

Murder and Mayhem

--08/09/09, Sun Valley, tp

The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire as presented on the History Channel, presents the wars both and offensive and defensive before and after the birth of Jesus. The Germanic tribes known as the Barbarians would come around the Alps in family groups, men, women and children fleeing the tribal wars of the North and seeking a place to settle and farm. As they entered whatever city, they would often slaughter every inhabitant. Then the Roman legions would muster their forces and counter-attack. If the Romans won, 60 to 120 thousand Barbarians would die. If the Barbarians won, 60 to 80 thousand often would die. Sometimes the survivors would be taken as slaves to enrich the victors, but after the slave revolt of Spartacus, the Romans often decided it better to just execute the survivors.

According to the Italian journalist Antonio Succi, the persecution of Christians in the last century caused the deaths of over 45 million mostly under the scourges of Communism and Muslim Zealotry. Even allowing for some exaggeration, those numbers awaken us to the sober reality that God who allows evil men to carry out their savagery against the innocent. Therefore God may also allow such a persecution and death against us even here in this peaceful nation. If 171,000 Bible believing men, women and children die every year in other countries, why not here?

Stephen was stoned at the end of Acts 7. James was beheaded at the beginning of Acts 12. Paul was stoned and left for dead in Lystra in Acts 14. Paul and Silas were beaten with the Roman scourge and put in stocks in the dungeon in Acts 16. Some years later Paul wrote to Timothy (2 Timothy 4:6) "*I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*" What is the worst that can happen to us if we take a stand against the popular forms of immorality? What can they do to us if we teach our children the Holy Word in our homes and churches? If we cry out that Jesus is Lord, they can only insult us, assault us or kill us. But even so God is glorified through us and our valiant loyalty to Him. Is that radical?

Is it radical to question the lords of Public Education or the Scientific Community? Must we always bow and compromise our faith when they say be silent and submit? Let us sanctify Christ as Lord in our hearts and be ready. tp