes "inflict distinct emotional harms on their victims" and "incite community unrest."

Rehnquist went on to quote the English jurist William Blackstone, whose "Commentaries" had an enormous influence on American law: "It is but reasonable that, among crimes of different natures, those should be most severely punished which are the most destructive of the public safety and happiness."...

"Hate crimes are a form of terrorism," the late Sen. Edward Kennedy told Congress in 1998. "They have a psychological and emotional impact which extends far beyond the victim."...

(August 10, 2012, Yale University Press)

Inspired commentary

Those who honor the Bible Sabbath will be denounced as enemies of law and order, as breaking down the moral restraints of society, causing anarchy and corruption, and calling down the judgments of God upon the earth. Their conscientious scruples will be pronounced obstinacy, stubbornness, and contempt of authority. They will be accused of disaffection toward the government. Ministers who deny the obligation of the divine law will present from the pulpit the duty of yielding obedience to the civil authorities as ordained of God. In legislative halls and courts of justice, commandment keepers will be misrepresented and condemned. A false coloring will be given to their words; the worst construction will be put upon their motives.

As the Protestant churches reject the clear, Scriptural arguments in defense of God's law, they will long to silence those whose faith they cannot overthrow by the Bible. Though they blind their own eyes to the fact, they are now adopting a course which will lead to the persecution of those who conscientiously refuse to do what the rest of the Christian world are doing, and acknowledge the claims of the papal sabbath.

(*The Great Controversy*, p.592)

Human enactments, laws manufactured by satanic agencies under a plea of goodness and restriction of evil, will be exalted, while God's holy commandments are despised and trampled underfoot. And all who prove their loyalty by obedience to the law of Jehovah must be prepared to be arrested, to be brought before councils that have not for their standard the high and holy law of God.

Those who live during the last days of this earth's history will know what it means to be persecuted for the truth's sake. In the courts injustice will prevail. The judges will refuse to listen to the reasons of those who are loyal to the commandments of God, because they know that arguments in favor of the fourth commandment are unanswerable. They will say, "We have a law, and by our law he ought to die." God's law is nothing to them. "Our law" with them is supreme. Those who respect this human law will be favored, but those who will not bow to the idol sabbath will have no favors shown them.

(*Maranatha*, p.195)

- Satan is indeed manipulating events for the purpose of his future plans. He is creating a mind-set among the people so when the time comes for the enforcement of Sunday, just a little urging on his part will cause the people to be supportive of the coming persecution of God's faithful Sabbath-keepers.