

9-11: Where Was Our God Today?

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The Questions

On the morning of 11 September 2001, Islamic fundamentalist terrorists hijacked 4 commercial passenger jets in Boston and the New York area. Terrorists flew three of the jets, fully fueled for west coast flights, into three American landmarks: World Trade Center buildings 1 and 2, twin towers that have dominated the Manhattan skyline for 25 years, and the Pentagon. The WTC towers were fully destroyed, along with several surrounding buildings from the falling debris, and one side of the Pentagon was mostly destroyed.

Later that day, my sister Claudia wrote to our family mailing list:

- “Where was our God today?”

George W. Bush, the president of the United States, declared the following Thursday a day of National mourning. Countries all over the world participated in it and sent condolences and heaps of flowers to our embassies and officials.

The highlight of the day of mourning, to some, was the service held in Washington DC’s

National Cathedral, and invitation-only event for government leaders and dignitaries. All the living presidents except Reagan, sick with Alzheimer’s disease, attended. The highlight of the service was the eulogy delivered by the aging and ailing Reverend Billy Graham Sr, considered by many to be “America’s Pastor”. To start his sermon, the reverend said

- “Many of you ask ‘How could God allow such a thing to happen?’ I cannot answer that question to my own satisfaction.”

Since both my sister and Dr. Graham seem stymied, I thought I would take the time to answer the above questions.

Let me start out by saying that I am not a self-proclaimed expert on the subject of God. Although I have studied considerably, I have limited cognitive experience with God. And so, I will preface my remarks with a short discussion of the nature of God from my viewpoint.

A Model of the Nature of God and Destiny of Man

God is the creator and upholder of the universe of universes and has no origin in space or time. While aspects of his nature are all-pervasive and therefore have no spatial location, other aspects have apparent focal points in space. While God existed before there was such a thing as personality, he, being the source of all personality, must be both personal and pre-personal in nature. He is every bit as much a person as any human is, but he is so much more.

Because direct relationship to us is pre-personal, we are mostly unaware of his efforts to communicate to us. We must become attuned to his inner leading in order to know it is he who leads us. It is thereby possible to develop and become conscious of a personal relationship with him, just as it is possible to develop a personal relationship with someone via the Internet.

God has the finest and noblest character that is a pattern of the potential evolutionary culmination of the character of created beings having the potential to know, love, and be like him. His character is the absolute embodiment of truth, beauty, and goodness. Because of this, humans consider a relationship with God to be highly valuable, and they also consider their struggle to become like him to be an effort of the highest possible human value.

Since the quest to know, love, and be like God is man's noblest possible quest, and since that is of the profoundest value, religion, then, is defined as the pursuit of supreme values. Therefore, any pursuit of supreme values is in and of itself religious. Any true religionist considers the values he deems supreme to be so important that the entire universe should likewise know and embrace them. This is the source of divine enthusiasm for life that drives many religionists to be evangelists, missionaries, or just good parents.

There are many manifestations of God regarding his relationship with man. Here are three that relate to this issue:

- 1) God, the first source and center of all actual and potential reality, is actually resident in and has a focal point in the universe of universes. It is reasonable to assume his focal point to be at the geographical center of infinity. Since that is the point from which all matter and energy emanates, there must be an absolute machine there, and for the sake of communication, I will call that the eternal Isle of Paradise.
- 2) Consider for the purposes of this discussion that God is centered in the nature of three persons, a Father (thought, or originator), Son (word, or expression of personality), and Spirit (deed, or expression of action). A pre-personal spirit fragment of the Father indwells the mind of each normal-minded human. Man's personality, itself

a gift from the Father to each human, is the human identity. It is timeless, spaceless, and immutable. It is the entity that makes moral decisions, is aware that it is aware, communicates thoughts and ideas knowingly with others, loves, and craves to know God. The personality is destined not only to be the eternal companion of that Father-fragment ("God within us"), but also to become fused with that spirit fragment of God, provided the personality sincerely desires and wills it. Man therefore has a divine destiny in the personal and eternal companionship with God himself.

- 3) Your soul, that part of you that you have created by virtue of your decisions to think and do what you consider to be the right things, is (we hope) becoming a bigger and bigger part of the composite you as time goes on. A typical human being consists of body, mind, personality, Father fragment, and, to the extent created by one's decisions and actions, a soul.

Your devotion to the Father's will embodies at the very least your noblest concepts of truth, beauty, and goodness. According to the highest ideals taught by the world's most enlightened philosophers and religionists, particularly by Jesus of Nazareth nearly 2000 years ago, man can, by being devoted to the Father's will and sincerely acting on that devotion, someday become like God. Thus, someday, if you are sincere, you may decide to "be your soul" once and for all. Each of your actions will then be spiritually motivated and you will be a living ambassador of the Father himself on and to the world around you.

If you are rightly successful in that adventure, you (your personality) may fuse with the fragment of the Father that indwells your mind. You will thereby synthesize a new being that has an eternal destiny in direct and knowing contact with the Father himself. That is the goal of all human existence.

