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Article Background, Mictecacihuatl - Queen Of The Underworld & The Lady of The Dead, Santa Muerte Or Saint Death, Catrina, Death And Destruction From Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans Is Murder Capital Of The USA, New Orleans - Wicked City Full Of Witchcraft, Voodoo, Hoodoo, Satanism, Wicca And Other Magick, Bible Warns Us To Flee From The Works Of Darkness, Hypocrisy Of Mardi Gras Festival, Ash Wednesday And Roman Catholicism, Example Of Moses, Satan And Demons Are God's Instruments Of Judgment, Demons Can Interact With Natural, Physical World, Prince Of The Power Of The Air - The False God Of This World, God Tests Job Through Satan's Afflictions, Satan And Demons Afflict By God's Divine Permission, God Sends "A Great Wind", Can Demons Manipulate Forces of Nature?, Natural Disasters, New Age Lies - Mother Nature And Gaia, Are Natural Disasters God's Hand At Work?, Our Refusal To Recognize Reality Of Sin And God's Displeasure With Us, Biblical Examples Of Elements Of Nature Being Used As The Lord's Instruments Of Judgment, An Enemy Sent By God, What Is Backslidden America's Future? Parallels Between Ancient Israel & USA, America's Many Sins

The following series is an offshoot of another article that I first wrote in October of 1998 called "Halloween: No Room For Compromise", which was expanded in November of 2009, and renamed "Halloween And The Day Of The Dead". In that article I discuss the ancient Aztec goddess, Mictecacihuatl, who was known as the "Queen of the Underworld", and the "Lady of the Dead". I go on to explain how in modern Mexico, this goddess is now known as "Santa Muerte" -- meaning Saint Death -- or "Catrina". In Mexican culture, this demonic female spirit is represented by a hideous "calaca" -- or skeleton -- clothed in a robe, and holding a variety of objects, one of which is usually a scythe -- similar to the "Grim Reaper" -- and the other a globe.

While pondering this Mexican demoness of death which bears the name of "Catrina", I could not help but think of recent, tragic events in the United States which are also associated with the English name "Katrina". I am of course referring to Hurricane Katrina which struck the US Gulf Coast during the 2005 Atlantic Hurricane Season. This Category 5 hurricane is on record as being one of the five deadliest tropical storms in the history of the United States. It's also now listed as the 6th strongest storm in the recorded history of Atlantic hurricanes. At its peak intensity prior to slamming into the coast of Louisiana, Hurricane Katrina registered one-minute sustained winds of 175 MPH. Although Katrina was downgraded to a Category 3 hurricane before striking the city of New Orleans, it still resulted in the confirmed death of 1,836 people, with another 705 persons reported as missing.

As some of you will already know, many of these deaths were the result of severe flooding in some of the wards of New Orleans -- particularly Ward Nine -- as well as in some of the neighboring parishes, following the catastrophic failure of the levee system of New Orleans. Ultimately, about eighty per cent of New Orleans found itself under water. Damage to the city of New Orleans, and the surrounding area, has been estimated at approximately \$100 billion dollars. Even today,

four years later, many people continue to feel the long-term effects of Hurricane Katrina in their lives. Many continue to live in temporary housing, such as trailers. Furthermore, a variety of sources state that the city still hasn't fully rebounded from Katrina, and only about sixty per cent of the city's original population have returned to their homes.

In addition, tourism remains at dismal levels, and violence is quickly approaching an all-time high. In case you were not aware of this fact, the FBI recently rated New Orleans as the murder capital of the USA, and the most violent city in the United States, with sixty-four murders occurring per one hundred thousand residents. This is in fact more than ten times the national average, and surpasses the cities of St. Louis, Missouri and Baltimore, Maryland, which are in the number two and three slots respectively.

While many people -- including the American mass media -- tend to concentrate their comments on the widespread death and destruction which resulted from Hurricane Katrina, or on the gross failures of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bush administration both before and after the passage of Hurricane Katrina, I must point out that there is another aspect of this story which rarely -- if ever -- enters into public discussion. The reason why this is so is very simple: In a word, it is politically-incorrect to talk about such things.

If you ask the average person on the street why New Orleans was struck by Hurricane Katrina, the common answer that will often be offered will probably be related to meteorological conditions and the annual Atlantic Hurricane Season. However, as Bible-believing Christians, we are obligated to look much deeper into the matter, and ask ourselves if it is possible that Hurricane Katrina may have been God's judgment against that wicked city. That New Orleans is a wicked city there can be no doubt. We have already seen that the level of violence there surpasses every other city in the United States. Sexual promiscuity such as prostitution and the annual Mardi Gras is also rampant in the so-called "Big Easy". Widespread gambling and related vices also plague the city.

New Orleans also happens to be a very spiritual city. Sadly, however, that spirituality very often manifests itself in the form of the works of darkness, which, as you may already know, are strictly forbidden in the Scriptures. I'm referring to Old New Orleans Traditional Witchcraft, Creole Voodoo, Hoodoo folk magic (conjure), satanism, Wicca (the craft), rootwork, magick, and other forms of the "black arts". Even people who one would think are not likely be involved in these forbidden practices, apparently are; such as Catholics who wear charms such as mojo bags and gris-gris bags, or business owners who have conjure bags on their office desks. Some residents of New Orleans also own Voodoo spirit bottles. From what I have read, some form of Witchcraft, Voodoo or Magick is deeply ingrained in many long time residents of New Orleans, and it's second nature to them.

As I have pointed out in other articles, God's Word clearly commands us to flee from the works of darkness, and to dwell in the Light of Christ, as we see by the following verses:

"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light."

Romans 13:12, KJV

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"

2 Corinthians 6:14, KJV

"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light . . . And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

Ephesians 5:8, 11, KJV

"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:"

Colossians 1:13, KJV

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"

1 Peter 2:9, KJV

"If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:"

1 John 1:6, KJV

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

James 4:7, KJV

"Neither give place to the devil."

Ephesians 4:27, KJV

Exactly what are some of these works of darkness from which we are commanded to flee? Again, the Bible offers us a clear answer with verses such as the following:

"Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God."

Leviticus 19:31, KJV

"And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people."

Leviticus 20:6, KJV

"There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer."

Deuteronomy 18:10-11, KJV

"And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?"

Isaiah 8:19, KJV

"But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments . . . Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from

thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail. Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee."

Isaiah 47:9, 12-13, KJV

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

Galatians 5:19-21, KJV

In those last three verses from the Apostle Paul's Epistle to the Galatian brethren, those two words "drunkenness" and "revellings" remind me of the annual carnival festivities which begins in New Orleans on January 6th; and as we have already seen, witchcraft, sexual promiscuity and murder are quite prevalent in that wicked city; so the Apostle Paul's words very appropriately describe the sins of New Orleans.

What I have personally long found to be rather ironic, and in fact hypocritical, is the fact that the carnival season ends on "Fat Tuesday" -- or "Mardi Gras" in French -- and is immediately followed by Ash Wednesday and the Roman Catholic Lent season. In short, some of the Catholics of New Orleans wildly indulge in every evil work of the flesh during the weeks-long carnival festivities -- which in recent decades has included public breast-flashing -- which end on Mardi Gras -- or Fat Tuesday -- and then they turn around and behave like sinless, self-righteous saints, and supposedly demonstrate their repentance by having a cross of ashes placed on their foreheads on Ash Wednesday. While they may adopt an attitude of "forgive-and-forget", is this kind of blatant hypocrisy truly acceptable to the Lord?

While I have focused on the occurrence of Mardi Gras in the city of New Orleans, it is important to point out that this "season of sin" is celebrated in various parts of the world, from Mexico, to Rio de Janeiro, to the nations of Europe, to Australia; and in countries which are dominated by the Roman Catholic religion, it always concludes on Ash Wednesday. In fact, I first became aware of this hypocrisy over thirty years ago while serving as a missionary in Mexico. Allow me to likewise mention that Ash Wednesday is also observed by certain other Christian faiths as well. These include some Methodists, Anglicans, Episcopalians, Baptists, Lutherans and a few other denominations as well.

