



The
**PROPHETIC
CONDITIONS**
Series



The Worldwide
CRIMEWAVE



ABOUT THE COVER

“Breaking and entering” crimes are not only widespread, they are among just a few of the many crimes that plague society.

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Why the PROPHETIC CONDITIONS Series?

Knowledge and technology are exploding, yet the world is drowning in a sea of problems! *Alcohol abuse* is on the rise. Vast regions of farmland are “dying of thirst” due to droughts and erratic *weather* patterns. The allure of *drugs* is fast seducing a younger generation that no longer knows how to be kids. *Crime* is more violent, more entrenched, more widespread than ever. *Immorality* is robbing families and youth of their innocence by “entertaining” sick, perverted, carnal desires. And the earth is choking in the *polluted* filth produced by humanity.

WHY?

The *Prophetic Trends and Conditions Series* will report global trends and problems. It explains why humanity is deluged with such overwhelming—and insoluble—problems.

And points to mankind’s *only solution!*



Condition reports in the Series:

The ALCOHOL EPIDEMIC

EARTHQUAKES and VOLCANOES in Prophecy

The Tragedy of DRUG ABUSE

What’s Wrong With THE WEATHER?

The Worldwide CRIME WAVE

This POLLUTED EARTH

WITCHES, WIZARDS and SPIRITS: Grave and Growing Danger

The IMMORALITY EXPLOSION!

Out of the Ashes: THE RISE OF EUROPE

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The Worldwide CRIMEWAVE

Crime has become a problem of unprecedented proportions. Every day, news headlines are filled with reports of criminal behavior and activity. The Bible reveals the answer to the question “Why?” It also shows that it will get worse before it gets better!

TODAY’S WORLD is increasingly filled with problems—war, poverty, famine, disease, pollution, civil unrest, illiteracy, ignorance, prejudice, racial tension, and religious disagreement and confusion.

Conflict, competition and dishonesty are standard “protocol” between individuals, corporations, governments and nations. The code of conduct based on solid principles of morality and ethics has given way to “situation ethics”—doing whatever *feels good at the time*, as opposed to doing what is RIGHT.

Turn on your television or radio, or log on to the Internet. Pick up a newspaper or news magazine. Watch the local, national or world newscast. No matter what source you rely on for your news, one of the regular and biggest headlines is CRIME—on the personal, corporate and government levels.

The World as We Know It

Through modern advances in transportation and communication (and technology that improves both almost daily), planet earth is becoming ever smaller. At the same time, humanity’s problems are becoming ever *greater*.

Notice Christ’s words in Matthew 24:12: “And because *iniquity shall abound*, the love of many shall wax cold.” *Iniquity* is an old English word meaning “lawlessness.” Christ prophesied that in the time preceding His Return, there would be universal law-

lessness—in other words, we would see a *worldwide* CRIMEWAVE.

Also notice the apostle Paul’s words in II Timothy 3:1-3: “In the last days *perilous times* shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous...Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good.”

As you read this report, you will see how these scriptures describe *today’s world!*

Gone are the days when most people operated within the framework of established laws and common ethics to achieve their goals—whether personal, financial, academic or career-related. Gone are the days when deals could be made on a handshake and people could be counted on to deliver what they promised.

Gone are the days when parents did not have to worry if their children left the front yard without them. Most can only imagine houses without locks as either relics of ancient history or fairy tales contrived of utopian idealism. Today, *trust* and *confidence* have been replaced by SUSPICION and FEAR!

People no longer consider the effects that their actions will have on others. Or they somehow rationalize that their actions will have *no adverse effects* on others, or that they themselves are victims. Many take the pragmatic approach that any suffering they inflict on others is ultimately for

good (merely an acceptable means to an end).

Human life has been increasingly devalued, as evidenced by some who kill just for the sake of killing or for “just a few bucks.” More and more, when things do not go their way, people simply “lose it.” They go on killing sprees and, in the end (in some cases), take their own lives as well. They seem to believe that the “solution” to their own problems must also necessarily involve wreaking misery, unhappiness, suffering and death on others. The rationale seems to be “I’m going down, and I’m going to take as many down with me as I can.”

Look at the business world. Those who would attempt to succeed in the workplace *without* practicing dishonesty, and an underhanded, “cut-throat” brand of business dealing, are viewed as “old-fashioned,” and are “propheesied” to fail.

Gone are the days when success was achieved through patience, endurance, honesty, hard work and self-sacrifice. In this “Me-first,” “now” generation, laws are structured (whether by default or design) to protect and even *promote* those who show “foresight” and “initiative” by undermining, defaming and destroying others to achieve their goals.

Since such people often get what they want, and, on the surface, *appear* happy and fulfilled, they are respected, glorified and sometimes even *deified*.

Today, many who would have been properly labeled criminals in times past are viewed as either heroes or, at worst, “misunderstood” individuals merely exercising their right to “vent.”

The rights of their victims are rarely—if ever—taken into consideration. And in the rare cases when their acts *are* viewed as crimes, they are often justified by an assortment of perverted psychological arguments. Such arguments are wielded as a means of proving that the perpetrator did not understand either what he was doing or the effect or impact it would have on his victim (as if the lack of such understanding could somehow reverse any permanent damage that had been done, or eliminate the need for punishment).

In many cases in which a defendant’s guilt *has been ascertained*, punishment is delayed (or not even administered at all) if he is deemed unable to comprehend his fate. In some cases, trials are even postponed if it is determined that a defendant is unable to “cooperate in his defense.” However, the question of whether or not the victim “understood” *his* fate is rarely, if ever, considered. The issue is rarely viewed this way: Criminals CHOOSE to be criminals. Victims *do not* CHOOSE to be victims.

Those who *are* convicted of crimes, even hideous, unspeakable acts against other human beings, often have the audacity to *expect* mercy from a court of law, although they themselves showed no pity or mercy to their victims. And defense attorneys, eager to make a name for themselves and ultimately “fatten their wallets,” are all too happy to take their cases, never stopping to consider, “What if the victim would have been *me* or someone *close to me*?”

In the rare occasions in which the question “What would God do?” is raised, the issue is examined strictly from the standpoint of forgiveness, mercy and “Let he who is without sin cast the first stone”—but never with Christ’s admonition “Go and sin no more.”

Such a view is nothing short of blatant hypocrisy, when one considers that people rarely, if ever, ask “What

would God do?” in their personal lives. This question is often raised by those who promote or endorse every habit, attitude, practice and lifestyle *condemned by God*. They also fail to realize that God, in His mercy, will ultimately destroy *forever* those who do not repent of their sins (Rev. 20:15; 21:8).

Most people live their lives seemingly oblivious to the fact that the world around them is growing darker and more sinister with almost each passing day. Many read a front-page newspaper article about a horrible crime, then turn to the sports page or comics—without giving it a second thought.

Many who *are* outraged at the state of the world see no solution, and feel helpless to do anything about it. They often seek various forms of “escape”—through drugs, alcohol, entertainment, etc.—although this is usually done to avoid facing their own *personal* problems.

This report will examine many crimes. It seems that, no sooner than the public rebounds from the report of one crime, *several more* are reported. Therefore, as is the case with most prophetic trends, which will ALL grow worse as time progresses, this report will be “old news” by the day after—if not the day of—its printing. We will examine WHY this is happening, and WHY it will only get worse, from the perspective of God’s Word, the Bible.

Current studies show that “Over two-thirds of the world’s countries are rife with corruption” (*Reuters*, 8/28/02). (It has been estimated that over 1,500 Russian gangs are operating in the U.S. alone!)

But it is not our main purpose to *expose* injustice and corruption. By definition, exposure involves the *revealing* of previously unknown or inaccessible information. We will simply *examine* current events, in light of Bible prophecy.

Nor is this report written in the interest of seeking reform in the justice system. Just as Christ did not come, in His physical life, to rectify the injustice and corruption of the *Roman system*, it is not the Christian responsibility to address social issues in the hope

of changing *today’s* world. Only Christ’s Return and the establishing of God’s kingdom on earth will accomplish that.

This report *will* show that WISDOM is rarely employed in the legal process. This is one of the main reasons for the trends we see today. (Notice Hosea 4:6 and Proverbs 29:18.) Since there is no established, consistent formula equating lawbreaking with due punishment (in other words, no proper standard of “cause and effect”), people have become a law unto themselves, doing whatever is “right in their own eyes” (Jud. 21:25).

This is true of those who commit crimes *and* those who, in seeking their own form of justice, take the law into their own hands, rather than leaving matters in the hands of those whom God has placed into positions of authority. (You may request our booklet *Should Christians VOTE?* and our article “Should Christians Submit to GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY?”)



Historically, during times of economic growth and prosperity, crime rates typically drop. Conversely, when economic conditions take a downturn, crime increases. Why?

Because human beings, under the sway of Satan and their own human nature, tend to operate strictly according to their own personal agendas, without taking into consideration the welfare of others. In other words, low crime rates are *not* an indication of prevailing moral goodness in society. Rather, they are merely the signature of a respite during periods when the “haves” simply outnumber the “have nots.”

Most people *appear* honest and law-abiding—when such conduct is in their best interest. Invariably, when

economic tides turn, and the “haves” begin joining the ranks of the “have nots,” human nature shows its true colors, resulting in increased crime rates.

The following excerpt from a 2003 *Associated Press* article demonstrates this:

“When Argentines withdrew \$20 billion from banks [in 2002] before the peso was devalued, they believed they had saved themselves from financial ruin.

“But with that money now stored in bedroom walls and kitchen cupboards, a wave of kidnappings and armed robberies has engulfed the country, turning Buenos Aires...into a city gripped by fear...

“With their cash out of the vault and hidden at home, Argentines are learning that protecting their money from a banking crisis is simpler than protecting it from the multiplying bands of thieves prowling the capital...

