

# Westboro Baptist Church

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Religious Opinion & Bible Commentary on Current Events

Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## NEWS RELEASE

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## Signs of the Times: Shining Bible Light on Current Events

The Lord has wrought many blessed judgments in the world this week which can be seen plainly by any who have been given eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to understand by the gracious hand of God. **“Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house.” (Ezekiel 12:2)** This entire world is a rebellious house! Therefore, the Lord, the God of Israel, is punishing its people! Let’s view some of this week’s judgments from the proper perspective:

Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, is Father’s Day- “a day on which fathers are particularly honored by their children, especially with gifts and greeting cards.” Every day should be a day that you honor your parents, and not in some trite way, but with true honor and obedience. Scripture lays out the duty of children and the temporal benefits of that behavior: **“Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.” (Exodus 20:12)** This commandment is not just to the young children. A full grown man or woman is still the child of their parent, and owes them due deference and honor. Many grown children in today’s climate will check their parents into a nursing home when it interferes with their agenda in life to provide care. This is not unlike the climate in Jewish society during the time of Christ: **“For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightiest be profited by me; And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.” (Matthew 15:4-6)** And while it is the filial duty of the children to obey their parents, in the Lord (**Ephesians 6:1**), it is also the duty of the fathers to **“provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:4)** There is much to be said about the shirking of parental responsibilities in the generation wherein we find ourselves living, particularly of the fathers. From conception, many refuse to accept the consequences of their actions, and turn to killing that child while it is yet in the womb. (**Exodus 20:13**) Those whose conscience will not let them get away with murder of the unborn, hate their children from their youth up, expressing that hatred by refusing to instill in them the standards of the God who created them, and thereby violating that which Jesus Christ said was the second commandment: **“the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.” (Matthew 22:39)** The father also has the duty to run his household according to the ways of the Lord: **“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body.” (Ephesians 5:23)** This day, like every day, is ideal to bring to the attention of every father that by the failure of their duty to their children, they have brought upon them this generation who will not and cannot obey the Lord. **“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)** Look to ancient Israel to see the result of the failure of fathers: **“As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.” (Isaiah 3:12)** Fathers, you are undeserving of the honor of your children because you have shirked your responsibilities and caused them to sin. Turn from your sin and focus on the blessing the LORD has given you by raising your children! **“Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.” (Psalm 127:3-5)** Children, you have a duty to serve the Lord whether your parents are obedient to Him or not. One way you do that is by keeping his commandments, which includes giving the honor to your parents that is due them- not just on one day a year, but every day. This is your reasonable service to the Lord, and is how you display real love towards your fellow man!

Woe to you who have hardened your hearts against the Lord and His word. The destruction of this world is imminent; you must believe on Christ, repent of your sins, and seek the Lord with humility. **“For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon a desolation: they shall drive out Ashdod at the noon day, and Ekron shall be rooted up. Woe unto the inhabitants of the sea coast, the nation of the Cherethites! the word of the LORD is against you; O Canaan, the land of the Philistines, I will even destroy thee, that there shall be no inhabitant.” (Zephaniah 2:4-5)**

## Repent or Perish!