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Afghanistan and America - Lessons to Learn



By Steven J. Hogan

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How do you feel about the ongoing situation in Afghanistan, and the role of our country? Shocked, bewildered, concerned, angered, betrayed, outraged, disheartened, frustrated, confused, defeated, embarrassed! What in the world is happening?! What is the United States doing, and why? (Yes, I believe we should get out of Afghanistan, but it's how it's being done that's upsetting). But what is God doing? That's the question that needs to be answered. Anytime something disastrous happens, it's essential that we look to God and learn from Him. *"Your way, O God, is holy. What god is as great as our God?"* (Psalm 77:13). What are some of these things that God wants to teach us?

First, God is sovereign, He is in charge. We need to know that God has control over all people, events, countries, and rulers. No person and no President can do what he wants apart from God's decrees, apart from His will. Anything that happens is always in accordance with His perfect, eternal, and glorious plans. Rest and rejoice in the fact that God is sovereign over all the actions and words of every single person in the world, including all those in Afghanistan and the United States*. "God does as He pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back His hand or say to Him, 'What have you done?'"* Daniel 4:35

Second, God is holy and just. He is altogether righteous and must punish all sin. Therefore, God deals with all the evildoers in Afghanistan, in His way and in His time. But there's a ton of evil in the United States too, and it's because of her awful sin that she is declining in power, status, and influence around the world. This downhill slide that's been going on in our country the past 90 years is explained in Rom. 1:20-32. It starts when the people reject God (vss. 20-23) which leads to immorality (vs. 24), then to homosexuality (vs. 26), and then to depravity (vs. 28 – people saying evil is good and good is evil – Is. 5:20). Fret not, for God is righteous, and He will not be mocked – in due time, He will punish all sinners who rebel against Him. *"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth."* Romans 1:18

Third, God is good, that is, He works all things together for good in the lives of Christians. You may be upset or saddened when you think of Afghans and Americans being persecuted for their faith but, remember, God is working this out for their good, and His glory. And pray for them. In the United States, we are seeing increasing crime, rising inflation, border problems, Marxism being taught, the continuing Covid crisis, and again, God is in complete control, and is working all this out for the good of the Christians. He is helping us grow in character (Rom. 5:3-5), is causing the spread of the gospel (Mark 13:9-11), and is carrying out

His end-time plans. *"In Christ we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory."* Ephesians 1:10-12

Fourth, God is merciful. Whenever I hear about some calamity, I think of the gospel and how God desires to show mercy to those in trouble, and I am not just talking physically, even though that is desired in this Afghan situation, but spiritually. He wants the afflicted and hurting to know that their real problem is not the war, a fire, a hurricane, a virus or whatever, but their sin – and death that results. What people ought to be really concerned about is sin and death. And Jesus Christ is the only answer, sent by His Father to this earth to die on the cross and rise again from the dead to pay for the sins of all the people who would repent of their sins and believe in Him alone for forgiveness and eternal life. When you hear that people are experiencing problems of any kind, then pray that they would turn to Christ, and that God would have mercy on them, and save their souls, and bring them into His eternal family. *"Jesus Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God."* **1 Peter 3:18**

Fifth, this is God's will, part of His eternal purpose. All that is now happening, whether it's in Afghanistan, the United States, or in your own life, is part of God's end-time and eternal plans. God is wisely and faithfully working in the life of every single person, directing every single event, and working in every single church and every single country, all which is leading to that most glorious time when Christ returns to rapture the church. *"They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet, and they will gather together His elect."* Matthew 24:30

Specifically, what is happening, and what are His plans?

1. This present conflict is part of the birth pains. Jesus told us that wars (Afghanistan), along with plagues (Covid), earthquakes (Haiti), famines (Africa), and economic problems (inflation) would happen in the end-times and would increasingly get worse before Christ's coming. *"Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines."* Luke 21:10-11, Rev. 6:5-6

2. The United States needs to lose her position as the #1 global superpower so that, sooner or later, Antichrist's kingdom can come to power. This nation is in spiritual decay, witnessed by her moral, political, financial, academic, and international decline. This nation is experiencing big-time domestic and foreign problems, solid and sobering evidence that God is judging her for her sin, leading to her downfall. *"Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days – you would not believe if you were told… I am raising up the Chaldeans… You, O Lord, have appointed them to judge."* Habakkuk 1:5-6, 13

