The Lord our God will cut off the wickedness of the land of Egypt. The plagues over Egypt were shocking events that brought them off. The Lord sent locust and caused the land to be in darkness. The final shocking plague of Egypt was that all first born of the land died. Shock and awe is a tactic used in the Bible too. The objective is to change man’s perspective of God and his divine promises. There are times when people are so hardened in sin that God uses extremely aggressive means to change the minds of men. Some go to their death in rebellion while others are left in awe at God’s shocking moves. Let us consider these Old and New Testament examples of Shock and Awe.

All of Egypt and the world was in shock as they witnessed and heard about the plagues over Egypt (see Exodus 9:12; Romans 9:17). God commanded Pharaoh of Egypt to let the Hebrew slaves go, however, this was not something that Pharaoh was willing to do. God shocks the world by turning the waters of Egypt to blood, flooding the land with frogs, lice, and flies. God caused the livestock of Egypt to be diseased. The Lord put boils upon man and beast. The Lord caused it to rain a fiery hail upon the earth. The Lord sent locust and caused the land to be in darkness. The final shocking plague of Egypt was that all first born of the land died.

Shock and awe, otherwise known as “rapid dominance,” is defined as, “to affect the will, perception, and understanding of the adversary to fight or respond to our strategic policy ends through imposing a regime of Shock and Awe. Rapid dominance will impose this overwhelming level of Shock and Awe against an adversary on an immediate or sufficiently timely basis to paralyze its will to carry on...to seize control of the environment and paralyze or so overload an adversary’s perceptions and understanding of events that the enemy would be incapable of resistance at the tactical and strategic levels (wikipedia.com). Throughout history this military tactic was used by the Roman legions, the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and more recently the war with Iraq.

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Sometimes it takes an all out slap in the face for people to open their eyes to the sin in their lives. Many people live their day to day lives in sin and never give the eternity of their soul a second thought. God presents the gospel message to people to change their actions (Hebrews 4:12). The Lord also chastises, punishes, and corrects people with tribulation to change their destructive course (see Jeremiah 30:11). The Lord's love for man is manifest in his many attempts to bring man to repentance. Another way God has moved man to repentance is through what some may call, "Shock and Awe."
Welcome to all Our Visitors

We hope that you will be edified by our worship service and that you will come back at your next opportunity. If you have any questions about our worship please feel free to ask one of our members, preacher, deacons, or elders of the church.

Summer Gospel Meeting

Luis Zamora of Austin Texas will be preaching our summer gospel meeting this year. Please mark June 29, 30, and July 1, 2012 on your calendars (Friday through Sunday meeting).

Kasey Robertson received a very favorable report this week from her Neurologist. After many doctors visits she is getting closer to solving her intense headache issues. We appreciate all your prayers on her behalf.

Shut ins

Stella Davidson
696-1030

old man who had been working in the field. The old man acted hospitable to the Levite and his concubine, however, as the night wore on the wicked of the town came to see this new man. The wicked men of Benjamin demanded to have sexual relations with the Levite. The old man was willing to give up his own virgin daughter and the Levite's concubine yet they pressed the man for the Levite. To avert total disaster the old man throws the Levite's concubine to the wicked men and they sexually abuse her all night. The next morning the Levite finds his concubine wife dead. He cuts her up into twelve pieces and sends her limbs to the twelve tribes of Israel demanding action. When the Israelites heard of this deed they were shocked and acted aggressively. The tribe of Benjamin is near exterminated.

The historical Babylonian siege of Jerusalem is a prime example of shock and awe. God warned Judah for 25 years, by the mouth of Jeremiah, that they may repent of their wickedness yet many of the people went to their grave in sin. The Chaldeans came up against Jerusalem, sieged the city for 18 months, and then burned the city, its walls, and temple to the ground (see Jeremiah 19:7-9, 34:1; 39:1-9). Judah is left in Babylonian captivity for seventy years.

