

## Hurricane Katrina: What is God Saying?

Intro. 1. An article I wrote in The Facts in January '05 & message on bloodguilt I spoke in February (both are at the bottom of this message). 2. The most economic impactful and possibly worst natural disaster in American history. 3. What is God Saying? God is saying many things, but there is one that rings out above all the others. 4. Luke 13.1–5:

***“Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them – do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” (Luke 13.1–5)***

Repent.

As with any cataclysmic event, the questions are raised, “Where was God? Why did He allow this devastation? If He is good and all powerful, why didn’t He warn these people?”

He doesn’t answer the, “Where was God?” question. He doesn’t point to natural or man-made causes? He doesn’t try to explain His Father’s side. He doesn’t justify it. He doesn’t blame the Devil.

He says, “Repent.”

Let it be known, Jesus is concerned about this tragedy and has demonstrated His compassion through both divine and human intervention. He isn’t a God who is unmoved by the human condition. The cross is the supreme example of his affection for mankind.

But, another side of His love is that He calls us back to Himself. His love is not only reactive, but proactive. Jesus is warning us to return to the Father while there is still time. Don't wait for another adversity. Turn to Him today.

## Why now?

Chuck Pierce's word:

Yes, this situation could be a result of the Gaza Strip crisis in Israel. Yes, this situation could be a result of the spiritistic decadence that goes on in New Orleans. Yes, this situation could be a result because of the slave entry through New Orleans. Yes, this situation could be a result of the gambling along the coast line. Yes, this could be because of the Circuit Court System in New Orleans taking its stand on behalf of abortion in the land. However, the issue right now is to let the Spirit of God rise up within you and for you begin to cry out in the midst of this situation in a way that you have never cried out before.

Job 22:30 says, "He will even deliver the one [for whom you intercede] who is not innocent; yes, he will be delivered through the cleanness of your hands." (AMP)

**Once you have lived through severe trauma, you realize that pointing a finger is not necessary !!!**

It's easy to say, "Yeah, God got them b/c..."

Don't enter into that...maybe it was b/c of those things listed, but Jesus is saying we all stand before God deserving judgment. There is no one

who can stand before the righteous judge of the universe and claim innocence. We all are guilty and it's only because of His grace & mercy we aren't thrown into Hell...

We must remember Jesus' words, "to whom much is given much is req'd." As a nation and as a generation, we have more truth and knowledge about the things of God than any other. As Americans we have a godly heritage. This nation was founded on God. Therefore, God expects much from her.

Much good has from America, but so has much evil. We export moral and spiritual filth to the nations. Violence fills the land. National sins of abortion, embryonic stem cell research, homosexuality, greed, sexual immorality of every kind, lack of justice for the poor are weighed on scales of God's justice and we are found wanting.

Hurricane Katrina is a clarion call to repentance and intercession. We, especially as Christians, must repent of our sins and seek the mercy of God for our nation. God's heart is always to bless, but if as a nation we continue down our current path we put ourselves in the place of discipline.

This hurricane is a mercy...this could've been much worse...if it had been a direct hit the loss of life and property would be twice what they are now speculating... this is a mercy. I grieve the loss of life and the thousands who are displaced, but what if the hurricane hadn't made the slight move to the east before landfall. This is mercy in the midst of judgment.

God uses the least severe discipline to create the greatest response. Just as discipline is progressive with a child, so it is with our Heavenly Father. He disciplines in degrees. If we don't respond in repentance and humility He will ratchet up His judgments.

God is not capricious...turning His discipline belt on everyone and anyone. NO!

He isn't saying, "you make me so mad, I'm gonna' get you!" But rather, "I love you so much I'm not going to let you go without a fight!" The Lord is doing everything within his power without violating the free-will of man to draw us back to Himself!

Ezek.33.10f. says: <sup>10</sup> "Son of man, say to the house of Israel, 'This is what you are saying: "Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?" ' <sup>11</sup> Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?'

