



Prophetic Observer

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Keeping Time On God's Prophetic Clock

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Where Was God?

by James Collins

“...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

—Hebrews 13:5b

Not again ... Not another national tragedy. Television reports use the term “Active Shooter” to announce another mass shooting. Like most of you, I was heartbroken to hear of the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

Nineteen children and two teachers were killed after a gunman barricaded himself inside a fourth-grade classroom at Robb Elementary School and opened fire. The massacre took place on Tuesday, May 24, just days before the end of the school year. What should have been a time of celebration soon turned into one of grief and agony.

Parents gathered at the civic center on the night after the shootings to learn whether their children had survived. Some had the grim task of providing DNA swabs to help investigators determine whether their kids were among the victims. No parent should ever have to go through that kind of grief.

The Elementary Shooting

My wife and I watched the news reports with shock and horror. We were both in tears. However, my tears turned to anger

when an ignorant TV talking head made a stupid comment. He said, “Where was God while all these people were being slaughtered?”

“Where was God?” you ask. God was there. He was

there with Irma Garcia. Irma, a teacher at Robb Elementary, pushed students on the floor. Then she embraced other children, using her body as a shield to protect them. God was there. God gave her the courage to use her own body to protect those precious children.

God was there with Amerie Jo Garza. Two weeks before the shoot-

ing, Amerie Jo had her tenth birthday party. Her parents gifted her with a phone. God was there with Amerie Jo as she used her phone to call authorities during the shooting, and as she died trying to save her classmates. God was there.

God was there with Angel Garza, Amerie Jo's father. Angel is an emergency medical technician who responded to the shooting scene. He treated a little girl who was covered in blood. The little girl told him that someone had shot her best friend. When Angel asked who her best friend was, the girl said his daughter's name. God was with Angel as he provided medical aid to the wounded. He was still with Angel seven hours later when police confirmed that Amerie Jo had been killed. God was there.

God was there with Xavier Lopez. Just hours before, 10-year-old Xavier Lopez was lauded at Robb Elementary's



honor roll ceremony. God was with Xavier as he brought comfort to the dying. He held the hand of one of his classmates as she breathed her last breath before breathing his last. God was there.

God was there with Jayce Luevanos, age 10. Jayce and his cousin, 10-year-old Jailah Nicole Silguero, were inseparable best friends in life. Holding each other, Jayce and Jailah died together. They died just as they lived—together. God was there.

God was there with fourth-grade teacher Eva Mireles. Mireles, who had been an educator for 17 years, also gave her life protecting her students. Like Irma Garcia, Eva Mireles put herself between the shooter and the children. God gave her the bravery to die saving lives. God was there.

God was there with Eva Mireles' husband, Ruben Ruiz. Ruben is a police officer in the district. He was one of several officers who responded to the shooting. God gave him the courage to stand down evil. Ruben was shot at by the shooter, but he was not injured. God was there.

God was there with Nevaeh Bravo. He was there with Jackie Cazares. He was there with Jose Flores. He was there with Eliahna Garcia. He was there with Uziyah Garcia. He was there with Jayce Carmelo Luevanos, Tess Mata, Annabelle Rodriguez, Alexandria Aniyah Rubio, Layla Salazar, Jailah Nicole Silguero, and Rojelio Torres. God knew every name. He was there with all 21 who were killed. He was there in every desk and in every seat. God was there in the heart of each believer. He brought them comfort with the knowledge that their faith in Jesus Christ had saved them. He was there reaching out nail-pierced hands to pick up those who belonged to Him. God was there.

God was there with the survivors. He was there with the families and friends of those killed. He was there throughout the community of Uvalde, Texas. He brought comfort and healing. He brought a peace that passes all understanding. He brought Governor Greg Abbott the wisdom to say, "All we can do is lean on the Lord." God was there.

The Evil Shooter

The shooter, 18-year-old Salvador Ramos, had an argument with his 66-year-old grandmother over Ramos not graduating from high school, during which he shot her in the forehead before taking her truck. He then crashed his grandmother's truck through a barricade and into a concrete ditch outside of Robb Elementary School. According to police, Ramos was wearing a plate carrier—a type of tactical vest—without body-armor plates inside, a backpack, and

all-black clothing while carrying a handgun, an AR-15–style rifle, and high-capacity magazines. A witness said Ramos first fired at two people at a nearby funeral home, both of whom escaped uninjured. He then shot and wounded a school district police officer who attempted to stop him from entering the building; afterwards, he dropped a black bag with ammunition inside and ventured further into the school where his rampage began.