Nicodemus was shocked at the words of Jesus when the Lord told him that he must be born again (John 3:1-11). Nicodemus was a Pharisee who had been taught that he was stuck in a covenant relationship with God and there was nothing more to do but to keep the Mosaic Law. Jesus tells the Pharisee that he needed to be born again in order to enter into the kingdom of God. While Nicodemus considered himself already a part of God's kingdom Jesus said he was not. Many today are shocked to hear that they are not really Christians and neither have they received God's grace. The gospel of Jesus Christ will either shock them to move to repentance and obedient or they will go away hardened in their hearts.

Jesus shocked the multitudes after feeding five thousand people with five loaves of bread and two fishes. First, the Lord shocks them by telling them that the real reason they follow him is to eat more bread and fish (John 6:26). Secondly, Jesus shocks the multitudes by telling them that they must eat his flesh and drink his blood in order to live for ever (see John 6:47-66). Many were repulsed by the Lord's words and walked no more with him.

The crucifixion of Jesus Christ was a shocking event (Luke 23:33-46). It was shocking that the very Christ that the prophets had foretold to come into the world to save man of their sins was rejected and despised of the Jews (Matthew 26:1-5). When the multitudes watched, as the Lord suffered, they felt the earth quake, experienced darkness at a time when darkness should not have occurred, witnessed the veil of the temple tearing in two pieces, and saw many dead people that had been buried raised from the grave. These shocking events terrified the masses and caused them to leave Golgotha smiting their breasts in horror at the thought of what they had been a part of (see Luke 23:47-48).

There are times when people must be shocked out of their stupor. Sometimes it takes a while for the sting of the shock to take affect yet eventually it has its desired affects (see Acts 2:22). Unfortunately, it matters not in some cases how shocking the event people will still go to their grave in a hardened state of mind (see Isaiah 6:6-12; Acts 28:26-27). Today, the gospel of Jesus Christ continues to shock man with its instructions of righteousness and justice. Will we harden our hearts or will we be the meek and lowly people who live with God throughout all eternity (see Hebrews 3:12-4:1).

Shock and Awe

Introduction

Sometimes it takes an all out slap in the face for people to open their eyes to the sin in their lives. Many people live their day to day lives in sin and never give the eternity of their soul a second thought. God presents the gospel message to people to change their actions (Hebrews 4:12). The Lord also chastises, punishes, and corrects people with tribulation to change their destructive course (see Jeremiah 30:11). The Lord's love for man is manifest in his many attempts to bring man to repentance. Another way God has moved man to repentance is through what some may call, "Shock and Awe."

Shock and awe, other wise known as "rapid dominance," is defined as, "to affect the will, perception, and understanding of the adversary to fight or respond to our strategic policy ends through imposing a regime of Shock and Awe. Rapid dominance will impose this overwhelming level of Shock and Awe against an adversary on an immediate or sufficiently timely basis to paralyze its will to carry on . . . to seize control of the environment and paralyze or so overload an adversary's perceptions and understanding of events that the enemy would be incapable of resistance at the tactical and strategic levels (wikipedia.com). Throughout history this military tactic was used by the Roman legions, the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and more recently the war with Iraq.

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I. The Shocking Case of Plagues over Egypt (Romans 9:17; Exodus 7-12)
II. The Shocking Case of a Levite's Concubine (Judges 19:22-30)
III. The Shocking Case of Babylon's Siege (Jeremiah 19:7-9)
IV. The Shocking Case of Nicodemus (John 3:1-15)
V. The Shocking Case of Eating Jesus' Flesh and Blood (John 6:47-60)
VI. The Shocking Case of Christ's Crucifixion (Luke 23:47-48)

Conclusion:

There are times people must be shocked out of their stupor. Sometimes it takes a while for the sting of the shock to take affect yet eventually it has its desired affects (see Acts 2:22). Unfortunately, it matters not in some cases how shocking the event people will still go to their grave in a hardened state of mind (see Isaiah 6:6-12; Acts 28:26-27). Today, the gospel of Jesus Christ continues to shock man with its instructions of righteousness and justice. Will we harden our hearts or will we be the meek and lowly people who live with God throughout all eternity (see Hebrews 3:12-4:1).