God wants us to turn.

God incrementally allowed the enemy's of Israel to be his tool of discipline...He kept waiting for a positive response...when there wasn't He gave them over...their heart was hard. Like Pharoah & the plagues.

Remember: Mercy triumphs over judgment! God is longsuffering. He uses the least severe discipline to create the greatest response...we must repent now before the discipline is more severe.

### **The Early Warning System:**

Amos 3.7 - "Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets."

Prophetic words about New Orleans:

- [http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display\\_word.html?ID=3373](http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display_word.html?ID=3373)
- [http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display\\_word.html?ID=3367](http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display_word.html?ID=3367)
- [http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display\\_word.html?ID=3382](http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display_word.html?ID=3382)
- [http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display\\_word.html?ID=3349](http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display_word.html?ID=3349)
- 
- [http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display\\_word.html?ID=3364](http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display_word.html?ID=3364)

What does God want us to do with prophetic words like these? Sit & see if it happens?

No. Run to him & repent.

The purposes of the prophetic are to call us to intercession...pleading for forgiveness, & mercy... and deep repentance. God doesn't give us information just so we can see if it comes to pass. He wants us to respond now!

The National Hurricane Center doesn't post warnings and satellite images for information purposes alone. It's to get people out of harm's way. It's so that people will make the necessary adjustments in their lives so they will be protected. IT'S THE SAME WITH THE PROPHETIC!

Note what happens to the people of Ninevah when they seriously heed the prophetic word of Jonah.

*Jonah 3.8-10 – <sup>8</sup> [The king said] But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. <sup>9</sup> Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish." <sup>10</sup> When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.*

The prophetic ALWAYS has a redemptive edge. If all you hear is, "God's gonna get you!" that isn't the voice of the prophetic. God's heart is always to see his people restored walking in spiritual health. The prophetic word always holds out that hope. As Paul said in 1 Cor.14.3, <sup>3</sup>But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.

True prophecy, even if it's harsh, strengthens & comforts, b/c it holds out the hope that life can be better if there's repentance.

## What do we do?

1. Repent – 2 Chron.7.13f: <sup>13</sup> "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, <sup>14</sup> if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. <sup>15</sup>
2. Know that God is for us. He desires the best for us and like a loving Father he corrects us to keep us on the path of life.
  - a. Luke 12.<sup>5</sup>But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him. <sup>6</sup>Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.
  - b. God loves us too much to let us be consumed by our sins and controlled by Satan. **HE'S FIGHTING FOR US ALL THE WAY TO THE END. LIKE A FATHER WOULD FIGHT FOR ONE OF HIS CHILDREN CAUGHT IN A TERRIBLE ADDICTION. HE WANTS THE BEST FOR US!!!**
3. Trust in the goodness & sovereignty of God – Scriptures
  - a. Psalm 46.1–3: <sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. <sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, <sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.
  - b. Don't turn God into a whipping boy, but praise and thank Him for His generosity & provision. Some never think of all the blessings God provides, but only rail against what He has or hasn't done things they don't like.
4. Demonstrate the love of Christ
  - a. "Weep with those who weep"
  - b. Be like the paralytic's friends – go to the greatest lengths to help others. Luke 5.
  - c. Give to relief efforts.
5. Pray –
  - a. Pray for the USA – [www.pray4theusa.com/katrina](http://www.pray4theusa.com/katrina).

