

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Earth Filled With Violence

(Jerry Fite)

**M**oses, guided by the Holy Spirit, wrote, “*And the earth was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence*” (Genesis 6:11). Two facts characterized the world right before God destroyed it with the flood: First, people throughout the earth corrupted their way before God. Second, personal moral decay violently affected others. Cruel wrongdoing by one damaged the life of another. Many lives were ill-affected by the corrupt walk of mankind. God connects corruption of character with wide-spread violence, when He said, “*The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth*” (Genesis 6:13).

Violence characterizes our world today. Men, women and children are suffering in various parts of the world where war is rampant between nations. Certain governments are manifesting cruelty to their own people in depriving citizens of needed food, while some leaders are poisoning their citizenry with gas. Personal violence is occurring in the privacy of the home where a hus-

band abuses his wife by blackening her eye with his fist. It is not just wrong doing, it is violent wrong doing.

Teenage children are experiencing violence through online video games. Over 90% of children play some type of video game today. 97% of those entering their teenage years (ages 12-17) are engaged in video game playing. Some of these games capture the young mind in first person activities. Blood and gore, impalement and torture and profanity and prostitution flood the ears and mind through the eyes of high definition reality.

Young people, growing up in a violent world, are carrying out violent acts on their own classmates. While many debate whether violent video games cause a troubled teenager to violently take the lives of classmates, one effect is certain: young minds are being desensitized by violence. Numbness occupies the place where the conscience once held court.

The root cause of violence filling the earth, is not the abundance of guns, the lack of laws or proliferation of violent videos, but

the refusal to walk in the ways of God.

Leaders of governments can starve and poison their own people because they are governed by greed and power. They do not follow the righteous ways of God in caring for and helping the vulnerable of their citizens. They “*judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them*” as they focus upon monetary “*rewards*” and become “*companions of thieves*” (Isaiah 1:23).

A husband knowing his body is physically stronger than his wife’s, honors the difference by exalting her, not knocking her down (1 Peter 3:7). The man who strikes out at his wife with his fist, has first corrupted his way before God.

When young or old follow in the pathway of God, they will think on righteous ways that are praiseworthy before God, not on cruel ways that dishonor one with notoriety (Philippians 4:8). Premeditated murder has no place in the godly mind that knows all mankind is created in the image of God (Genesis 9:6). Remember, violence fills the earth, when men first corrupt their way before God.