3. These recent events in Afghanistan are leading to changing global power structures and new alliances among nations, which, as God predicts, must happen before the rise and rule of the Antichrist. This once great nation, now in grave danger, is visibly going down, and this will have a dramatic impact on the present world order. I don't believe it will be long before that devilish beast, the Antichrist, is revealed and becomes dictator of the world. *"The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast* (Antichrist) *for one hour."* Revelation 17:12

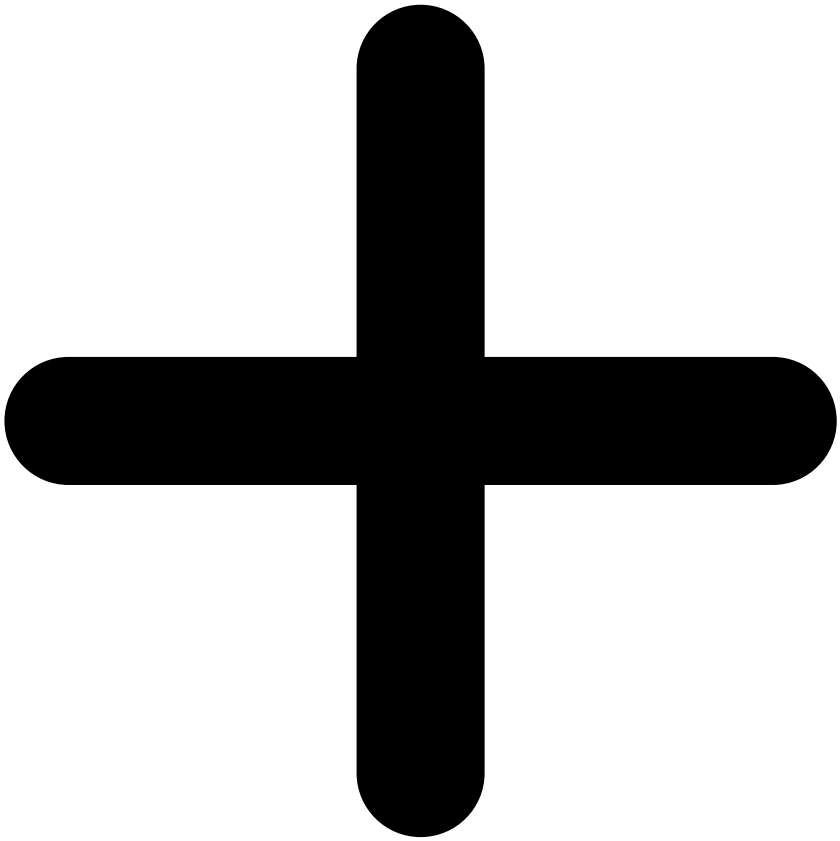
4. Israel, the most important nation in the end-times, will

definitely feel the effects of these recent events. That's because anti-Semitic nations have been ordained by God to be her enemies (Psalm 83), and are presently being emboldened. You can't imagine how happy Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon, Pakistan, etc., are to see the United States, the *"Great Satan"*, leaving that part of the Mideast. In the months and years ahead, we will see these countries more united than ever before in their fight against Israel and the United States. They truly want to wipe them off the map – but God is sovereign, and His purposes will prevail. *"The Lord nullifies the plans of the nations… the counsel of the Lord stands forever… blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance."* Psalm 33:10-12

5. God wants you to serve Him and help Him fulfill His purposes. As a Christian, you are a key player in what God is and will be doing in this world. Like a piece of a puzzle, He is fitting you together with others, and using you to bring about His end-time plans, Christ's return to earth, the rapture of the church, and the day of the Lord. *"Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep, for salvation is nearer to us than when we first believed… Let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light."* Romans 13:11-12

I have spoken of God's character and purpose, which you must know if you're to be a hope-filled, Spirit-filled, Christ-glorifying believer. But what are you to do? First, **love God** with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength (Mark 12:30). Second, **don't be distracted** by the evil that's happening in the world, and thereby keep you from doing the work God wants you to do (Neh. 6:1-4). Third, **trust God**, believe that He is in control, is building the church, and will use you for His purposes (Eph. 2:20-22). Fourth, **obey God's commands**, use your spiritual gifts, and do your part in making disciples and building the church. Matthew 16:18; 28:19-20

P.S. There’s lots God wants you to know about the end-times and the coming of Christ. Three posts that relate to this particular post that I would encourage you to read are: *“The Downfall of the United States Before the Return of Christ”*, *“What Needs to Happen Before Christ’s Return?”*, *“Truths You Need to Know about the End-Times.*“





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