It is worth noting that phenomena associated with such fusion may have been witnessed and recorded as a brilliant flash of light as your body disintegrates and your soul zooms to heaven. One biblical reference is the disappearance of Elijah in a "chariot of fire". A 60 Minutes show on spontaneous combustion documented similarly mysterious disappearance of people in association with evidence of such flashes about 25 years ago

In other words, if you are successful in your human quest to be like God, you will flash off, and you will not have to wait for your body to shrivel and die like most folks to.

Why God Allows Bad Things to Happen

To answer the question "how could God let this happen?" he obviously lets *everything* happen. It is not God's way to stick his fingers in our affairs. Here's why:

- 1) We as individuals have to reach for, get to know, love and become devoted to God on our own accord. He never forces us, and he never exerts undue influence, other than his persistent leading from within our minds on a super-conscious level. If he did, we could never evolve willingly to become and be like him.
- 2) We as a social organism of many people, starting from the family and working up to the federation of nations in a someday one-world government, must voluntarily yield successive levels of our

Meanwhile, let us hope a terrorist does not take you out and cut your earth adventure short. But even if one does, rest assured that you will soon find yourself in the good company of angels, loved ones you have known, and new loved ones to get to know. Your adventure of spiritual growth, perfection expression, and service to God and others around you will continue into eternity. It is unlikely that a human who dies and goes to heaven will suddenly be perfect without having grown through the process by his personal choices. When we get to Heaven, we will simply continue where we left off in our quest to know, love, and become like God.

sovereignty to higher authority (the highest ultimately being God himself), *without* being forced to do so.

There are many growing pains in the process of #1 and #2 above, including things like angering your kids and having them leave you, annoying your parents with bad behavior and having them ground you or throw you out, and many other things that conspire to make a person look for the ideal solution to how to live life in a *social* group. Most people have studied history enough to know that human civilization's governmental units have thus evolved from the family to the clan to the tribe to the state to the nation to the federation of nations. We do not yet have a one-world government that provides freedom from terrorism and war, but someday we shall have one. That is the obvious course of evolution of human civilization.

Nationalism is the Only Cause of War

This will never happen so long as one group of people considers itself to be spiritually superior to and deserving of lording it over other groups. That attitude breeds conflict and war. On a community level the attitude is called provincialism. On a state or national level it is called nationalism.

Nationalism is the one and only cause of all wars. German nationalism precipitated World War I. German, Japanese, and Italian nationalism precipitated World War II. Soviet nationalism precipitated the Cold War. Christian nationalism precipitated the Crusades. Arab nationalism has precipitated continual war and conquest by Muslims of hapless primitive dictatorships and monarchies of the world for 14

centuries. That very same nationalism, in the guise of a religion, today threatens all the non-Muslim countries of the world.

What you have witnessed in the events of 911 is a crucial step in that evolution. It was not necessary, but the complacency of our government and our people, and the primitive

conditions of Islamic governments and groups, have brought about a chain of events that could have been avoided had we paid more attention as a people and nation to the business of security and intelligent world peace.

Why Islamic States are Primitive

Islamic "countries", particularly those in the Mid-east, most particularly the Semitic peoples, are barely out of the clan or tribal form of government. Clans headed by dictators run the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, and the government of Saudi Arabia. All of those clans are Muslim; all have imposed the Islamic religion as well as Islamic law upon their people. Their clan-like or tribal conditions are the reason they seem so whimsical, quick to anger, so haphazardly organized, and so inclined to use terrorism as a tool of expansion of their influence. Those are also the reasons they meanly oppress women, still for the most part treating them as property of men, and still performing clitoral amputations to keep them from enjoying sex enough to stray to another man.

These angry, primitive tribes have relatively newly found oil wealth, and are protected by international law and an international sense of "political correctness". Those allow them to

prey with monstrous terrorism upon more highly civilized and less belligerent countries. It is something like handing ten million dollars to a retarded teenage couple living at home their parents, and sending them out on their own, except that this couple was not reared to believe they will be honored in heaven for murdering infidels in a holy war in the name of God. If they had been reared to believe that, they would immediately buy weapons and perform terrorist acts.

The difference between retards and fundamentalist Muslims is that those Muslims are much more intelligent and clever in how they wreak destruction on those who oppose them. In this analogy, you could see the civilized non-Islamic nations of the world as the parents and Islamic nations predominantly as children who have not yet learned to wield their power with sane deliberation toward the true betterment of mankind.

What is Good and Bad about Islam

Islam has both good and bad elements in it.

- 1) The good part is monotheism, submission to God's will, routine expression of piety through prayer to God five times a day, a sense of benign brotherhood among believers, obligatory social service, and assistance to widows, orphans, and other unfortunates in society.
- 2) The bad part is the encouragement of believers to die in a holy war against the

opponents of Islam (the Koran promises fresh water, jewels, and young girls as heavenly rewards to those killed in a jihad), encouragement of killing or torturing unbelievers, harsh oppression of women and denial of their civil rights, the fact that Islam is both political and social (not purely religious), and Islam's tendency to give its believers a sense of nationalistic pride in being Muslims.

