

To Consider or Continue to Ignore?

Many Christians seem to ignore anything that originates from the lips of Osama bin Laden. Why listen to a madman committed to a godless religion whose heart overflows hatred as he skillfully executes a single-minded mission of retribution. No one will deny his potential threat to America, nor will anyone trivialize his existence—however very few willingly consider his rhetoric because to do so seems to legitimize his behavior. Is he merely a deranged killer in the psychological lineage of Charles Manson? Can we learn anything from him? By entertaining his rhetoric do we taint our own moral compass?

Not unlike Saddam Hussein, bin Laden was supported by the U.S. Govt.—Saddam against Iran & bin Laden in Afghanistan's conflict with the Russian war machine. So at least there was a point where bin Laden was deemed an asset to U.S. interests in the region. Clearly this planet can be quite treacherous and sometimes in the interests of world stability we are forced to deal with unsavory characters. But have you ever wondered why bin Laden turned on us? What motivated the change in his thinking? Why would he turn his rage on Israel & the U.S.? Is it because Islam is a dangerous, evil religion that has only one motivation—to destroy the infidels? I think in bin Laden's case it's more complex than that.



I know that even asking the following question may yield a sense of outrage but I'll do it anyway... Do we have any culpability in the matters regarding Middle Eastern tension? Gary Bauer is always quick to point out to me that by even tendering this kind of question we are joining the "blame America first crowd". This to me is serious over-reaction & is clouded by what he believes to be a Scriptural mandate to support the nation of Israel at all cost, notwithstanding their behavior. I vociferously disagree with Bauer and I do not believe that we legitimize bin Laden by checking for a potential log in our own eye—we are simply being responsible & prudent Christ-followers. I think we need to heed Jesus' [Beattitudinal exhortation](#) seriously. Somehow that seems to be removed from the context of this particularly complex equation.

If we fail to consider his thoughts & motivations, I think we make a grave mistake. On the other hand, by mere contemplation, are we kowtowing to this Allah-loving, Yahweh hating terrorist? Unless we deem the man totally insane (which some do but the expressions below are clearly not those of a raving loon), I think it's worth the time to read between the lines of this praise-be-to-Allah lovefest. I know some may believe that I've lost my ever-loving John Brown mind, to even contemplate what bin Laden considers his plight. We say men like him, who represent such a deplorable religion, should be wiped off the face of the earth. Kill them before they kill us, many say.

So then how does [Mt 5:38-42](#) relate to this issue? Do we preempt the grace of God by choosing the path of revenge? Sometimes it appears that we view the military as an extension of the Church. I love the men & women who serve to protect us from outside aggression and I am not one who sees our armed forces as evil aggressors of tyranny—but where in the Gospel of Christ do we see Jesus condoning a military solution for peace? In the Scriptures we witness the God of the universe die an excruciating death at the hands of His creation. We endure the beheading of the only man every endowed with the Holy Spirit at birth. We see Stephen stoned while he asked for God to forgive His accusers. And extra-Biblical sources testify that 10 of the 11 Apostles (minus Judas who bore the fruit of his own wickedness) were summarily beaten & murdered. Each of these brave men knew that a better hope awaited their demise. The Kingdom of Christ could not be defeated because it was not of flesh & blood but the power of God. So I struggle to relate all of this to our current world situation. Does Jesus love the apostate Jews while despising the godless Muslims?

This is the reason for my eschatological passion. Many say that what we believe the Bible says about the "end times" doesn't really make a difference in our lives. This is farther from the truth than most realize. Our eschatology matters a great deal because it encompasses far more than

the construction of doctrine. Pop eschatology has helped foment the absolute chaos that exists today in the Middle East. Left Behindology legitimizes & exalts the nation of Israel as though they are God's people and it establishes a pattern of predicted God-ordained moral decline that is totally foreign to the power & efficacy of the resurrection and the endowment of the Holy Spirit. We are told that God will bless those who bless Israel ([Gen 12:3](#)). This is not the case and has absolutely nothing to do with the language & intentions of the New Covenant. This is a horrific departure from the teachings of Jesus, John the Baptizer & Paul. It must be rejected if we are to ever live in peace. But then again, the likes of LaHaye, Robertson & Hagee sadly don't believe it is even possible since their views are excised from the context of the first century and transported nearly 2,000 years. This exaltation of Israel as a holy race does nothing but create an attitude of bigotry and genetic superiority as the Gospel of Christ is further distorted. How do we reach the Muslims for Christ while they watch our unequal love for the Jews? Are the Jews really set apart in God's last day's economy? If you'd like to read an excellent paper on this subject click on [The Promise to Abraham](#). The author does a wonderful job of creating the Scriptural framework while answering the natural objections to his conclusions.

