How should we respond to the assassination attempt of former President Trump?

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While as of this writing the details of the shooting at former President Trump's rally in Pennsylvania are fluid and unclear, it appears that an assassination was attempted. <u>What should be the response from the bornagain child of God?</u>

Regardless of our political beliefs or leanings, any attempt at murdering another should be condemned in no uncertain terms. When it comes to politics and every other issue of life, God's people must exercise a biblical mindset. It is as simple as this; Exodus 20:13 says "Thou shalt not kill."

The current upheaval in the world and the political climate should not be surprising to the Bible believer who knows the spiritual condition of America, and <u>we should not respond as unbelievers</u> and heretics, or even as nominal Christians respond to these confusing, frustrating times. Many are frustrated almost to despair, fretting, losing sleep, fearful, angry.

We are born again by God's Spirit, and we walk in the light of God's infallible Word. We know the times. We understand the underlying spiritual fundamentals of society. We are pilgrims. Our citizenship is in heaven, and we are exhorted to set our affection on things above, not on things on earth (<u>Col. 3:1-</u> <u>4</u>; <u>Hebrews 11:13</u>; <u>1 Peter 2:11</u>).

I understand that politics and government affect our daily lives. I am not saying that we should have nothing to do with politics and that we should have no interest in what is happening at the political level.

I am simply state that **politics is not the answer to the moral, social, and economic ills our nations are facing**, and we need to really and truly focus our attention on the fundamental issues, and on God's will, and on the things that can bring real change, and on things that have eternal value.

<u>So, how is the born-again Christian supposed to respond biblically speaking?</u> The Bible shines light upon our situation in this present world and gives us clear instructions about how to live and act in the face of the challenges of these times.

THE LIGHT OF JEREMIAH 23:15 *"Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts concerning the prophets; Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall: for from the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the land."*

The root problem in America is the same as that in Israel of old. God told Jeremiah that it was the prophets of Israel who had spread profaneness and filthiness throughout the land (Jer. 23:15). The fundamental issue was the compromising, apostate condition of the prophets. This is true in America (and Canada, and other Western nations). The battle for the nation is won or lost in the churches and the Christian homes, not in the realm of politics and social warfare. The root problem with America's deep moral sickness is the apostasy in the churches. America does not have the fear of God because the churches are not preaching the fear of God, and that is because the pastors are compromisers who fear the people more than they fear God and who care more about the offerings than about the truth.

Multitudes of professing Christians vote for wicked politicians and thereby support the murder of unborn children, the legitimizing of homosexuality, and other such evils that are plainly condemned in God's

Word. America's fundamental problem is not with the belly-serving politicians; it is with the professing Christians who vote for them.

That God's curse is upon America should be obvious to any Bible believer. We are cursed with droughts and floods and tornados and multi-billion-dollar mega-storms. We are cursed with violence in the streets. We are cursed with rampant disease. We are cursed with foolish leaders who pursue policies guaranteed to destroy the nation. We are cursed with judges who are passionate about casting aside the very Constitution they vowed to uphold in favor of modern opinions. We are cursed with policies guaranteed to weaken commerce and destroy the value of our currency. We are cursed with the corruption of our military through social engineering. We are cursed with a mainstream media that hates the truth and rejoices in lies, that is devoted to out-right propaganda in the name of fair reporting. We are cursed with a national education system designed to produce ignorance, moral rebellion, and anarchy. We are cursed with an entertainment industry fervently devoted to everything abominable in God's eyes. We are cursed with a breath-taking loss of freedom, with the government snooping into every nook and cranny of our lives and businesses, and Big Tech censoring social media and manipulating Google searches.

But we must understand that the curses are symptoms, and healing does not come by focusing on symptoms. The fundamental element is the spiritual compromise and apostasy of professing Christians and churches that name the name of Jesus Christ, particularly in America which is a nation founded to a unique extent upon biblical principles and filled with churches and professing Christians.

