

THE FAITHFUL CITY

For the last forty years, there have been in the United States of America, on average, around one million abortions every year. This means that in the United States in the last forty year, women have killed forty-million babies in their wombs. Some ghoulish people gleefully sell pieces of the dismembered babies. One inhuman woman said that she was a merchant of baby parts because she desired to buy an expensive sports car. This is a great evil, and it is an evil that many civil authorities work to preserve. Yet, many good people continue to work to make it illegal. Today the Supreme Court of the United States heard arguments concerning a ban on abortions after the fifteenth week of pregnancy. If the court upholds the ban, theirs will be a righteous and praiseworthy judgment. However, that civil authorities, whom God ordained to preserve life, would continue to allow women to murder their unborn children before the fifteenth week of pregnancy is disgraceful, and can only provoke God to wrath. The people of the United States must lament this despicable practice, and they who murder children must repent.

In the days of the divided monarchy, There were a few good kings, but most were evil, and led the people to do evil. The great city of Jerusalem the seat of the southern kingdom, was especially wicked. God called Isaiah the prophet to prophesy against that evil city. Through Isaiah, the Lord said:

How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers. Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water: Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them. (Isaiah 1:21-23)

The once righteous city, the city established by the faithful king David, had sunk in sin. It had become a harlot, a woman who sells her body to men. It had once been home to righteous men, but had become the lair of villains. The civil rulers, who were to execute righteous judgment, who were to defend the righteous cause widows and orphans, took money to pervert the course of justice.

The people of Jerusalem were unfaithful to the Lord, and their wickedness provoked Him to anger, and so He would bring upon it a great and terrible judgment. He said:

Ah, I will ease me of mine adversaries, and avenge me of mine enemies: And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin: And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city. Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness. And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners shall be together, and they that forsake the LORD shall be consumed. For they shall be ashamed of the oaks which ye have desired, and ye shall be confounded for the gardens that ye have chosen. For ye shall be as an oak whose leaf fadeth, and as a garden that hath no water. And the strong shall be as tow, and the maker of it as a spark, and they shall both burn together, and none shall quench them. (Isaiah 1:24-31)

God has ordained the civil authorities as his servants, to execute His wrath on them that do evil, to avenge Himself of his enemies. There was a time in Israel when those authorities faithfully executed their duties. Yet, later authorities rebelled against the Lord and used their powers for evil. So, the Lord would punish them for

their wrong-doing. He would have revenge for the wrongs done against Him, and against good and faithful people. The Lord would begin again. He would redeem the city. He would purge the unfaithful, and only the faithful would remain, and the city of Jerusalem would once again be called the city of righteousness. Many had broken their covenant with God. They had forsaken Him to worship false gods. So, the Lord would destroy them. He would send the army of Babylon to lay siege to their city, to kill many, and to carry many away into exile. King David had commissioned the building of a temple for the Lord, and Solomon had completed the building. The people of Isaiah's time worshipped idols in the oak groves and gardens. So, the Lord would shame and confound them. In the first Psalm it says that the righteous man delights in the law of the Lord, and "he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." (Psalm 1:3) Of the unrighteous men of Jerusalem, Isaiah said, "Ye shall be as an oak whose leaf fadeth, and as a garden that hath no water." (Isaiah 1:30) The powerful men of the city would be like tinder, and their evil works the spark, and both would burn together and be consumed. The people did not repent of their sins, so God did punish them. He sent the army of Babylon to destroy their city, to kill many, and to carry many away into exile.

Jesus said that the Jews of His time were more wicked than the heathen Ninevites of Isaiah's time. They were worse because they were the Lord's covenant people, and because they had in their midst the Son of God Himself, whom they rejected. The men of Nineveh repented at the preaching of Jonah, but the Jews of Jesus's time did not repent. Because they murdered the Christ, the Son of God, the Lord once again destroyed their city and their temple.

Today, Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor, a Roman Catholic, denied the personhood of unborn babies, asserting that their sensation of pain is no sign of life. Such hubris, such depravity, can only bring God's judgment.

Let us repent of our sins. Let us preach to all men repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us pray that our nation will be faithful.

Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.