

The Coming Martyrdom

By Dr. Gary M. Gulan, ©1983 (Rev. 86,91,03)

Introduction: In the near future, I believe a great amount of people will be "eliminated," (i.e. put to death or martyred). Christians and Israelis may be the prime targets, however, many others may be at risk.

If God the Father's timing for the "rapture" of the church (1 Thessalonians 4:17) does not occur soon, there may be a large number of Christians who will be "martyred." We know prophetically there will be a large number martyred for their relationship to God. God's Word states, "When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the Word of God and for the testimony which they held," (Revelation 6:9).

There are at least three possible views concerning these "martyred" individuals. *One view* is that they could be those who were martyred during the events leading up to the rapture, just prior to the seven year tribulation. *A second view* is that they are those who were saved after the rapture were martyred during the beginning of the tribulation period. *And a third view* is that the seals are telescopic in their unfolding. The fifth seal would take place close to the end of the tribulation. Thus, these individuals could be those who were saved and martyred over the seven year tribulation. One thing is certain no matter which view is correct, there is going to be an upcoming martyrdom for those who follow the true and living God.

Today there is a great emphasis on wanting to put people to death. Various groups want to "kill people" for their cause. Allow me to point out at least four such groups.

1. THE RELIGIOUS

Islam makes up the second largest religion of our day with over one billion adherents. (Answering Islam, Norman Geisler and Abdul Saleeb, Baker: Grand Rapids, 2002, p. 9).

Everyone knows those of the Islamic faith hate the people of the West. Though few want to admit that much of the Islam's hatred today has a religious basis to it. By its very nature, Islam is "set against" both Israel and the Christian church. If one does not accept "Alah" as the true God and "Mohammed" as his prophet, then you should be put to death as an infidel, (Qu'an, 2:244, 9:5; 47:4; 9:29; 3:195; 5:36). Israel only accepts "Yahweh" as the one true God and the Christian church accepts "Jesus Christ" as God and God sent prophet. Israel and the Christian Church reject "Islam's" basic beliefs. Thus, Islam is at war against Israel and the Christian Church.

We are already witnessing the "martyrdom" of a large number of Christians in Muslim countries (cf. Middle East, Indonesia, West Asia and North Africa). The Islamic faith, which is not a religion of peace, has many doctrines that teach to eliminate people who will not conform to Islam. Islam believes in a "holy war" (i.e. A "jihad", which calls Muslims to wage war in all suitable circumstances in order to bring the non-Muslim

world under the dominance of Islam. (Eerdman's Handbook to the World's Religions, Eerdmans: Grand Rapids, 1983, p. 334).

2. THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS

Even though some leaders within the "environmental movement" are not in the "New Age Movement," those who are New Agers are having an influence on the whole environmental issue.

One well known name in the modern environmental movement is French oceanographer, Jacques Cousteau. I do not think he is a part of the "New Age Movement" however, he is used by the "New Age Movement" because of the environmental emphasis. Jacques Cousteau has stated over and over, "To stabilize the world population we must eliminate 350,000 people per day. It is a horrible thing to say, but it's just as bad not to say it." (Foreshocks Of Antichrist, William T. James Ed., "Man Target For Extinction," By David Benoit, Harvest House: Eugene, 1997, p. 304, quoting from, Unesco Courier, Nov. 1991).

Another example, is biological environmentalist James Lovelock, who holds a Ph.D in medicine from the University of London. He is a part of the "New Age Movement." He has popularized the old Greek heresy known as "Gaia Hypothesis." "Gaia" was a old religion associated with witchcraft which stated living organisms on earth are children of mother earth. The earth is a self-sustaining organism. There is a relationship between the atmosphere, the raw materials and the organisms of earth which is a "state of equilibrium." Lovelock believes in a coming "punctuated equilibrium" whereby the living mother earth eliminates humans because they have polluted or damaged the environment. He states, "Gaia, through the natural functions of species and environment, can compensate for our unrelenting destruction to the environment, while Gaia will survive, humans may not!" "We are ourselves a product of a planetary catastrophe. Could it be that we are unwittingly precipitating another punctuation that will alter the environment to suit our successors?" (Mother Earth News, "Conversations With Mother: James Lovelock, Toward A New Planetary Perspective," Sept./Oct. 1989, pgs. 44-52).

Sara Pacher after reading James Lovelock's book, The Ages of Gaia: A Biography of Our Living Earth (W.W. Norton Company: London, 1988) interviews James Lovelock and states to him, "In fact you've noted that Gaia is no doting mother, and that if a species screws up, she eliminates it with all the feeling of the micro brain in an ICBM. To Gaia, humans may not be as important as algae." Lovelock responds, "I think we're important to Gaia because we have the capability of initiating the major perturbation that destroys the present system. One never knows when the final perturbation will come." (Mother Earth News, "Conversations With Mother: James Lovelock, Toward A New Planetary Perspective," Sept./Oct. 1989, pgs. 44-52).

3. THE CULTS

The "New Age Movement" could be classified under a religion, however, it is more of a cult. It really transcends religious realms and even the cult realm because it is not well

organized and very diverse. It has influences in science, history, government, politics, finances, medicine, health, and many other fields including the environment.

The New Age Movement declared that "the world's population should be depleted to 500,000,000 in perpetual balance with nature." (Foreshocks Of Antichrist, William T. James Ed., "Man Target For Extinction," By David Benoit, Harvest House: Eugene, 1997, p. 304, referring to "The Georgia Guide Stone" monument in Elberton, Georgia, containing the ten commandments of the New Age Movement).

One of the leading New Age spokesmen John Randolph Price, "asserts that his spirit guide showed him that earth's inhabitants who do not join in this quantum leap will be removed from earth." (One World Under Anti-Christ, Peter Lalonde, Harvest House: Eugene, 1991, p. 168, Quoting, The Planetary Commission, by John R. Price, Quartus Foundation, 1984).

A "new age" demon, known as Asher the "Awakened One" told one of the "new age" prophets named John Price that, "Nature will soon enter her cleansing cycle. Those who reject the earth changes with an attitude of 'it can't happen here' will experience the greatest emotion of fear and panic, followed by rage and violent action. These individuals with their lower vibratory rates will be removed during the next two decades. Those who expect change and face it calmly with faith will move through it virtually untouched and will be the builders of the future." John Price responds to what Asher told him, "What I am hearing is both horrible and hopeful.... I know that one of the most serious problems we have today is overpopulation, but wiping more than two billion people off the face of the earth is a little drastic, don't you think?" (Practical Spirituality, John R. Price, p. 15-20).

Texe Marr's, Dark Secrets of the New Age, provides over 30 pages of material dealing with "cleansing," (i.e. The coming martyrdom of Christians and non-New Agers).

4. THE POLITICAL REALM

There is a coming "New World Order" which stresses unity and will not tolerate two major activities: 1. prejudice or hate toward alternative lifestyles with a different sexual orientation; and 2. genocide where someone (i.e. a Christian missionary) changes the culture or beliefs of another individual. Christians will have a problem with the New World Order because the Bible teaches against alternative sexual orientations. Also, Christian missionary activity is to "convert" people to Christ and change their beliefs and lifestyle.

"Those who stand in the way of unity are increasingly being viewed with a hostile eye, for these narrow-minded disrupters are seen as standing in the way of the establishment of the peace and the very survival of the entire planet. Those people who insist on maintaining their archaic and provincially orthodox beliefs and literal interpretations of Scripture must either learn to become open-minded and blend in or else risk being eliminated, literally." (Like Lambs To The Slaughter, page 172).

Conclusion: The Christian should realize that Jesus Himself said, "A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you," (John 15:20).