“Kidnapping, once nearly unheard of, has become widespread as criminals hold their victims for hours or days while trying to collect ransom money they suspect is tucked away in closets and cupboards” (“Violent crimes sweep Argentina after bank crisis”).

As the above article shows, one does not have to see raw statistics to know that crime is getting worse. In fact, to most people, crime statistics are simply that—numbers on paper. They do not see the cold stark inhumanity that those numbers represent. They do not see the victims represented by those numbers as flesh-and-blood human beings. The mentality seems to be, “Crime is something that happens to *someone else, somewhere else*. It’s not happening to *me*, so the world is basically fine.” As mentioned, all one must do to get a sense of the scope of today’s crime problem is scan the daily news.

Also, in this day and age, when the *definition* of crime has become *arbitrary and practically subjective*, statistics should be viewed merely as conservative estimates. To recognize the validity of this claim, one need simply recall recent events involving U.S. government leadership, in which the

definition of what constitutes a *sexual act* was somewhat obscured.

Contrary to “billboard advertisements” of certain “Christian” denominations, along the following lines, “We have 35,000 laws to enforce 10 commandments,” the world’s standard for defining *crime* is inconsistent with God’s standard for defining *sin*.

The *point* of the above-quoted statement is that God’s Law is simple. The “35,000” is perhaps an extremely *conservative* estimate. However, the fact that one can break SEVEN of God’s Ten Commandments without breaking ONE of man’s laws is its own proof of the statement’s *inaccuracy*. (Technically, lying is not even considered a crime, unless one *perjures* himself on the stand in a court of law—and even that is addressed inconsistently.)

Consider the following case. It not only demonstrates how man’s law horribly blurs the issue of right and wrong, but also reveals a sickening level of human hypocrisy:

“A man charged with using a syringe to impregnate his stepdaughter used threats to get her to cooperate, the young woman testified Monday.

“[Name withheld], 19, told jurors that her stepfather...threatened to kill her mother if the girl refused to carry his child.

“[Accused], 41, is accused of violating a state rape law that he and his wife...*campaigned to strengthen*...

“[Accused]’s lawyer...did not dispute that the girl was impregnated with her stepfather’s semen. However, [the lawyer] said [the girl] was a willing participant in a plan to conceive a child for her stepfather because her mother had had a hysterectomy.

“‘This is a case about an agreement in matters of procreation,’ [the lawyer] said. ‘This was not her child, this was [Accused]’s and his wife’s child.’

“[Accused] and his wife...*had helped to persuade lawmakers to change the state’s rape law after a man accused of molesting her daughter was acquitted*. The law was changed in 1996 to include penetration with any object as a component of rape. Previously, only sexual intercourse was considered rape...

“[Victim’s mother]’s attorney said

the daughter willingly allowed the insemination to fulfill [Victim’s mother]’s wish to give her husband a child. [Victim’s mother] had had a hysterectomy” (*Associated Press*, 8/26/02, emphasis ours).

There is something horribly wrong in a society that (1) spawns such a situation in the first place (notice Leviticus 18:17), and (2) lacks the judicial prudence to *readily* see that the husband and wife committed an atrocity, regardless of whether or not the daughter, 16 years old at the time, willingly *allowed* the action.

In this case, the stepfather was ultimately found guilty of rape, sexual battery and child endangerment. But consider the irony it represents: Why is the question even raised as to whether or not the *stepdaughter* (the victim) willingly allowed the action?

Consider that, when *teenagers* or *younger children* intentionally and willingly *commit crimes*, the issue of whether or not they should be *tried* as adults is *always* raised—although the effects of the crimes are the same (e.g., if a ten-year old murders someone, the victim is just as much deceased as he would be if he had been murdered in like manner by a forty-year old).

The ascertainment of guilt is based, in part, on whether or not the young perpetrator *understood* the potential consequences his actions would have on his victim.

It boils down to the fact that people are not expected to take responsibility for their actions. Often, when individuals accused of crimes *are* deemed guilty, and punishment (typically incarceration) *is* imposed, society views *that* as a loss—and a waste of human life—usually raising the hue and cry that “Two wrongs don’t make a right!” That is, in the rare cases in which the *victim’s* rights are even considered.

The following serves as a case-in-point:

“New Zealand’s youngest convicted killer will appeal against his conviction for manslaughter.

“[Defense attorney] argues that evidence given against [accused] prejudiced the jury in the...case.

“[Accused], who was 12 when he took part in the killing of [victim], a

pizza delivery worker, was found guilty on Saturday after a five-week trial in the High Court at Auckland.

“The 13-year-old is being held at the Kingslea residential centre in Christchurch.

“[Defense attorney] said he would lodge an appeal after [accused] was sentenced on September 13, the day after the first anniversary of [victim]’s death.

“One aspect of the appeal would center on the trial judge’s decision to allow the evidence of two ‘expert’ witnesses, he said.

“One, [accused]’s former principal...testified that all children aged 12 knew it was wrong or against the law to hit someone with a weapon or help someone else hit a person for the purpose of stealing.

“[Defense attorney] accused [principal] under cross-examination of having *pre-determined views on the subject* [Note: so does God] and of being a crusader in the area of youth offending.

“He produced a widely distributed letter [principal] had written before the trial in which he said: ‘The criminal act carried out recently was the work of young people from 12 to under 18 years of age.’

“‘It is a sickening indictment...on society today that young, and in this case very young, people hatched a heinous plot to rob and subsequently take the life of an innocent person.’

“[Defense attorney] was also critical of the brief of evidence given by Senior Constable...of Papakura, who spoke about [accused]’s ‘offending in the community’ and his ‘out-of-control behaviour.’

“[Defense attorney] said that evidence could have *prejudiced the jury against the boy*...

“The Sentencing Act 2002 allows judges to impose sentences of less than the previously mandatory life in murder cases.

“Alternatively, said the lawyer...he would seek a minimum non-parole period of less than 10 years.

“He said accepting a jail term was required to reflect the seriousness of the offending.

“‘However we take the same approach as the Commissioner for

Children—that these young people are at a low risk of reoffending, but a long period of imprisonment or in custody will lead to them being institutionalised and likely to reoffend on release” (“Young killer to appeal against conviction,” Tony Wall, *The New Zealand Herald*, 8/29/02).

Rehabilitation programs are often promoted, aimed at turning convicted criminals into productive members of society. But such programs invariably address the EFFECTS of criminal behavior rather than the CAUSES. Rather than contributing to the solution, those programs are themselves an EFFECT of a misguided system.

If more in society had similar “pre-determined views” as the above-mentioned school official, there might not be the violent trend we see among youth today. Perhaps the “experts” would be motivated to *address the cause* of such problems, instead of always being forced to *treat the effects*. (Consider the many recent acts of violence at various U.S. schools, which we will look at in Part Two.)



As mentioned, crime statistics do not tell the whole story. Even news headlines themselves do not paint the full picture of the problem. Together, they merely serve to indicate a much greater problem in society. The very fact that people can witness ever-increasing social problems and “respond” by generating more (unnecessarily adding to the caseload of an already over-extended judicial system) is its own indictment of our society.

For example: Habitual smokers suing tobacco companies over the effects of their products (request our free article “The Truth About SMOKING”). Unhealthy fast-food “junkies” suing restaurant chains over the effects of their products (request our free

booklet *God’s Laws of HEALTHFUL LIVING*). Animal rights activists labeling certain means of eliminating unwanted animals as “animal cruelty”—when the abortion of *human* babies is commonly practiced and growing in acceptance (request our free booklet *What Science Will Never Discover About YOUR MIND*).

And not only is abortion gaining popularity, but some even go so far as to claim that it contributes to a *decrease* in crime, as the following article states:

“The study...suggests legalized abortion may be responsible for approximately half of the crime rate’s recent fall.

“According to researchers, the decline of the U.S. crime rate may be the result of two mechanisms related to legalized abortion...

“[The researchers] stress that their findings do not carry an endorsement of abortion” (“Chicago economist links abortion to falling crime rates,” *The University of Chicago Chronicle*, 8/12/99).

The fact that legalized MASS MURDER of unborn children could even be *suggested* to be an acceptable “crime deterrent,” and thereby *indirectly* endorsed—and it does not take much prompting for human nature to “jump on the bandwagon”—is, of itself, a symptom of society’s further devaluation of human life.

Such logic suggests that, if sociopaths such as Ted Bundy, Charles Manson or Adolf Hitler had been aborted, the tragedies they engendered would not have happened. It implies (against the overwhelming weight of historical evidence to the contrary) that human beings are basically good and that, once in a while, a “bad seed” comes along that goes against the grain of an otherwise civilized world. In other words, evil is viewed as an *anomaly*—an “exception to the rule.”

God’s Word shows the error of this mentality: “For EVERYONE is an hypocrite and an *evildoer*, and every mouth speaks folly” (Isa. 9:17). As Jeremiah 10:23 shows, “It is not in man that walks to direct his steps.” And, as Paul wrote, “the carnal mind is *enmity* against God: for it is not sub-

ject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” (Rom. 8:7).

Those who generalize crime as mainly a result of broken or impoverished families fail to see that dysfunctional families, poverty and crime are ALL direct effects of a breakdown of society in general. And such a view does not explain the growing trend in “white-collar” crime and crimes committed by high-profiled (and high-paid) sports figures and Hollywood celebrities—segments of the population considered successful and practically viewed as gods.

Corporate scandals are also regularly making headlines—revealing a tangled web of fraud, theft, money laundering and insider trading, among various other unscrupulous dealings by business professionals. And all of this in the wake of national crisis—which, in times past, served to create a “United We Stand” morale.

The truth of the matter is that these crimes have always been happening. It is only recently that they have *come to light*. The implications are that the seeds were being sown during the previous period of economic *growth*—which, in retrospect, may have been only *perceived* growth.

