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## **Evil Hearts, Blinded Minds, And Fiery Tongues**

By Duane V. Maxey

Stemming from Satan, the Father of all Evil, three factors that are playing prominent parts in the cataclysmic events that are now unfolding are: **Evil Hearts, Blinded Minds, and Fiery Tongues**. **The first of these -- evil hearts** -- is widely recognized by Bible-Believing Christians as a root-source of our world-wide trouble, but it is the two latter factors that I wish to mention below:-- **Blinded Minds and Fiery Tongues** -- both being latently lethal and viciously volatile, and both contributing directly to the horrible events in America on Black Tuesday, September 11, 2001.

**The fire-balls** that melted the huge steel beams in those WTC Towers bringing them crashing to the ground and slaying some 6,500 people in NYC, **were the result of blinded minds united with incendiary tongues** -- a deadly combination!

Jesus warned: "The time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service" (John 16:2). The fiendish, master-stroke of Satan in Eden resulted in a sin-darkened species of mankind, "having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart" (Eph. 4:18). So pitifully blurred is Fallen Man's spiritual understanding that millions have done great evil, when they thought they were doing God a service. Thus came the Crucifixion of Christ, thus came the Inquisitions, and thus are coming the Jihads of self-immolating, Muslim extremists.

I think it likely that many blinded followers of Osama Bin Laden's brand of Islam actually **DO** think that they are doing God a service. Make no mistake about it -- **THERE IS** a form of Islam out there that is very militant, and very convinced that the Attack on America was a service to God! -- and, according to reports that I have heard, Saudi Arabia is the source of much of this latter-day Islamic extremism.

Saudi Arabia sided with the US in the Gulf War largely because their own nation was being threatened by Saddam Hussein -- not because they relished having Americans on their soil. The form of Islam that has long been fostered and spread by Saudi Arabia gave birth to such as Osama Bin Laden, and even though they have now broken ties with him they still believe in, and still endorse, a brand of Islamic extremism that stands in striking contrast with the immoral nudity and laxity so rampant in Israel and in our so-called, Christian America.

Take the ingredient of strict dress-codes of an Islamic extremism that arouses vehement hatred of its opponents (imagined or real), add to that the ingredient of widespread moral decay in Israel, America, and Europe, and couple all of that with the spiritually blurred and blinded minds of those Islamic extremists -- and you have a tinder-box all primed for the lighting! -- but we are now beyond that -- the inferno has been ignited!

In Luke 21:10 we read Jesus' prophecy that "**Nation** shall rise against **nation**," The original Greek word for "nation" here is "ethnos," which might also be translated "race". Translated thus the statement would read: "**Race** shall rise up against **race**" -- and, that is precisely what we are now seeing -- the Arabs against the Jews and their friends! The sin-blurred understanding of Fallen men of various "races" and various "religions" is a huge factor in the world-wide trouble of these latter days!

I have recently heard a radio advertisement for a product called "Focus Factor" that is supposed to make people's minds more mentally keen. I will not comment on its effectiveness, but I will just say this: the world's troubles are not nearly so much the result of mental dullness as they are the consequence of blurred and blinded spiritual understanding! Those crying for a world-wide Jihad against Israel, America, and their friends, are sometimes very clever and mentally keen, but when they slay in one hour nearly 7,000 people who did them no harm, all the while thinking that they are doing God a service, then it is very obvious to me that they "have their understanding darkened... through the [pitch-dark spiritual] ignorance that is in them!" And I will also add: those opposing their monstrous deeds should take heed lest they retaliate with a similar blindness. Just retribution to rid the earth of their menace? Yes, but not an American-Jihad against those who have done us no harm.

Then there is the factor of fiery, incendiary tongues at work in these troubled times. Prov 16:27 reads: "An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is as a burning fire." The NIV version of this verse reads: "A **scoundrel** plots evil, and his **speech is like a scorching fire**." The world has already produced numerous **scoundrels with scorching tongues**, one of them being Adolph Hitler, whose tongue was a verbal incendiary, inflaming the German populace against the Jews and against all who opposed his dictatorial designs. There have also been many more quite like him, some of whom have been very religious.

James wrote: "The tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!.. and the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members.. and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell" (James 3:5-6). The WTC Towers and the Pentagon were literally "**set on fire of hell**" through the incendiary ravings of Osama Bin Laden, and his cohorts. One news report related that Bin Laden denied the actual doing of the deeds on Black Tuesday, but quite readily admitted inciting the minds of others

to do so. His culpability in the matter still stands, however, because he who strikes the match and hands it to one that he knows will cast it into the dry tinder is just as guilty of starting the fire as if he had done it all himself!

Indeed this uniting of cause with its original effect finds us in an awkward situation now with Saudi Arabia. The US befriended and allied itself with the Saudis against Saddam Hussein, but now Saudi Arabia is unwilling for US forces to use its bases in an assault against Bin Laden. Why? The Saudis know that Bin Laden's Islamic extremism is an offshoot of their own brand of Islam -- the same belief taken a step farther. To a large extent, Bin Laden's views were derived from an extreme and rigid form of Islam that has long been preached and enforced in Saudi Arabia, and a form of that religion that is still being fostered by them!

As I see it, in their fostering and spreading an extreme form of Islam, Saudi Arabia is one of those who manufactured "the match". Bin Laden then struck it and handed it to the Terrorists, and they in turn started the holocaust -- but all of them are culpable! Yes, America was a nation ripe for judgment. Yes, this was another factor, but when a brand of religion is preached and fostered in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere that produces a latent and lethal hatred toward others, so that there is but a small step to striking the match and igniting an inferno, then they too must share in the blame for what occurred on September 11, 2001.

"Behold, how great a matter" has now been incinerated through the darkened understanding and fiery tongues of Muslim extremists! And likewise those professed Christian extremists who resort to terrorism to frighten and kill abortionists and their helpers are no better. Men and women with evil hearts, blinded minds, and fiery tongues, have repeatedly failed throughout history to learn that God does not condone the doing of evil that good may come!

Proverbs 14:22 reads: "Do they not err that devise evil? but mercy and truth shall be to them that devise good," and the NIV version of the verse reads: "Do not those who plot evil go astray? But **those who plan what is good find love** and faithfulness." Sadly, there are many even now who are devising and plotting evil in the blind imagination that good shall come from their deeds. **Oh! for more "who plan what is good" that millions around our globe might "find love"!**

While I was pastoring in St. Louis, Missouri years ago, shortly after the Holy Ghost had baptized me with the sweetest inundation and saturation of Perfect Love that I had ever experienced, I walked into a variety store. On the store speakers a song was being sung wherein were the words: "**What the world needs now is Love, sweet Love! It's the only thing there isn't plenty of.**" Even though I recognized it as a popular song, the Spirit seemed to spiritualize those words in my mind and cause their Perfect-Love meaning to resonate through my inmost being as TRUE, SO TRUE! **How greatly yet today our poor, blind, and enflamed world needs God's Love, Sweet, Love!** While an holocaust of hatred rages around our globe, **in many places God's Love appears to be about "the only thing there isn't plenty of"!**

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THE END