

RELIGION

Scripture Of The Week:
ECCLESIASTES CHAPTER 1 & 2



How Safe Is Downtown Portland At Night

by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears
Recently, in the news, both local and national, we heard and read about the rave reviews that Portland received for its city planning, transportation system and for its beauty. What was missed were the acts of violence that takes place at night in downtown Portland.

How ironic, that amidst so much beauty and surface order, there lies so much vice and corruption. In downtown Portland, more than in any other part of the city, heinous crimes are committed nightly. The police's Justice Center hovers above it all as though its trying to keep its proverbial skirts from being soiled.

Children, homeless children, our children, your children and rejected children -- go into the downtown area at night. They witness and sometimes participate in perverted acts in the open and behind closed doors. Crimes appear as a painted lady with her pockets filled with assorted candies and other temptations. Her body is bedecked with fine clothes and jewelry of gold, silver, emeralds, diamonds, rubies and pearls.

Red children, yellow children, black children, and white children are all lured downtown to see what they can see. To do what they can do. To have fun is the main theme. When you ask the young people, "Why do you run around downtown at all hours of the night?" They flaunt the same impetuous response, "There's nothing else to do in this town. What do you expect us to do?"

Week-before-last, one of the youth of our city was killed. Shoot down! It doesn't matter whether he was white, black, yellow, red or brown. He was one of our children.

The evening began perfectly. He and his friend, of many years, had just come from another place; now, they decided to go downtown to get some Chinese food. Little did they know that they would run into this other group of young people, get shot, shot at, and killed.

Let's stop for a second. What are we, as adults, teaching our young people? Have we become so territorial that NO one can come into, step into, or drive into our self-proclaimed space?

David and Raymond, two Black youth, pulled into a parking lot. Another car, containing five to six Asian youth, also pulled into the same parking lot. Then, it began. "Hey man! You trying to block the whole parking lot," asks the Asian youth. "Yo! There's other places to park," responds the Black youth. By this time, everybody is outside of their vehicles and ready to "throw-down" (fight). You must remember that this was not the original intentions of Raymond and David; but, everything has changed. They were clearly out numbered but a good fight never REALLY hurt anyone.

David yells, "C'mon Ray! Don't try to fight those duds. Run, man! Run!" Both David and Ray began running away from the group of Asian youth. Why? Because, the Asian youth had fire power.

David and Ray were unarmed. Why is it that when I read the Oregonian it sounded like the action taken by the Asian youth was justified and it was Raymond's fault that he got himself shot?

Shots rang out in the night striking both David and Raymond. David got hit in the leg. Ray was struck in the shoulder. The bullet hit the bone and ricocheted. The bullet entered Raymond's heart and killed him instantly. The Asian youth got into their and fled the scene.

Have you ever just sat down to think about this whole crazy situation? The North, side of town, belongs to the CRIPS. The Northeast belongs to the BLOODS. The Southeast belongs to the SKINHEADS. The Downtown belongs to the Asians. The Northwest belongs to the GAYS. The Southwest belongs to all those who feel that they are above what's happening in the other areas. So they strive for untouchability and blinders have become a basic part of their wardrobe.

On Saturday night, twenty-four after the tragedy, about 20-30 young black males got together, went downtown to avenge their friend's and buddy's death. You heard persons quoting, incomplete, scripture. Persons who didn't darken the entrance to a church with their presence.

Its really too bad that we can't ALL get along with one another. We sing songs: *The Greatest Love Of All, Love Is A Many Splendid Things, No Greater Love, Love Makes The World Go Around, and I Want To Know What Love Is.* Love. A word that has been misconstrued for centuries. A feeling that has held the most powerful spell-bound. An emotion that has been violated by too many. The love that our Lord has for us is much greater than the defined word in Webster's dictionary.

Last week's issue, of the Portland Observer, bore witness to the tragedy. The obituary of Raymond Bell: born November 1, 1968, basketball player, attending college, loving and kind, had set goals. All these points leaped from the page. There were so many "What if's" in my mind. Questions, I know, shall never be answered.

"The Last Days." Yes, people! We are presently in the final chapter of this world's history. We've witnessed storms, earthquakes, murders, clergy under fire, children killing their parents, parents killing their children, suicide, lying, cheating, stealing, and carnage unrestrained. The Scripture speaks very clearly about this time period.

I admonish you to read the Scripture; but, more than any other, read the small book of JUDE. The book of Jude warns us of the dangers of false doctrine and the need for constant vigilance by the church. It, also, tells us to examine what people say and the kinds of lives

(Continued Next Week . . .)

Insight From The Word

Worthy Is The Lamb!

by Rev. Michael Lindsey, Dean of North Portland Bible College

The opening words of Revelation tell us that it is preeminently "The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place . . ." (Rev. 1:1) It was first revealed to the Apostle John; but, the book in every chapter reveals the Person of Jesus Christ. Truly, many symbols and visions in Revelation can cause debate and uncertainty -- but most of the symbols are clear enough, in light of earlier passages of Scripture, so that we can know and feel the original message.