Rather than indulge in these worldly pleasures of the flesh during the Mardi Gras festivities, we would all be wise to follow the example of Moses; who even though he could have continued to enjoy the affluent, sinful life that he led in the courts of Pharaoh, chose instead to leave it all behind, in order to please and obey the God of Heaven, as we see here:

"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;"

Hebrews 11:24-25, KJV

So as you can plainly see, the works of darkness which God's Word clearly condemns, are some of the very same things in which some people of New Orleans have been involved for many years; and in fact, for many generations, ever since their ancestors were brought from Africa and the Caribbean region. Precisely how many people are involved in these dark arts in New Orleans, I honestly cannot say. In an effort to find out, I conducted an Internet search, but I turned up empty-handed. I even took the time to email over half a dozen witches, some of whom are long-time residents of the city of New Orleans. As of this writing, only three have responded, and none of them have been able to provide me with a clear answer, or simply don't want to.

If you happen to be a Bible-believing Christian like myself, then it should not shock you, or offend you, when I suggest that Hurricane Katrina may have been a judgment sent by God against that wicked city. While God will sometimes take it upon Himself to execute His judgments directly -- such as in the case of the Genesis Flood -- we are also told in the Scriptures that sometimes He will use Satan or lesser demons to carry out His Will, as His instruments of judgment. If there is one thing which the Bible makes very clear, it is that spiritual forces are able to interact with and affect our natural, physical world, including with our very own bodies. This is a topic which I discuss in more detail in such series as "Demonic Possession And Sickness: A Biblical Perspective". As the Apostle Paul warns us in two of his Epistles:

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:"
Ephesians 2:2, KJV

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."
2 Corinthians 4:4, KJV

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."
Ephesians 6:12, KJV

It should be clear to you then from the previous verses that there are indeed dark, evil forces at work in our world, and these malevolent forces are capable of affecting our lives in a variety of ways. As I said a moment ago, the Bible informs us that God will sometimes use these forces of darkness as His instruments of judgment when He deems it necessary. Such was the case in the Book of Job when God allowed Satan to do everything within his power, short of killing Job, in order to test Job's loyalty to God. Consider the following verses:

"And there was a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them: And the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee."

Job 1:13-19, KJV

So here we witness God allowing Satan to cause a variety of calamities to befall Job's family. Ultimately, Job himself was afflicted with nasty boils, from the soles of his feet to the top of his head, as we see here:

"And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life. So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown. And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes."

Job 2:4-8, KJV

Let me reiterate that these tragedies befell Job's family by God's Divine Permission, and were effectuated through Satan, who served as God's personal executioner. Please also notice that in the first set of verses, the last calamity to befall Job's family was "a great wind". This wind caused the eldest son's house to collapse which resulted in the death of Job's sons. While we obviously don't know with certainty, it seems to me that the son's house was probably hit by a tornado. If we consider how fast a tornado can approach, this would help to explain why the sons were unable to escape from the house before it fell on them. Another possibility is that the sons may have believed that they would be safe inside. Now if God could use Satan to affect the weather, and send a tornado thousands of years ago, is it really a challenge for Him to send a powerful hurricane like Katrina in our modern day?

Taking the previous thought a step further, if Satan -- who the Apostle Paul tells us is the "Prince of the Power of the Air" -- can do such things, is it possible that other lesser demonic forces in the world possess similar abilities? Do they also have the power to afflict humanity with such death and destruction? I obviously cannot solidly prove this point, but I would posit that Hurricane Katrina suggests that they can, and do. I just find it rather ironic that such a deadly hurricane bore the same name as Mexico's "Lady of the Dead"; that is, Catrina. It was probably just a coincidence, but nevertheless, it is curious.

In addition to using the natural force of the wind, please also notice that in the previous verses, we are told that "the fire of God" fell from heaven and burned up some of the sheep and servants. Is it possible that this was a severe lightning storm? If this is the case, then we now have two examples in which God allowed Satan -- the false god of this world -- to use the forces of nature as His instruments of judgment; that is, wind -- possibly being a tornado -- and the fire of God -- possibly being a lightning storm.

What we can learn from these two examples is that what people today refer to as "natural disasters", may not be so natural. As I have explained before, the whole idea of "Mother Nature" is a cop-out in my view. There's simply no such entity called Mother Nature. Even using that designation implies some form of intelligence and/or personality. Are we to understand that natural disasters are simply Mother Nature losing her temper and going wild? In my opinion, using a phrase such as Mother Nature to explain the many so-called "natural disasters" that befall the Earth is a weak attempt to try to ignore the real force that is behind these occurrences. It also reminds me of how some of these misguided New Agers refer to the Earth as a living entity called Gaia, which in Greek mythology is the goddess of the Earth.

Based on the previous two examples from the Book of Job, we need to consider that, in reality, natural disasters may be God's Hand and Will at work. But alas, to even be willing to admit this, we must also be honest enough to recognize that God must be very displeased about something, as otherwise, He would not allow these disasters to occur. Therein lies a part of the problem; because in our increasingly secular world the vast majority of people are not willing to admit that sin is real, and much less that sin even exists in their lives, or in their society or nation as a whole. Thus we see that using terms like "Mother Nature" and "natural disasters" provides people with an easy way to escape the guilt of sin that God wishes to impress upon their consciences.

That God will sometimes use the natural forces of the Earth as His instruments of judgment against rebellious unrepentant people is quite apparent in other verses as well. In the Book of Deuteronomy, for example, consider this serious warning that God instructed Moses to give to the ancient Israelites. The Lord wanted them to know exactly what would happen to them if they failed to keep His Commandments. Moses stated:

"Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; And then the LORD'S wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you."

Deuteronomy 11:16-17, KJV

So here we see a clear example where God will purposely hold back the rain, resulting in drought and eventually famine. It was not Mother Nature that held back the rain, it was God. We see the same kinds of warnings and curses pronounced in other books of the Bible as well. If we take an overview of all of these verses, and others which I will not quote here due to their large number, we see that God's instruments of judgment can include, but are not limited to, such things as the wind, rain, lightning, hail, heat, floods, frogs, locusts, snakes, scorpions, flies, caterpillars, lice, mildew, and a variety of diseases. In fact, as I explain in such articles as "The Fruits Of Disobedience", God can likewise use human enemies as His instruments of judgment against rebellious people, as He did many times with the ancient Israelites. In addition to the various plagues of Egypt, consider the following verses:

"When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou afflictest them: Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, that thou

teach them the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance. If there be in the land famine, if there be pestilence, blasting, mildew, locust, or if there be caterpillar; if their enemy besiege them in the land of their cities; whatsoever plague, whatsoever sickness there be; What prayer and supplication soever be made by any man, or by all thy people Israel, which shall know every man the plague of his own heart, and spread forth his hands toward this house: Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;) That they may fear thee all the days that they live in the land which thou gavest unto our fathers."

1 Kings 8:35-40, KJV

"Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David enquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites."

2 Samuel 21:1, KJV

"Then spake Elisha unto the woman, whose son he had restored to life, saying, Arise, and go thou and thine household, and sojourn wheresoever thou canst sojourn: for the LORD hath called for a famine; and it shall also come upon the land seven years."

2 Kings 8:1, KJV

"Moreover he called for a famine upon the land: he brake the whole staff of bread."

Psalms 105:16, KJV

"Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, I will punish them: the young men shall die by the sword; their sons and their daughters shall die by famine:"

Jeremiah 11:22, KJV

"And I will send the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, among them, till they be consumed from off the land that I gave unto them and to their fathers."

