

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

(#194) The Proverbs of Solomon 29:8-10- We Didn't Start The Fire

Proverbs 29:8-10:

Scoffers set a city aflame, but wise men turn away wrath. 9 If a wise man contends with a foolish man, whether the fool rages or laughs, there is no peace. 10 The bloodthirsty hate the blameless, But the upright seek his well-being.

Who burns down the town, keeps things stirred up, and promotes hatred? NOT those who follow God's Will, the "wise," and "upright," but the "scoffers," "fools," and "bloodthirsty." A "scoffer" "acts with arrogant pride" ([Proverbs 21:24](#)) and hates those who correct him ([Proverbs 9:8](#)). A "fool:"

- "Despises his father's instruction" ([Proverbs 15:5](#));
- Starts quarrels ([Proverbs 20:3](#));
- "Trusts in his own heart" ([Proverbs 28:26](#)); and
- "Walks in darkness" ([Ecclesiastes 2:14](#)).

Since "the devil" "was a murderer from the beginning" ([John 8:44](#)), then "The LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man" ([Psalm 5:6](#)); who "shall not live out half their days" ([Psalm 55:23](#)); and "hate the blameless" ([Proverbs 29:10](#)). Wars of retaliation in the Middle East, violence approved and conducted by a religion, or fighting by forces of interference in other countries' affairs, are all under the direction of the Devil! **Only those who are in rebellion against God and His righteousness would "set a city aflame," that is, hurt and destroy someone's homeland.** Arguing with "scoffers" and "fools" never settles the matter, which is why "Judgments are prepared for scoffers, And beatings for the backs of fools" ([Proverbs 19:29](#)).

The answer to all the violence in the world is NOT United States "police action," but the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Jesus left His disciples with these assurances, offered even to the Gentiles:

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." ([John 14:27](#))

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." ([John 6:33](#))



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The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ-- He is Lord of all-- that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. ([Acts 10:36-38](#))

Jesus Christ said:

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.” ([Mark 16:15-16](#))

“For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity” ([Ephesians 2:14-16](#)). So we boldly say to the scoffers, fools, and bloodthirsty people in this world: “Tear down this wall” by obeying Jesus Christ as Lord.

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