Islam has approximately one billion believers and Islamic governments control about one-fifth

of the world's landmass. Islam has achieved its bulk through 1350 years of military conquest. Islamic fundamentalists (those inclined to wield political and military force) exert much power and influence over the decisions of so-called moderate Islamic states. Islam can be seen as a tool of Arab nationalist expansion, aided in no small part by the fact that all devout Muslims worldwide face Arabia five times a day for ritual prayer. Many actually believe the focus of God's presence on earth is in the Kabaa, the black holy stone in Mecca revered by pagans long before Muhammad was born. Muslim Fundamentalists can and do take control of governments when opportunities arise, and because of that is what they have done recently in Pakistan, Chechnya, and Indonesia, and what they are doing now in Afghanistan, Kashmir, and India. Other previous ex-USSR states are on the list to fall soon, and if they have their way, Israel will be next.

Muslims believe their religion is superior to all others, and they want all people to believe as they do. They are religionists in accordance of

Why Islamic States and Fundamentalist Muslims are Dangerous

You could from the above facts get the idea that it is impossible to have a truly benign Islamic government anywhere in the world till either Islam changes its principles or the government is not dominated by the religion, neither of which is likely during our lifetimes. Such an idea would be very close to the truth. No matter how friendly an Islamic state seems, its government is heavily pressured by Islamic fundamentalists to use the "bad" part of Islam as their guide for domestic and foreign policy.

Why the Future Looks So Bright

In spite of this, when you stand back and look at current events against the grand backdrop of history, you see a stark contrast between most events of today and the horrors of the past. The 9-11 incident is a notable exception to the gradual, sometimes pendulum-like motion of humanity from the dark ages of worldwide despotism and slavery into enlightened times of

the definition I gave earlier. They deem their Koran and supportive writings to be of supreme value. They consider all of it to be true, even the heinous parts that imply Muslims should be the instruments of God's will in forcing all people to be Muslims. Thus their devotion to supreme values, in becoming overwrought, has metamorphosed into fanatic religious nationalism. In other words, Islamic states are the result of Muslim nationalism, and an effort to impose their religion and social regulations onto other people.

The less enlightened Muslims use examples of torture, murder, mayhem, war, conquest, and brutal social control documented in the Koran as the justification for perpetrating the same acts on others. For the most part, Christians and Jews have outgrown the negative influence of similar elements of their holy texts, but a dangerous and large percentage of Muslims have not. Their religious zeal has turned them into rabid Muslim expansionists and Arab nationalists.

And while the government itself may seem friendly, it nevertheless allows fundamentalists to operate with a degree of liberty in the state, or with a blind eye to their export and financing of terrorism as a tool for controlling nations. That is the mechanism by which Islam itself, even the so-called moderate or benign form, actually supports the kind of terrorism that destroyed the World Trade Center and part of the Pentagon. It has nothing to do with God.

people living and working in systems that provide a good balance of liberty and responsibility. This is God's plan. The plan is for us all to become like him of our own free wills, with nobody forcing us.

Therefore, in our zigzag climb into a benign future where all nations and groups promote

peace on earth and good will toward all men, we must spend some time bringing the evils of Islamic terrorism under control, just as a wise parent must discipline her children.

We are on this world to learn to be like God. Part of that growth process includes learning to exercise benign control over the circumstances of the civilizing process, and sometimes taking the toys away from the unruly children that are endangering the process. We as members of a civilized group and the most powerful country in the world, need to insist that our leaders take the financing and toys away from Islamic terrorists, countries that support them, and peoples who applaud them.

God is up there looking down and wondering why we as a nation have our head up our ass. Of course God knows the future. Even so, he is figuratively slapping his forehead over the 9-11 disasters and wondering when we as Americans will start taking responsibility for the terrorist acts being committed in all countries by all hostile people, and acting intelligently to prevent them.

God is waiting for us to grab the raging bull by the horns, ride him to the ground, stick a ring in his nose, and lead him to a green pasture with plenty of heifers in it. There are a bunch of herds of these wild bulls running around the world, and some really bad bulls will be probably get shot in the process.

It will be up the Islamic peacemakers who are left when the dust settles to bring their own religion under control and get the terrorist language out of its holy books.

God will be watching the process just as he was watching yesterday, and through the gentle but persistent leading of those parts of him that reside within us, he will be encouraging us to play our roles in keeping with his commandments to love him and show his love to others by the way we live.

I am saddened that the events of 9-11 were a wakeup call to make the US government stop standing passively by while terrorists and evil dictators rain fire and horror on the heads of innocent people. The USSR has fallen, and some of its governments, while struggling for identity and independence, are much more benign. It looks like the next item on the world agenda is for America and other civilized nations to get the unruly elements of Islam under control. After that America and other western nations will have to deal with China.

Strange as it may seem, and as ratty as our own culture is with 60% divorce rate, out-of-control crime, drugs, and sexual promiscuity, our nation is slated for greatness in the process of bringing about world peace. It is important for our people to be righteous, noble, humane, and strong so that we may properly play our role in bringing the world into the great tomorrow of the age of light and life.

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