Current trends demonstrate the effects of the corporate “buy now, pay later” mindset, which made everything *temporarily* look good “on paper.” This fiscal sleight of hand resulted in consumer over-confidence, and further proliferated the “buy now, pay later” attitude. But, as the Bible shows, “...whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also REAP” (Gal. 6:7). And the bills are coming due.

We will now examine some specific occurrences, and *general* trends, in various classifications of crime. You will see that the problem is universal—and escalating.

Youth Crime—A Disturbing Picture

Most people form habits early in life. While many such habits—good and bad—evolve with time, consistent behavioral patterns can usually be observed from an early stage. While many factors contribute to human behavior, none play as big a role as parental guidance and influence and

the institution of the family. (Request our free booklet *Train Up Your CHILDREN*.)

King Solomon wrote, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6). He also wrote, “Even a child is *known by his doings*, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right” (20:11).

One look at society shows that children are either: (1) Taught *little* or *no* moral values whatsoever by their parents, or (2) if they *are* taught any values at home, those values are undermined by parental hypocrisy or the enormous weight of peer pressure or other outside influences.

Consider the following cases involving teenagers. They represent the fulfillment of Isaiah 3:5, 12: “And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbor: *the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient*, and the base against the honorable...As for My people, CHILDREN are their oppressors.”

“An uncontrollable teenage girl wrecked an entire street of 30 houses as she led a gang of young thugs on a systematic orgy of vandalism.

“[The] sixteen-year-old...who is said to run her mob like a mafia boss, caused more than £600,000 [nearly one million U.S. dollars] damage over a few weeks...

“The destruction of Dixon Road was the culmination of a three-year reign of terror by [the teen]...who has been responsible for arson, assault, damage to property, threatening behaviour, throwing missiles at police officers, harassing an RSPCA inspector and throwing stones at buildings and firefighters.

“Neighbours said her single mother had given up trying to control her.

“She refused to attend school, revealed in her notoriety as a ‘hard case’ and boasted: ‘I’ve done all kinds of things, aimed fireworks at the police, smashed up police cars and stolen things’... ‘People were absolutely petrified. She ruled [the neighborhood] like a mafia boss, handing out punishment to all those who crossed her. Fires were started and when police

were called she threw bricks at them. It has been an absolute nightmare’... ‘She and her gang have wrecked the lives of many pensioners who have been simply too scared to step foot outside their homes’...

“Last night neighbours said Walker, her mother and three or four other children had left the area in the last few days and were thought to be in Leeds. Everyone prayed they would not be back” (“The girl thug aged 16 who destroyed an entire street,” *Daily Mail*, 7/6/02).

The above article demonstrates a two-fold problem: (1) A lack of proper parental influence and guidance, and (2) failure by authorities to swiftly and properly deal with the girl’s actions. This is a critical missing element in today’s justice system. Notice: “Because sentence against an evil work *is not executed speedily*, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil” (Ecc. 8:11).

Due punishment for wrong actions is no longer carried out (justice is often a long, drawn-out process, and sometimes there is no justice at all). Imposing life-term prison sentences for certain crimes translates as, “They got away with it,” when one considers that such sentences essentially provide convicts with “room and board, and three meals a day”—with taxpayers footing the bill.

If potential lawbreakers knew that “proper payment would come due for services rendered,” they might think twice before committing their crimes. But a pattern of letting criminals “get away with it” has led to a pattern of *more* and *worse* crime, as the following article, also from the July 6 issue of the *Daily Mail*, shows:

“CRIME is rising at the fastest rate for a decade and detection rates have sunk to an all-time low. Official figures...show an increase of almost seven per cent in offences recorded in England and Wales in the year to March.

“That represents almost 1,000 extra crimes every day...The year-on-year rise of 6.8 per cent in recorded crime in England and Wales equates to around 960 extra crimes each day” (“1,000 more crimes a day”).

An example of the “fruits” of this pattern is the recent epidemic of shootings on U.S. school campuses. They are but another symptom of a more deeply rooted problem. Consider the following summary of school violence:

“Feb. 2, 1996: A 14-year-old boy wearing a trench coat walks into algebra class with a hunting rifle and allegedly opens fire, killing the teacher and two students. A third student is injured during the shooting at a junior high school in Moses Lake, Wash.

“Feb. 19, 1997: A 16-year-old student opens fire with a shotgun in a common area at the Bethel, Alaska, high school, killing the principal and a student. Two other students are wounded. Authorities later accuse two other students of knowing the shootings would take place. Evan Ramsey was sentenced to two 99-year terms.

“Oct. 1, 1997: A 16-year-old out-cast in Pearl, Miss., is accused of killing his mother, then going to Pearl High School and shooting nine students. Two of them die, including the suspect’s ex-girlfriend. The 16-year-old is sentenced to life in prison. Two others await trial on accessory charges.

“Dec. 1, 1997: Three students are killed and five others wounded while they take part in a prayer circle in a hallway at Heath High School in West Paducah, Ky. A 14-year-old student pleads guilty but mentally ill to murder and is serving life in prison. One of the wounded girls is left paralyzed.

“March 24, 1998: Four girls and a teacher are shot to death and 10 others wounded during a false fire alarm at Westside Middle School in Jonesboro, Ark., when two boys, *ages 11 and 13*, open fire from the woods. Both are convicted in juvenile court of murder and can be held up to age 21.

“April 24, 1998: A 48-year-old science teacher is shot to death in front of students at a graduation dance in Edinboro, Pa. A 14-year-old student at James W. Parker Middle School is charged.

“April 28, 1998: Two teenage boys are shot to death and a third is wound-

ed as they played basketball at a Pomona, Calif., elementary school hours after classes had ended. A 14-year-old boy is charged; the shooting is blamed on rivalry between two groups of youths.

“May 19, 1998: Two boys are suspended from school in Johnston, R.I., after being accused of writing and handing out threatening notes to classmates. The notes said things such as, ‘All your friends are dead.’ The boys are ordered to remain out of school until they have been evaluated to determine whether they are dangerous.

“May 19, 1998: Three days before his graduation, an 18-year-old honor student allegedly opens fire in a parking lot at Lincoln County High School in Fayetteville, Tenn., killing a classmate who was dating his ex-girlfriend.

“May 21, 1998: A 15-year-old student in Springfield, Ore., expelled the day before for bringing a gun to school, allegedly opens fire in the school cafeteria. Two students are killed. The suspect’s parents are later found shot dead in their home.

“May 21, 1998: Three sixth-grade boys had a “hit list” and were plotting to kill fellow classmates on the last day of school in a sniper attack during a false fire alarm, police in St. Charles, Mo., say.

“May 21, 1998: A 15-year-old girl is shot and wounded at a suburban Houston high school when a gun in the backpack of a 17-year-old classmate goes off in a biology class. The boy is charged with a third-degree felony for taking a gun to school.

“June 15, 1998: A male teacher and a female guidance counselor are shot in a hallway at a Richmond, Va., high school. The man suffers an injury to the abdomen that wasn’t life threatening; the woman is reportedly grazed.

“April 20, 1999: Two young men wearing long, black trench coats opened fire in a suburban high school in Littleton, Colo., injuring as many as 20 students. In all, 15 were killed, including the two gunmen.

“Nov. 19, 1999: A 12-year-old boy allegedly shot and killed a female classmate at the end of lunch hour outside a middle school in Deming, N.M.,

about 33 miles from the Mexican border. The boy was wearing a camouflage jacket when he allegedly fired the single shot from a .22 caliber handgun.

“Dec. 6, 1999: A 13-year-old student in Fort Gibson, Okla., allegedly arrived at school and opened fire with his father’s 9 mm semiautomatic handgun. There were no life-threatening injuries but five of his classmates were injured, four from gunshot wounds and a fifth who suffered bruises in the chaos” (*abcnews.go.com*).

Also consider the following incident:

“A prescription for a controversial acne drug that has been linked to suicidal tendencies was found in the home of the 15-year-old who piloted a small plane into a Tampa high-rise office building, authorities said Tuesday...Teachers, friends and family members of [the boy]...said [he] exhibited no suicidal tendencies in the weeks before he piloted the Cessna into the 42-story Bank of America building...After the crash, police found a note in his pocket expressing support for Osama bin Laden and the September 11 attacks” (“Teen pilot might have taken acne drug,” 1/8/02, *CNN.com*).

The above incidents are but a few examples of the manifestation of a *universal* disregard for human life. Also consider the number and severity of terrorist acts committed at the outset of the twenty-first century. Although originally labeled “suicide bombings,” these are now properly identified as “homicide bombings”—with the emphasis correctly being on the bomber’s *victims*, rather than the bombers themselves.

Terrorism

Terrorism has been a problem for decades. *Throughout history*, militant factions have sought to impose their agendas on others through violent campaigns. But the decade of the 1990s and the early twenty-first century have seen an unprecedented level of terrorist activity.

Most will recall the Oklahoma City bombing:

“On April 19, 1995, around 9:03 a.m., just after parents dropped their children off at day care at the Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City, the unthinkable happened.

“A massive bomb inside a rental truck exploded, blowing half of the nine-story building into oblivion.

“A stunned nation watched as the bodies of men, women, and children were pulled from the rubble for nearly two weeks. When the smoke cleared and the exhausted rescue workers packed up and left, 168 people were dead in the *worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil*” (CNN.com).

Almost six-and-a-half years later (on Sept. 11, 2001), terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center (it was first struck by terrorists in 1993) and also attacked the Pentagon, killing *thousands*, making it the new “worst terrorist attack ever on U.S. soil”:

“Sept. 11—In the worst terrorist attack ever on U.S. soil, hijackers crashed passenger planes into the World Trade Center in New York, toppling the 110-story twin towers, killing all aboard the jets and an unknown number on the ground.