Jeremiah 24:10, KJV

"And it shall come to pass, that the nation and kingdom which will not serve the same Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation will I punish, saith the LORD, with the sword, and with the famine, and with the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand."

Jeremiah 27:8, KJV

"Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will send upon them the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, and will make them like vile figs, that cannot be eaten, they are so evil. And I will persecute them with the sword, with the famine, and with the pestilence, and will deliver them to be removed to all the kingdoms of the earth, to be a curse, and an astonishment, and an hissing, and a reproach, among all the nations whither I have driven them:"

Jeremiah 29:17-18, KJV

"Then it shall come to pass, that the sword, which ye feared, shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt, and the famine, whereof ye were afraid, shall follow close after you there in Egypt; and there ye shall die. So shall it be

with all the men that set their faces to go into Egypt to sojourn there; they shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: and none of them shall remain or escape from the evil that I will bring upon them."

Jeremiah 42:16-17, KJV

"A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee: and a third part shall fall by the sword round about thee; and I will scatter a third part into all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them."

Ezekiel 5:12, KJV

"When I shall send upon them the evil arrows of famine, which shall be for their destruction, and which I will send to destroy you: and I will increase the famine upon you, and will break your staff of bread:"

Ezekiel 5:16, KJV

"Thus saith the Lord GOD; Smite with thine hand, and stamp with thy foot, and say, Alas for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel! for they shall fall by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence. He that is far off shall die of the pestilence; and he that is near shall fall by the sword; and he that remaineth and is besieged shall die by the famine: thus will I accomplish my fury upon them."

Ezekiel 6:11-12, KJV

In the previous verses, please notice how many times the Lord repeatedly states "I will" do this, and "I will" do that. So again, it becomes very clear that, as with so-called "natural disasters" which occur today, these Biblical events were not just the forces of nature going wild on their own. They were in fact controlled events, and the chastisements of God upon a rebellious and sinful people. It was, and to this very day continues to be, God who is doing these things, and not some fictitious entity people call "Mother Nature". In the very same fashion, when a people who claim to be God's people are persecuted and oppressed by their enemies, it is not simply because the enemy is stronger and has a military advantage. As I explain in the series "The Fruits Of Disobedience", it is because the Lord is using those enemies as His instrument of judgment against His wayward, backslidden children.

In light of the aforementioned Biblical examples, and taking into consideration the dismal spiritual condition of the so-called "Christian" United States of America today, is it possible that that nation will face a fate similar to that of ancient Israel, and will be subjected to an assortment of "natural disasters", as well as to attacks from her external enemies, sometime in the future? The Biblical precedent for such a possibility is very clear. As with the Israelites, who God brought into a beautiful, plentiful place, but who then defiled the land through their rebellion and spiritual backsliding, so too, God brought America's early settlers into a country beautiful beyond imagination, and rich in natural resources.

In those early decades, Americans were a God-fearing people who recognized and honored God in every area of their lives; but in barely two hundred years, look how far Americans have strayed from the path of righteousness, and turned away from the Sound Truth and the Holy Principles of God's Word.

Sadly, today, laws have been passed, and rulings have been made, which remove God from government, remove God from

certain areas of public access, remove God from the school system, etc. It is as if certain Americans only want to be reminded of God's existence and presence when they visit a church building, and a small vociferous minority want to completely push Him out of their lives altogether. Is this the proper way to treat One who has given us so much, and blessed us so much?

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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End Of File

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Sins Of Modern America Exposed - Abortion, Embryonic Stem Cell Research, Gay And Lesbian Relationships & Same-Sex "Marriage", Gay And Lesbian Clergy, Materialism And Pedophilia In Certain Churches, Profiteering From God's Word, Corruption In The US Government, Corruption In American Big Business, America Has Become Like Ancient Israel & Is An Abomination In God's Sight, Israel Abandoned The True God & Worshipped Heathen False Gods, Spread Of False Religions All Across America, Earthquakes Are Another Form Of Divine Chastisement, Jesus Calms Sea And Waves

As we were discussing at the conclusion of part one, today in modern America, many people have strayed from the path of righteousness, and turned away from the Sound Truth and the Holy Principles of God's Word. To add sin upon sin, unborn children are mercilessly slaughtered by the millions through the vile practice of abortion year after year. Please refer to the series "Abortion: The Slaughter Of The Innocent" for a more in-depth look at this issue. In a related area, the heartless destruction of days-old embryos through embryonic stem cell research has now become accepted by some people as a necessary evil in order to achieve the betterment of the human condition. But is prolonging human life through acts of murder really an ethical practice? Do you believe that God simply ignores such acts of butchery?

As if these crimes against life aren't already enough, gay and lesbian relationships, and same-sex "marriage", have now become accepted by many people -- particularly by misguided teens and young adults -- as a normal and natural lifestyle. These sinful relationships have even been blessed by certain so-called "Christian" churches, who in their delusion and rebellion, even accept such persons as respected members of their clergy. Please consider reading such series as "When Sin Is No Longer A Sin" and "Homosexuality And Lesbianism: To The Point" if you wish to gain an expanded understanding of this topic from a Bible-based Christian perspective.

In addition to their worldly pursuit of comfort and material wealth, in certain churches -- such as in the Roman Catholic Church -- as it is now widely known, acts of pedophilia also run rampant. This sin against the young has been occurring for many years, and yet ecclesiastical leadership has chosen to turn a blind eye to these vile acts, and to cover them up. To make matters worse, and to add to the shame of our faith, many Christian writers today sell God's Word -- or at least what they claim to be God's Word -- for profit, which is in direct contradiction to, and in violation of, the teachings of Jesus Christ and His Apostles, who taught us to freely share the Word of God, as we have freely received it. Please refer to such articles as "Money-Making Bible Hucksters And Mammon" for more information regarding this topic.

While in his now-famous 1863 Gettysburg Address, US president Abraham Lincoln made the statement that we must all struggle to ensure that a "government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth", today, not even one and fifty years later, it can truly be said that the term "for the people" has been trampled underfoot, and is only an

illusion which exists in the minds of the electorate. The US Federal Government has now become so big and powerful, that it now feels that it has the right to spy on its own citizens through a variety of methods. At this current time, there are now in operation so many closed-circuit surveillance cameras scattered across the land, that it's difficult for one not to feel that he lives in a veritable Police State, or perhaps in the Orwellian world of 1984's "Big Brother". The situation in Great Britain is even worse, according to what I have read.

While it is true that American citizens still retain certain rights and freedoms which are not enjoyed by citizens in some other countries of the world, we should all be mindful of the fact that these freedoms only extend so far. Step beyond the limits that are tolerated by the US Government, and you may learn how free you really are. Between government databases, the national network of surveillance cameras, secret wire taps -- or telephone monitoring -- the FBI's infamous email packet sniffing program known as "Carnivore", and similar mechanisms which remain unknown to us, surely our personal privacy has been violated and compromised considerably more than what many of us would find acceptable, if we only knew when and where it is happening. And this is "government for the people"?

Furthermore, it is an established fact that there are many corrupt politicians in Washington, DC who engage in back room deals with lobbyists and other parties. Such people have lost the vision of why they were elected to public office, and no longer truly serve the American people. Rather, they serve only themselves, and will do whatever is necessary in order to enrich themselves, and remain in power. After all, many of these individuals are career politicians.

To list the sins of the U.S. Government against the rest of the world would require a great deal of time and energy. As such, suffice it to say that in recent decades, the United States of America has afflicted more nations with war and violence, economic hardship through its clandestine trade wars, as well as other forms of hardship by its intentional destruction of national infrastructure and public services, than any other country in the modern era. While US citizens often hear of American humanitarian efforts, what they are rarely told is how America's penchant for war can totally destroy a nation, and leave its people just struggling to survive in the aftermath.

