

# IT IS NOT LIKE IT USED TO BE

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As I write this article late in the evening of September 11, 2007, I cannot imagine anyone not remembering where they were and what they were doing this day six years ago. We were about the business of living our lives and then things changed. People who think seriously about life will never be the same.

You've heard folks say and probably said it yourself: "It's not like it used to be." That's certainly true, but then it never has been like it used to be. Elements of human existence are always changing, things like technology and speed of travel and work and the like. But there are also things like the elemental reality of 9/11. Such things as that never change. The ability that those cowardly terrorists had to bring down the towers and attack the Pentagon was new. They used the available technology in a new and obscene way. But the motivation behind their act is as old as the envy and jealousy in Cain's heart when he killed his brother. In this sense there is nothing at all new about what they did.

Like Cain, the terrorists struck because of hatred. The form of monotheism practiced by these folks is flawed. We must never hate the Muslim. We must love everyone (Matthew 5:43-48) and live at peace with everyone as much as possible (Romans 12:18). But Islam is a flawed religion. Its Scriptures came into being long after God had completed the revelation of His Word to mankind (Revelation 22:18-19, 2 Timothy 3:16-17). Both observation of the present and study of the past indicate that the religion of Islam has been and is being used as a foil for nothing less than carnal warfare. Christianity has been hijacked in similar fashion and corrupted for use as a tool of evil and violence. Yes, Christianity has been made to serve evil, everything from lynching to all out war. But it is not being so used now. Yet Islam is being so used and it lends itself to the task too admirably.

The people on this planet will never know complete peace. But we could do so much better if we would stop talking around our problems and deal with them forthrightly. The world faces a spiritual crisis. September 11, 2001 teaches something very important. If people think incorrectly about religion they will eventually do evil things.

No, things will never be the same. There is no way they could be. But there is hope for us and the rest of the world, 1.3 billion Muslims included, and that hope is the gospel of Christ, the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16).