“Another passenger plane crashed into the Pentagon outside Washington, leaving a gaping gash in the nation’s hub of military power, killing all on board the aircraft and more on the ground. Within the hour, a fourth airliner went down near Pittsburgh, killing everyone aboard” (abcnews.com).

Since that date, terrorism has escalated. One can no longer read or watch the news without seeing yet another report of terrorist atrocities. The following summary of terrorist activity in Israel, from January 2001 to present, offers a glimpse of an escalating problem (from *efreedom-news.com*):

2001

January: Car bomb kills one Israeli orthodox woman in Jerusalem.

March 28: Hamas nail bomb attack kills three Israelis.

May 18: Netanya shopping mall—5 killed.

June 2: Islamic Jihad suicide bomber hits disco in Tel Aviv. 21 die, 60 injured.

August 9: Hamas suicide bomber hits restaurant in Jerusalem. 15 killed, 90 injured.

August 12: Suicide bomber hits restaurant in Haifa. 20 injured.

September 4: Suicide bomber disguised as orthodox Jew injures 13 in Jerusalem.

December 1: Suicide bomber kills 10 in Jerusalem shopping area.

December 2 : Suicide bomber kills 15, wounds 100 in northern Israeli city of Haifa.

2002

January 27: *Female* suicide bomber kills herself and 1 other in central Jerusalem.

February 16: Suicide bombers kill 2 and injure 30 in pizza shop in Karnei Shomron.

March 2: Suicide bomber kills 9 (including 2 infants), injures 57 in Jerusalem.

March 9: Suicide bomber kills 11, injures 50 in Jerusalem café.

March 27: In a hotel dining room, in Netanya, a suicide bomber kills 22 Israelis.

March 29: Female suicide bomber explodes in Jerusalem grocery store killing 2 others.

March 30: Suicide bomber injures 30 in Tel Aviv restaurant.

March 31: Suicide bomber kills 14 in Haifa. Second suicide bomber wounds four at Israeli paramedic office in Efrat.

April 10: Suicide bomber on bus near Haifa kills 8, injures many.

April 12: Suicide bomber at market bus stop in Jerusalem kills 5, injures 87.

May 19: Netanya suicide bombing. 1 dead, 28 injured.

June 5: Suicide car bomber destroys bus near Megiddo junction in northern Israel. 18 dead, 40 injured.

June 18: Suicide bomber kills 19 Israelis and injures 50 in a bomb attack on a bus in a southern suburb of Jerusalem.

June 19: Suicide bomber kills 6, injures 40 in French Hill, Jerusalem.

August 4: At least nine people

were killed and 38 were wounded when a suicide bomber blew himself up on a bus.

Terrorism and the ever-spreading epidemic of youth crime are two of the biggest issues amidst the growing social problems facing today’s world. Why are we seeing these trends?

Notice Ezekiel 7:23, 26: “...for the land is full of *bloody crimes*, and the city is full of *violence...Mischief shall come upon mischief*, and rumor shall be upon rumor...” This scripture concerns both ancient Israel and Judah, *and* their descendants—the modern nation of Israel and the democratic, primarily English-speaking peoples of the U.S., Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand (and certain other Western European nations). For more information, request our book *AMERICA and BRITAIN in Bible Prophecy*.

(To more fully understand why these acts of terrorism are happening, and why they will continue and accelerate, request our free article “Appointment With Terror: A Day That Forever Changed America and the World.”)

Crime: The World at a Glance

This section will offer a brief snapshot of crime today. To show the full extent of the problem would require a lengthy book. Even then, given the direction and pace of current trends, such a book would still be outdated within a short time of its completion.

It is not our purpose to explore every detail and nuance of crime and its consequences. It *is* our purpose and responsibility to show *why* current world conditions exist and to warn you of what is coming:

“Son of man, I have made you a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at My mouth, and give them warning from Me. When I say unto the wicked, You shall surely die; and you give him not warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at your hand. Yet if you warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his

wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul” (Ezek. 3:17-19).

The *Rothstein Catalog On Disaster Recovery* reported, “By 1996, the crime rate was 313% the 1960 crime rate. In 1996, your risk of being a victim of a crime in the United States was 5.079%, and of a violent crime 0.634%...Crime in the United States accounts for more death, injuries and loss of property than all natural disasters combined...Approximately thirteen million people (approximately 5% of the U.S. population) are victims of crime every year. Approximately one and a half million are victims of violent crime [year 2000].”

Notice this statement from *washingtonpost.com*:

“The number of major crimes in the United States increased last year for the first time in a decade, bringing an end to a decline in violence that had resulted in the lowest crime levels in a generation, according to FBI statistics.

“The increase included a 3.1 percent rise in murders reported by police departments nationwide, along with significant jumps in the numbers of robberies, burglaries and car thefts...

“The national increase...reverses nine years of declining crime numbers...surges in the numbers of teenagers and released prisoners, along with recent economic declines, threatened a return to rising crime...‘We [are] probably done seeing declines in crime rates for some time to come,’ said Jack Riley, director of the Public Safety and Justice Program at Rand Corp. in Santa Monica, Calif. ‘The question is how strong and how fast will those rates be, and what kind of tools do we have at our disposal to get ahead of the curve.’

“...crime reports in suburban areas overall were up 2.2 percent. Regionally, only the Northeast showed a drop in crime. The largest increase was in western states, followed by the South and Midwest, the FBI said...If deaths [from the Sept. 11 attacks] were counted as homicides, the number of murders would have increased by 26 percent from [the year] 2000.

“Criminologists are divided over what causes crime rates to increase,

though most believe that *economics and demographics play crucial roles*...crime experts said last year’s resurgence can be explained at least in part by a *stagnant economy*.

“In addition, the number of inmates released from state and federal prisons last year rose to more than 600,000 as many convicted during the crack-cocaine epidemic of the late 1980s returned to the streets...‘The great 1990s crime drop ended with the 1990s; the new millennium brings a different picture,’ said James Alan Fox, a criminal justice professor...

“The homicide rate in Washington [D.C.] surged 36 percent this year...So far this year, 148 homicides have been reported, compared with 109 at this time last year. Aggravated assaults also are up...Boston had a 67 percent jump [in homicides] last year, while smaller double-digit spikes occurred in Houston, Atlanta, St. Louis and Phoenix. Homicides in Los Angeles are up 27 percent this year and Oakland, Calif., is on track to record its most murders in seven years...\$6 million [was] spent this summer on *teen violence and pregnancy programs*...An inhuman amount of people are being killed [in Washington, D.C.]...mostly young men” (AP, 8/9/02).

The Crime Clock

Most reading this report probably go about a morning routine: After being awakened from a cozy sleep by your alarm clock, you open your eyes, stretch, swing your body out from under your blanket and plant your feet on the floor.

Not quite oriented to the fact that another day has started, you make your way to the bathroom, then shave, brush your teeth, shower, etc.—all the while pondering what you are going to do between returning home that evening and starting the cycle over the next morning. All of this in roughly 25 to 35 minutes.

According to U.S. statistics from the *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration*, in that short time, one person has died in an alcohol-related accident, fifty-nine aggravated assaults have taken place, approx-

imately ninety violent crimes have transpired, and one murder has been committed.

By the time you have had breakfast, read the paper, seen the kids off to school and left for work—that is, if your car were not among the 1,369 stolen overnight—those numbers have doubled.

By the time you have put in an eight-hour day...

One Nation—Under Arrest

Consider that New York City alone has 72,000 police officers. The average police officer salary is \$50,000 per year. Meanwhile, the United States has 1,578 prisons, costing Americans a colossal \$40 billion. The cost per prisoner is \$60,000 per year. Prisoners cost society twenty percent more money than do the policemen who keep them off the streets!

Before examining the following statistics, read what God inspired the prophet Isaiah to record: “But this is a people robbed and spoiled; they are all of them snared in holes, and they are *hid in prison houses*” (42:22).

“One in every 32 adults in the United States was behind bars or on probation or parole by the end of last year...The number of adults under supervision by the criminal justice system rose by 147,700, or 2.3 percent, between 2000 and 2001, the Justice Department reported...

“‘The overall figures suggest that we’ve come to rely on the criminal justice system as a way of responding to social problems in a way that’s unprecedented,’ said Marc Mauer, assistant director of the Sentencing Project...‘We [are] setting new records every day.’

“Almost 4 million people were on probation, 2.8 percent more than in 2000...More than half of those...53 percent—had been convicted of felonies” (*cleveland.com*).

Crime—Not Just an American Problem

Many nations have traditionally considered crime to be, for the most part, something that “only happens in America,” as the following *Washington Post* article shows: “Four

years ago, after a young student in Tourcoing, France, was killed with a pistol he brought to school, politicians, government officials and sociologists blamed the unusual incident on the spillover of violent culture from the United States making its way to Europe.

“I don’t want America to export its civilization of violence,” fumed Claude Allegre, who was French education minister at the time...Just last month, in the Paris suburb of Nanterre, a troubled 33-year-old man walked into a municipal council meeting wielding a pair of Glock automatic pistols, killing eight councilors and wounding more than a dozen other people...This shooting followed a string of other, often violent crimes, including armored car heists using rocket-propelled grenades and the dramatic slaying of a policeman in Vannes, in northwestern France, by a man armed with a Kalashnikov rifle and a .357-caliber handgun.

“In usually placid Switzerland, a gunman wearing a combat uniform walked into a regional parliament meeting in Zug on Sept. 27, killing 14 people and wounding 14 more, before turning the gun on himself.

“Even in the Netherlands, with some of Europe’s strictest gun laws, a 17-year-old shot and wounded five people he blamed for harassing his sister in 1999.

“After each incident...the first reaction was shock. After that came disbelief and the sense that this sort of seemingly random violence doesn’t happen here...Erfurt’s mayor, Manfred Ruge, said, ‘I [have] always thought that something like in America can’t happen here. Now it has’...