- b. Elijahlist – Chuck Pierce’s prayer guide –  
[http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display\\_word\\_pf.html?ID=3379](http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display_word_pf.html?ID=3379)
6. Listen to the prophets –
- a. Esp. as it relates to CA
    - i. [http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display\\_word.html?ID=3048](http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display_word.html?ID=3048)
    - ii. [http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display\\_word.html?ID=2904](http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display_word.html?ID=2904)
    - iii. [http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display\\_word.html?ID=2813](http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display_word.html?ID=2813)
    - iv. [http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display\\_word.html?ID=2997](http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display_word.html?ID=2997)
    - v.
  - b. In the last 8 months Between 4 – 6 major prophets have warned of an impending discipline directed at CA. We MUST intercede now. Even before this, our prophetic community rec’d the same word. We can’t sit around and wait to see if it will happen. God’s calling us to repentance now! ( CA is the first state to pass public funding for embryonic stem cell research and the first legislature to redefine marriage as between “two people” rather than a male & female. It’s now (9/7/05) awaiting the governor’s signature.)
7. My greatest concern: If all we do is help those in need, pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps, but we don’t turn from promoting embryonic stem cell research, aborting children, propogating sexual immorality and violence around the world, being lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, endorsing homosexuality as an alternative, turn from gold as our God and greed as our creed and turn to God in repentance and devotion there will be more discipline to follow.
8. During the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln called the Union to repentance on at least three occasions. King David sought the face of God during a severe famine. These great men understood that whenever you face hardship you must humble yourself, seek God’s forgiveness and intercede for His mercy.
9. Here’s God’s plan for America – Jer.29.11: <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Article for The Facts, printed Jan.’05

Our Response to the Tsunami

The devastating tsunami that touched Asia not only sent seismic shockwaves around the world but spiritual ones as well. As with any cataclysmic event, the questions are raised, “Where was God? Why did He allow this devastation? If He is good and all powerful, why didn’t He warn these people?”

These are hard questions. As a spiritual leader, I have to grapple with them and try to make sense of it for the group of people I shepherd.

There are four or five answers that are usually given by theologians when these things happen, but none of them are adequate. The truth is we don’t know why and we won’t know why in this life. There isn’t a “pill” to fix this one.

So, where does that leave us? Listen to Jesus’ response in this story.

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them – do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” (Luke 13.1–5)

Repent.

He doesn’t answer the, “Where was God?” question. He doesn’t try to explain His Father’s side. He doesn’t justify it. He doesn’t blame the Devil. He says, “Repent.”

Let it be known, Jesus is concerned about this tragedy and has demonstrated His compassion through both divine and human

intervention. He isn't a God who is unmoved by the human condition. The cross is the supreme example of his affection for mankind.

But, another side of His love is that He calls us back to Himself. His love is not only reactive, but proactive. Jesus is warning us to return to the Father while there is still time. Don't wait for another adversity. Turn to Him today.

During the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln called the Union to repentance on at least three occasions. King David sought the face of God during a severe famine. These great men understood that whenever you face hardship you must humble yourself, seek God's forgiveness and intercede for His mercy.

I don't know why God didn't stop the killer waves and, even if He gave us a clear explanation, what good what it do? Thousands would still be dead and millions homeless.

So how do we respond to the tsunami? Pray for the victims. Give for their relief. Turn from our sins.

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Message from a series entitled – Life Lessons, pt.20

2.27.05

Bloodguilt

Intro. 1. Serious time in America (geo-politically, economically, but moreover spiritually & morally – spirit of Laodecia), but a sense we have it under control. 2. I believe there is a wave of judgment headed to America, b/c of bloodguilt. 3. The Supreme Courts decision this week (2/22) not to review Roe vs. Wade – article. Since 1/22/73, 45 million American killed in the womb.4. Background to this message;

## 2 Samuel 21

- Describe the event: the Gibeonites (Jos.9); the actual slaughter of the Gibeonites isn't recorded & years had elapsed before the famine (10-60 Years); famine (economic hardship); David's actions; God's response.
- Numb 35.33: Innocent blood is shed and the land is polluted
- Deut.21.7, 9 - innocent blood
- Ps.51.14 - David understood his own blood guilt - "Save me from bloodguilt O God"

This isn't OT Law...this principle existed before the Law was given.

