

Quick Hits #2 / 6 November 2021 Lawlessness (Greek: *anomia*)

In the NT, the Greek word for lawlessness is *anomia* (Strong's 458). It is used 15 times in the NT (when using the NAS Bible). It means the condition of one without law which can be due to ignorance or by deliberate and intentional acts. The word can also carry a meaning of **contempt** for the law (such as *anomia* in Matthew 24:12). The context of the verse where *anomia* is used can help with the definition and intent of the word usage.

We know that when we talk about lawlessness and iniquity, we're also speaking about the effects of sin and its rotten fruit.

It's bad enough when individuals or small groups are lawless, but when leaders and those in authority have a contempt for law and order, they release lawlessness (like a spirit) with their words and conduct. This can be intensely frustrating to those who respect law and an orderly society. Some of the words and conduct of politicians and media are being intentionally and deliberately released to stir emotions and intense feelings. There are some that want to see lawlessness increase.

Scriptural Basis

Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity (anomia). – Matthew 23:28 (KJV)

And because iniquity (anomia) shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. – Matthew 24:12 (KJV)

For the mystery of lawlessness (anomias) is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. – II Thessalonians 2:7 (New King James Version)

Points to Ponder

- 1. Lawlessness will be characteristic of the last days.** Spiritual conditions affect the physical world.
 - "...already at work" = It was characteristic of the Roman Empire and Greek world.
 - Love can grow cold due to flagrant sin and injustice. (See Matthew 24:12.)
 - Lawlessness will be a condition or spiritual climate of the end times. (See Matthew 24:12.)

- 2. Lawlessness has a mystery connected to it.**
 - II Thessalonians 2:7-8
 - The "mystery of iniquity" is the power unseen, unknown except by its effects, which is ever working in the world for evil — working against the law and will of God, corrupting what has been well done and well begun by man, causing misery in the natural world in all that man has to do with, through the mischief which it works in the moral and spiritual world, in the heart and soul of men. – W.G. Humphrey
 - Will we fully know this mystery in this life?
 - There are depths of evil that we do not understand...nor do we want to.

- 3. Lawlessness and iniquity can seep into the land.** (Chuck Pierce)
 - People acquire strange beliefs, attitudes, and practices. (e.g., abortions same-sex marriage)

- People walk in darkness and think it's normal. (Romans 1:21)
 - There is a constant pressure from media and politicians to adopt anti-Christ values.
 - *For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.* – Romans 8:22
- 4. We can be affected by lawlessness.**
5. *When the godly are in authority, the people rejoice. But when the wicked are in power, they groan.* — Proverbs 29:2 (NLT)
- We can become unloving.
 - We can get fearful and just seek to protect self, family and possessions.
 - We can develop hatred for those who do lawless things.
 - We can become cold and self-righteous.
 - We could divert from our real mission.
- 6. Lawlessness is a symptom of rebellion against God, His word, and against the natural order of things.**
- Read Romans chapter 1. A synopsis of what happens to mankind in rebellion to God.
- 7. The “bills” will become due for lawless people.**
- *But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.* – Genesis 15:16 (KJV)
 - *...depart from me, ye that work iniquity.* – Matt 7:23 (KJV)
 - *The Son of Man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity.* – Matthew 13:41
 - *He will judge everyone according to what they have done.* – Romans 2:6 (NLT)

Last Comments

We live in an era where we have to be watchful and be prayerful. We're careful regarding our safety, we prepare for emergencies, and we have to watch our own **attitudes** and **emotions**. This is a challenge since some of our politicians/leaders are out of touch with reality and in deep darkness. Their decisions can affect us. We are reminded by Jesus as to what is really valuable and to store our treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:20-21).

Not long ago in 2021, Chuck Pierce mentioned it was important to “get a grip” on ourselves as we'll likely see some really unsettling things come to pass. This is just a reminder to maintain that grip on ourselves as we head into the holiday season and as 2022 approaches.

- **Avoid the dark path of vengeance and hostility.** Judas chose an awful path which wrecked him due to his agitations and bad motivations. Even his patriotism may have played a part. Remember your mission and purpose! Remember why you are here!

Remember that much of the soon-to-be harvest will likely be gathered under “stormy weather conditions.”

Questions? Give me a call or walk up to discuss
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