

Why did Osama bin Laden and his Islamic cronies target the Twin Towers in down-town New York on that fateful 9/11 back in 2001? What was so special about those twin towers?

*The Lord spoke to Moses, 'Go down now because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have apostasised. They have been quick to leave the way I marked out for them; they have made themselves a calf of molten metal and have worshipped it and offered it sacrifice.'*

The Twin Towers represented the heart of capitalism, the heart of big business. The American dream writ large. Here was the ultimate apostasy. Those who claimed to be Christians and to be the leaders of the free world, had created their own calf of molten metal and worshipped it. The new god was money, power, the profit motive and the spread of multi-nationals across the globe. On this altar everything could and was sacrificed.

The Lord continues, 'I can see how headstrong these people are! Leave me, now my wrath shall blaze out against them and devour them.' Those planes that appeared out of a clear blue sky on that sunny 9/11 morning, could they represent the wrath of God? Do we still believe in the wrath of God? Was our pre-9/11 world too cosy, too comfortable, too complacent?

*But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God and so finally the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.* Moses' plea was successful. God heard his prayer and saved his people.

Jesus takes this prayer to a whole new level. Jesus takes this prayer to the Cross and offers himself as a sacrifice. *Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.*

No amount of security measures, prevent strategies, anti-radicalisation programmes are ultimately going to protect us from Islamist terrorists. What we need deliverance from is the apostasy and idolatry of the calf of molten metal. And that deliverance only comes through prayer – the prayer of Moses, the prayer of Jesus and the prayer of you and me.

Next Sunday we start our Sunday School for all the family programme. The main message of the first session is going to be that God is real. His wrath is real. His forgiveness is real and His love is real. And the prayer that we do in this church is real prayer. This is not just a cosy club of likeminded people. This is a holy place where we come to meet God, where we plead for forgiveness and healing, where we try to make our world a better place.

*Here is a saying that you can rely on and nobody should doubt; that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I myself am the greatest of them.*