

BIBLICAL TERRANOMICS

Essays in Christian Dominion

February, 1994

No. 9

GUN CONTROL VIOLATES THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Successful passage of the Brady Bill, recently, has probably made a bloody revolution of some kind inevitable in the United States. I am grieved to say so, but I do not know how it can be avoided. Gun control advocates have been emboldened by the bill's passage, and have pledged themselves to even stricter controls and prohibitions. They will continue to goad and provoke the American people.

Following the tragedy in Waco, Texas, Americans are growing edgy. At first, we tried to rationalize it and believe the government's propaganda that the Branch Davidians were a bunch of dangerous nuts. With that myth, we have comforted ourselves that such a horrible thing could not happen to "ordinary" Americans.

But the myth is fading as the vilifications continue to be proven false. It turns out that David Koresh and his people were not much different than the rest of us. The great arsenal he was said to have had, when divided by the hundred or so people in his group, figured out to little more than two per person. The average Texan has more guns than that.

Koresh may have been an arrogant Texan who had a way with the ladies. He may or may not have been devoutly religious. But he was no monster. Not willing to submit himself to the almost certain sodomizing in prison (the fate of accused child molesters), nor to allow his children to be "deprogrammed" by shrinks in foster homes, he died as any proud Texan from an earlier time would have died: standing his ground and defending his home and family. Their home went up in flames after an attempt to "smoke" them out. Reminiscent of attacks from Apaches on the frontier, the perpetrators may not have worn loin clothes or war paint, but they were (and are) savages all the same.

Divided Americans

These realities are slowly sinking into the consciousness of the American people. The vague fear is growing that some sort of criminal element has gotten hold of our federal law enforcement agencies -agencies which desperately want to disarm us. And gun rights advocates are divided over tactics: like when European armies first confronted the

Indians. We do not know who is doing the shooting and which tree he is hiding behind. Some think we should retreat to the fort; others think we should hold ranks. A growing minority want to adopt the same tactics of our adversaries. But that is too controversial.

For the moment, however, media propaganda carries the day. A temporary concession by the pro-gun lobby was all that the opposition needed to pass the Brady Bill. Now, the psychological wedge is in place; the momentum may now be politically irresistible.

Christianity and Gun Control

Gun control is a concept which was conceived and birthed in liberal Christianity. Pietism, pacifism and the social gospel - all are religious tenets which have given the moral high ground to the gun grabbers. Gun supporters have rarely had a theological base to work from to support their case. Instead, they have relied upon Constitutional guarantees: namely, the Second Amendment. I believe it is time for that approach to change. This battle is religious, not political.

Here, I hope to make gun control a Biblical issue. The "right of the People to keep and bear arms" is a Biblical mandate. *The Second Amendment finds its wellspring in the Second of the Ten Commandments.*

Guarding the Sanctuary

The Second Commandment does not receive as much attention by Bible scholars as many of the others do. People do not seem to have a problem with temptations to bow down to idols. The First Commandment reads, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Thus, a prohibition of idolatry seems to be redundant.

But there is an important distinction between the two. The first decides for us *who* our Sovereign is going to be. The second dictates for us *the manner in which we approach our Sovereign*. It reads in full,

Thou shalt not make for yourself any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above or that is in the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth; thou shalt not worship them nor serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon their children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me; and showing mercy to thousands of generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

-Exodus 20:4-6

It is probably the longest of the Ten Commandments.

The Second Commandment establishes the fact that there is a God ordained way to worship Him. To protect the people from breaking the Second Commandment, God provided a *priesthood* to lead His people in worship and to teach them the ways of righteousness. The priesthood finds its authority in the Second Commandment.

The Greek and Latin origins of the word "priest" help us at this point. For in the original languages, it means "to stand before" (Webster's Dictionary, 1828 edition). Before the worshipper reaches the altar, he first confronts the priest. The priest is there to "guard" the sanctuary, the covenant, and the spiritual life of the people. In Biblical times, the Levite priests were armed with swords to kill intruders. (They were called "porters" in the KJV, if you want to look up the references in your Strong's Concordance).

Now, the Garden of Eden was the first sanctuary, and Adam was the first priest. God commanded him to "dress and keep" the Garden. "Keep" means to "guard". Adam was ordered to protect and grow the home God had given him. He was to protect his home, his bride, and to preserve the purity of his offspring.

Adam failed in that first essential task, as we all know. He allowed an intruder (the Serpent) to enter the holy garden. Instead of killing it, he allowed it access to the center of the Garden, the place where God would come down in the cool of the day. There, the Serpent seduced his wife.

When God drove Adam and Eve from the Garden, he set cherubs with swords to guard it. No one, not even Adam, could enter Paradise again. (See Genesis 1-3 for this story)

In later times, the places of worship were symbolic replicas of the garden/sanctuary. Baalists worshipped in tree groves, where a sexual interpretation of the serpentine seduction was re-enacted and gloried in. The worship of Israel told a different story. The walls of the Tabernacle (and later the Temple) were embroidered with cherubs, affirming God's sovereignty over life and worship.

The bride imagery in the Bible is also important. From the bride comes the holy seed which will inherit the earth. Satan corrupted that seed by seducing Eve, the first bride. The second bride was the children of Israel. The final bride is the Church of Jesus Christ. In each type, however, the analogy holds up that the bride must be guarded and protected from seduction and rape. We are now coming close to my central thesis.

God called Israel a nation of priests, and the Church, as well (Exodus 19:6; 1 Peter 2:5,9). The Protestant Reformation reaffirmed "the priesthood of the believer". All redeemed men are called to guard the Scriptures and the faith once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3).

Furthermore, in a teleological sense (the end purpose or goal of history), a man's home is more than his castle; it is his garden/sanctuary where he can rest safely and commune

with his Creator. His wife and offspring are sheltered there and are nourished for the task of dominion.

Thus, in a very literal application of this doctrine, man, the offspring of Adam, is required to "dress and keep" his home. His priestly task includes repelling intruders and protecting his bride from seduction and rape, whether it is physical or spiritual. *A man guards his home spiritually with the Scriptures. He guards it physically with a gun.* It is no accident that early paintings of the Pilgrim Fathers depict them on their way to the meeting house with a musket over the shoulder and a Bible under the arm.

Gun Control Wars Against Christianity

Gun control, then, denies this most fundamental obligation that men have under God: **the moral duty to be the priests of their homes.** For rest assured, if your guns are taken away from you today, your Bibles will be taken away tomorrow.

Depriving men of their guns leaves them helpless against criminals, and more importantly, a criminal government. That the American people have guns and are willing to use them to protect their homes and families (e.g. Branch Davidians) - that is our best security against all the horrors of crime and tyranny.

The present rush on the rights of gun owners (consisting of a majority of the American people) will only alienate the people further from their government. This course must be resisted and stopped; else this happy country will sink into the abyss of terrorism which has engulfed the rest of the world.

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