When you have time please read the transcript below from bin Laden's latest video. I have highlighted a few sections that I thought were worth noting & made some bracketed comments within the body of the text. Thanks for considering these things. Theology and specifically eschatology drastically impacts our attitudes and our expectations.

Following is the full English transcript of Usama bin Laden's speech in a videotape sent to Aljazeera. In the interests of authenticity, the content of the transcript, which appeared as subtitles at the foot of the screen, has been left unedited. [bin Laden's comments are in green]

Praise be to Allah who created the creation for his worship and commanded them to be just and permitted the wronged one to retaliate against the oppressor in kind. [As you will see below, in bin Laden's mind 9/11 was a response to the Israeli/U.S. aggression into Lebanon in 1981. At least in his mind (and that's what we're concerned about here), it was NOT the preemptive strike that most of us think.] **To proceed:**

Peace be upon he who follows the guidance: People of America this talk of mine is for you and concerns the ideal way to prevent another Manhattan, and deals with the war and its causes and results. [bin Laden is clearly attempting to make an impassioned appeal directly to the American people. We have been told that the Muslims hate our freedom & they despise our way of life. This is not the case in this video nor in the past rhetoric of bin Laden. He's been very consistent and quite a different animal from Hussein. He seems to be motivated by conscience (however corrupt) where Saddam was enamored with absolute power.

Before I begin, I say to you that security is an indispensable pillar of human life and that free men do not forfeit their security, contrary to Bush's claim that we hate freedom. [This is interesting that he immediately taps into the freedom issue.]

If so, then let him explain to us why we don't strike for example - Sweden? And we know that freedom-haters don't possess defiant spirits like those of the 19 - may Allah have mercy on them. [Allah is incapable but God clearly will show him no mercy. Not because of masterminded heinous crimes but because he rejected the Lord Jesus.]

No, we fight because we are free men who don't sleep under oppression. We want to restore freedom to our nation, just as you lay waste to our nation. [His version of freedom is certainly not Biblical. He treats women like chattel.] **So shall we lay waste to yours.**

No one except a dumb thief plays with the security of others and then makes himself believe he will be secure. Whereas thinking people, when disaster strikes, make it their priority to look for its causes, in order to prevent it happening again.

But I am amazed at you. Even though we are in the fourth year after the events of September 11th [we are told that this video was new but if it is then he has lost 2 years somewhere since 4 plus 2001 is 2005 not 2007], Bush is still engaged in distortion, deception and hiding from you the real causes. And thus, the reasons are still there for a repeat of what occurred. [To me this is important to find out what he deems as the "real causes". I hear people say, "Who cares why he did it let's just kill this cockroach and all those that are like him." This is the issue. If we don't listen to him to find out why then we will continue to produce more "cockroaches".]

So I shall talk to you about the story behind those events and shall tell you truthfully about the moments in which the decision was taken, for you to consider.

I say to you, Allah knows that it had never occurred to us to strike the towers. But after it became unbearable and we witnessed the oppression and tyranny of the American/Israeli coalition against our people in Palestine and Lebanon, it came to my mind. [This man's motivations aren't merely facilitated by what many blame on the natural outgrowth of Islam—a dangerous & violent religion; but I think he feels a grave injustice re Palestine & Lebanon. I think a viable introspective question should be, "Do we have any logs in our own eyes regarding this issue?" I think we most certainly do. If you have done any research concerning the blood bath that ensued in 1948 as Israelis uprooted & killed many Palestinian settlers, you will know that the bulk of the modern Arab/Israeli hostilities were catalyzed at this point. We are so quick to blame this on millennia old battles between Isaac and Ishmael as if they are foreordained for conflict into perpetuity. All we have to do is ponder [Gal 4:21-31](#) to cut this myth to the quick. Israel/Jerusalem was considered to be of Hagar/Ishmael—a slave. Those two were a type and the Paul showed that in the New Covenant the division is not by physical enmity. The separation is between those born of blood & those born of the Spirit.

