

# *mm Summer Blue Sheet 7 September 6, 2013*

*From Moment Ministries Summer Headquarters – Puget Sound, WA*

Thunder and lightning and flooding downpour here last night...

Even woke me up.

Collateral damage limited to lights out for 25,000 nearby...

some fires expected east of the mountains.

God's version of shock and awe?

Is God to blame for "collateral damage" to property and people?

Big news the other morning in the Tacoma "*News Tribune*"

Headline declared justice handed down to Staff Sgt. Robert Bales  
at nearby Joint Base Lewis-McChord...

Life without parole for the rampage murder of 16 Afghan villagers...

a one man "shock and awe" against innocents.

Guilty as charged by his own admission.

I read what the editorial writer had to say of the verdict:

*"...a nation setting aside the arrogance of power and  
attempting to hold one of its own accountable...*

*demonstrating that these crimes are not who we are."*

I put down the paper and said "*Really?*"

The words "*vicarious atonement*" popped into my theologically corrupted brain.

Was this soldier, then on his 4<sup>th</sup> deployment for our country,  
the only one who delivered "shock and awe" to people reported as "collateral damage"...  
awakened from innocent sleep by wartime thunder and lightning?

What did he do that has not been done many times over

by computer-directed drones or guided missiles or scattered bombs  
ordered by our leaders and paid for by us?

Is it right that one man should pay for sins of the many?

I've never thought much of the Christian doctrine of "*vicarious atonement*" anyway.

Our morning weather forecast tells of more thunder and lightning today

and the forecast is for more shock and awe in Syria

to fix one presumed atrocity with another...

one nation under God making peace by making war

"*sending a message*" with no boots on the ground this time.

Now I lay me down to sleep, pray the Lord my soul to keep...

it's hard to sleep with thunder and lightning...

it's hard to sleep thinking of Sgt. Bales in prison for life to

*"demonstrate that these crimes*

*are not who we are as a people"*

while our chosen leaders are preparing to do in our behalf

more of what we've already done too much of.

In days when they actually sang hymns in church from hymnals

a favorite of mine was "*God of grace and God of Glory*" (Harry Emerson Fosdick)

One line sung its way into my memory:

*"Cure thy children's warring madness bend our pride to Thy control;*

*Shame our wanton selfish gladness. rich in goods and poor in soul..."*

Let us pray.

*For the Moment...Art Morgan September 6, 2013*