Such is the case with the sovereign nation of Iraq; and it's why the American Government has spent literally billions of dollars over the past six years in order to rebuild that nation. It was the USA which created the destruction in the first place. It was because of that widespread destruction that many of the Iraqi people didn't joyfully throw flowers to the American troops -- as had been anticipated -- when they first went there. Perhaps America liberated the Iraqi people from the tyrannical rule of Saddam Hussein, but look closely at what was left after Saddam Hussein was toppled. If you personally doubt anything that I have stated here, then I encourage you to conduct your own online research in order to verify the facts. The American economy thrives on war, plain and simple.

American Big Business is no exception and is likewise full of corruption. As the ongoing global economic crisis, and the dismal economic situation continue, the American mass media has revealed the fact that the financial leaders of America

are just as evil and greedy as their political counterparts. In fact, it is obvious that they are bedfellows; and as it is now known, it is these greedy financiers who are directly responsible for the current economic crisis which has swept the world. Even now, while many American workers and families struggle just to try to make ends meet, the pompous leaders of the Big Business elite have the audacity to pay themselves eye-boggling salaries, and receive bonus payments on top of it all. These people are clearly without scruples. The U.S. Government bailed out these financial institutions, and yet these greedy financiers continue to line their own pockets.

The purpose of the previous paragraphs is to help you to see that whether we are talking about regular American citizens, or America's spiritual leadership, or her political leaders, or the leadership of American Big Business, or her military leadership, sadly, sin and corruption run very deep through them all like a stubborn root which refuses to be removed. In spite of American claims of being "one nation under God", and a Christian nation, by her very actions, America reveals to the world that in large part, she has abandoned the Christian faith upon which she was founded, and she has become an ugly abomination in God's sight. I am reminded of what the Prophet Jeremiah wrote about the sins of Israel over 2,500 years ago:

"And I brought you into a plentiful country, to eat the fruit thereof and the goodness thereof; but when ye entered, ye defiled my land, and made mine heritage an abomination."
Jeremiah 2:7, KJV

The Prophet Hosea likewise wrote the following concerning the Israelites' abandonment of the one true God, and their evil fascination with the false gods of the heathen:

"For Israel hath forgotten his Maker, and buildeth temples; and Judah hath multiplied fenced cities: but I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour the palaces thereof."
Hosea 8:14, KJV

Ironically, being that He is who He is, God knew beforehand, even as far back as the time of Moses, that once the children of Israel settled comfortably in the land of Canaan, that the time would eventually arrive when they would abandon Him, and follow after the false gods of the heathen nations that were around them. Thus, the Lord said to Moses:

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them."
Deuteronomy 31:16, KJV

Thus, scattered throughout the Old Testament, we find verses such as the following which clearly demonstrate how far the children of Israel had backslidden from the Lord God who had delivered them out of Egyptian bondage:

"And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger."
Judges 2:12, KJV

"And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsook the LORD, and served not him."
Judges 10:6, KJV

"And they transgressed against the God of their fathers, and went a whoring after the gods of the people of the land, whom God destroyed before them."
1 Chronicles 5:25, KJV

"Now it came to pass, after that Amaziah was come from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the children of Seir, and set them up to be his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and burned incense unto them. Wherefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Amaziah, and he sent unto him a prophet, which said unto him, Why hast thou sought after the gods of the people, which could not deliver their own people out of thine hand?
2 Chronicles 25:14-15, KJV

"For he sacrificed unto the gods of Damascus, which smote him: and he said, Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, therefore will I sacrifice to them, that they may help me. But they were the ruin of him, and of all Israel."
2 Chronicles 28:23, KJV

So just as ancient Israel abandoned her Maker and followed after strange gods and strange religions, the United States of America today is likewise full of many abominable works -- such as the aforementioned ones -- and she too has foolishly followed strange gods which her forefathers knew not. To her shame, false religions such as Islam, Buddhism and a variety of other oriental religions, Wicca and other New Age beliefs, and an assortment of African religions -- Voodoo, Hoodoo and Santeria -- and certain Native American beliefs have become deeply rooted all across the nation. Furthermore, calling up one's favorite psychic, getting a tarot card reading, going to a palm reader, attending a seance and calling upon the spirits of the dead -- necromancy -- and holding rituals in the forest are common practices these days.

Lamentably, in the so-called spirit of ecumenism, aspects of certain of these false religions have even been incorporated into so-called "Christian" church services. Without a doubt, the city of New Orleans is a partaker in these very same sins and abominations, because many of her residents are beholden to these deceptive spirits of devils. They claim to walk in the light, while at the same time, they practice the works of darkness. As we saw in part one, the Apostle Paul asked the misguided brethren at Corinth "what communion hath light with darkness?"

For those of you who may not understand its meaning, the word "abomination" in the previous verse from the Book of Jeremiah is derived from the Hebrew word "tow ebah". This word refers to something which is disgusting, unclean or wicked. This is how God came to view the Israelites of old due to their many sins against Him; and that is why He eventually chose to cast them out of His sight, cast them out of the land of Israel, and even refused to hear their prayers, as I explain in such articles as "Beholding The Evil And The Good" and "The Fruits Of Disobedience". The question then is this: Will God have to do the same thing to America in order to wake up her people and shake them up? Will He have to remove the soft pillows of

luxury from underneath their arms before they return to Him?

In addition to the previous forms of Divine Affliction that we examined in part one of this series, the Bible makes it clear that earthquakes are also included on the Lord's list of instruments of judgment when it comes to chastising His rebellious, backslidden children. Again, allow me to remind you that rather than view these events as natural disasters which result from tectonic plate movement, it is important that we recognize earthquakes as coming from God's Hand. It is true that the actual physical mechanism which causes the earthquakes to occur is tectonic plate movement, but at the same time, the following Scriptural examples reveal to us that it is God's Hand at work. These verses irrefutably prove that the Lord is in complete control of the natural forces and elements of the Earth:

"But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD. And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them: And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods."
Numbers 16:30-32, KJV

"Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty. The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low: And upon all the cedars of Lebanon, that are high and lifted up, and upon all the oaks of Bashan, And upon all the high mountains, and upon all the hills that are lifted up, And upon every high tower, and upon every fenced wall, And upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures. And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. And the idols he shall utterly abolish. And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth. In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats; To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth."
Isaiah 2:10-21, KJV

"Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir. Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the

LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger."
Isaiah 13:9-13, KJV

"Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth. And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake. The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited. Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously."
Isaiah 24:17-23, KJV

"Woe to Ariel, to Ariel, the city where David dwelt! add ye year to year; let them kill sacrifices. Yet I will distress Ariel, and there shall be heaviness and sorrow: and it shall be unto me as Ariel. And I will camp against thee round about, and will lay siege against thee with a mount, and I will raise forts against thee. And thou shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust. Moreover the multitude of thy strangers shall be like small dust, and the multitude of the terrible ones shall be as chaff that passeth away: yea, it shall be at an instant suddenly. Thou shalt be visited of the LORD of hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with storm and tempest, and the flame of devouring fire. And the multitude of all the nations that fight against Ariel, even all that fight against her and her munition, and that distress her, shall be as a dream of a night vision. It shall even be as when an hungry man dreameth, and, behold, he eateth; but he awaketh, and his soul is empty: or as when a thirsty man dreameth, and, behold, he drinketh; but he awaketh, and, behold, he is faint, and his soul hath appetite: so shall the multitude of all the nations be, that fight against mount Zion."
Isaiah 29:1-8, KJV

"And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face. For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground. And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother. And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great

hailstones, fire, and brimstone. Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD."

Ezekiel 38:18-23, KJV

"Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more."

Joel 3:9-17, KJV

"For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts."

Haggai 2:6-7, KJV

"Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light."

Zechariah 14:1-7, KJV

"See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as

of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire."

Hebrews 12:25-29, KJV

"And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

Revelation 6:12-17, KJV

"And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven . . . And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail."

Revelation 11:13, 19, KJV

"And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found."

