

front of the walls. Sometimes hundreds each day met this grisly fate.

2. He is the crushing stone in His second coming—grinding the nations to powder: Psalm 110:5-6; Daniel 2:44,45. {Jesus affirms—the Jews--as a nation will exist when he returns—Matthew 23:38,39}

In July 1945 President Truman demanded the immediate surrender of Japan. **They refused.** He threatened devastation if they resisted. **They resisted.** On August 1, 1945 Millions of leaflets were dropped on many Japanese cities including Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They said in Japanese, “Read this carefully—as it may save your life or the life of a relative or friend. In the next few days, some or all of the cities named on the reverse side will be destroyed by American bombs. These cities contain military installations and workshops that produce military goods. In accordance with America's humanitarian policies, the American Air Force which does not wish to injure innocent people—now gives you warning to evacuate these cities named and save your lives.”

How many evacuated we cannot say. On August 6<sup>th</sup> the first atomic bomb was dropped on Japan taking them almost totally by surprise. During the next two days American planes again showered Japan with leaflets informing the people, “We are in possession of the most destructive explosive ever devised by man....This awful fact is one for you to ponder and we solemnly assure you it is grimly accurate. We have just begun to use this weapon against your homeland. If you still have any doubt, make inquiry as to what happened to Hiroshima.” August 9<sup>th</sup> Nagasaki: Weeks later the war was over.

Dear people, we live in a favored country that has abused God's goodness, wasted His patience—and cannot possibly escape judgment when He says-- your nation has been weighed and found wanted—your country has been divided and given to others.

Hasn't God been really good to us? Hasn't He loaded us with benefits? Psalm 103?

Is He getting pure worship from us? Holy living?

Are we light to anyone? Are we warning any?

**If not us who? If not now when?**

**Favored Nations Ground to Powder: Luke 20 :1-18** APRIL 24 2024

20:1-8 Has much in common with the United States—Staggering hypocrisy by many of the leaders who are full of hatred and murder. They, the judges of what is acceptable and godly and good for the nation, want answers regarding His authority. Judge the ministry of John the Baptist—we can't! With indignation he said neither tell I you the origin of my authority.

\*This passage is about God's relationship with a favored nation called Israel: the vine is the people of Israel. The “husbandmen” *vine dressers* NKJV represent the leaders in Israel. They were uprooted from Egypt in about 1440 B.C. They were “planted” (vs.9) in Canaan land in about 1400 B.C.

Throughout Israel's history God sent them prophets, “messengers.” Where is the expected fruit? Where is Thanks? Where is service with gladness? These were “weepers and warners.” These messengers experience progressively worse treatment as time goes on.

In this parable THE ABUSED PATIENCE AND GOODNESS OF GOD IS CENTRAL. This abused patience and goodness of God **summarizes God's relationship to that people from the beginning to the end of the Old Testament.**

Verse 9-12 are nearly the whole Old Testament: vs. 12 may include John the Baptist \* [No one listening would have any disagreement]

**He sent the prophets to receive fruitful responses—same then as now: a pure worship-redemption displayed in a God-honoring manner. And He desired holy living. Be ye holy. Be light to other nations. This is what He wanted based on the favor bestowed.**

Verse 13,14 Begin the New Testament. “What shall I do?” invites you to inject your viewpoint. Verse 13 Is not a comment on divine foreknowledge as if He is stumped or uncertain as to the outcome of things: (more on this later)

**I. Consider the supreme excellency of God's only begotten Son.**

A. Compare Him to the former messengers.

1. They are good men but sinful mortals—sometimes giving up in despair: Elijah, Jeremiah.

2. He is the creator, sustainer and owner of all things: everything pleasant in the human experience has its source in Him.

B. He made His identity clear to these people: “We have a law, and according to our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.” John 19:7

**II. Consider the hateful plot and the cause of it: 14.**

Verse 13 is a prop in the story that emphasizes God's forbearance on one hand, and human responsibility on the other. “**probably they will respect Him...**” ***This is speaking to you the hearer*** in a manner agreeable to expectation—Here is action taken which you would naturally think would bring the right response—after all—who could be that evil?

A. Verse 14: the deliberation in the parable is an unveiling of a murder plot and its cause. **It is God murder. Why do people long to avoid or be completely free from the God of the Bible?**

“**that the inheritance will be ours**”

If God could be gotten rid of, if we were sure there was no judgment for our deeds—how we could break out and do whatever we want as long as we want—we could get it, have it, keep it—and no one would successfully oppose us. Oh to be free from God! Oh to be safely free from any obligation to Him, any accountability to Him.

This is the attraction of evolution—free from God!

This is the attraction of escapism—free from God.

This is the attraction of liberal theology—free from God.

This is the attraction of constant noise—free from God.

This is the attraction of American progressivism—free from God and the country is ours.

This is the attraction of unbridled capitalism: In the Enron Energy company employee's benefits and opportunities introductory literature there was this statement—THE LACK OF MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL.

B. vs 15: Is intended to make your disgust and anger rise.

1. The murder is the murder of the Son of God—who was toward God and among us full of grace and truth.

**2. Your input is called for again:** 20:15b. What will the owner do?

3. In Matthew's account the people answer, 'He will destroy those wicked men...and lease His vineyard to other vine dressers!' In Luke's Jesus answers—.

**III. Do we understand what is written about the favored nations? vs. 17,18. “He looked at them” indicates the menacing expression which he then assumed.**

A. Jesus is two different stones at two different times.

1. He is a stumbling stone in His first coming: people stumble over the crucified Messiah—a cross can't be the answer, humbling ourselves and receiving forgiveness and reconciliation through another person's suffering.

The majority of the Jews in that day rejected this good news: In the Spring of 67 A.D. The Romans Invaded northern Israel they crushed the towns Galilee easily: Some Jews attempted to escape in bats across the sea of Galilee. The Roman general built rafts and sent his archers after them. The rebels in boats were wiped out and left to rot in the water. The invasion was delayed from moving south for a time. The Roman army pulverized the country as it moved toward Jerusalem.

The city was surrounded and besieged: “As the famine began to set in, fights broke out in the city over the remaining supplies.

As the siege entered its final stages the Romans unleashed a terror campaign. The Jews were sometimes scourged and crucified in