“In fact, it does happen here, and with increasing regularity...One reason that such crimes are becoming more common here is the ready availability of guns in Europe, even in countries that boast strict gun controls...

“The proliferation of gun violence and mass killings has shaken the European sense that this is a safer, more tolerant, more tranquil continent than North America...”

Why is violence a universal problem?

Because carnal human nature—based on vanity, envy, jealousy, lust and greed—is a universal problem. (Request our booklet *Did God Create HUMAN NATURE?*)

We are living in the time that Christ spoke of in Matthew 24:37: “But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” What was the world like in the days of Noah?

Notice Genesis 6:5: “And God saw that the *wickedness* of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” An incident in London, England shows the degree of wickedness prevalent in today’s world:

“A teenager obsessed with vampires killed an elderly neighbor and drank her blood because he believed that would make him immortal, prosecutors said Tuesday at the start of his murder trial...Prosecutors said [the neighbor’s] chest was ripped open and her heart removed, wrapped in newspaper and placed in a saucepan on top of a silver platter. Blood was drained from her legs, probably for drinking, prosecutors told the jury at Mold Crown Court. Two fireplace pokers were left crossed at her feet.

“...the teenager was obsessed by ‘his two main questions—how do I become a vampire and how do I become immortal?’...”

“The prosecution said the teen entered [the neighbor’s] house...and attacked her from behind...stabbing her 22 times and removing her heart...the youth had been arrested a month before the killing after using force to get a 16-year-old German exchange student he believed was a vampire to bite his neck so that he, too, could become a vampire” (*AP*, 7/16/02).

What does God’s Word say about individuals who commit such violent, gruesome acts? “There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men” (Prov. 30:14). Such people “...eat the bread of wicked-

ness, and drink the wine of violence” (4:17).

These scriptures are not a specific portrayal of the gothic vampire subculture, so glorified in various entertainment media. But they do provide a graphic description of an *attitude*—a general, complete disregard for fellowman—that is so prevalent in society.

Murder—A Modern Plague

In times past, when faced with problems—at home, school or on the job—most sought ways to work them out, in ways that were at least agreeable, if not mutually beneficial, to all concerned. Increasingly, in this day and age, disgruntled individuals are becoming armed and dangerous, confronting problems with their weapon of choice.

This is a scenario that has played out in numerous fast food establishments, convenience stores, offices, supermarkets and homes. The following article excerpts paint a grisly picture:

“[February 1997]: [Paul Dennis] Reid...enter[ed] the restaurant [Captain D’s] before it opened ...robbed the restaurant, ordered the two employees into a cooler, then shot them in the head execution-style as they lay face down on the floor...

“[March 23, 1997]: Reid waited until [McDonald’s] closing time to pull a gun on [Jose] Gonzalez and another worker...He ordered them back into the building, robbed the store and ordered them...into a store-room. Then he shot all but Gonzalez execution-style in the head as they lay face down...[then] stabbed Gonzalez 17 times before leaving him for dead...

“[April 1997]: Reid waited until [Baskin Robbin’s] closing time, about 10 p.m., and convinced two young women to open the door. He then drove them to nearby Dunbar Cave State Natural Area where he slashed their throats” (*tennessean.com*).

Also notice the following: “The U.S. military is investigating whether stress related to the war in Afghanistan led to the recent slayings of four wives at Fort Bragg, N.C...In

all four cases...soldiers killed their wives" ("Soldiers killing wives," *Akron Beacon Journal*, 7/27/02).

"New Albany, Ind.—[Suspect], a former Indiana State Police trooper, is charged with killing his wife...and his two children...in their Georgetown, Ind., house in September 2000" ("Camm Takes Stand In Murder Trial," *thelouisvillechannel.com*).

"Dobson, N.C.—An Ohio man happened upon a gas station robbery in North Carolina and was killed. A South Carolina man wanted for another slaying in his home state was charged in the killings..." (AP)

"It was a little after 7:30 Friday night when [suspect] pulled...into the gas station...to see [individual]...less than two hours later, [suspect] was dead...after shooting it out with police whose authority he had frequently questioned. Patrolman...was killed by a single bullet from [suspect's] gun" (*The Plain Dealer*, 8/15/02).

"Detectives are investigating the deaths of two women, one found in a car trunk...another in a wooded section of Cleveland's East Side" (*The Plain Dealer*, 8/15/02).

"Delaware, Ohio (AP)—Two men died Monday in a murder-suicide shooting outside a county administration building...Police said the shooting appears to be related to a domestic dispute" (*cleveland.com*).

"Bradenton, Fla. (AP)—[Victim], 32, was killed instantly last Wednesday evening when a man entered the Food Land store with an assault rifle and shot [victim] in the back of the head. The bullet passed through [victim] and killed customer...[age] 31" (*ap.tbo.com*).

"Columbia, S.C. (AP)—A man accused of killing four people across the Carolinas planned the deaths weeks in advance, took target practice at passing cars and shot his first victim 'to see if he had the stomach to do it,' prosecutors said Tuesday. 'He [is] someone who enjoyed killing...He killed once. He liked it and he went back and killed three more times'...Four weeks later...he took the same shotgun to his job at the

Texas Roadhouse restaurant in Columbia to settle an argument. He missed his target and killed [victim], 22..."

"Augusta, Mont. (AP)—A mother shot and killed two of her four children while they slept, then waited for police to arrive at their Montana ranch..." (8/28/02).

As mentioned, the above accounts are but a brief snapshot of an ever-spiraling trend in today's society. It presents a picture of a land truly "full of bloody crimes." Many such cases (as evidenced in high-profile cases of recent years) are left "open-ended."

After a defendant's acquittal, cases are either ignored or dismissed altogether—as if the court system, drained by the sensationalism surrounding those cases, no longer has the *obligation* to serve justice. The mentality seems to be, "If the bigshot-superstar-celebrity-'god' didn't do it, we don't care who did it." In the end, families of victims are not given proper closure to an undue tragedy.

One of the idiosyncrasies of the U.S. justice system is that, if an individual is acquitted in a *criminal* trial, he can still be prosecuted and convicted in a *civil* trial—although the circumstances and evidence in the case *have not changed*. A conviction in a civil trial does not carry the same weight as it would in a criminal trial. Invariably, the pursuit of such cases is more about money than justice.

And People Can't Get Enough

How does society respond to such atrocities? Based on the plethora of sex, violence and gore now found in almost every form of mass media and "entertainment," the response seems to be, "More, more, more!"

Lifestyles and actions that were once considered taboo—or, at best, *unnatural*—are now not only socially acceptable (and available at the touch of a button), but also openly promoted. Consider the many films and television series featuring vampirism, cannibalism, witchcraft, sorcery, graphic violence, adultery, homosexuality, bestiality—and every other form of abominable behavior condemned in God's Word.

One example of this is the use of a popular television series as the basis for a *college course*:

"Calgary—Dr. Maurice Yacowar will be teaching a film studies course this fall based on his book, *Sopranos on the Couch: Analyzing Television's Greatest Series*" (*Calgary Sun*, 8/28/02).

Common fare on this show? Violence, obscene language, adultery, revenge—not to mention that it promotes the concept of operating "above the law." Speaking of the series, Dr. Yacowar states, "I think it is refreshing...I'm teaching *The Sopranos* to help [students] develop analytical skills."

Although people almost always prove the adage, "You are what you eat [physically and mentally]," Yacowar "doesn't expect his students to learn the finer points of being a wise guy, how to keep your friends close, but your enemies closer, or how to deal death to anyone who crosses you" (Ibid).

This is in direct contrast to the way Christ exhorts us to live: "But I say unto you, *Love your enemies*, bless them that curse you, *do good to them that hate you*, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Matt. 5:44). And, as He had stated in Matthew 4:4, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."

Another example of the promotion of violence and evil is in the video game industry. Video games have long contained elements of violence and anti-social undertones. Technology has afforded game designers the ability to graphically portray "blood-and-guts" scenarios, as well as other realistic effects.

One such game is entitled *Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*: "'We [are] adding a modern, sinister spin on a classic theme, and creating a powerful main character that players will identify with. We're also going all-out with mature content mixed with action and violence of Biblical proportions. This is not your father's video game—it's more like *The Matrix* meets *Hellraiser*..."

“As *Abaddon*, the player must find the three ‘Chosen’ and combine their untapped powers in time to save the world from destruction; but that won’t be easy—God’s Chosen are mortals, not to mention they’re a *prostitute, a serial killer and a corrupt politician...*”

Aside from the fact that this game portrays Satan (Abaddon—Rev. 9:11) as God (notice Isaiah 5:20; II Corinthians 11:14), it also includes such features as: “incredible *gore and destruction* effects including *dismemberment*, realistic and dynamic exit wounds through objects and people, morph animations, melting, and blood splatters...spectacular *cinematic violence*” (*Business Wire*, 8/1/02).

Such forms of “entertainment,” coupled with lax parental standards, will only serve to produce a generation “having their conscience seared with a hot iron” (I Tim. 4:2), and “without natural affection” (II Tim. 3:3).

Rampant murder is but one problem in a society cut off from God. (Notice Isaiah 59:2.) Other acts of crime are regularly making news headlines, attesting even further to man’s inhumanity to fellowman.

We will now briefly examine various accounts of other classifications of crime. Keep in mind that such classifications represent man’s way of defining the parameters of right and wrong.

As mentioned, God’s Law is simple, summed up by Christ as “love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:39), and “whatsoever you would that men should do to you, do you even so to them” (7:12).

Kidnapping

It seems that news headlines are regularly carrying reports of missing persons believed to have been forcefully taken from their home, school or workplace.

Recent years have seen an epidemic of missing persons. Families, friends and acquaintances are left to agonize over the fate of those they have lost.