Revelation 16:12-20, KJV

While we are informed that God, through His executioners and agents -- Satan and his demonic horde -- can afflict humanity with these things, we are also told that He can restrain the forces of nature as well. One famous example of this is when Jesus calmed the storm on the Sea of Galilee as He walked to His Disciples who were struggling in their boat. In another example, so great a storm occurred while Jesus was sleeping

in the boat, that the Lord's Disciples grew fearful. Again, Jesus merely spoke the word, and the weather became calm. Consider the following verse sets:

"And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!"

Matthew 8:23-27, KJV

"And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Mark 4:36-41, KJV

"Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth. But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him."

Luke 8:22-25, KJV

"And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased."

Matthew 14:23-32, KJV

"And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land. And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon

the sea, and would have passed by them. But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out: For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid. And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered."

Mark 6:47-51, KJV

Please go to part three for the continuation of this series.

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End Of File

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God Has Absolute Control Over All Of The Forces Of Nature, Avoid Political-Correctness, Don't Go Along With The Crowd, Natural Disasters Are Acts Of God But Who Really Admits It? Powerful Signs Of The Endtime, God Will Hold Us Accountable To Speak The Truth, Don't Be Ashamed Of Your Faith, Boldly Preach The Gospel, Message Of Repentance Is Also Our Duty, No One Else Is Going To Do It, Modern Politically-Correct Leaders vs Ancient Kings Of Israel, A National Repentance, Good Example Of King Josiah, Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar Used As God's Instrument Of Judgment, The Fall Of Jerusalem, Why There Are No God-Fearing National Leaders Today, Dismal Failures Of American So-Called Christian Presidents, Obama's Record On Important Christian Issues, Winning The Gullible Christian Vote, Downward Spiral Of The World, Using Hype And Spin To Explain The Endtime Disasters Befalling The World, Jesus Christ Rules With A Rod Of Iron During The Millennium, Preach The Truth And Endure Hardness As Soldiers Of Christ, Public Reactions To This Series - Acceptance Or Offence, No Cloak For Their Sin - Sins Of New Orleans Exposed, Have I Become Your Enemy?, Sharing The Truth With Sensitive Hearts

It should be clear to you then that God has absolute control over the weather, and other forces of nature. In light of all of the previous Scriptural evidence, it is foolhardy for any Bible-believing Christian to reject the idea that God can use a ferocious tropical storm such as Hurricane Katrina, as His instrument of judgment against rebellious and sinful people. In my mind, to even suggest that Hurricane Katrina did not happen by God's Will, is indirectly stating that God is not in complete control of His creation. Personally, I cannot accept that. What about you?

Furthermore, the only reason which I can think of why any of us wouldn't be willing to admit this truth as Christians, is because we are being too politically-correct. In other words, we won't speak the truth because it embarrasses us to do so, and we simply don't wish to be ridiculed, or viewed as crazy Christian fanatics by the unbelieving world. Furthermore, we realize that saying such harsh things will obviously offend certain people, and we don't wish to be persecuted for our faith. So, we prefer to go along with the crowd, and simply comment on what a great tragedy Hurricane Katrina was. Not only that, but we will apply the very same attitude to any other disaster which may occur, whether it is a flood, fire, earthquake, or whatever.

While secular weathermen and the mass media will inform us that where a hurricane ultimately makes landfall is strictly determined by a variety of meteorological factors, such as atmospheric and oceanic conditions, we who have studied God's Word should know and understand that this is simply not the case. God retains absolute control of His creation; and that including the forces of nature. Based upon the Scriptures, we should be convinced that where these storms strike isn't just a matter of science, but more importantly, it is a matter of God's Divine Will. He is the Guiding Force behind so-called natural disasters such as hurricanes and typhoons. They are in reality Acts of God. The Wikipedia website defines an Act

of God as "a legal term for events outside of human control, such as sudden floods or other natural disasters, for which no one can be held responsible."

Oddly enough, as we've already seen, while in a legal sense lawyers and insurance people may refer to such disasters as Acts of God, in reality, few people are actually willing to admit that such events truly were Acts of God, performed by the Hand of God, or at least permitted by God; because to do so implies a manifestation of His anger, as well as sin in the lives of those who are being chastised.

As we have seen through a careful study of the Scriptures, God will either direct these forces Himself, or else He will purposely allow Satan and his demons to manipulate them, in order to mete out God's judgments upon the wicked. From the Great Flood which occurred in the days of Noah, to the fiery destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, to the plagues in Egypt during the time of Moses and Aaron, to the droughts, famines and pestilences that are described for us throughout the Old Testament, to the great earthquakes of the Biblical past and those yet to come, to the worldwide plagues of the Endtime, to the awesome signs in the heavens which will announce the Return of Jesus Christ, all of these were, or will be, Acts of the Almighty God, and not merely the natural forces of the heavens and Earth working by their own will and power, as some people erroneously assume. Natural disasters aren't so natural after all.

As we draw closer to the end of man's current corrupt rule upon the Earth, we will witness even more powerful signs as God begins to pour out His Wrath upon the rebellious people of this planet. While men of science, governments and the mass media will attempt to explain these things as natural phenomenon and natural disasters, we who trust in God and His Word must recognize these events for what they truly are. We must be careful that we don't allow ourselves to fall under their deceptive spell. Rather than speak politically-correct phrases which will only make people feel better and diminish their fear, as faithful servants of the Lord, we must all be willing to boldly tell them the truth, in the hope that some of them will repent of their sins, and acknowledge the Lord in their lives. For if we refuse to do these things, because we are afraid of being ridiculed and persecuted, then God will surely hold us accountable. As the Lord once said to the ancient Prophet Ezekiel:

"Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul."

Ezekiel 3:17-19, KJV

So it is clear that we must each be willing to deliver our soul to an increasingly ungodly, incredulous world, and be a powerful beacon of God's truth in the troublesome, dark days which lie ahead. We must not cower in fear, or shirk away from our responsibilities to the Lord. As Jesus and other New Testament writers warned us, we must not be ashamed of our faith. Consider these verses:

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."
Matthew 5:16, KJV

"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."
Mark 8:38, KJV

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."
Romans 1:16, KJV

"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."
2 Timothy 1:12, KJV

Aside from the fact that we must boldly preach the Gospel -- including God's warnings of impending judgment, as well as the message of repentance -- simply because it's our duty to do so as God's messengers and ambassadors, there is another reason why we must do it; and that is this: No one else is going to do it. Let's face it; we are never going to see the national leader of any country hold a press conference, and announce that the calamities that are befalling the country are the result of God's judgments against a rebellious and sinful nation. It's just never going to happen, and I would be greatly surprised if it does. Furthermore, we are never going to see the news anchor of any national news network tell his audience that it is time to repent, because God is very angry with the nation. Again, it's just never going to happen.

