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## Murder of Innocents is the Epitome of Evil

by RITA BENNETT, WORSHIP COLUMNIST

Moses recorded the sixth commandment received from God on Mount Sinai about 3,500 years ago: "You shall do no murder" (Exodus 20:13).



A simple meaning is the premeditated taking of another person's life. The Hebrew word for murder is "tirtzach," which reflects wrongful killing.

The deaths of 3,000 souls at the Twin Towers in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001 by foreign hijackers of jet airliners, planned and premeditated for years, was outright murder. The terrorists on each plane also murdered themselves by committing suicide, a crime against self and their Creator.

Self-defense, individually or in war or capital punishment, is allowed in the Bible. Self-defense is very different than murder. Also, an accidental death is not considered murder. One can think of many examples.

My late husband Dennis in his early years was a pacifist – that is, opposed to war. It seemed to him the right way to go, until he was married and began to have children.

Then he knew he would certainly have to defend his family if their lives were threatened.

Dr. Laura Schlessinger says, "As for the notion that 'only God can take a life,' note that capital punishment for murder of an in-

nocent is mandated in each of the (*Torah*) Five Books of Moses ... In fact it's the only law in the *Torah* repeated in each and every one of the Five Books! Obviously, this was an important divine consideration! I find it morally abhorrent that some equate capital punishment with murder. The murder of an innocent is clearly different from the societal determination to eliminate an evildoer" (The Ten Commandments, 1998, Harper-Collins Publishers, p. 182).

Jesus warns against abusing an innocent child. "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:6). Here Jesus is saying that this sin is deserving of most serious consequences.

When Jesus died on an old rugged tree formed into a cross, it was a case of premeditated murder by the Romans and religious leaders of that day. Jesus told the people about another Kingdom to come and demonstrated it by feeding the multitudes, healing the deaf, the lame and the blind, restoring the broken-hearted, setting captives free, and saving human souls.

His spiritual Kingdom talk and action made these leaders fear they would lose their jobs, their following, and their popularity. They did not understand that this loving Man was the Son of God and that He and His Father, *Yahweh*, actually created the Ten Commandments as were given on Mount Sinai.

His Kingdom was not of this World System and He had come to rescue them from the dark kingdom of greed, distrust, betrayals and lost-ness.

Though the Son of God was murdered and martyred, He rose from death and after 40 days ascended into Heaven. Before Jesus left He said He'd be back for us: "I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:3).

In this day of banking instability, we need Money Market Values we can count on. One unailing Currency Value you and I can always bank on is – the Written and Living Word of God.

Hebrew lesson: Let's learn the sixth Hebrew letter: *Vav* numerically is No. 6, the number of man, and means "hook or nail." When Jesus, God's Son, was nailed to the cross, redemption for mankind's sin became possible.

To draw this letter, just draw one straight vertical line a quarter of an inch long. Now draw a flat head on the nail, extended slightly to the left.

*Vav*, when added to the front of a word with vowels, means "and." Its sound changes: *Veh, Vah, Voo*.

*Vav* has many meanings, but remember Commandment No.6.

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