- Jesus didn't do away with the Law; he expanded it; Paul said it's needed to reveal our sins and our need for a Savior.
- Gen.4.10: Abel's blood crying from the grave. This isn't a poetic way of saying, "God saw you kill your brother." It's literal.
  - o Rev .6.9f - murdered souls under the altar of God
- Gen.9.5f.

Here are God's principles:

- The death of the innocent will be accounted for. God isn't going to turn a deaf ear to their cries and these acts of injustice.
- It is only a matter of time - Gen.15.16 (the sin of the Amorites reaching it's full measure) Explain. 400+ years
- The Promised Land vomited out the Amorites - Lev.18.24-30
  - o Lev.20.1-5-sacrificing children to Molech
  - o Lev.20.22
  - o Deut.9.4-6: The picture we have of poor peasant farmer & the Israelite armies slaughtering them. These were morally & spiritually bankrupt people. Read portions of Ex., Lev., Num, Deut & God saying, "Don't commit the same sin as the people now living in the land & he list it.
  - o Their sin had reached capacity and God judged them.

The Consequences:

- Cain- cursed, etc.

- David: war & division
- Saul's descendants death
- Sinful nations living in the PL (they sacrificed their children to Molech): destruction
- Israel: Ps.106.34-39

How it applies to us:

- Abortion: 40-50 million children aborted; 1.3 million a year; over 4000 a day. This isn't ignored by God; he breathed the breath of life into them at the moment of conception.
- Embryonic Stem Cell research - creating human life to be sliced & diced for medical advancement. CA passed a referendum in January (I'm not sure if it's Jan or Nov.'04) giving public funds for this type of research. It passed almost 60/40. Offering the young for supposed medical advancement! This will not stand!
- Moral Pollution: the filth that circulates around this country & leaves here and goes other places.
  - o Through our media, we export sexual predators into the nations of the earth. Content that assaults those that watch it. Some good, but mostly vomit
  - o God had Israel to destroy all the inhabitants of the PL, b/c they were morally & spiritually bankrupt
  - o I know there is much good in America, but David was Israel's best king and it was under his reign that the blood of the innocent had to be paid for. Don't think b/c we have a God-fearing president that everything is okay.
- Heb.3.13: We're hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We don't see sin's seriousness. If you just live in spiritual neutral, your heart is hardened. Like standing in rain, you eventually get soaked.
- God is patient, but there is an end to it, e.g. Jerusalem (70 AD), Sodom, Noah's day
  - o The slaughter of the Gibeonites was 10-50 years earlier.
  - o The isn't something God delights in. He wants us to repent (Jonah & Ninevah). God desires for us to choose life.

- When? I don't have a clue. I believe it's those seeking the Lord that are preventing it. (The righteous living in Sodom)

What must we do:

- I believe it is largely dependant upon the believers in American to do this work. It's not up to Washington.
  - We must see the seriousness of the hour. We have to be fully awake & sober.
  - We must repent: Turn from our sins & seek God wholeheartedly. Even if the law is overturned, but there is no deep turning we are still under blood guilt
  - Plead the blood of Jesus over these sins (like Deut.21). Sincere & often. It's as effectual as we are sincere.
    - I don't believe we can avoid the wave of judgment headed to this nation, but I believe we can diminish it's impact or put it off to another day (Jonah & Ninevah)
    - If God's people don't, we will experience full judgment. I believe the degree of severity of judgment will be based upon how responsive we - God's people, not Americans - are to God's call for repentance.
  - Live lives totally devoted to God. It's up to us!

Conclusion:

- If you've had an abortion or encouraged someone, seek God's forgiveness thru the blood of Jesus.
  - w/o the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin
  - Jesus shed his blood for you. You can try and take your sins away...impossible. Or, you can ask Js to take away your sins.
- Norma McCorvey is walking in freedom & so can you. God forgave Moses, David & Paul and they all shed innocent blood & the same is true for us.
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Hymn: Nothing But The Blood Of Jesus