Modern, hard-hearted, politically-correct national leaders are so unlike some of the God-fearing kings of ancient Israel who fully understood when God was dealing with their nation. And if they didn't know, then God's Prophet of the day would tell them so, and some of the more upright kings would call for a national repentance. Consider the following Scriptural example of King Josiah who removed all of the false priests from office, and destroyed all of the brothels of the male temple prostitutes, as well as the pagan temples, the forest worship places, and all of the idols that had been dedicated to the star gods -- and other false gods --which were found throughout Judah. In addition, Josiah made the people swear an oath before the Lord at the temple of Jerusalem that they would henceforth keep His commandments, as we see here:

"And Shaphan the scribe shewed the king, saying, Hilkiah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king. And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes. And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Michaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asahiah a servant of the king's, saying, Go ye, enquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us. So Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam, and Achbor,

and Shaphan, and Asahiah, went unto Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college;) and they communed with her. And she said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Tell the man that sent you to me, Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the words of the book which the king of Judah hath read: Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be kindled against this place, and shall not be quenched. But to the king of Judah which sent you to enquire of the LORD, thus shall ye say to him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, As touching the words which thou hast heard; Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the LORD. Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace; and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place. And they brought the king word again. And the king sent, and they gathered unto him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem. And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD. And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant. And the king commanded Hilkiyah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Bethel. And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven. And he brought out the grove from the house of the LORD, without Jerusalem, unto the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and stamped it small to powder, and cast the powder thereof upon the graves of the children of the people. And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that were by the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the grove. And he brought all the priests out of the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beersheba, and brake down the high places of the gates that were in the entering in of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were on a man's left hand at the gate of the city. Nevertheless the priests of the high places came not up to the altar of the LORD in Jerusalem, but they did eat of the unleavened bread among their brethren. And he defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech. And he took away the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun, at the entering in of the house of the LORD, by the chamber of Nathanmelech the chamberlain, which

was in the suburbs, and burned the chariots of the sun with fire. And the altars that were on the top of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, did the king beat down, and brake them down from thence, and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron. And the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile. And he brake in pieces the images, and cut down the groves, and filled their places with the bones of men. Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake down, and burned the high place, and stamped it small to powder, and burned the grove. And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchres that were there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchres, and burned them upon the altar, and polluted it, according to the word of the LORD which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words. Then he said, What title is that that I see? And the men of the city told him, It is the sepulchre of the man of God, which came from Judah, and proclaimed these things that thou hast done against the altar of Bethel. And he said, Let him alone; let no man move his bones. So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet that came out of Samaria. And all the houses also of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had made to provoke the LORD to anger, Josiah took away, and did to them according to all the acts that he had done in Bethel. And he slew all the priests of the high places that were there upon the altars, and burned men's bones upon them, and returned to Jerusalem. And the king commanded all the people, saying, Keep the passover unto the LORD your God, as it is written in the book of this covenant. Surely there was not holden such a passover from the days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah; But in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, wherein this passover was holden to the LORD in Jerusalem. Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiyah the priest found in the house of the LORD. And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him."

2 Kings 22:10-23:25, KJV

Sadly, upon King Josiah's death by the hand of Pharaohnechoh king of Egypt at a battle at Megiddo, Jehoahaz, Josiah's son, became the new king of Judah; and unlike his father, Jehoahaz again did evil in the sight of the Lord. In spite of all that King Josiah had done, generally-speaking, the Lord was still not pleased with the people of Judah and Jerusalem. Thus, as I point out in some of the aforementioned articles, God used the armies of Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar, to lay siege against Jerusalem three times. The third time, Jerusalem was utterly destroyed, along with Solomon's temple, and a large number of Jews were led into captivity at Babylon for seventy years. Thus, King Nebuchadnezzar became God's instrument of judgment.

But the point I wish to make from the previous Bible story is the following:

Can you imagine any modern leader, be they president, king, queen or prime minister, carrying out such much-needed, bold religious reforms like Josiah? It would require a God-fearing leader who is of outstanding character, faith and courage to perform such acts. Sadly, to my knowledge, such a leader does not exist, and probably never will exist. Why? Because unless they are absolute dictators, the majority of modern leaders are too beholden to the people, and not to God. They fear the opinion of the people much more than they fear God's opinion.

What do I mean by this? Allow me to explain it to you this way:

As we all know, most modern candidates will say anything, do anything, and promise anything, in order to win an election, and then to remain in office. It only stands to reason then that none of them will ever outlaw abortion, declare gay and lesbian relationships and same-sex "marriage" illegal, make the worship of the Christian God the one and only acceptable national religion -- which is also what King Josiah basically did -- prohibit embryonic stem cell research, dispose of all nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, put an end to war, outlaw prostitution, eliminate all illegal drug trafficking, stamp out organized crime, and in a word, effectively deal with all of the other ungodly evils which plague the nation.

Any candidate who would actually have the audacity to make mention of his intention to carry out certain of these goals would obviously lose a certain percentage of votes with some of his constituents; and any leader who is already in office would suffer the same fate, and his popularity would decline. Thus, all candidates will play the "promises, promises" game during the campaign, and then once they are elected, they'll suddenly suffer a strange case of amnesia. Furthermore, the constitutions of many countries are written in such a way -- meaning with a checks and balances system -- that no leader could possibly achieve these objectives alone anyway. Such a leader would have to be a complete dictator.

In short, it seems to me that in the case of the USA at least, it may very well be some of the very democratic freedoms that all Americans enjoy, which, in the end, will bring America to her knees; because in reality, democracy is mob rule. Think about it. As we have already seen, if the people really don't want something, and a candidate or leader tries to push it through anyway, he will quickly lose popular support, and may not have a political future of any significance. On the other hand, if a lot of people really do want something, a shrewd candidate will tell them exactly what they want to hear, and may even give it to them once he or she is elected, as a kind of reward for allowing them to play king or queen for a while. Sadly, what the people sometimes want is not always what is really best for them; but if it obtains votes, well . . . If you doubt my words, just look at some of the liberal, ungodly policies and attitudes of US President Barack Obama. I was no fan of George W. Bush, but I am even less of a fan of Barack Hussein Obama.

Furthermore, even those leaders who do openly profess a faith in God, turn out to be terrible disappointments once they're elected. Consider the case of US President Jimmy Carter. He was the first president to be elected from the American Deep

South since 1848, and many Christians were optimistic and had high hopes in Carter. While there were several high points in Carter's one term, he was also plagued with one crisis after another. By the time his term ended, his approval rating had sunk to a dismal level; although his peace-making endeavors since that time have greatly aided his public image; so much so that in 2002 he received the Nobel Peace Prize.

Every president since Carter's time who has openly professed faith in God has likewise turned out to be a disappointment with their own share of personal or political laundry to hide. In the case of US President Ronald Reagan, it was the scandal of the Iran-Contra affair. With US President Bill Clinton, it was the Monica Lewinsky affair. For all his talk of being a Christian, George W. Bush carried on the work of his father, George H. W. Bush, and engaged the USA in two wars, and did every thing in his power to hurt the elderly, the poor and the sick, while he did one favor after another for his rich buddies. While Barack Obama has gone to great lengths to emphasize his Christianity, as I point out in such articles as "Obama, McCain And The Bush Legacy", he clearly embraces policies which are contrary to God's Word. Consider these:

01. He supports Roe v. Wade.
02. He voted against prohibiting minors from crossing state lines in order to obtain an abortion.
03. He voted against notifying parents of minor children who obtain out-of-state abortions.
04. He voted in favor of expanding research to include more embryonic stem cell lines.
05. He is undecided on whether or not life begins at conception.
06. He voted against banning partial-birth abortions.
07. He stated that we should trust women to make their own decisions regarding partial-birth abortion.
08. He is opposed to a constitutional ban on gay and lesbian "marriage".
09. He believes that homosexual relationships are no more immoral than heterosexual relationships.
10. On one occasion, in reference to gay and lesbian marriages, he stated ". . . nor am I willing to accept a reading of the Bible that considers an obscure line in Romans to be more defining of Christianity than the Sermon on the Mount".
11. He opposes gay marriage, but supports civil unions and gay rights.
12. On one occasion, he remarked that he does not believe that being homosexual is a curse, and also stated "I do not believe being gay or lesbian is a choice".

Based on his own record, President Barack Hussein Obama is no Christian. The truth of the matter, as I've explained before, is that whenever election time arrives, shrewd politicians proudly put on their Christian badge and simply use the issue of religion as a gimmick to win the votes of naive, gullible

Christian voters. Sadly, it works every time.

The fact is, as many of us already know, the world is slowly becoming more ungodly, and more hardened of heart, with each passing year. The nations of the world, beginning with the governments of the world, are becoming so corrupt, so evil, so self-serving, so blind, so proud and haughty, so deceived, and so defiant against God, that they no longer want to hear the truth; and they certainly don't want their constituents to hear it. So as the world situation continues to spin out of control; as the weather grows stranger by the year; as one calamity after another begins to befall us; political leaders and news commentators will simply hype up the spin, and tell us even greater lies, in their vain attempts to conceal the truth.

