

Such Evil Deeds Could Religion Prompt

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Pat Robertson. Oh deary, deary me. What a nincompoop. I don't mean to single out and pick on one man, not when there are many men in this world who deserve to be picked on, but Pat Robertson is just so darn easy to despise and rant about that I think I'll do just that.

For those who don't know, Pat - or to use his real name, Marion - is a Southern Baptist televangelist from Virginia. Televangelism is, as far as I know, limited to the Americas, a fact that shows God is indeed merciful. The trouble with mixing television and sermonship is that television programmes and the networks which run them need audiences and they need money. Go into an average church and you'll find a distinct lack of both. To sidestep this problem, evangelical TV programmes are full of notoriously dubious practices, like healing people live on air (once people have pledged enough money via the phone lines), or predicting terrible events to come. And audiences, alas, lap it up. There are after all few things in life that feel better than that smug air of superiority you can carry around with you because you found out on the telly last night that the world is going to end a week next Tuesday and no one else knows.

Not everyone watches these shows of course, but they can have some scarily large audiences. Pat's show is known as The 700 Club. Hopefully seven hundred is how many people watch his show, but probably not. Pat knows God exists because once a year he goes to his mountain retreat and talks to the almighty. He doesn't pray and seek divine inspiration, no. He sits down and has a chat. And then he comes back and tells his lucky viewers what's going to happen in the following year. It's uncannily accurate, too. A couple of years ago he predicted a tsunami would hit the US just like the one that had hit Indonesia. One didn't. He also predicted a massive terrorist strike on the US last year. "The Lord didn't say nuclear," apparently, but something of that magnitude. Unless I missed the news story, there weren't any big terrorist strikes against the US a year ago. Nor against the UK (you know, in case Pat had misheard). But surely Pat Robertson cannot be wrong. No no no. Pat wasn't wrong, in fact Pat saved the US. Twice. Through power of prayer he prevented both the tsunami and the terrorists. Jack Bauer would be proud.

A man who can prevent two terrible events occurring on US soil in two years is surely worth listening to. So let's see what he has to say about various topics.

Feminism, he colourfully remarked, is a "socialist, anti-family political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice

witchcraft, destroy capitalism, and become lesbians.” Feminists are also terrorists, presumably, since he agreed with another televangelist who claimed that the World Trade Centre attacks were caused by “pagans, abortionists, feminists, gays, lesbians, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the People For the American Way.” Heterosexual, white, televangelists are of course not to blame, even if Pat did tell his viewers that somebody should place a small nuke under the State Department headquarters.

Gay people do more than carry out extremist attacks, though, the mere acceptance of homosexuality will lead to hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, terrorist bombings, and I quote “possibly a meteor.” That’s all according to the Gospel according to St Pat. Luckily Pat has a mighty powerful gaydar to see these kind of people coming. At a Republican conference in the 1990s someone made a phone call describing the conference as “hateful”. Most people would suspect this caller of having serious issues, such as being a filthy Democrat, but luckily Pat was there to reveal that “That guy was a homo - as sure as you’re alive.” Phew.

Pat knows the absolute truth of the Bible, although even he admits some of the Old Testament stuff is a little outdated. But he obviously recognises the importance of the ten commandments, especially the one about not killing. Except when it comes to foreign leaders, I guess. Which is why he suggested that American Forces should assassinate Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez. Staying on the international scene, you’ll be pleased to hear that Pat believed back in 2003 that the Iraq war was “a righteous cause out of the Bible.” He was also told by a higher power that there would be no American casualties in the war – not God, this time, but President Bush.

Pat’s probably never read *On the Origin of Species*, which is a shame since it’s a truly great book. In fact he considers the notion of evolution to be “ludicrous.” Woe for the town of Dover, Pennsylvania, then, who chose to get rid of their school board for wanting to teach creationism in science lessons. How dare they. I can do no better than relay Pat’s message: “I’d like to say to the good citizens of Dover: if there is a disaster in your area, don’t turn to God, you just rejected Him from your city. And don’t wonder why he hasn’t helped you when problems begin, if they begin. I’m not saying they will, but if they do, just remember, you just voted God out of your city. And if that’s the case, don’t ask for His help because He might not be there. If they have future problems in Dover, I recommend they call on Charles Darwin. Maybe he can help them.”

Never one to shy away from reconciling the World’s beautifully diverse religions, Pat has this to say about Islam: “These people are crazed fanatics, and I want to say it now: I believe it’s motivated by demonic power. It is Satanic and it’s time we recognize what we’re dealing with.” Incidentally, for those of you wondering what the Qur’an says about Christians, it tells Muslims: “Be courteous when you argue with the People of the Book [Christians], except with those among them who do evil. Say: “We believe in that which is revealed to us and which was revealed to you. Our God and your God is one. To Him we surrender ourselves.””

You’re probably starting to understand Pat’s wisdom by now, but these

quotes are just too insightful to stop just yet. I'm at my second University now and have met a lot of interesting lecturers, however if I lived in the US I'd probably have got myself a job at Burger King and never gone near a school since apparently there are "thirty to forty thousand" left-wing professors in the United States, all of whom are "racists, murderers, sexual deviants, and supporters of Al-Qaeda."

Contraception is well known to be terribly sinful, just ask the Pope, but what most people don't know is that contraception is in fact "teaching kids to fornicate, teaching people to have adultery, every kind of bestiality, homosexuality, lesbianism everything that the Bible condemns." Incidentally, for all the gays, lesbians, and zoophiles out there who do use contraception: there's no need.

He's also fond of pointing out to mortals with less vision exactly who it is that is possessed by the antichrist. So far the list includes: Methodists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and a Jew alive in Israel today. Alas, he doesn't specify which Jew, so be careful out there.

If any Christians have read this far and think Super-Pat has a point then, well, I'm at a loss for words. I could, with time, find references in the Bible refuting pretty much everything he says, unfortunately it's people like Pat who take these passages and mutilate them into a message of hate against everyone and everything. Shame on you, Pat. Truly, shame on you.