

The Sword of Racism and Bigotry

Series: The Watchman On The Wall

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Ezekiel 33 is our base text. The concept is simple. Read dangers exists, whether physically or spiritually, and the one who sees the danger coming must sound the alarm to warn others. This is a basic human need.

“See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? At that time His voice shook the earth, but now He has promised, ‘Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.’ The words ‘once more’ indicate the removing of what can be shaken-that is, created things-so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.” (Heb.12:25-29)

The people of Noah’s day did not listen, and they were shaken.

The people of Israel in the desert at Sinai did not listen, and they were shaken.

The people of Israel during the days of Jeremiah and Ezekiel did not listen, and they were shaken.

The Jews of the first century did not listen, and in AD 70 when the temple was destroyed, they were shaken.

When Jesus comes again everything will be shaken, and only those who are in the kingdom of God will survive.

An earthquake of cosmic proportions is coming. It will shake the earth to its foundations.

Paul warned the philosophers of Athens about this in Acts 17:29-31: “Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone-and image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now commands all people everywhere to repent. For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

- Man has forgotten the image of man because he has forgotten we are created in the image of God. Confusion in the area of image bearing is at the heart of racism and bigotry.
- This image confusion is ignorance that will no longer be overlooked.
- The seat of justice, racial and otherwise, is occupied by one man, appointed by God, raised from the dead.

Redefining racism and bigotry.

Racism today in the US is defined as the treating a person as inferior or less than based simply on his race. Bigotry is stubborn and complete intolerance of any creed, belief, or opinion that differs from one's own; the actions, beliefs, prejudices, etc., of a bigot.

BUT, we need to bring this matter a little more into focus.

First step: Look at a couple of examples

- John 4:9, "For Jews do not associate with Samaritans." Why not?

In 722 B.C. Assyria conquered Israel and took most of its people into captivity. The invaders then brought in Gentile colonists "from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and from Sepharvaim" ([2 Kin. 17:24](#)) to resettle the land. The foreigners brought with them their pagan idols, which the remaining Jews began to worship alongside the God of Israel ([2 Kin. 17:29-41](#)). Intermarriages also took place ([Ezra 9:1-10:44](#); Neh. 13:23-28). Meanwhile, the southern kingdom of Judah fell to Babylon in 600 B.C. Its people, too, were carried off into captivity. But 70 years later, a remnant of 43,000 was permitted to return and rebuild Jerusalem. The people who now inhabited the former northern kingdom—the Samaritans—vigorously opposed the repatriation and tried to undermine the attempt to reestablish the nation. For their part, the full-blooded, monotheistic Jews detested the mixed marriages and worship of their northern cousins. So walls of bitterness were erected on both sides and did nothing but harden for the next 550 years.

- Acts 10-11, Peter and Cornelius. (Tell the story) Notice the word "unclean." It was beat into the heads of the Jews ever since the days of compromise with Gentiles in the OT which led to the destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel, and the captivity of the southern kingdom of Judah, that mixing with Gentiles was nothing but trouble.

Second Step: Look at some modern day examples

- Antisemitism: Hostility against Jews, leading in some cases of wanting to destroy them completely. (Persia (Iran), Hitler's Germany, and Muslims). There are many reasons people give including their rejection and crucifixion of Jesus and perception that they control monetary markets.
- Racism against Blacks: There are many reasons given, but a classic reason is that some Christians have been taught (especially in past times) that God cursed the black man during the time after the flood, through Ham and his son Canaan which gave others the right to enslave them.

Third Step: What is the Biblical language of racism and bigotry?

- Favoritism: Romans 2:9-11, “There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil; first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For God does not show favoritism.” And James 2:1, 1 My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism.
- Hatred: 1 John 4:20-21, “Whoever claims to love God yet hates his brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And He has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.”

Fourth Step: Since it obvious that partiality/favoritism and hatred exist around the world, what is the solution?

- What it is not? **HERE IS THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SWORD THAT IS COMING AGAINST OUR LAND.** The first side of the sword is favoritism and hatred, and the other side of the sword is how society is trying to solve the problems associated with these sins.
 - They are not calling these things sins (simply social injustice). Gal.5:19-21 includes hatred as a sin. And 1 John 3:15 defines hatred as murder.
 - They are attempting to end racism by creating an even deeper divide with Critical Race Theory (please take time to learn about this. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWWBBhsdDXE> and <https://youtu.be/Kie9r89naFO>) The basic theory is that all white people are inherently racists and cannot do anything about it, and therefore to have racial justice the entire system in which we live must be deconstructed without white privilege.
- What it is? How does God deal with man’s hatred towards others and sin of favoritism?
 - Simply: The gospel. Which includes
 - A recognition of sin in all mankind-one not better than another
 - A recognition of the need to repent of all sin
 - A sufficient sacrifice that can forgive sin and unite all men in love under a new Lord.
 - Simply: We must see the current attempt to end racism as a demonic attempt to divide us further from one another, to polarize us, to pit one group against another, and to ultimately lead to more violence and hatred.

The sin of racism is one of favoritism and hatred. It infects individuals, groups and whole societies. Just as the influence of Jesus in the hearts of people led to the end of slavery and the insuring of civil rights in the US, so can this influence even take us further down the road to loving one another.