Why?

Because they most certainly don't want to take the blame, and they most certainly don't want to lose control of their power. In fact, as we already know, and as I have pointed out before in such articles as "From Armageddon To The New Earth", God Himself will someday soon forcefully rip out the pillows from underneath their arms, and remove them all from power, when Jesus Christ and the Heavenly Host intervene at the Battle of Armageddon, and then set up God's Kingdom upon Earth during the Age of the Millennium.

You will recall that earlier I wrote that currently, there is no Christian leader who possesses the faith and the courage to do the things that are necessary to clean up the nation -- any nation -- or the world for that matter. I was of course referring to earthly leaders. However, as I just said, there is definitely One Leader who will get the job done, and much more. That leader -- Jesus Christ -- will govern this world with a rod of iron, in what will basically be a Theocratic Dictatorship; which is exactly what we all need. When Jesus reigns on the Earth, there won't be any room for foolishness like political-correctness, corrupt politics, and manipulated vote-getting. It will be either Jesus' way or the highway, or worse! Personally, I can't wait -- even though I have to -- because the fact of the matter is that we all need to be brought into line, every last one of us. We need a strong, righteous leader. We need our Shepherd.

Returning to our earlier discussion, that is why we must do what we must do; because no one else will do it, and because God will hold us accountable if we don't. Yes, we may indeed be hated for speaking the truth and telling people what some of them don't desire to hear -- that the natural disasters which are befalling the Earth are a result of an angry God. Some of us will be ridiculed, persecuted, and perhaps even killed; but that is the price that we must be willing to pay as soldiers of Jesus Christ. As the Apostle Paul instructed us, we must not only preach God's Word, but we must also be willing to endure hardness as soldiers of Jesus Christ when that Word is not readily received. The Apostle Jude likewise tells us that we must contend for the faith, as we see here:

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

2 Timothy 4:2, KJV

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

2 Timothy 2:3, KJV

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

2 Timothy 3:12, KJV

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

Jude 1:3, KJV

If you are interested in learning more about this topic, you may wish to consider reading the article "Civil Disobedience And Christian Persecution".

As I worked on this series, I realized that my readers would probably react to it in a variety of ways. Those who are true Bible-believing Christians will embrace its contents as truth which is clearly supported by the Scriptures; while those who are only nominal Christians will probably react in a negative manner. Some people -- Christian or otherwise -- are probably going to be rather offended by the contents of this series; such as those of you who may actually live in the city of New Orleans. If you fall into this category, well, I can offer no apologies. Allow me to remind you of what Jesus Himself had to say concerning the unbelieving Jewish enemies of His day:

"If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin."

John 15:22, KJV

In a similar manner, the sins of the residents of New Orleans have also been exposed, and probably not for the first time. Not only have their sins been exposed, but if I am correct in my assertions, it would seem that God may have already judged them for their sins as well by way of Hurricane Katrina. Now if you happen to be a current resident of New Orleans, and if you were involved with the aforementioned dark practices, what have you done about it since Katrina? Did you understand God's message? Were you wise enough to repent of your sins? Did you cease practicing Witchcraft, Voodoo, Hoodoo and other forms of magick? Or has your pride, foolishness and spiritual blindness motivated you to continue in your practice of such evil works? Will God be forced to judge your city again? The choice is up to you.

If you feel animosity and hatred towards me because I have dared to speak a truth to you which few others are willing to do, allow me to ask you a question, just as the Apostle Paul did in his Epistle to the Christian brethren at Galatia, after he had delivered a strong rebuke to them:

"Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?"

Galatians 4:16, KJV

I suspect that after reading this series, other readers may accuse me of being callous, unloving and perhaps judgmental. After all, they will claim, Hurricane Katrina was a terrible tragedy; and it resulted in a tremendous loss of human life, and a lot of human suffering. Some people will argue that the last thing that the people of New Orleans need to hear right now is that they are sinners, and that God dealt them a very big spanking. "That isn't real Christian love", some may be tempted to claim; "That is just being judgmental". Well, I'm

sorry to disagree with you if you feel that way, but the fact of the matter is that the best time to reach people with the truth after a natural disaster occurs, is while they're still suffering, and their hearts are still soft and sensitive to hearing what God may have to say to them. In other words, before they have an opportunity to harden their hearts again.

Please go to part four for the conclusion of this series.

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End Of File

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The Best Time To Reach People With The Truth, But If You Wait Too Long, Foolishness Of Criticizing God, My Experiences With Tropical Storms, Real Tragedy Behind Hurricane Katrina Is Why God Had To Allow It To Happen, Reason Behind Genesis Flood, Jesus' Endtime Prophecy Concerning The Beginning Of Sorrows, God's Rebukes And Chastisements Are A Sign Of His Great Love, God's Desire Is That We Repent Of Our Sins And Learn From Our Mistakes, We Get What We Deserve, Nothing Is A Coincidence Or Happens By Accident, God's Ways Are Often Past Finding Out, Reader Reactions To This Series, Spiritually Blind, Hardened Of Heart And Past Feeling, Have A Healthy Fear Of The Lord

As I concluded in part three, following a natural disaster, the best time to reach people with the truth is while they are still suffering, and while their hearts are still soft and sensitive to hearing what God may have to tell them. In other words, before they have an opportunity to harden their hearts again. You can comfort them, as we are instructed to do in God's Word; and you can minister to them physically if you have the means to do so; but if the Lord has given you something regarding why the disaster occurred, or why they were a victim of it, then you're obligated to share that with them as well. If you procrastinate and fail to do this, that wall of pride will eventually envelop their heart once again; self-delusion and self-justification will come in and take a front row seat; and you may never have another opportunity to reach them with the truth again.

Some people will even go so far as to become angry with God, and will bitterly accuse Him by saying "Why me God? What did I do to deserve this?". If you personally feel this way, then I encourage you to read such articles as "Beholding The Evil And The Good" and "Are Personal Tragedies Due To Sin?". One other related article is "Why Doesn't God Heal Me?". If there is one thing that I can share with you, it is that it is not wise to question or criticize the Lord and His doings. No matter how angry you may feel, there is no way on Earth that your personal righteousness can exceed that of the Lord. If you have experienced a natural disaster, and have suffered some great personal loss as a result of it, you need to suck it up, and seek answers from the Lord in a humble spirit. As we read in the Scriptures:

"Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said, Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? he that reproveth God, let him answer it. Then Job answered the LORD, and said, Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth. Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: yea, twice; but I will proceed no further. Then answered the LORD unto Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Gird up thy loins now like a man: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous?"
Job 40:1-8, KJV

"Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few."

Ecclesiastes 5:2, KJV

"Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God?
Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast
thou made me thus?"

Romans 9:20, KJV

Hurricane Katrina was indeed a real tragedy, and I truly feel sorry for those people who have suffered in a variety of ways; either through losing their loved ones, or through the loss of some of their physical possessions, or in other ways. For your information, I'm more than aware of what it is like to have to endure such powerful tropical storms. I have endured them as well for not quite twenty-five years. While I've never lost a loved one to such storms, I have lost physical possessions; I have endured electrical power outages for up to a month, and I have endured water outages for days or weeks at a time as well. And then of course there is the tropical heat, as well as the swarms of hungry mosquitoes which attack you while you are waiting for your windows to be repaired. On one occasion, I had to wait for five months before my two bedroom windows could be replaced due to a severe shortage of glass.