We act as though the 1948 re-formation of National Israel was an act of God as He supposedly restored His people to THEIR land. This is an absolute distortion of reality. We stood by & condoned the annihilation of both Arabs & believing Arabs. Read [Blood Brothers](#) (written by a Palestinian Christian who was 8 at the time of his village's massacre at the hands of the Israelis) or go to my website @ www.charlescoty.com/audio2.html and listen to the 6-part series entitled [Christian Zionism on the Road to Armageddon](#). Stephen Sizer, an English Vicar, who used to be employed by Campus Crusade for Christ, details the machinations that few people know concerning the work of the Christian Zionists. They sadly misunderstood God's eschatological plans and were successful in restoring Israel to the land that they believed was God-ordained. This is the same logic that led Pat Robertson to say that Ariel Sharon's stroke was due to his willingness to give away "God's land" and therefore the results of God's retribution on him. This makes my blood boil. If we don't begin to understand this issue more clearly then we will be forever engaged with those who want to terrorize us in their attempts to level the playing field. None of this justifies or legitimizes bin Laden's horrific acts of violence, but it will give you a greater understanding regarding his outrage.]

The events that affected my soul in a direct way started in 1982 when America permitted the Israelis to invade Lebanon and the American Sixth Fleet helped them in that. This bombardment began and many were killed and injured and others were terrorized and displaced. [Although Israeli occupation of Palestine is part of his motivation, it was not the primary drive for retribution. Notice his use of the word "terrorized". This is what he is attempting to inflict in like kind]

I couldn't forget those moving scenes, blood and severed limbs, women and children sprawled everywhere. Houses destroyed along with their occupants and high rises demolished over their residents, rockets raining down on our home without mercy. [Are these truly the thoughts of a

madman or is this just a mad man as he witnessed the destruction? This in no way justifies his actions but it may prove helpful in gaining perspective]

The situation was like a crocodile meeting a helpless child, powerless except for his screams. [He views the U.S. as culpable in this crocodile-like activity] Does the crocodile understand a conversation that doesn't include a weapon? And the whole world saw and heard but it didn't respond.

In those difficult moments many hard-to-describe ideas bubbled in my soul, but in the end they produced an intense feeling of rejection of tyranny, and gave birth to a strong resolve to punish the oppressors. [This is unmistakable. By missing this fact we will continue to produce hatred. Even evil religions such as Islam have to have willing participants who gain motivation from somewhere. They don't read the Koran & see "kill the infidel" on every page & therefore strap a bomb on their back. There must be an underlying motivation & a sense of honor. We cannot continue to ignore this rhetoric. Masses of people don't develop this level of hatred by merely reading an errant book. Their passions are energized & fueled by feelings of "tyranny". Do we play no part?]

And as I looked at those demolished towers in Lebanon, it entered my mind that we should punish the oppressor in kind and that we should destroy towers in America in order that they taste some of what we tasted and so that they be deterred from killing our women and children.

And that day, it was confirmed to me that oppression and the intentional killing of innocent women and children is a deliberate American policy. Destruction is freedom and democracy, while resistance is terrorism and intolerance. [This is not true but I can certainly understand how he could feel this way. The American people don't have any intention of "oppression" or the "intentional killing of innocent women and children" but our policies have at times clearly crossed this line. We as a country have a quite benevolent attitude but our government has been engaged in behavior that cause us as individuals to lose credibility. Since many in the Middle East consider us to be a Christian nation, they equate Christ with destruction. One way we can dispel this misperception is to force our government to act evenhandedly in the Middle East. Israel had a couple of soldiers kidnapped and then went on an incredibly destructive rampage in southern Lebanon while we turned the other cheek. And we don't think the Arab world noticed? The Israelis are not our brothers. Yes, we need to evangelize them but they possess no free pass from God]



This means the oppressing and embargoing to death of millions as Bush Sr did in Iraq in the greatest mass slaughter of children mankind has ever known, and it means the throwing of millions of pounds of bombs and explosives at millions of children - also in Iraq - as Bush Jr did, in order to remove an old agent and replace him with a new puppet to assist in the pilfering of Iraq's oil and other outrages. [None of us believe that oil was the only motivating factor but there are plenty of "just causes" around this world that we choose not to involve ourselves in because they serve no economic benefit.]

So with these images and their like as their background, the events of September 11th came as a reply to those great wrongs, should a man be blamed for defending his sanctuary?

Is defending oneself and punishing the aggressor in kind, objectionable terrorism? If it is such, then it is unavoidable for us.

This is the message which I sought to communicate to you in word and deed, repeatedly, for years before September 11th.

