

# Violence!

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By Wayne Goff

*“The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.” — Genesis 6:11*

There has been a litany of violence or threats of violence recently in our country. James Hodgkinson from Belleville, Illinois traveled to the Washington D.C. area and shot members of the Republican congressional baseball team, hitting four of them before being killed himself. He was distraught over the election of President Trump. Steve Scalise, the majority whip of the House of Representatives, was the most seriously injured.

Madonna, the Material Girl, said back in January 22, 2017 that she had thought about blowing up the White House.

In May, comic(?) Kathy Griffin posed for photos holding a mask styled to look like the bloodied head of President Trump. She was fired by CNN from her role as co-host of the network’s annual New Year’s Eve program.

Johnny Depp, American actor, wondered aloud how long it had been since an actor had assassinated a president at the Glastonbury arts festival in England. He later apologized for his comments, but they were stated nonetheless.

## Muslim Violence

For decades now, Muslims have carried out acts of tremendous violence against the United States, the most notorious example being the collapse of the twin towers in New York City on September 11, 2001.

Last Monday (June 19), Darren Osborne allegedly drove a large cargo van into a crowd of Muslims leaving a north London mosque. The attack left one dead and ten injured.

In January, a white nationalist opened fire on an Islamic cultural center in Quebec City, Canada, killing six and wounding nearly twenty people.

Again in January, the Islamic Center in Austin, Texas was destroyed by fire. It is safe to say that such attacks are viewed as retribution against the wave of Islamic terrorism that has gripped the world in the last thirty years. Violence begets violence, and is no solution to religions of any kind.

## Violence + Wickedness

Genesis 6:11 stated that the earth was corrupt before God and filled with violence. Jehovah destroyed that world with a flood, leaving only eight souls to repopulate the world. The more wicked a world, a country, or a state becomes, the more violence it begets!

Old Testament prophets like Jeremiah and Ezekiel prophesied against the nation of Judah because of its own self-inflicted violence (see Jer. 6:7; 20:8; 22:3; Ezek. 7:11, 23; etc.). *“And He said to me, ‘Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it a trivial thing to the house of Judah to commit the abominations which they commit here? For they have filled the land with violence; then they have returned to provoke Me to anger. Indeed they put the branch to their nose’”* (Ezek. 8:17). Eventually, the nation of Judah was overthrown by Babylon.

Those who threaten violence against others are revealing the hatred, bitterness and wickedness of their own hearts. Christians are taught to love God with all their hearts, souls, and minds, and to love their neighbors as themselves (Matt. 19:19; 22:38-39). It is important at this dark time in human history to remember that you are a Christian and that it is more important to follow the Word of God and be a shining light in a dark world than it is to get an ounce of satisfaction out of harming those with whom you disagree (Phil. 2:15). True religion is spread by love, truth, and conversion — not by threats of murder and violence.

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