Someone said Ramos was plagued by "demons." Of that, there is no doubt. What else but demons can explain such evil? There are demonic forces at work here.

Before the smoke had cleared, while there were still bodies in the halls of Robb Elementary School, politicians were on the air saying we need more gun laws. It's not that simple. When I was growing up, everyone had guns. Kids came to school with loaded rifles in gun racks in the back window of unlocked pickup trucks. Gun safety was taught in my high school. Gun laws were few. We didn't have background checks or gun registration, but mass shootings were very rare.

Today, that's no longer true. According to FBI statistics, from 1900 to 1970, America had 28 mass shootings. From 1970 to 2015, America had 273 mass shootings. The increase in shootings has happened despite many more laws aimed at restricting gun ownership. It's not the guns. The problem lies in the human heart that the Bible tells us is desperately wicked. The problem lies in the devil who desperately wants to destroy us.

The Expelled Sovereign

When I grew up, teachers regularly read the Bible and prayed in class. We started each day in school with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Today, teachers can no longer lead prayer or read the Bible, even on a voluntary basis. One teacher was even disciplined for just having a Bible on her desk. Some schools have suspended students for bringing a Bible to campus. Christian after-school clubs are no longer allowed to be chartered. God has been expelled from school!

The Exact Situation

We don't have a gun problem—we have a heart problem. We have allowed God to be expelled from school. We have removed God from our schools, from our homes, and from every aspect of public life.

It is time to invite God back into America. It is time to

invite God back into our schools. It is time to invite God back into our homes. It is time to invite God into our hearts.

I know God was there at Robb Elementary School on May 24, 2022. But I would like to ask a question to the television commentator who asked the question, “Where was God?”

Where was God when Salvador Ramos brutally murdered twenty-one people? Where was God at Robb Elementary School? “Where was God?” you ask.

Did you forget, He was expelled?

It's My Life...

by James Collins

“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.”

—Jeremiah 1:5

“I can’t keep this baby.” Those were the last words Patricia said as she walked out the door. Her mother began to weep. Her heart was breaking for her daughter. Patricia was so young. She was only fourteen. She was too young to have a child, so she decided to terminate the pregnancy. Patricia’s mother tried to reason with her, “You can’t do that. It’s murder.” Patricia screamed at her mother, “It’s my body! It’s my life! It’s my choice!” Then, with hot tears rolling down her cheeks, she calmly said, “I can’t keep this baby,” and she walked out the door.

Patricia walked out into the sunshine. It was a beautiful late summer day. She put her hand on her stomach. A child was growing in there. Soon the summer would end. School started back up in a few weeks. She had to end this pregnancy before then. But could she do it? Could she have an abortion?

As she walked alone, her thoughts turned to the baby’s father, Tim. Patricia thought she loved him. She thought they would be together forever. But when she told him she was going to have a baby, he broke up with her.

Tim’s parents offered to pay for the “procedure.” They wanted the “situation” to go away. Tim had recently been named All-American Athlete and Scholar. He had a bright future. He was going to college. He was going to be somebody. A wife and a baby didn’t fit into those plans. Besides, Tim’s parents hated Patricia. She was “from the wrong side of the tracks.” They would never consider letting their son marry poor white trash like Patricia.

Patricia thought about her mother. She had just begged her not to have an abortion. She had offered to take the baby and raise the baby for Patricia.

Patricia thought about the child growing inside of her. Was it really a child, or was it just a mass of tissue? Should she have it, or should it be cut out like cancer?

Patricia thought about God. Where was He in all of this? It had been so long since she felt the presence of God. Did He care about her? Did He care about the baby?

She dropped to her knees right there on the sidewalk and prayed, “God, I need You now more than ever. I messed up and I don’t know what to do. Should I have this baby?” Patricia was startled when a voice answered, “You should have the baby.” She felt a hand touch her shoulder. She opened her eyes to see her mother. She had been following her. Patricia stood to her feet, and they embraced ...

