

Disproportionate Response

As we are in church today, the Middle East is once again engulfed in conflict. On July 12, the radical Islamic group Hezbollah launched Katyusha rockets across the Lebanese border, targeting small farming settlements in northern Israel. That same day, Hezbollah soldiers launched a cross border assault resulting in several civilians being injured, three Israeli soldiers being killed, and two Israeli soldiers being kidnapped. Since then, Israel has retaliated and intends to continue military action until its kidnapped soldiers are returned and Hezbollah's armaments in southern Lebanon are rendered powerless.

None of this should surprise us, because the Bible prophesied it ...

Zechariah 12:3 And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

- The United Nations has passed more resolutions concerning Jerusalem than any other subject. During their 2000 years of exile, the Gentile nations have screamed at the Jews, "Go back to Jerusalem where you belong!" – now those same nations are saying, "No, you can't have Jerusalem!"
- After WW I, the nations of the world met at Versailles to decide what should be done with the lands belonging to collapsed empires. Men like Woodrow Wilson (US) and Lloyd George (UK) decided that the minimum to be done for the 16 million Jewish people would be to give them the historical land of Israel (including all of Jordan and the East & West banks) – still a tiny area for 16 million people!
- In 1920, the British Mandate began; they gave 80% of the land designated for the Jews to the Arabs and established the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan – leaving Israel only 20% of what was promised! And 60% of the Jew's portion was desert! In 1947-48, the British pulled out, leaving Israel with no weapons; they fought the Arabs for the whole of the land. Israel declared itself a nation on May 14, 1948 – and the next day five Arab nations declared war on Israel! But in 1967, the Jews finally captured the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Temple Mount after 2000 years.
- The Jews have had an attachment to the Biblical land of Israel for 3500 years; this has no parallel in the history of nations! The Arab world has 4,560,000 square miles of land area; Israel has 7,992 square miles of land area – less than 1/500th (1/5 of 1%); the Arab world has 21 nations – now they want a 22nd within Israel!

- The Arabs have fought six wars with Israel since 1948 and lost every one of them; no nation in history has been required to give back conquests gained when they were attacked, but the world expects Israel to because of anti-semitism!

Now with the current conflict, many in the media are saying that Israel's response to Hezbollah is "DISPROPORTIONATE" ... especially earlier today (last night our time) when the Israeli air force hit a terrorist stronghold in Qana that killed over 50 people. World sentiment seems to be rising against Israel. But what exactly is "disproportionate response"?

'Disproportionate' in What Moral Universe?

by Charles Krauthammer (Washington Post – Friday, July 28, 2006)

What other country, when attacked in an unprovoked aggression across a recognized international frontier, is then put on a countdown clock by the world, given a limited time window in which to fight back, regardless of whether it has restored its own security?

What other country sustains 1,500 indiscriminate rocket attacks into its cities -- every one designed to kill, maim and terrorize civilians -- and is then vilified by the world when it tries to destroy the enemy's infrastructure and strongholds with precision-guided munitions that sometimes have the unintended but unavoidable consequence of collateral civilian death and suffering?

To hear the world pass judgment on the Israel-Hezbollah war as it unfolds is to live in an Orwellian moral universe. With a few significant exceptions (the leadership of the United States, Britain, Australia, Canada and a very few others), the world -- governments, the media, U.N. bureaucrats -- has completely lost its moral bearings. The word that obviates all thinking and magically inverts victim into aggressor is "disproportionate," as in the universally decried "disproportionate Israeli response."

When the United States was attacked at Pearl Harbor, it did not respond with a parallel "proportionate" attack on a Japanese naval base. It launched a four-year campaign that killed millions of Japanese, reduced Tokyo, Hiroshima and Nagasaki to cinders, and turned the Japanese home islands into rubble and ruin. Disproportionate? No. When one is wantonly attacked by an aggressor, one has every right -- legal and moral -- to carry the fight until the aggressor is disarmed and so disabled that it cannot threaten one's security again. That's what it took with Japan.

Britain was never invaded by Germany in World War II. Did it respond to the Blitz and V-1 and V-2 rockets with "proportionate" aerial bombardment of Germany? Of course not. Churchill orchestrated the greatest air campaign and land invasion in history, which flattened and utterly destroyed Germany, killing untold innocent German women and children in the process.