Often, when those missing are found, they are not just kidnap victims, but murder victims. Communities are left with the looming question of “Why?”

Law enforcement has implemented

various programs in an attempt to curb this ever-worsening trend. Among these is the recently-developed “Amber Alert” system, which alerts communities when a child has been declared missing. While this system may serve to prevent *some* tragedies, it is, as stressed throughout this report, merely another way of treating the EFFECT instead of the CAUSE. Therefore, it will not solve the problem in the long run.

As you read some of the following accounts, think of the pain and suffering that victims and families would not have to endure if the world were living according to Christ’s words.

“Lancaster, Calif., Aug. 2—Two teenage California girls were back with their families Friday after being kidnapped...by a man who police said was only moments away from killing them” (*msnbc.com*).

“Los Angeles, Aug. 13—Using a composite sketch and an ‘Amber Alert’ to get the word out quickly to the media and the public, police on Tuesday searched for a man who might have abducted a 4-year-old girl from a popular park near downtown Los Angeles.

“[Victim], 7, was taken in February from her home in a San Diego suburb, and a man is on trial in her slaying. [Victim], 5, was snatched outside her Orange County home last month while playing with a friend. A man has been charged in her death” (*msnbc.com*).

“Riverside, Calif. (AP)—Police issued a statewide ‘Amber Alert’ on Tuesday for a 10-year-old girl reported missing from her home” (*ap.tbo.com*, 8/20/02).

“Oregon City, Ore. (AP)—An FBI agent said the mystery of two Oregon girls who disappeared from their apartment complex appeared to be solved after officials searching a neighbor’s home identified the body of one girl and found a second set of remains” (*The Plain Dealer*).

“London (AP)—A school caretaker was charged Tuesday with the murder of two 10-year-old girls whose disappearance from an English village has dominated the news for two weeks and shocked much of the country” (*ap.tbo.com*).

The following is but one example of justice unserved. It involves a murder case that, at the time of this printing, is almost six years old. The single short statement, quoted below, speaks volumes about man’s judicial system and the current trends we see:

“Dec. 27, 2000—Jon Benét Ramsey has been dead for 1,441 days. The investigation into her murder has been dead for just as long” (*Denver Post*).

Drugs

The drug culture is one of the major driving forces behind crime today. Notice the following accounts, the first of which demonstrates an issue many would not have imagined as recently as even five to ten years ago:

“Calgary—Street-hardened Calgary cops are shocked and disturbed after nabbing an *eight-year-old crack dealer* during a downtown drug bust” (*Sun Media*, 8/27/02).

“Authorities say [suspected drug dealer] never ventured into Longwood Estates to do business, but that’s where he made his money. He drove a Lexus, wheeled around on a Titan Gecko motorcycle and rode a 2001 all-terrain vehicle. Prosecutors said he was able to afford all that by *peddling cocaine to street dealers* in the public-housing complex” (*The Plain Dealer*, 8/20/02).

“In 1998 an estimated 61,000 convicted jail inmates said they had committed their offense to *get money for drugs*. Of convicted property and drug offenders, about 1 in 4 had committed their crimes to get money for drugs” (*Bureau of Justice Statistics*).

“On October 3, 1991, William Sessions, then-director of the FBI, testified at a hearing on Asian organized crime before the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. ‘The Boryokudan,’ he said, referring to the yakuza, ‘have built one of the world’s largest criminal organizations...the Boryokudan, in 1988, grossed almost 10 billion U.S. dollars in revenue, one-third from crystal methamphetamine, a relatively new and powerful stimulant known on the street as ‘ice.’ The Boryokudan control an estimated 90 percent of the

'ice' flow into Hawaii" (*The Crime Library*).

Since the publishing of the above quote, the drug problem has only gotten worse. To understand the scope of the problem, please request our free report *The Tragedy of Drug Abuse*.

Arson

The act of intentionally setting fire to houses, buildings, ships or other property "is not a hidden crime. It's *murder by fire*, a violent crime against property and people. Every year, arson kills 700 people, destroys 100,000 buildings and costs more than \$1.4 billion," U.S. Fire Administrator Carrye Brown said...[In 1995], USFA provide \$2 million to 12 states to develop anti-arson programs" (*ENN Daily Report*).

Consider the following U.S. statistics from the above website. They illustrate the evil of human nature:

- Arson is the second leading cause of residential fire deaths and accounts for approximately 25 percent of all fires in the United States.

- Arson is the leading cause of dollar loss from fire, exceeding \$2 billion annually.

- One fifth of all property loss is due to arson.

- Arson is a violent crime that claimed 700 lives last year (1993).

- Some 500,000 arson fires occur each year.

- *The 1994 Uniform Crime Report* shows the nation experienced a five percent increase in arson. The north-east region, however, experienced a 17 percent increase, three times the national average.

- Only 15 percent of arson cases are closed by arrest.

The following account shows how one man committed arson as a front for burglary:

"Larson Justice Center—[Michael] Cook...was arrested in 1998 on burglary and robbery charges and then indicted by a criminal jury in July 1999 on murder, arson, burglary and other charges.

"He is accused of killing [two elderly female victims]. They died in fires in their mobile home parks in early 1998. During both fires, several

burglaries were committed in the parks. Authorities suspect the fires were set to cover up the break-ins.

"Cook's trial has been delayed several times for various reasons. His *mental state became an issue* and at one point criminal proceedings against him were suspended until he was declared mentally competent to stand trial" (*thedesertsun.com*).

The Insanity Issue

One must ask: If a person commits a crime *due to mental problems*, why should that in any way influence whether or not he is tried, convicted and properly punished? As mentioned before, why should insanity be equated with *innocence*? The crime was still committed!

Rabid *animals* (and even domesticated pets) that attack people, and either maim or kill them, are "put to sleep." Why would the same course of action not be taken in the case of a *person* who consistently proves by his actions that he is a danger and threat to society?

This flaw in the criminal justice system has served to create problems such as the following:

"Larson Justice Center—In a case that gets more bizarre each day, a judge must determine midway through trial whether the defendant is mentally capable of understanding what's happening in court [again, the lack of such understanding does not, in any way, change the fact that the defendant committed his crimes].

"Judge James Hawkins on Thursday appointed two psychologists to examine [defendant], 38, so the competency issue can be resolved. If the psychologists agree with the prosecution that [defendant] is mentally competent and is merely faking mental problems, the trial will continue. But if they determine—as the defense believes—that [defendant] is mentally incompetent, the trial will end...

"[defendant] is charged with 10 crimes, including several first-degree burglaries, and faces 272 years to life in prison if convicted of all counts.

"Hawkins appointed...as defense attorney because [defendant] had been exhibiting strange and disruptive

behavior. Earlier this week, [defendant] entered the courtroom with fecal matter smeared on himself, which wasn't detected until the odor became apparent...

"Deputy District Attorney...contends [defendant's] behavior is part of an act designed to make people think he's crazy and to disrupt the trial. [defendant] has caused delays in his 4-year-old case by hiring and firing attorneys and alternating between wanting and not wanting one, Greenberg said.

"[District Attorney] contends [defendant] suffers from mental problems. He bases his opinion partly on an earlier psychologist's report indicating [defendant] lacks the mental competency necessary to assist in his defense" (*thedesertsun.com*).

The above account illustrates one of the reasons for the world's inability to solve its problems: the absence of wisdom and sound judgment. (Request our booklet *Why MAN CANNOT SOLVE HIS PROBLEMS - Unknown Until Now.*)

Cases such as this one merely serve to unnecessarily congest the court system, at a great expense of time and money.



There are only *three* commandments of God that man *enforces* through the implementation of various laws. Other laws, incorporated into various *official* legal codes, *may* address a few of the other commandments in a general way.

However, many are either considered to be too narrowly defined (by man's standards), and are thereby not "one-size-fits-all"; or various political agendas result in the partial dismissal or complete abandonment of certain laws altogether. But what would the world be like if people universally

obeyed just these three commandments?

(1) If There Were No Killing?

Imagine a world in which everyone obeyed the Sixth Commandment. What would it be like? What would be missing from the world as we know it, and what would be present in its place?

If even the *spirit* of the Sixth Commandment were obeyed (Matt. 5:21-22), think of the problems that would disappear. There would not be the suspicion and fear that exist in society today. Discrimination and violent civil unrest would vanish.

People would feel safe walking at night. Parents would feel safe allowing their children to play outside, without having to watch over them constantly.

In Zechariah 8:4-5, we read, "Thus says the LORD of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls *playing in the streets* thereof."

These are just a few of the blessings that will be enjoyed in the millennium, the one-thousand year rule of God's kingdom on earth (Rev. 20:2-7; II Pet. 3:8). As we read, in Isaiah 11:9, "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."

There will be no murderers in the kingdom, as we read in I John 3:15: "Whosoever hates his brother is a murderer: and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him." At that time, Satan, who inspires hate and murder (John 8:44), will be bound (Rev. 20:1-2) and no longer able to influence the world.

The following offers a glimpse at just a few of the changes we would see in the world if just this one command from God were obeyed.

Impact on Judicial Systems

Think of the decreased demand on the world's judicial systems if the Sixth Commandment were kept. Their caseloads would drop sharply. There would not be defense lawyers trying to plea-bargain for clients who had

committed heinous acts of murder.

There would not be all of the "red tape" involved in determining when, and to what degree, killing constitutes murder. Much of forensic science would be a thing of the past. The endless appeals process would become obsolete. There might still be a police force, to deal with those who break other laws, but it would not have to be as large, and they would not need to carry firearms.

Prison populations would not be increasing at the rate that they are today. According to a report by Darrell K. Gilliard and Allen J. Beck, Ph.D., BJS Statisticians, at midyear 1997 an estimated 1,725,842 persons were incarcerated in the nation's prisons and jails. Federal and state prison authorities and local jail authorities held in their custody 645 persons per 100,000 U.S. residents.