Patricia did have the baby and Patricia’s mother took him as her child. They named him ... James. I am Patricia’s baby. One woman’s decision to abort instead of birthing would have altered history—at least my history.

A Divisive Problem

The issue of abortion is once again the top news story because the Supreme Court has voted to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, according to Politico, which received a supposedly leaked copy of the opinion draft. Abortion is a problem that has divided our nation between those who are “pro-life” and those who are “pro-choice.” Personally, I can’t stand the term “pro-choice.” If you are pregnant, the “choice” was made when you decided to do the act that led to the conception. “Pro-life” and “pro-death” are my preferred terms.

Since the Supreme Court decision was leaked, there have been “pro-death” protests at churches, government buildings, and even at the homes of Supreme Court Justices. However, if you read the opinion draft, abortion will not become illegal, but will instead be a decision of each individual state. So, those who are “pro-death” will just be inconvenienced by possibly

having to travel to another state to murder their baby. By the way, have you noticed that everyone who is for abortion has already been born?

A Demonic Practice

Since *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, there have been over 63 million aborted babies in the U.S. alone. There have been 12 billion abortions worldwide in the last 40 years. America is not the first country to deal with the issue of abortion. The Bible tells us ancient Israel turned away from God; they turned to Baal. They made a bronze idol of Baal. Parents offered up their babies on the idol and watched them be burned alive. Now, it would be hard to find anyone today who would admit to worshipping a false god, but under the spirit of Baal, we have killed over 63 million little babies.

According to the Word of God, abortion is one of the worst murders a human being can commit. About abortion, the Scripture says, “In the secret places doth he murder the innocent” (Psalm 10:8). The “secret place” is the womb of a mother. Definitely, the baby is an “innocent.” No person who is fully aware of another’s total innocence normally kills that other human being. Even wild beasts such as bears, will fight to the death to defend their young. But, today, man has made himself even lower than brute beasts by slaying innocent unborn babies.

Further, the Bible says, “Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward” (Psalm 127:3). If children are a heritage or reward for parents, abortion destroys God-given rewards.

A Divided People

I am amazed at how many people who claim Christ say they are also for abortion. You cannot be a professing Christian and be for abortion. God says over and over in His Word that life is precious and it begins at conception. God help any Christian who is soft on this issue. Children in the womb are not clumps of cells. They are people. They are sons and daughters. They are innocent of any crime deserving death.

Some may ask: What if a doctor recommends an abortion? There are many cases in which doctors have recommended abortion, yet the mothers delivered perfectly healthy babies. Even if God does give a family a handicapped child, does that make Him any less sovereign or loving? I can’t help but think of Helen Keller and the amazing impact she has had on this world. Every child is precious in the Lord’s sight; God makes no mistakes!

Jesus said, “And whoso shall receive one such little child

in my name receiveth me” (Matthew 18:5). Quoting this verse, Mother Theresa, on February 3, 1994, in Washington D.C. at the National Prayer Breakfast with President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary seated to her right, said, “The greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because Jesus said, If you receive a little child, you receive Me. So, every abortion is the denial of receiving Jesus, the neglect of receiving Jesus.”

A Divine Pardon

Perhaps someone reading this may be guilty of this great sin in the past. Perhaps you were not aware of the seriousness of this sin. Jesus is gracious and compassionate. Go to the Lord with a broken and contrite heart and deeply repent of your sin. It will be good if you can go to a mature and reliable servant of God for further counseling. That person may guide you in cleaning and freeing your guilty conscience. The Lord will surely forgive you and give you a new heart and a new life.

A Determined Pastor

I understand I will receive hateful, angry emails, phone calls, and letters from those who are “pro-death.” Go ahead. Send them. They will not silence me. God has called me to be His mouthpiece and the Bible says life begins at conception. The Bible says each person on earth has value—that every individual man, woman, and child, even the unborn child, should be treasured.

Human life is a magnificent thing. Every human being, no matter how small, is fearfully and wonderfully made. Every human being, no matter how disregarded, bears the image of God. And every human being, no matter how weak, will keep on living forever.

I, for one, am grateful to a woman named Patricia, who opted for life—my life ...

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