And you can read this, if you wish, in my interview with Scott in Time Magazine in 1996, or with Peter Arnett on CNN in 1997, or my meeting with John Weiner in 1998.

You can observe it practically, if you wish, in Kenya and Tanzania and in Aden. And you can read it in my interview with Abdul Bari Atwan, as well as my interviews with Robert Fisk. [read all these articles/interviews @ <http://www.marktaw.com/blog/TheOsamabinLadeninterview.html>. You will not wonder why we had a 9/11. What you will wonder though is why we never took this man seriously. bin Laden has forsaken what could have been a life of ease for this war against Israel & the U.S.]

The latter is one of your compatriots and co-religionists and I consider him to be neutral. So are the pretenders of freedom at the White House and the channels controlled by them able to run an interview with him? So that he may relay to the American people what he has understood from us to be the reasons for our fight against you?

If you were to avoid these reasons, you will have taken the correct path that will lead America to the security that it was in before September 11th. This concerned the causes of the war.

As for its results, they have been, by the grace of Allah, positive and enormous, and have, by all standards, exceeded all expectations. This is due to many factors, chief among them, that we have found it difficult to deal with the Bush administration in light of the resemblance it bears to the regimes in our countries, half of which are ruled by the military and the other half which are ruled by the sons of kings and presidents.

Our experience with them is lengthy, and both types are replete with those who are characterized by pride, arrogance, greed and misappropriation of wealth. This resemblance began after the visits of Bush Sr to the region.

At a time when some of our compatriots were dazzled by America and hoping that these visits would have an effect on our countries, all of a sudden he was affected by those monarchies and military regimes, and became envious of their remaining decades in their positions, to embezzle the public wealth of the nation without supervision or accounting. [this accounts for his one time reception of U.S. support, but this took a decidedly negative turn]

So he took dictatorship and suppression of freedoms to his son and they named it the Patriot Act, under the pretence of fighting terrorism. In addition, Bush sanctioned the installing of sons as state governors, and didn't forget to import expertise in election fraud from the region's presidents to Florida to be made use of in moments of difficulty. [This is utter nonsense but it is clearly understandable how he could come to this conclusion]

All that we have mentioned has made it easy for us to provoke and bait this administration. All that we have to do is to send two mujahidin to the furthest point east to raise a piece of cloth on which is written al-Qaida, in order to make the generals race there to cause America to suffer human, economic, and political losses without their achieving for it anything of note other than some benefits for their private companies.

This is in addition to our having experience in using guerrilla warfare and the war of attrition to fight tyrannical superpowers, as we, alongside the mujahidin, bled Russia for 10 years, until it

went bankrupt and was forced to withdraw in defeat. [This man appears truly inspired by a cause. To merely consider him insane makes unclear the motivations that he holds very deep]

All Praise is due to Allah. [At first glance all of these "praise be to Allah" utterances seem so disingenuous. From his perspective his false god is helping him in the cause to fight what he considers oppression. So I think they are genuine expressions of his warped faith]

So we are continuing this policy in bleeding America to the point of bankruptcy. Allah willing, and nothing is too great for Allah. [Allah is clearing not winning anything because dead Gods have power over nothing, but through these comments we can see into the mind of this man. He knows that financial impact is the way to destroy America.]

That being said, those who say that al-Qaida has won against the administration in the White House or that the administration has lost in this war have not been precise, because when one scrutinizes the results, one cannot say that al-Qaida is the sole factor in achieving those spectacular gains.

Rather, the policy of the White House that demands the opening of war fronts to keep busy their various corporations - whether they be working in the field of arms or oil or reconstruction - has helped al-Qaida to achieve these enormous results.

And so it has appeared to some analysts and diplomats that the White House and us are playing as one team towards the economic goals of the United States, even if the intentions differ.

And it was to these sorts of notions and their like that the British diplomat and others were referring in their lectures at the Royal Institute of International Affairs. [When they pointed out that] for example, al-Qaida spent \$500,000 on the event, while America, in the incident and its aftermath, lost - according to the lowest estimate - more than \$500 billion.

Meaning that every dollar of al-Qaida defeated a million dollars by the permission of Allah, besides the loss of a huge number of jobs.

As for the size of the economic deficit, it has reached record astronomical numbers estimated to total more than a trillion dollars.

And even more dangerous and bitter for America is that the mujahidin recently forced Bush to resort to emergency funds to continue the fight in Afghanistan and Iraq, which is evidence of the success of the bleed-until-bankruptcy plan - with Allah's permission.

