

When Eagles Gather



By Philip E. Busby

On the morning of December 7, 1941, waves of planes appeared over the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. These planes belonged to a nation whose excuse for attacking was that they believed it was in their best interest to attack the United States before its mere influence could change their lives. The idea was to strike first and cripple the nation so it could ultimately be defeated. However, it would be an alleged quote from one of the attacking nation's admirals which defined the fact, just the opposite had taken place. He said, "I fear all we have done is to awaken a great sleeping giant, and fill him with a terrible resolve." and indeed they had!

This story is the usual objective of war. The idea that there is an enemy, whether perceived or real, which you desire to destroy. You attack with the force you deem necessary to overtake your enemy, while the attacked hope they can mount a defense which will defeat what comes at them. If the attacked can gain the upper hand, they often become determined to be the ones who go on the offensive and gain some ground themselves. Thus, some wars end because those attacking have success in defeating their "enemies," and obtaining their objective. In other cases, those on the defense are able to repel the

attacker. Sometimes it doesn't end until those who initially defend, achieve an offensive objective of their own. At other times, the battle wears on and on until both sides find themselves ready to give up on the fight. In these cases there is often some kind of treaty or agreement bound between the parties which lays out a settlement both parties see as more desirable than continued conflict, even if it means the overall result of the war was a loss compared to where they started. These are the basics of war. This is the simplicity of truth and consequences, and though many conflicts which do not end with the defeat or total destruction of one side or the other may not seem to end with as clean a resolution as some would like, they always come to some kind of end when both parties agree it's in their best interest to stop fighting.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, again, Americans came under the shadow of attacking planes, but this time the planes did not belong to an aggressive foreign nation nor were the targets strictly military ones. Just as these facts are different, so too, was the purpose and goal of the attackers. Was their purpose to ultimately destroy what they saw as the enemy? In a way, but unlike the Pearl Harbor attack there was no true belief that this attack was the beginning of a solid military effort to defeat the enemy. They never believed that killing innocent civilians was going to give them the upper hand in the proceeding battles or be the strike which brought America to its knees. They also were not deluded into thinking they would get away with the attack and there would be no response.

That's because, this time, America suffered a terrorist attack; and the intent of terrorism is not to defeat the enemy and obtain an objective, but to intentionally create the wearing on and on scenario. By instilling fear and creating fatigue, they begin to compromise others' lifestyles and choices. True terrorist don't ever agree to an end, they begin the conflict with the intent of holding the threat of continual conflict over their enemies' heads. They desire to change people's minds to fit their beliefs, and often it is slowly, but it is surly, that the terrorist accomplishes his objective by making you live in their world, whether you like it or not. They leave you with only two choices, a life of actions dictated by their thoughts instead of your own, or a life of constant turmoil which they are willing to create.

On the morning of May 31, 2010, Israel was attacked by a ship, running under the guise of being on a humanitarian mission. By the time it became clear that was not what the ship's intention was, Israeli soldiers who boarded the ship armed primarily with paintball guns, were forced to defend their lives against a mob of organized terrorists. At its most, this attack on a physical level could only have killed a few Israeli soldiers, but on a mental level, this attack delivered a serious blow because it was terrorists not soldiers which were killed. This is what Israel lives with everyday. There was a time when surrounding nations believed they could simply destroy Israel in war, but they found that does not work. Thus, terrorism has been employed, and the point of this terrorism was to make the lives of Israelis so miserable that they would choose to do what the terrorist want - and that is for the Jews to go away.

However, the Jews have already suffered more than one attempt in this world to wipe them from the face of the planet. Prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, may have put it best when he said, "There are those who say that if the Holocaust had not occurred, the State of Israel would never have been established. But I say that if the State of Israel had been established earlier, the Holocaust would not have occurred." Jews have no reason to believe that abandoning their nation will result in a more positive outcome no matter how bad surrounding nations and/or people attempt to make their lives. Everyday, Israel's enemies understand this more clearly than her questionable friends ever have or care to. What this most recent attack on Israel has shown, is the insistence of Israel's enemies to take advantage of every opportunity they can to capitalize on that truth. Thus, they do things that not only make Israel miserable, but affect the international thought pattern. They will continue to attempt to change the minds of all the world, because the bottom line is that if they cannot wear down Israel itself, they will do all they can to bring the world against Israel and/or get the world to take her down for them. They will do this by convincing the world that supporting Israel is more trouble than it's worth.

For years preachers have had many theories about what the verses in Revelation meant when it talked about all the armies of the world being gathered to that valley outside Jerusalem, but today the

picture is becoming very clear all on its own. Many people may seriously hold to the truth that Israel has a right to exist and even be a Jewish state; but the truth her enemies are attempting to create and have done a good job at, is the simple fact that, if Israel exists, there will be constant conflict. We see this strategy is winning because the objective the world is wrongly focused on is not justice in the face of criminal behavior, but the end of conflict. This may seem like a noble objective, and the arguments for it can be made to seem very intellectual. In fact, even a former U.S. President of The United States has sold many books in doing just that. However, the more one fixates on finding an end to the conflict, the less one stands for what is just. Every option is put on the table; and since the terrorist creates the conflict for the sake of getting rid of Israel, the obvious answer to ending the conflict is to give the terrorist exactly what he has tailored his terrorism to get!

In a world which claims it has overcome many racial prejudices, we see in this conflict that the true objective of the world is not the presence of justice, but peace at any cost. (I Thess. 5:1-3) This gives evil a true upper hand, because all it needs to do is disturb the peace and it will get what it wants. Righteousness, whether in our world or in our personal lives, must be maintained, (Deut. 6:24-25, Ps. 106:3, Prov. 15:9, Isa. 5:22-23) and in a world of sin, this does not bring peace. The Bible makes it clear that as long as there is righteous men there will be those who desire to destroy them. (Rev. 20:7-9) In its lust for peace, what the world is having trouble seeing is that giving evil exactly what it wants just because it acts evil, is never the wise choice! The fact even "good people" are ever moving in the direction of simply being tired of the fight, is indicative of the fact evil is winning. People like being on the winning side; but we must not be deceived, God is not mocked, what man sows, that he will also reap. (Gal. 6:7) Be careful not to go with them, because when the kings of this world decide the acceptable price of peace in the middle east is the absence of justice, it will be for their flesh the eagles gather together! (Isa. 5:20, Luke 17:30-37, Rev. 19:11-18)