

Besieged

the
EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL WAR
for
THE SOUL OF AMERICA

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Besieged

AMERICA is in the fight of her life—a dark, grim, deadly struggle for survival.

EXTERNALLY, we are waging war with a vicious, terrorist foe, an enemy whose greatest weapon is self-sacrifice. This adversary has fallen under the spell of a belief system so gripping, so morbid, so anti-God, so hate-filled, that its heroes are those who murder innocents by making them targets of their own violent suicide.

This **external** enemy, though sometimes stealth, can, with determination, be physically rooted out and destroyed. However, the ideas which feed this monster hold an entire region of the globe under their sway and influence. Victory over this enemy will require far more than simply destroying weapons and those who use them. In this war, our ultimate enemy is the worldview which nourishes the culture that has given birth to terrorism.

INTERNALLY, we are waging war with another vicious foe. This foe—selfishness—is a virulent, ideological strain so gripping, so morbid, so anti-God, so hate-filled, that millions have been lulled into the deadly slumber of a dumbed-down, me-first complacency. This foe, firmly lodged within each of our hearts, is far more insidious than the terrorists whose base of operation is halfway around the globe.

This **internal** enemy, always stealth, has been at war with humankind since the earliest days of creation. Ironically, the only cure for this curse is death—the kind of death which one lives through—death to self. To emerge victori-

ous in this war, millions of Americans will have to make the deliberate choice to surrender their wills to God, allowing Him to take control of their lives. In this war, our ultimate enemy is the worldview which elevates self over God.

Regardless of which way we turn, we are dead men.

Externally, if we do not defend ourselves against terrorism, we might eventually lose our lives to a detonated bomb, a chemical or biological weapon, or a nuclear device of some kind.

Internally, if we allow ourselves to remain in the state of me-first sleep—prisoners of selfishness—we will die a slow, uneventful death after living out a meaningless life.

The only alternative is the third kind of death, the kind of death demonstrated in the popular film *The Passion of the Christ*, a death resulting from a life laid down freely in service to God.

Which form of death would you prefer?

Much is at stake. As things stand today, waging this war on two battlefronts, we Americans are at risk of losing our freedom. And, if we are not alert, vigilant, and determined, we could eventually even lose America itself.

Both of these enemies—the internal and the external—spring from the bitter root of God hatred. The human race has been tangled up in this root since time began.



The Pentagon: October 13, 2001
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For most Americans, the *War on Terror*, set in motion following the attacks of September 11th, 2001, is clear cut. We may disagree over specifics, but few deny that as a nation we have a right and a responsibility to defend ourselves and our borders from terrorism. One need only think of the fires and destruction of the Twin Towers and the Pentagon to realize that this war is real.

This document will explore The root which feeds both of these vile enemies can be traced back to a fateful moment in Eden's garden. The root is bitterness, the enemy of God.

In this document, I will This document Before we examine the impact of this bitter root in our own nation, let us first explore the realm of history itself, and its essential aid to us in the present.

MEMORY CONFUSION

In the hours and days following the 9/11 attacks, our land was awash with patriotism. Church attendance swelled briefly, as we sought comfort and understanding. It seemed we were in the throes of a deep spiritual renewal. But the feelings quickly subsided.

Today, just two-and-a-half years later, some seem to have already forgotten those horrific hours we endured, and those horrible acts of terror that took the lives of 3,000 Americans. We have returned, it would seem, to our old, debauched ways.

The recent Super-Bowl half-time show demonstrated to the world just how debased our culture has become. And, on the threshold of another Presidential election campaign, we have returned to the bitter, vicious patterns of political treachery, finger-pointing, and name calling. We seem to have forgotten our short-lived unity.

The interpretation of history has always been up for grabs—even recent history. Whether it's a presidential candidate lashing out at as his opponent's record, or his opponent defending himself, there seems to be two distinct interpretations of the incumbent's recent policies—and so vastly divergent.

Mel Gibson's film triumph, *The Passion of the Christ*, has demonstrated a great divide in America. While critics decried the film's excessive violence, calling it unnecessary, Bible-based Christians praised the film's accuracy. Clearly, we witnessed two entirely different reads on the same well-known story.

So, it would seem that our best defense against being manipulated by history's interpreters is to arm ourselves with the facts, by studying history on our own.

"But history is soooo boring," some argue. "All those facts, and dates, and names."

HISTORY AS A HELPER

History is not merely facts, dates, and names. History is meaning, purpose, and wisdom. As students of history, we not only learn about who did what, but why they did it, and how their actions impacted others.

Do you learn from your mistakes? Have you ever revisited your own, personal past and determined never to do something again?

That very same result is what a collective memory brings to a nation.

Have you ever revisited your own, personal past in an attempt to recall or remember your primary reason for a major decision you made so long ago?