

Stemming Violence

Isaiah 60:18-Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise. (KJV)

Violence takes many forms in today's world and is cause for increased concern.

The daily news speaks extensively of violence prevalent in various nations.

Mass shooting have become a daily occurrence in the United States of America.

Innocent children and adults have become unsuspecting victims of violent crimes.

Families of victims have suffered from the terror and trauma of extensive violence.

Jeremiah 22:3-Thus saith the LORD; Execute ye judgment and righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor: and do no wrong, do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place. (KJV)

Solutions do not seem readily being put into place to alleviate the mounting violence.

Crimes of violence appear to be escalating in various parts of the United States.

Recently Serbia suffered two mass shootings that have caused painful deaths.

Assurances of community peace do not seem to be readily apparent and forthcoming.

Debates rage about ways to address the increase in violence as the victims increase.

Ezekiel 7:23-Make a chain: for the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence. (KJV)

God's Holy Prophets of old have spoken about violence and may offer solutions.

A serious look at the wisdom the Holy Prophets might bring solutions to the fore.

Churches need to preach the Gospel of repentance with fervor for change to occur.

Community and national priorities and interests need to change for peace to prevail.

Violence is too often glorified and dramatized as entertainment and in video games.

Jonah 3:8-But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. (KJV)

National periods of mourning and reflection are necessary to bring about change.

Greater moral leadership needs to be prominent at all levels and in all areas of life.

Fundamental change is necessary to reduce the extent of violence that is occurring.

Hard personal decisions are required for wide-spread effective change to occur.

How many more lives need to be taken before the violence is brought to a halt?

Habakkuk 1:2-O LORD, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save (KJV)

The rise in violence is concerning and necessitates being addressed effectively.

God's churches are encouraged to advance the messages of peace needed for change.

Believers can set the examples of repentance to initiate greater societal peace.

Each heart needs to be carefully examined for the contents being embraced.

Reducing violence is to be taken seriously and requires a greater concerted effort.

Mid-Pentecost. Burning of the Relics of St. Sava by the Turks. April 27/May 10, 2023. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic