

The Rod of Iron -- a Human Right?

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He will shepherd them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken in pieces--just as I also have received from My Father. Revelation 2:27

Jacob crossed the Jordan River and entered the land of Canaan while leaning on a staff. This foreshadowed that one day fallen humanity will cross the waters of

this sinful world and arrive on the shore of the ideal world by following the Messiah: smiting injustice, following his guidance and example and depending on him. Moses guided the Israelites across the Red Sea with a staff. Jesus at his Second Coming will guide humanity across the turbulent waters of this fallen world to reach the shore of God's ideal with the rod of iron, symbolizing himself." Exposition of the Divine Principle, part II, Ch. 2, p. 229.

Dear

As you may be aware, there is a lot of news coverage about Hyung Jin Nim's request that couples attending the Cheon Il Guk Book of Life Registration Blessing on February 28 bring a "rod of iron."

I have two thoughts on this issue that may be helpful:

1) the literal translation of the original Greek in Rev. 2:27 is "Thou shalt **shepherd** them," instead of "shalt break them." The meaning is to *shepherd* or to *protect*. This supports the King's message that the men of faith should be Godly "kings" ready and capable to protect their families, communities and future nation of Cheon Il Guk. Owning a "rod of iron" represents the will and capacity to do so.

2) Jim Stephens recently wrote an excellent piece (see below). Here is one selection from Jim's essay:

"Pastor Moon is one of the world's foremost champions of human rights. In particular, he is a champion of the Right of Self-Defense. Very few religious leaders are standing up as strongly and forthrightly as he is to protect the average person's God-given right to life itself.

In the vast majority of countries in the world, their citizens do not have the right to own a gun, even for self-protection. Governments themselves are some of the biggest mass murderers of ordinary people.

Pastor Moon is taking a bold stand and proclaiming that every person in the world should have the right to gun-ownership and self-protection. It is a basic human right."

In recent years hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of Christians and other minority religions (Yazidis, Falun Gong, Jewish, etc.) have been persecuted and killed in the Middle East, in China, in Cuba and Venezuela, etc. *People of faith have been shot and killed while they were praying in their houses of worship!*

When we bring an AR15 to the Blessing event, we are thinking of all those Christians around the world who have been attacked and murdered because of their faith in Christ. Their governments are unable or not willing to defend them. In several cases it is their government which is actively involved in this persecution.

Couples at the 2.28 Blessing bearing an AR15 are representing those Christians and people of faith who have been defenseless against such attacks. God does not want His children to be defenseless any more.

FINAL NOTE: A King who is not ready and able to defend his "kingdom" will not last very long. His subjects will be killed, raped or taken into slavery as happened in recent years in Iraq, Syria, etc.

While the Blessing is what True Parents, based on their victory, do *for* us. acquiring a rod of iron is something that we can do to show *our* willingness to defend our families, communities of faith, and God's Kingdom.

May God bless you and your families!

Sincerely,

Richard

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