There are many things we can do to help America or any other nation in which we find ourselves as pilgrims in this world, but carnal politicking and yoking together with heretics and unbelievers in disobedience to God's Word (e.g., <u>Romans 16:17</u>; <u>2 Corinthians 6:14-18</u>; <u>2 Timothy 3:5</u>). It is not the answer. This has been tried since the formation of the Moral Majority in the 1980s and it has only resulted in an ever-steeper slide into destruction and an ever-weakening of the churches.

The answer is not another Conservative politician; the answer is in genuine spiritual revival in the churches and homes. Some politicians have helped America in some ways, but they don't know what made America great in the first place. They don't understand fundamental spiritual and moral issues.

THE LIGHT OF <u>2 CHRONICLES 7:14</u> *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."*

This verse answers the question, "What can I do to help my nation?"

The verse is addressed to Israel, but it has an application to our day. We are told, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (<u>1 Corinthians 10:11</u>). The church is the house of God today (<u>1 Timothy 3:15</u>).

The answer to what we can do for the nation is for the churches and God's people to humble themselves, and pray, and seek God's face, and turn from wicked ways, so that they can have the blessing and power of God.

God's people don't have to form any sort of majority to have a vast influence on the nation. One man or woman of God "on praying ground" can stem the tide of much evil and restrain divine judgment, at least temporarily. We need to stop wasting so many hours with the talkers in the media, and spend much more time in God's Word and prayer and get out into the harvest fields with the gospel more urgently and make our churches stronger and more solidly biblical and win our children to Christ and disciple them in a truly serious manner and pray for God to raise up workers for the harvest, train preachers and plant new churches.

We need to purify our individual lives and homes and churches from the influence of the world. We need to cut off association with spiritual compromise and apostasy in accordance with the command of God's Word (e.g., <u>Romans 16:17</u>; <u>2 Corinthians 6:14-18</u>; <u>Ephesians 5:11</u>; <u>2 Thessalonians 3:6</u>; <u>2 Timothy 3:5</u>). We need to stop reading the wrong literature and listening to the wrong music and watching the wrong things that weaken rather than strengthen our spiritual perception and conviction.

From what I've seen, the average member of a church is largely ignorant of the Bible. He knows enough only to be a danger to himself and others, and he has no passion to improve his understanding. He is as passionate about things such as professional sports and as carried away with the misguided observations of conservative political pundits as his pagan neighbor. He is ignorant of important issues that we are facing and isn't interested in being educated. He will read a fishing magazine and listen to sports radio and watch some empty-headed late night comedian, and she will devour "Christian" romance novels and waste massive amounts of time on Facebook, Instagram, and Tik Tok, but they wouldn't dream of reading a book to educate themselves about the Emerging Church or New Evangelicalism or Contemplative Prayer or Contemporary Worship Music or other spiritual enemies that they and their families and churches are facing and will continue to face. As a result, as the prophet said about Israel of old, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). That is a perfect description of the typical "Bible-believing" church.

<u>Prayer in the average Bible-believing church is so negligible as to be frightful and amazing</u>. There are brief prayers at the beginning and end of the services and before the preaching, and a few minutes of prayer on Wednesday night, and that's pretty much it. A serious daily intercessory prayer closet is a foreign concept to multitudes of God's people. Only a few decades ago churches would conduct a series of "cottage prayer meetings" for weeks before a special meeting or Bible conference, but that is overwhelmingly a thing of the past. Only a few decades ago it was common to have a men's prayer meeting before each service, but now that is a rarity, and if a church still has such a thing it is poorly attended to a shocking degree.

We are doing less praying than ever and yet we are living in the most desperate times imaginable. How carnal and lukewarm and foolish we are!

How many Bible-believing families have real family devotions? How many are seriously discipling their children in the home? How many dads are the spiritual heads of their homes? How many moms are the biblical keepers of the home? How many dads and moms maintain a serious daily time in God's Word and a daily private prayer closet? How many are serious about purifying their homes of unholy influences? How many care enough about the truth to leave a compromised church that is headed in the wrong direction?

The spiritually weak condition of our families and churches is the reason why so few are surrendering to the call to preach and the call to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth. The parents are living more for

themselves than for Christ, and the children follow in their footsteps.