It is true that this shows that al-Qaida has gained, but on the other hand, it shows that the Bush administration has also gained, something of which anyone who looks at the size of the contracts acquired by the shady Bush administration-linked mega-corporations, like Halliburton and its kind, will be convinced. And it all shows that the real loser is ... you.

It is the American people and their economy. And for the record, we had agreed with the Commander-General Muhammad Ataa, Allah have mercy on him, that all the operations should be carried out within 20 minutes, before Bush and his administration notice.

It never occurred to us that the commander-in-chief of the American armed forces would abandon 50,000 of his citizens in the twin towers to face those great horrors alone, the time when they most needed him. [This is quite an interesting analysis.]

But because it seemed to him that occupying himself by talking to the little girl about the goat and its butting was more important than occupying himself with the planes and their butting of

the skyscrapers, we were given three times the period required to execute the operations - all praise is due to Allah.

And it's no secret to you that the thinkers and perceptive ones from among the Americans warned Bush before the war and told him: "All that you want for securing America and removing the weapons of mass destruction - assuming they exist - is available to you, and the nations of the world are with you in the inspections, and it is in the interest of America that it not be thrust into an unjustified war with an unknown outcome."

But the darkness of the black gold blurred his vision and insight, and he gave priority to private interests over the public interests of America. [Is any of this true? Is it all hogwash? Sounds as though this is where Michael Moore's rhetoric has come from.]

So the war went ahead, the death toll rose, the American economy bled, and Bush became embroiled in the swamps of Iraq that threaten his future. He fits the saying "like the naughty she-goat who used her hoof to dig up a knife from under the earth".

So I say to you, over 15,000 of our people have been killed and tens of thousands injured, while more than a thousand of you have been killed and more than 10,000 injured. And Bush's hands are stained with the blood of all those killed from both sides, all for the sake of oil and keeping their private companies in business. [True or not true, this is his point of view]

Be aware that it is the nation who punishes the weak man when he causes the killing of one of its citizens for money, while letting the powerful one get off, when he causes the killing of more than 1000 of its sons, also for money.

And the same goes for your allies in Palestine. They terrorize the women and children, and kill and capture the men as they lie sleeping with their families on the mattresses, that you may recall that for every action, there is a reaction.

Finally, it behooves you to reflect on the last wills and testaments of the thousands who left you on the 11th as they gestured in despair. They are important testaments, which should be studied and researched.

Among the most important of what I read in them was some prose in their gestures before the collapse, where they say: "How mistaken we were to have allowed the White House to implement its aggressive foreign policies against the weak without supervision."

It is as if they were telling you, the people of America: "Hold to account those who have caused us to be killed, and happy is he who learns from others' mistakes."

And among that which I read in their gestures is a verse of poetry. "Injustice chases its people, and how unhealthy the bed of tyranny."

As has been said: "An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure."

And know that: "It is better to return to the truth than persist in error." And that the wise man doesn't squander his security, wealth and children for the sake of the liar in the White House.

In conclusion, I tell you in truth, that your security is not in the hands of Kerry, nor Bush, nor al-Qaida. No. [This signals to me that this tape is old. Kerry is not a key player any longer on the national scene. There's no current reason for his mention. However, I think it's interesting that to bin Laden that the occupier of the White House is of no consequence. I think he believes that the policies will go on regardless.]

Your security is in your own hands. And every state that doesn't play with our security has automatically guaranteed its own security.

And Allah is our Guardian and Helper, while you have no Guardian or Helper. All peace be upon he who follows the Guidance.

ONE FINAL NOTE

I don't believe that we legitimize bin Laden's killing machine by considering the motivations causing him to respond in "like-kind". If we don't change our ill-fated eschatology we will continue with more of the same. The nation of Israel is a democratic nation but they are apostate. I pray for the salvation of the Jews but also for the Arabs & my letter carrier. The Jews as a people hate Christ & many believe, by what I consider a massive theological blunder, that they are the apple of God's eye. The Jews no longer have any eschatological significance. If you want to read a very well-written paper on who the people of God are, then click on [The Promise to Abraham](#) &/or go to www.charlescoty.com/godschosen.html. While there you can also click on "The Israel of God" or go to it directly at www.charlescoty.com/TheIsraelofGod.html. My hope is that we can gain perspective and hold ourselves accountable if need be. We don't want to cater to the bin Laden's of this world by caving in on policies of conviction. However, I think a great deal of his consternation stems from very dubious U.S. activities in the Middle East.