



Who Do You Think You're Fooling?

A Message to Contemplate As We Approach the Three Week Period of Jewish National Mourning.

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One of the Thirteen Principles of Faith that define the Jewish religion is the basic belief that there is both justice and Judge in the world. Regardless of whether man will properly judge the shortcomings of his fellow man, we can rest assured that somehow, in someway and at some specific time, judgment will definitely befall the guilty. It actually appears as if this balancing of accounts is somehow ingrained within the very fabric of nature.

Frightening, isn't it, to know that somehow every ill presently being perpetuated in society and by society will eventually and inevitably come to its appropriate demise. What is more frightening is to realize that the society that causes so much offense is our own, and that we, as members of said society, are the ones guilty of causing such ills. We are thus responsible for the ultimate judgment that will inevitable fall upon us all.

How bizarre is it that on a political and global level governments are spending billions of dollars on security to protect its citizens from acts of terrorism, whereas at the same time, said citizens, only care about going about their normal daily affairs perpetuating the same behavior that has aroused world hatred and terrorism in the first place. All the money spent to build walls and not a penny spent on addressing the real cause for the need to build the walls.

How often has the old saying been proven true? Those who do not learn from the mistakes of the past are destined to repeat them. World history has been nothing other than the record of one armed conflict after another. Would it not be an interesting statistic to know just how many people over the course of all human civilization have been killed or murdered in armed conflicts as opposed to all those who have died of natural causes. What percentage of all mankind has met their fate because of the violence of others? If such a statistic could ever be figured, I am sure the number would be staggering and shock us all.

We can point the finger today at a number of ills and place blame on them for all the world's problems. It is easy, convenient, and outright popular to blame Israel for all the world's problems because of their ill treatment of the so-called innocent Palestinian



people. Yet, with or without Israel, and even with our without Palestinians, the world's problems would continue. We would just have to find another scapegoat to blame things on.

We can always blame the United States for all the world's ills. After all, it is the U.S. that exported Coca Cola and blue jeans throughout the world. The U.S. is responsible for the moral decline of the world. Let us blame Hollywood and their immoral movies. Let us blame liberalism and its call for equality for all, regardless of whom or what. Let us blame moralists for making us feel ashamed for doing what we hedonistically want to be doing. Yes, we can put the blame on all sorts of things. Yet, even if we removed all the alleged causes, nonetheless hatred, anger, violence and terrorism would still not be abated.

What then is the answer to the threat of demise? What can we do to protect ourselves from outside violent and capable enemies? We can't give the enemy everything it wants because this would require of us a comprehensive change in our lifestyles which we are not willing to do, or it would require of us to die. Only in one of these two ways can we appease the enemy.

The other thing that we can do is fight! Yet, in order to fight, one must first have the resolve to win. Without the commitment to battle and to win, one will always lose. This brings us back to our original point. Here we are again, at war. And in order to win this war, it must be fought rigorously and viciously. This is the only way a war can be fought and won. Yet, as wars go, many, many innocents die as a result. Judgment has fallen again.

Judgment, however, is very much like a children's see-saw, it goes up and down. In other words, while one side is up (or has the upper hand), the other side is down (or is the losing side in the battle). Yet, the see-saw moves up and down. In other words, the side that is now up and winning inevitable will go down and lose its upper hand. This is the nature of things. The upper side of the see-saw cannot and will not stay up forever. This is the nature of the game. As it is with simple games, so it is with the games of mankind.

There is a natural state of balance. What goes around, comes around. To every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. These are well known facts, however often they are forgotten.

Society today imbalances itself and the individuals therein are convinced there is no judge and no justice. And why are they so convinced? Because the individual says "I am doing nothing wrong." It is always the "other guy." Yet, the other guy is also saying the same thing pointing the finger back at you. No one "gets it." No one "sees."



Western civilization is a great offender against the moral norms that have been held universally sacred for millennia. This affront will not go unchallenged and unpunished. Islamic civilization has arisen to confront the decadent West and is prepared to challenge it for world domination. Yet, they are doing this by offering their children as suicide bombers. They blow up buses filled with innocent non-combatants and condemn the rest of the world as infidels worthy of death. This affront will also not go unchallenged and unpunished.

The little State of Israel lies in the middle, as it always has. It is so little, so insignificant, and yet so vital and so pivotal. Israeli is almost a contradiction unto itself. Today Israelis and Jews around the world reflect the imbalance of the rest of society, and join in choir with their Gentile neighbors singing, "there is no Judge, and there is no justice." How sad it is that the behavior of both secular and many religious Jews alike reflect this.

As we look upon the Israeli body politic and society today, we see all types of corruption and immorality. It sickens many, even to the point of turning away the hearts of many Jews from our beloved homeland itself.

We read in the Bible about the corruption and immorality of the days of the First Jewish Commonwealth. History records their demise and punishment.

We read in the Talmud about the corruption and immorality of the days of the Second Jewish Commonwealth. History records their demise and punishment.

Here we are today viewing the corruption and immorality of the Third Jewish Commonwealth. History has not yet caught up with us this time. But does anyone have any doubt that it will. Does anyone doubt that if the State of Israel continues to steer on its present course that it too shall meet its demise and punishment?

War, suffering, bloodshed, are these the only way of Judge and justice? I say certainly not! Every trial does not have to have an outcome of guilty! Unless, of course, the defendant is indeed guilty, then by all means, punishments will be executed, whether one likes it or not.

Therefore the best way to avoid the punishment is to avoid the crime. That is the reason, after all why laws and punishments were instituted in the first place, to prevent people from acting in ways that harm others.

Judgment has not yet befallen us. We can change our ways. We do not have to be found guilty again and suffer again our previous fates. Yet, as with most things in life, the choice is up to us.



Although we cannot control all things in life that happen to us, we can control how we respond to them. We can choose to do the right thing and thereby avoid the fall of the proverbial sword hanging over our heads. We can do this, if we so choose.

Yet, if we choose against doing this, who do we think we are fooling. Pick up your Bibles. Read what happened to the First Commonwealth. Pick up a Talmud (Gittin) and read about what happened to the Second. Pick up a Zohar and see what is predicted to happen to the Third. Pick up a newspaper and see what is happening now.

Choose wisely the course you wish to set for your life. For through every tragedy and every period of human judgment, there are always those who survive. Judgment is coming, war is inevitable, society will not change, BUT YOU CAN! Want to be a survivor and make it through that which is coming?

Your choices in life TODAY will choose for you what your judgment will be on THAT day and everyday. So, choose wisely and do not fool yourself any longer.