In the fifth chapter of Revelation, the scene is set in heaven, in the very presence of the Ancient of Days. In many details, John's vision parallels that of Daniel in Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14. There is a court around the throne of God, and "thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand" angels are attending him (compare Rev. 5:11). Daniel saw the books of judgment opened, but John sees one book (actually a scroll) unopened. This is clearly the final book of judgment, containing the plagues and awesome disasters recounted later in Revelation. It is sealed until the time of the end, like Daniel's last prophecies. Not just anyone can break the seals of the scroll. A mighty angel proclaims the challenge (Rev. 5:2): "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" None of God's angels are worthy, none of God's people are worthy, none in all God's creation is worthy. In the midst of this vision, the tension builds as the whole universe searches for someone who is worthy (deserving and qualified), to approach the throne of God, receive the scroll and break its seals.

The spotlight suddenly shines on One near the throne -- One who is worthy to take charge of this scroll of judgment. An elder has identified him as "the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David" (verse 5), and these descriptions of power and royalty do explain part of

his worthiness: he has fulfilled prophecies concerning the Messiah in his human ancestry. Christ Jesus is not called "Lion," again, in the entire book. Only "Lamb". But this Lamb is no longer a symbol of weakness, but a symbol of triumph over sin and death.

John says that he sees "a lamb, looking as if it had been slain . . . having seven horns and seven eyes" (verse 6). We shouldn't even try to picture what exactly John saw -- our weak, limited minds would likely just create a grotesque cartoon instead of a majestic vision of glory. However, John saw these things; one point is repeatedly emphasized: The Lamb of God is worthy to rule over all the earth, because he was slain, and his blood was shed to redeem humanity (verse 9). Christ is all-powerful, as symbolized by the seven horns (see Psalm 18:2), but that power alone does not make him worthy. Christ is worthy because of his obedient sacrifice on the cross.

What does the cross of Christ mean to you? Do you marvel in his love and mercy for you? Do you rejoice in Christ's victory over death, in which victory you can claim a share by faith? Do you worship him as Savior, Lord and King? Or, do you ignore his suffering -- does it make you uncomfortable? Would you really rather not think about it at all?

In glory, the heavenly hosts break out in new songs of praise to honor the glorious Lamb of God. Not only do they honor the Father as Creator and Preserver of all (4:11), but, they glorify of his death on the cross for our sins, you need to read the accounts of Christ's passion and meditate on his LOVE for you. You may yet need to receive the free gift of eternal life which he purchased for you on the cross. Don't put it off.



One Church, One Child

"Unity in the Community for our Children" Banquet

Saturday, November 18, 1989 is the date of the One Church, One Child "Unity in the Community for our Children" banquet celebrating one year of service to Oregon's black children who await adoption. The banquet will be held at the Lloyd Center Red Lion on November 18th at 6:30 p.m.; tickets are \$25.00. Everyone is invited to come out and support this event.

Reverend Dr. Shelvin Hall, President of the national One Church, One Child program will be the guest speaker for the banquet program which will be conducted by emcee Sharon Mitchell of KGW Channel 8.

Leaders in the Black community representing churches, state offices, businesses and community groups will be present. Other guests who will be present include:

Martin Luther King Choir
State Representative Margaret Carter

Kevin Concannon, Director of the Department of Human Resources

Michael Harper, former player and Director of the Trailblazers Speakers Bureau

Gina Wood, Regional Coordinator of the Oregon Children and Youth Services Commission

Proceeds from the event will be used to provide operative support for the One Church, One Child adoption recruitment program. At present ten children have been placed through One Church, One Child.

Tickets can be purchased at: Mrs. C's Wigs, Hartley Oil, Inc., JaBell's, and Tondalayera Designers Salon.

For more information, contact the One Church, One Child office at 285-7634.

Spirit Of Hope In The World
Saturday, Nov. 11, 1989
2:30 P.M.
North Portland Branch Library
Artist Charles Tatum has been given a seed grant to begin a project with children in the inner-city schools. This project is designed to encourage these children to look toward their future with hope. (P.S.: A nutritious snack will be served.)

Happy Birthday!!!

Pastor - Rev. Mary Smith
The Powerhouse Temple Church, cordially invites the friends and well wishers of Pastor - Rev. Mary Smith to attend her annual Birthday Celebration. The dates are November 1 through the 3rd. The location is 4525 N. Williams Ave. Services will convene nightly at 7:30 p.m. Come and enjoy the Lord with us. Dinner will be served Friday evening after service.

Hope of Glory Radio Ministry



KPDQ 800 A.M. SUNDAY

10:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Motto: "There Is Hope"
"Christ In You, The Hope of Glory" Col. 1:27
Dial-A-Prayer . . . (503) 286-HOPE (4673)
24-Hour Prayer Request Line

Maranatha Church

4222 N.E. 12th Ave.
Rev. Wendell H. Wallace
Senior Pastor



Sunday Services
Sunday School 9:00 A.M.
Morning Workshop 10:30 A.M.
Maranatha School of Ministry 6:30P.M.
Mid-week services - wednesday 7:30 P.M.

The Albina Church of God

5522 N. Albina/283-1635

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Sunday Service morning 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Service evening 6:00 p.m.

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Psalm 34:3

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9:30 A.M. - Sunday School
10:45 A.M. - Worship Service
6:30 P.M. - Worship Service
Bible Study:
10:30 A.M. - 12 Noon - Wednesday
6:30 A.M. - 8:00 P.M. - Wednesday

Radio Ministry each Sun. 8am KBMS
284-1954