The real battleground for the soul of America is not in the White House; it is in God's House; and *that is precisely where we need to focus our attention like a laser beam.*

THE LIGHT OF <u>2 THESSALONIANS 2:3-7</u> "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work..."

This passage gives great light upon the times. The Bible-believer who interprets prophecy literally, in accordance with how it was interpreted by the apostles and how it has always been fulfilled, knows that we live in the last days, and we are rushing toward the end at dizzying speed.

The mystery of iniquity is the devil's program to put the man of sin on the throne of the world. It is a program that has been operating for 2,000 years, but the Bible teaches us that its progress will gain in speed as the end draws near.

No matter what we do, we are not going to stop the runaway engine of end-time apostasy. We are not going to stop the progress of the mystery of iniquity. We are not going to stop globalization, the one-world church, the New Age philosophy, the me-first pop culture, or the militarism that is preparing the world for the man of sin. We are not going to halt the curtain of spiritual darkness that is falling ever deeper upon mankind. We are not going to stop the spread of idolatry that is preparing men's hearts for the Idol of idols who will soon sit on the throne of this world.

Those who do not believe the Bible and do not understand its prophecies but who are somewhat conservative and reasonable in their thinking--the Ayn Ryan disciples and the Birchers and the Beckers and MAGAs--are powerfully frustrated in these times. They see the symptoms. They know the evils, and they document them in books and blogs. But they don't understand the underlying spiritual issues, and they don't have any real solution.

<u>The true Bible believer must not be in this sad condition</u>. We have more light; we have access to more wisdom. In God's Word, we know the beginning and the end. We need to know the times and awake from sleep and set our affection on things above and be ever-looking for Christ's return.

THE LIGHT OF <u>2 PETER 3:8-9</u> AND <u>2 THESSALONIANS 2:7b-8</u> *"But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*

"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming."

These two passages explain why Christ has not yet returned and why He is waiting and what is restraining the mystery of iniquity.

As for what is restraining, we are convinced that this is the Spirit of God. He is identified as a Person in this passage, and He is the only one powerful enough to do such a thing. He came at Pentecost to empower the churches for world evangelism, and He is at the same time exercising a restraining influence on the devil's program until "He be taken out of the way," which we believe will occur at the Rapture of New Testament saints.

The Lord is in control of the times and the seasons. As the prophet Daniel said, *"Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings..."* (Daniel 2:20-21). And of the nations, Paul said that God *"hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us" (Acts 17:26-27).*

The Lord is waiting because He loves men's souls and wants to save them far more than He wants to judge them. He is not willing that any perish. He would have all men to be saved and gave himself as a ransom to make that possible (1 Timothy 2:3-6).

It is in this context that Christ has commanded that the gospel be preached to every individual in every nation (<u>Mark 16:15</u>; <u>Acts 1:8</u>), and Paul said that each believer has been appointed an ambassador in this great work (<u>2 Corinthians 5:20</u>). This is a solemn responsibility for which we will give account.

Men cannot believe savingly unless they hear the gospel. They have enough light in creation and conscience to condemn them and to leave them without excuse (<u>Ro. 1:20</u>; <u>2:14-16</u>), but not enough to save them.

This brings us back to the question, "How can I help my nation?" and to the answer provided in <u>2</u> <u>Chronicles 7:14</u>, which is for God's people to repent of sin and obey God.

Since the five-fold repetition of the Great Commission is a powerful emphasis (Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20; Acts 1), teaching us that this is something that Christ is passionate about, one of the most important ways that I can get God's blessing on my life, my family, and my church--other things being right--is to take world evangelism seriously.

How many people heard the gospel at your hands and through your mouth in the last month?

How many missionaries were helped through your offerings?

How many preachers and missionaries do you intercede for daily?

Have you ever prayed, "Here am I Lord, send me"? Have you presented yourself a living sacrifice to God (<u>Romans 12:1</u>)?

When you sing "I Surrender All," do you sing it as a hypocrite or as a fervent disciple of Jesus Christ?

These are the things that we need to focus on like a laser, laying aside those things that are hindering our spiritual progress and power! It is time for true revival: not national revival but personal revival, family revival, and church revival.