Prisoners in the custody of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Federal Government accounted for two-thirds of the incarcerated population (1,158,763 inmates). The other third were held in local jails (567,079).

There would be no more armed robberies or assaults with deadly weapons. There would be no need for "self-defense" classes. There would be no more "hate crimes," or even slander (character assassination). This would change the tone of political campaigns and elections. Yellow journalism (the brand of reporting found in tabloids such as *The National Enquirer*, *Star*, etc.) would be a thing of the past.

Impact on Military

Imagine what the world would be like if nations lived without the fear of invasion. It has been said that throughout history, most nations have been either preparing for war, at war, or recovering from war.

If the entire world obeyed the command "THOU SHALT NOT KILL," nations would not be amassing nuclear arsenals. They would not have to take inventory of such arsenals, constantly worried about theft by rogue states. Terrorism would disappear. All branches of the armed forces would become obsolete. All funds currently directed toward military efforts could

be used to beautify the earth, and to *build* rather than *destroy*.

Effect on Gun Sales?

Obedience to the Sixth Commandment would also result in a dramatic drop in gun sales. According to statistics, Americans use firearms to defend themselves from criminals about 760,000 times a year. This figure is the lowest among a group of 15 nationwide polls done by organizations including *Gallup* and the *Los Angeles Times*.

Approximately 11% of gun owners and 13% of handgun owners have used their firearms for protection from criminals. (*justfacts.com*)

What About Families?

Imagine the difference that would be seen on the family level. Abortion would be abolished (approximately 4,000 babies are aborted every day in the U.S. alone).

There would no longer be the silent sins of domestic violence and child abuse. In the U.S., a woman is beaten by her husband, boyfriend, or live-in partner, every nine seconds.

According to government agencies that investigate child abuse, about 3 million children in the U.S. were reported as abused or neglected in 1997; 2.3 percent of children in the United States—or about 1.5 million children—experience abusive violence each year.

Divorce caused by domestic violence would also dramatically drop.

Change in Travel

Concerns about travel safety would not be as great. There would be no more cases of "road rage." Between 1990 and 1996, road rage resulted in approximately 83,000 deaths.

There would be no more cases of carjacking, and hijacking of commercial vehicles (airplanes, buses, trains, etc.). People and nations would work together to settle their disputes peacefully.

How Entertainment Would Change

Violence would no longer be glamorized as a form of entertainment.

According to a Canadian study, television violence affects children of varying ages differently:

“As toddlers, children will mimic what they see and hear on television. A number of preschoolers pay greater attention to the TV than toddlers, though most preschoolers can’t tell the difference between fantasy and reality—and may not distinguish between commercials and programs.

“Once children reach elementary school age, they begin to stay up late and watch more adult programs.

“Teens prefer adult programming that deals with subjects like growing up, dating, alcohol, drugs and sex. Horror movies, music videos, and X-rated films are also popular with teens. These programs often contain violent pornographic images and scenes of abuse against women. Research has shown that these shows can convey to boys the message that violence against women is OK, and can make teenage girls more afraid” (*Television Violence: A Review of the Effects on Children of Different Ages*, Wendy L. Josephson, Ph.D., 1995).

“Dale Kunkel, American media critic, monitored the content of five major U.S. newspapers and watched the nightly newscasts on ABC, CBS and NBC throughout November 1993. He found that 48 per cent of television news stories about children, and 40 per cent of newspaper stories, involved reports of crime and violence” (*How the News Media “See” Kids*, Dale Kunkel, Fall 1994).

These types of programming have long-term effects on children. They may grow up unable to distinguish fiction from reality. This results in a disassociation of cause and effect (e.g., a child sees a film, in which an actor is killed, then sees the same actor [alive and well] in another film). They may attempt to “experiment” for themselves. Obviously, there would not be “Hollywood special-effects” results.

(2) If There Were No Stealing?

What if everyone obeyed the Eighth Commandment? How would the world be different?

To most people, the most obvious difference would be the absence of

news stories involving thefts and robberies. Retailers would no longer have to mark up prices to compensate for losses due to shoplifting. That savings would then be passed on to consumers.

According to the latest *National Retail Security Survey* report, “Internal theft now costs U.S. retailers \$14.9 billion annually, compared to shoplifting costs of \$10 billion. Employee theft and shoplifting combined account for the largest source of property crime committed annually in the United States.”

Government and Industry

There would be other positive effects as well: Governments would no longer have to deal with the problem of tax evasion. Aside from the immediate benefit of increased revenue, money would not have to be spent *pursuing* those who do not want to “render unto Caesar what is Caesar’s” (Mark 12:17).

The face of the business world would change, as there would no longer be scandals involving theft, money laundering, fraud and insider trading. There would be no deceitful dealings with stockholders and other investors. Accountants would keep honest records. And again, consumers would reap the benefits, through lower prices on goods and services.

On the personal level, locks on vehicles and homes would not be as much of a necessity. Burglar alarm systems would also become relics of the past.

Some benefits of obeying this *one* commandment are not as obvious: For instance, professional writers would no longer have to worry about someone stealing their work, through copyright infringement. In fact, copyright law itself would become obsolete.

Likewise, inventors would not have to carry patents on their products. If even the “spirit of the law” were obeyed, and people did not even *covet* the things of others, people would feel free to work together on ideas, and existing products could be improved without an air of competition.

Again, contrary to the premise of consumer-driven “free enterprise” capitalism, the public would ultimately benefit. There would not be the need to

constantly compare goods and services, in search of the “best deal,” because business would be universally conducted with the consumer’s best interests in mind. There would not be different product standards for different demographics of society—“one price fits all,” and everyone “gets his money’s worth.”

On the Job

Management-labor relations would improve, due to everyone doing “honest work for honest pay.” Since *honesty* ultimately precludes stealing, there would be no need for labor unions to look over industry’s shoulder to ensure fair treatment of workers.

There would also not be the insurance company battles we see today, over issues of workers’ compensation. If an employee were injured on the job, the company would see to it that he and his family were taken care of. And there would not be the danger of fraudulent claims.

“Dramatic increases in workers’ compensation premiums throughout the late 1980s and early 1990s fueled unsubstantiated charges that costs were high in part because *workers abused the system, fraudulently collecting benefits for faked injuries or remaining on benefits far longer than their recovery required*. The American Insurance Association estimated fraud losses at 10% of the cost of claims paid, or about \$3 billion. The National Insurance Crime Bureau doubled the AIA’s estimate to \$6 billion, even though it was involved in only 99 fraud prosecutions in 1994 and 134 in 1995 nationwide. The Coalition Against Insurance Fraud adopted the AIA’s estimate. One insurance company president put the cost of workers’ compensation fraud at \$30 billion a year. These huge numbers grabbed the attention of the public and policyholders. The presumption in the press and in the state houses was that fraud was rampant and that most workers’ compensation fraud was claimant fraud” (*LRA’s Guide to Workers’ Compensation*).

Employers and employees would work together, and both would benefit. There would be increased company loyalty. Workers would be motivated

to stay with their company for “the long haul.” Promised retirement benefits could be counted on. And ultimately, again, consumers would benefit, as well, in the form of better products and lower prices.

(3) If There Were No Lying?

Imagine a world in which everyone automatically obeyed the Ninth Commandment. How different it would be from today’s world! If everyone could be counted on to always be truthful, in every situation, people’s conduct would change dramatically, not just in what they say. If people were always bound “to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth,” their actions would reflect it.

Change in the Judicial System

Consider how the legal system would change if just this one commandment of God were universally obeyed.

Since would-be criminals would not have the option of hiding behind the Fifth Amendment—whether or not the truth would incriminate them—some might think twice before committing their crimes.

Also consider what Christ stated in John 8:32: “And you shall know the truth, and the *truth shall make you free.*”

(Today, when cross-examined on the stand, crime *victims* and *eyewitnesses* are *not* given the option to invoke the Fifth Amendment—and everything they say *is* “used against them.” *Their* private lives are often paraded around for all to see, as part of a defense team’s effort to discredit them.)

Also, since court case participants would not have to be “sworn in,” court proceedings would not be as lengthy. Polygraph tests would be obsolete. And defense lawyers, most of whom specialize in camouflaging their clients behind a barrage of “legalese,” would have to seek another line of employment. Criminals would have to accept their fate—and any who would

be wrongfully accused (obviously no longer as a result of someone else’s *dishonesty*) could count on a proper representation of the facts, and a prompt acquittal. The whole appeals process would vanish.

If everyone were honest, there would not even be the need for “trial by jury.” While not every case brought to trial would be “open and shut,” verdicts could be rendered according to the “mouth of two or three witnesses” (Num. 35:30; Deut. 17:6; 19:15). The entire jury selection process would become obsolete—and jurors would not be unnecessarily involved in the matter.

There would not be the need for forensic experts or criminal psychologists, or other court-ordained investigators. And courtroom proceedings would not be sensationalized, ratings-driven spectacles. In the end, there would truly be “justice for all.”

Effect on Advertising

Another beneficial effect of universal honesty would be the disappearance of deceitful advertising. Service and product misrepresentation would be a thing of the past. Products would live up to their manufacturer’s claims.

Advertisers would not employ gimmicks to attract consumers, and there would be no “fine print” or a need to “read between the lines.” People would know what they were getting—and that they were getting what they paid for.

Honesty in Politics

Imagine how different politics would be if all politicians were honest. There would not be the “mud-slinging” and slander that we see today. Candidates would win or lose elections according to their own merits, rather than how much dirt they could dig up on their opponents.

Elected officials could be counted on to deliver what they promised. Therefore, candidates would not make promises they couldn’t keep. People would have faith in their leaders and

representatives, who would truly have their constituents’ best interests in mind.

Of course, God’s form of government is not democratic; but this change, of and by itself, in such a system, would evidence visible positive results.