While Hurricane Katrina was indeed a tragedy from a human perspective, and is how most people will view it, as I have been demonstrating all along, as Christians, we must train ourselves to see things with the eyes of the Spirit. We need to stop seeing these events as the world sees them, and begin to view them as God views them. In the case of Katrina -- or any other natural disaster for that matter -- it seems to me that the real tragedy isn't the disaster itself, but rather the fact that the Lord had to allow it to happen in the first place. The real tragedy is that some people can place so much distance between themselves and the Lord, and fall into such deep rebellion and sin, that God sees no other way to wake them up, than by allowing these natural disasters to occur. Isn't that precisely why the Genesis Flood occurred? If you doubt my word, consider these interesting verses:

"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth."

Genesis 6:5-13, KJV

As this series has demonstrated, we see these types of things happening again and again in the Scriptures with the ancient Israelites; maybe not a great flood, but persecution by, and wars with their bitter enemies, as well as droughts and crop failures, famines, disease, earthquakes, foreign enslavement, etc. To our shame, the Scriptures inform us that the world is going to witness and experience those very same things once

again -- and even worse -- for the very same reasons; that is, due to the current apostasy that is overtaking the world. As Jesus Himself noted in Matthew chapter twenty-four:

"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."

Matthew 24:7-8, KJV

For a more in-depth understanding of how the previous verses are even now being fulfilled, please refer to the fourteen part series, "The Beginning Of Sorrows".

Please stop and consider what those verses are saying. I am not referring to the fact that Jesus is prophesying of an increased level of wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes occurring in the Last Days prior to His glorious Return. I am referring to the fact that the Lord was able to make such an amazing prophecy at all. In other words, just the fact that He and His Father knew that they are going to happen clearly demonstrates that these Endtime events are the foreordained and perfect Will of God, and that God must be in control of them. So again, we see a confirmation that so-called natural disasters are really the Hand of God at work, or Acts of God, if you prefer. They're not just the result of so-called Mother Nature, or Gaia, acting on her own. There is an Intelligence behind all of them, and that is God!

All of these events -- including the various Plagues that are described for us in the Book of Revelation -- are going to be God's Divine Chastisements against a very rebellious and evil world. As we can learn from the Book of Proverbs, sometimes it becomes necessary for the Lord to demonstrate tough love towards His children, by means of an open rebuke, just as we are sometimes forced to do the same with our own children, as we see here:

"Open rebuke is better than secret love."

Proverbs 27:5, KJV

So again, while God's Divine Chastisements can sometimes be difficult for us to endure, let us not lose sight of the fact that they are a sign of His great love for us. Furthermore, we need to understand that God does not afflict us willingly, but that sometimes, through our own pride, stubbornness and foolish rebellion, we really leave Him with no other choice. If we fail to take notice of the Lord's gentle warnings to straighten ourselves out and get our lives and hearts right with Him, then He will lower the rod of correction in a very big way. I would posit that Hurricane Katrina was a very big way. Furthermore, His desire is not that we should grow weak, become discouraged and fall away from the faith when He deals firmly with us, but rather that we should repent of our sins, and allow ourselves to be cleansed by His Word, and renewed in spirit, as we see by the following verses:

"For the Lord will not cast off for ever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men . . . Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins? Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD. Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the heavens."

Lamentations 3:31-33, 39-41, KJV

"And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed."
Hebrews 12:5-13, KJV

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."
2 Peter 3:9, KJV

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."
Psalms 51:10, KJV

So you see, while so-called natural disasters can result in a lot of destruction and death, at the same time, if we truly understand the ways of the Lord, and if we are really honest with ourselves, then we will also realize that we must have truly had it coming to us, or else God would not have been forced to apply His rod of correction. In short, we get what we honestly deserve, and God's judgments are always righteous judgments.

While I have chosen to use Hurricane Katrina as an example in this series, it is important that you understand that the form that the chastisement takes is not the emphasis of this series. Whether God chooses to use a hurricane, or a flood, or an earthquake, or a drought, or a typhoon, or a disease, or a fire, or if He permits foreign invasion, or uses some other form of chastisement, the most important thing is that we recognize His hand working in our lives and that we don't fall under the worldly deception that accepts that "certain things just happen". Nothing just happens, and there are no coincidences with God.

It is my personal belief that all things happen according to His Divine Purpose and Will. The Lord either directly causes certain events to happen, or at the very least, He lets them happen, for reasons that are known to Him. As we saw earlier in this series, sometimes God will even use Satan and/or his demons as executioners of His Divine Will. After all, as the Apostle Paul informs us, that Demon of Darkness is the false god of this world. Concerning the mysteries of God's ways, we are told in the Scriptures:

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Isaiah 55:8-9, KJV

"Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number."

Job 9:10, KJV

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"

Romans 11:33, KJV

Are you personally going through a difficult time in your life right now? Do you feel a lot of anger building up inside? If so, before you point a finger at God in an accusatory fashion and yell "Why me, God? What did I do to deserve this?", please take some time to honestly examine your own heart and life. If you do, perhaps God will show you what is displeasing to Him. And remember; God does not afflict us willingly. It is we who ask for His chastisements when we step out of line. If you are interested in learning more about this topic, then I again encourage you to consider reading such articles and series as "Are Personal Tragedies Due To Sin?", "Beholding The Evil And The Good" and "The Fruits Of Disobedience".

As I explained in part three, it is probable that different people will react in different ways to the contents of this series. Those of you who come from a Bible-based background, and who believe in the Divine Inspiration of the Scriptures, will probably embrace the truths that I have shared here. On the other hand, some nominal Christians, and other people who reject the Bible as God's inspired Word, will probably take offense to this series, and will accuse me of being callous, uncaring and judgmental. Then, of course, there will be the typical minority of atheists who will write me off as being just another wacko Christian fundamentalist and extremist. Concerning this latter group, all I have to say is this:

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

1 Corinthians 2:14, KJV

In short, people who lack the anointing of God's Spirit in their lives simply cannot understand the ways of God, or the Word of God. Such things are totally foreign and alien to their minds. The Apostle Paul tells us that it is because their minds and hearts have been spiritually blinded and darkened, and they are past feeling the conviction of God's Spirit in their lives. On the other hand, Paul also tells us that we who have been born again in the Spirit have the mind of Christ, as we see by these verses:

"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."

Romans 1:21, KJV

"Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness."

Ephesians 4:18-19, KJV

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

1 Corinthians 2:16, KJV

You will recall that Jesus said the very same things about the religious leaders of His day; that is, the Scribes and the Pharisees. He said that they were the blind leading the blind, and that is why certain of His teachings were hidden from them -- in parables -- as we see here:

"Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."
Matthew 15:14, KJV

"And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear."

Matthew 13:10-16, KJV

Sadly, the same holds true today. There are many people who simply will not understand this series, and who will in fact be shocked by it, offended by it, and angered by it, because they don't have an inkling regarding how God operates, or why He does the things that He does. Based on what I have shared in this series, I suspect that there will also be some people who will accuse God of being some kind of monster, because He doesn't prevent some of the natural disasters from occurring. As I explained earlier, about the only thing that I can say concerning such people is that they lack wisdom and are utter fools for daring to criticize and judge God. What is clearly lacking in their lives is a healthy fear of the Lord; for as it is also written:

"And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding."
Job 28:28, KJV

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever."
Psalm 111:10, KJV

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."
Proverbs 1:7

"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate."
Proverbs 8:13, KJV

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."
Proverbs 9:10, KJV

"The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened."

Proverbs 10:27, KJV

"The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death."

Proverbs 14:27, KJV

"The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility."

Proverbs 15:33, KJV

"By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil."

Proverbs 16:6, KJV

"The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil."

Proverbs 19:23, KJV

"By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life."

Proverbs 22:4, KJV

As difficult as this series may have been for some of you to read, nevertheless, I pray that it's been a blessing in your life, and that you have now obtained a better grasp of how the Lord sometimes tends to operate. When things are looking down in your life, the very best thing for you to do at that moment is to look up; for it is there where you may find the answers that you seek.

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