The perversity of today's international outcry lies in the fact that **there is indeed a disproportion in this war, a radical moral asymmetry between Hezbollah and Israel: Hezbollah is deliberately trying to create civilian casualties on both sides while Israel is deliberately trying to minimize civilian casualties, also on both sides.**

In perhaps the most blatant terror campaign from the air since the London Blitz, Hezbollah is raining rockets on Israeli cities and villages. These rockets are packed with ball bearings that can penetrate automobiles and shred human flesh. They are meant to kill and maim. And they do.

But it is a dual campaign. Israeli innocents must die in order for Israel to be terrorized. But Lebanese innocents must also die in order for Israel to be demonized, which is why **Hezbollah hides its fighters, its rockets, its launchers, its entire infrastructure among civilians. Creating human shields is a war crime. It is also a Hezbollah specialty.**

On Wednesday CNN cameras showed destruction in Tyre. What does Israel have against Tyre and its inhabitants? Nothing. But the long-range Hezbollah rockets that have been raining terror on Haifa are based in Tyre. What is Israel to do? Leave untouched the launch sites that are deliberately placed in built-up areas?

Had Israel wanted to destroy Lebanese civilian infrastructure, it would have turned out the lights in Beirut in the first hour of the war, destroying the billion-dollar power grid and setting back Lebanon 20 years. It did not do that. Instead it attacked dual-use infrastructure -- bridges, roads, airport runways -- and blockaded Lebanon's ports to prevent the reinforcement and resupply of Hezbollah. **Ten thousand Katyusha rockets are enough. Israel was not going to allow Hezbollah 10,000 more.**

Israel's response to Hezbollah has been to use the most precise weaponry and targeting it can. It has no interest, no desire to kill Lebanese civilians. Does anyone imagine that it could not have leveled south Lebanon, to say nothing of Beirut? Instead, in the bitter fight against Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, it has repeatedly dropped leaflets, issued warnings, sent messages by radio and even phone text to Lebanese villagers to evacuate so that they would not be harmed.

Israel knows that these leaflets and warnings give the Hezbollah fighters time to escape and regroup. The advance notification as to where the next attack is coming has allowed Hezbollah to set up elaborate ambushes. The result? Unexpectedly high Israeli infantry casualties. Moral scrupulousness paid in blood. Israeli soldiers die so that Lebanese civilians will not, and who does the international community condemn for disregarding civilian life?

Much of the world claims that Israel hasn't shown restraint and has attacked in a disproportionate way -- though no one says what "proportionate" means. How do you deal with killers who use civilians as human shields? People like UN Leader Kofi Annan want the bombing to stop so that the UN can go back to doing nothing while saying much.

Israel showed restraint for six long years, waiting for someone to stop Hezbollah from collecting armaments. Perhaps the "international community" considered that restraint admirable, but it meant that this summer about a third of Israelis are within range of a ferocious enemy's 12,000 rockets. That may explain why the word "restraint" no longer plays a large part in the vocabulary of Israel.

Matthew 18:7-9 ⁷ Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh! ⁸ Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. ⁹ And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

There is another critical battlefield where a "proportionate response" will NOT get the job done. The only way to win is to absolutely overwhelm the enemy with "disproportionate action" -- you have to fight harder than he does if you are going to eliminate his influence and effectiveness.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Proverbs 5:22 The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast.

When you sin, you tie yourself up; instead of the sinner being free and the believer being "in bondage" it's really the reverse! Satan loves to mock the human race. He loves to see men and women, the pinnacle of God's creation, putting needles in their arms, committing sodomy, shooting and stabbing each other, begging for money for another drink, dressing as transvestites, dying of sexually transmitted diseases, tossing and turning in their guilt, wallowing in their shame, drowning in their embarrassment. The devil loves to degrade and humiliate us!

James 1:14-15 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

There is only one way in which sin is faithful -- its reward is always death. But sin won't let you in on this secret. Instead, sin promises riches, fame, pleasure, fulfillment and power. And while you may experience some of these along the way, they are only fleeting, lasting at best just a few decades. Then the real payday comes, and the results are always the same -- DEATH, both natural and spiritual.

ACTUALLY, SIN BRINGS DEATH RIGHT FROM THE START -- It always kills something in us when we transgress. It assaults our sensitivity, trashes our conscience, mauls our willpower, and defiles our soul. You could almost say that every time we sin, something in us dies. Then, at the end of the road, sin pays up with eternal death.

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

It takes a "disproportionate response" to deal with sin! You can't wean yourself away gradually, wait for a better opportunity, or play around with it ... you have to act NOW and die to your old nature!