There would not be the mistrust and competition between political parties. There would not be special interest groups lobbying and competing for funding or legislation. Such activities involve agreements of “scratch-my-back-and-I’ll-scratch-yours”—not taking into consideration the well-being of others.

The Time is Coming

If the entire world obeyed just these three commandments, we can see that dramatic changes would take place.

During the millennium, these commandments will be obeyed (as well as the other seven). Notice Isaiah 2:4: “they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, *neither shall they learn war any more.*”

Also notice Paul’s instruction in Philippians 2:4: “Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.”

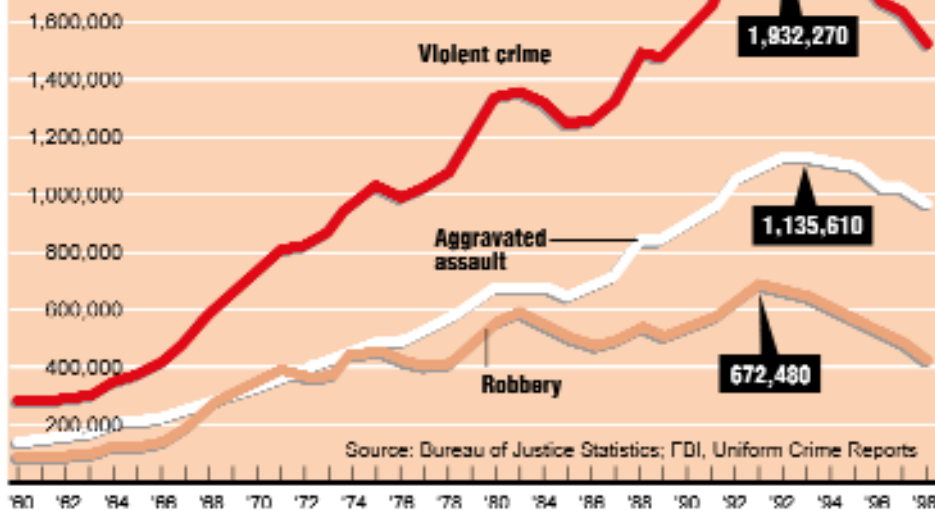
Paul is not saying that we should covet the possessions of others or meddle in their lives. Rather, he is saying that we should be concerned for their health and well-being, and also give due consideration to their property.

Notice Micah 4:4, which is speaking of the coming millennium: “But they shall sit every man under *his vine* and under *his fig tree*; and NONE SHALL MAKE THEM AFRAID: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken it.”

Mankind does not—and will never—know how to solve—or even deter—the worldwide crimewave.

But God does have a solution. And it is coming *very* soon. What an awesome time to look forward to! □

U.S. Crime Statistics, 1960-98



Canadian Crime Statistics

Rate per 100,000 population	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
All incidents	9,309.9	8,956.1	8,503.7	8,126.3	8,572.5
Criminal Code offences*	8,452.8	8,136.5	7,727.5	7,646.4	7,747.3
Crimes of violence	990.1	979.1	955.2	981.8	994.5
Homicide	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Attempted murder	2.9	2.5	2.3	2.5	2.3
Assaults (level 1-3**)	741.6	740.3	725.8	759.6	769.5
Sexual assault	90.1	84.5	78.2	78.0	78.6
Other sexual offences	12.2	11.4	10.8	10.1	9.7
Robbery	98.7	95.8	94.2	87.9	88.2
Other crimes of violence***	42.7	42.9	42.2	42.0	44.4
Property crimes	4,867.2	4,555.3	4,262.3	4,070.2	4,046.5
Breaking and entering	1,244.9	1,159.7	1,042.8	953.4	908.9
Motor vehicle theft	590.7	548.5	529.2	521.0	547.6
Drugs	222.1	231.5	262.8	286.3	295.7

*Excluding traffic offences.

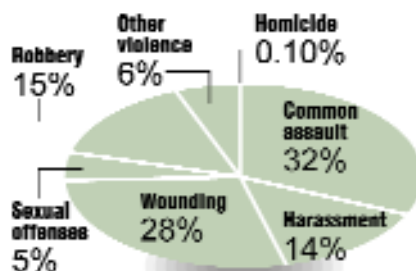
**Assault level 1 is the first level of assault. It constitutes the intentional application of force without consent, attempt or threat to apply force to another person, and openly wearing a weapon (or an imitation) and accosting or impeding another person. "Assault with weapon or causing bodily harm" is the second level of assault. It constitutes assault with a weapon, threats to use a weapon (or an imitation), or assault causing bodily harm. "Aggravated assault level 3" is the third level of assault. It applies to anyone who wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of complainant.

***Includes unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharging firearms with intent, abductions, assaults against police officers, assaults against other peace or public officers and other assaults.

Source: Statistics Canada (www.statcan.ca)

Britain: Crime Snapshot

Police recorded violent crime, February 2001:



Source: Crime in England and Wales 2001/2002

Christians and Jury Duty

Many believe that the *problem* with today's justice system is overloaded courts, corrupt judges and attorneys, bad or insubstantial laws and weak or misinformed jurors. Without God's Holy Spirit working in their lives, they do not understand the deeper implications of the problem. Since they do not see each of these as merely *symptoms* of a larger, *spiritual*, problem, they are not seeking a *spiritual* solution.

Many view it from a political, partisan perspective: "If we can only vote in the *right people*, all these problems will be solved." Almost invariably, such people (politicians *and* constituents) are driven by their own political agendas, not by a concern for the common good (and definitely not by a concern for what *God* says in His Word, the Bible).

Some professing Christians even view the matter this way: Christians are imbued with God's Holy Spirit, and it imparts to us the ability of discernment (Heb. 5:14; 1 Cor. 2:15). Therefore, considering that we will one day judge the world and angels (1 Cor. 6:2-3), who is more qualified to serve jury duty than a Christian?

The logic continues to develop along this line: If good Christians everywhere would get involved in the process of "trial by jury" (a critical factor in society's promotion of "justice for all"), the net result would be better courts, judges and laws, and the world could stamp out injustice.

But what does God's Word say about serving jury duty? What would He have us do? Properly answering this question requires that we examine the justice system.

For instance, consider that, in criminal trials, pertinent evidence or testimony is often withheld, for various reasons.

Such reasons include: (1) Evidence or testimony (however

valid) may have been obtained through a method not sanctioned or authorized by the particular organization or department handling it, or (2) evidence (however valid) may have been derived from the defendant's past circumstances. (Supposedly such evidence is not relevant to the defendant's recent actions—although Christ stated, "You shall know them by their *FRUITS*"—Matt. 7:16. But legally, such evidence is not even admissible in court.)

Christ also stated, "...as I hear, I judge: and *My judgment is just*, because I seek not Mine own will, but *the will of the Father* which has sent Me" (John 5:30). Most people are not seeking God's will in their lives. This is true of today's legal systems.

Also, God expects us to render decisions based on *ALL* the facts. Through Solomon, He states, "He that answers a matter *before he hears it*, it is *folly* and *shame* unto him" (Prov. 18:13).

When considering that a person's future (in some cases, his life) hangs in the balance, a Christian cannot afford to make a decision without knowing all the facts. There is potentially more at stake for the Christian than for the person for whom the verdict is being rendered. Notice Proverbs 17:15: "He that *justifies the wicked*, and he that *condemns the just*, even they both are *abomination* to the LORD."

Christ also stated, "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you shall be judged: and with what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again" (Matt. 7:1-2).

Speaking to the Corinthians—and all true Christians—Paul wrote, "For what have I to do to judge them also that are without [those not part of God's true Church]? Do not you judge them that are within? But them that are without *God*

judges" (1 Cor. 5:12-13).

Although true Christians will *one day* judge angels, God has not given us the responsibility or right to pass judgment on others (insofar as determining the fate of another human being, in a courtroom setting) *in this life* (also notice Matthew 7:3-5).

God also stated, "Vengeance is Mine" (Rom. 12:19; Deut. 32:35). Also, only God knows a person's heart (1 Chron. 28:9; Rom. 8:27; 1 Sam. 16:7), and whether or not one is repentant for his actions. His Word shows that a penalty for sin must still be paid, even if true repentance is evidenced. (See II Samuel 12.)

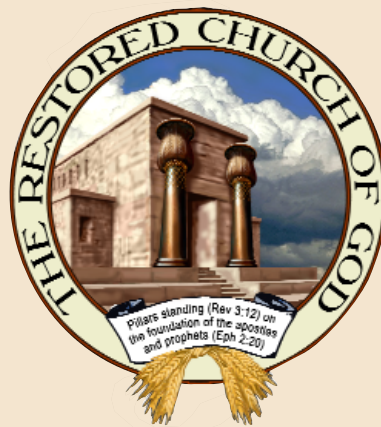
It is *only* at the point of true repentance, followed by baptism and the receiving of God's Holy Spirit, that Christ's sacrifice—made as payment for the penalty of our sins—is applied in one's life. (Request our booklets *What do you mean—WATER BAPTISM?* and *What is true CONVERSION?*)

And, although sin (and crime) merits punishment, God judges according to mercy (Psa. 119:156), whereas humanly-devised court systems do not. And when God judges, the *punishment* always fits the *crime*.

In today's judicial systems, in which the "tail wags the dog," and decisions are *forced*, according to structural impurities (such as "plea bargaining" and the abuse of "Miranda rights" and the Fifth Amendment), that is *not* always the case. In fact, it is *rarely* the case.

In Revelation 18:4, Christ commands true Christians, "Come out of her, My people, that you be not *partakers of her sins*, and that you *receive not of her plagues*."

The solution to the problem is *not* for Christians to get involved in the process. Only Christ's Return and the establishment of the kingdom of God on earth will truly yield a system of "JUSTICE FOR ALL."



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