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the

WRS Journal

Western Reformed Seminary, Tacoma, Washington

Volume 9, Issue 1

February 2002

Special issue: *Questions After Terrorism*



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EDITOR'S NOTES: FROM JOHN BATTLE

"The LORD determined to tear down the wall around the Daughter of Zion. He stretched out a measuring line and did not withhold his hand from destroying. He made ramparts and walls lament; together they wasted away. Her gates have sunk into the ground; their bars he has broken and destroyed." (Lam. 2:8-9)

"I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, 'Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.'" (Neh. 4:14)

This is a special issue of the *WRS Journal*. Many nations are now engaged in a war against terrorism, begun with the vicious attack of September 11. How are Christians to react in this war and to terrorism? The Bible offers different examples: in Jeremiah's time the city was destroyed as an act of judgment by God; in Nehemiah's time God used the military defense of the people to spare his city. In both cases God was sovereign and honored his promises. In both cases his people called out to him.

We've called this issue of the *Journal* "Questions After Terrorism." Pastor Doug Sukhia answers the question, Is God behind this act? And Pastor Robert Anderson compares this attack to that witnessed by Jeremiah, drawing out applications for us. Articles by John Battle and Tito Lyro deal with the biblical standards for governments and the preservation of life. Chris Lensch and Len Pine discuss the questions of cultural diversity and of just warfare. Finally, we conclude with an article by education writer Samuel L. Blumenfeld, in which he relates the evident evil in terrorists to his Calvinistic faith.

Lord willing, our next issue will continue the subject begun in our last issue, dealing with discipline and discipleship in the family and the church. In the mean time, we can rejoice that we serve a sovereign, faithful, and merciful God.

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