

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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Why Lahaina in Maui?

Introduction

Last month many were shocked and saddened by the news of the fire on the island of Maui in Hawaii. Maui was called “paradise” yet, within a matter of hours, the fire swept through the town of Lahaina consuming anything in its path. Man seeks to place the blame for its rapidity on poor forest and grass management, climate warming and all sorts of theories. However, one must ask, “Why Lahaina and why so selective?” Whatever the source I cannot tell, but this I do know, the fire was selective for it burnt down to the water’s edge. It did not spread beyond the town even though there was vegetation that could have been burnt. Questions are asked:

- a) Was it simply a bad coincidence that there was a hurricane 500 miles away that helped flame the fire?
- b) Was it a coincidence that the fire started on one of the hottest days of the year?
- c) Was it happenstance that the loudspeaker warning system did not work?
- d) Was it happenstance that, despite being warned of such a possibility for nine years, the government did nothing to nullify such a possibility?
 - i) My suggestion is, those in government ignored and rejected the human wisdom of cleaning dead wood and grass areas which assisted in the development of the fire.
 - ii) God let man follow his foolishness and God let the fire develop, for man needs to learn the lesson that tinder-dry areas must be eradicated so that if such happens it will not develop.
 - iii) There is also the need to consider, did God cause the fire or did He let it occur due to man’s imagined wisdom? Is He then seeking to use it as a warning of the uncertainty of life, the non-eternalness of the present things, and the need to be right with God as death approaches?
 - iv) God is the Controller of the winds and He let the hurricane come within 500 miles of Lahaina, and so increased the fierceness of the fire. Yet one must thank God that the hurricane was not 300 or 100 miles away, or else the entire island could have been scorched. The big question not being asked is, “Why Lahaina?”

For years the residents of Maui and Lahaina lived an idyllic life. Tourism was the major money maker and the rich bought areas of land on the island. It was, to a great extent, a place where God was not in man’s thoughts, a place of physical relaxation, snorkelling, entertainment etc., but to a great extent void of God and His truth. I quote from the advert in “Pride Guide Hawaii”, “Welcome to the gay-friendly Island of Maui! The Maui gay community is substantial and accepting. There are numerous LGBT and gay-friendly businesses on the island, exclusive Maui gay resorts and plenty to see, do and experience on this magical island.”

- a) “With breathtaking vistas, black sand beaches and lush, tropical gay resorts and spas, “The Valley Isle” is the perfect place to host your gay or lesbian wedding. We welcome you to plan your Maui gay vacation or wedding

below!" In 2011, when Hawaii Governor Neil Abercrombie signed legislation legalizing gay marriage in Hawaii, he sealed the State's fate as one of the top gay destinations in the world. Underneath the warm waters and delightful weather, there was a city like Sodom, with corruption rising by the minute. Sinful man fails to recognize God is speaking. Sin will be punished and in Hawaii, the question becomes, what is the best way to awaken individuals, city officials, government etc? The answer is bring to the collapse of the tourist industry in the most important place.

[It was just a shadow](#)

This is simply a shadow of things to come. Across the world, untold thousands rejoice in the degradation of moral depravity. Thousands of others watch and see nothing sad about the gay parades. The scriptures record how that man will seek to break the cords of God's morality and wisdom asunder (Psa. 2:3). It has begun. The entire world is fast becoming a godless world, a world void of any Moral Absolute, for God, the Moral Governor of the Universe, is rejected.

Furthermore, God's Son and His gracious redemptive work are despised and God will not tolerate that. In mercy, God has revealed that sin brings consequences not only in debasement and the metastasizing of sin but also with divine Judgment. The fire of Lahaina, the blistering heat of Europe, the volcano eruptions and the hurricanes are all the speakings of God, and it will get more severe. That time of greater ferocity is called, "The Day of the Lord". As one looks at this world morally and the multiplicities of happenings, man is like the proverbial ostrich who hides his face in the ground. They say it is "climate warming"; "it is happenstance"; "God is a God of love and would never do these things"; "we can live as we want and God will do nothing if He even exists".

God is speaking in love calling people to repentance for time is short. This world is moving unrelentingly toward something. That something is threefold.

- a) The Apostasy
- b) The "Day of the Lord"
- c) The coming of the Lord

[The Day of the Lord](#)

- 1) The day of the Lord will entail the most dreadful blasphemy and rebellion against God this world will ever know. God will, for some time (approximately seven years), call man to repentance by international upheavals, geographical devastations, an increase of viruses, and animals becoming more ferocious.
- 2) Man will learn that all human rationale for happenings is empty talk, and it is futile to depend on a man for "the good life without God".
- 3) One can be sure, God will not stand idly by while man degrades His Son and acts in defiance against His purposes. It will not be tolerated. The Lord will not be a politically correct God, rather He will be the moral God. His judgments are perfect compensation for that which man has done against His people, His Son and Himself. If ever it was possible to have hell on earth, it will be then. Consider:
 - a) Its severity on man and creation:
 - i) "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." (Isa. 13:9)
 - ii) "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." (2 Pet. 3:10)
 - b) Its inescapability:
 - i) "Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land". (Zeph. 1:18)
 - ii) "And it shall come to pass in the day of the LORD'S sacrifice, that I will punish the princes and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel." (Zeph. 1:8)

[Wisdom](#)

As that fire swept down on Lahaina and the outskirts of the town began to burn up, how foolish to put off escaping until one finishes a game of cards. How foolish to think of going for a nice swim, or going to have a coffee on Front Street. The fire was approaching at sixty miles an hour, the temperature was 1000 degrees. I ask, who in their right mind would

sit carelessly and take it when it comes? My son was speaking to a man about salvation and the danger of Hell, and the response was, "I'll take it when it comes". How blind one must be not to seek to escape the wrath to come.

Is there, not a way to escape the wrath of God? Thank God there is for the Lord Jesus on the cross suffered the fire of God's judgment for each individual. At Calvary, God knew the full execution needed for sins to be removed and then executed that severity of judgment on His Son. He offers to humanity the wonderful gift of life, the assurance the fire and judgment of Hell will never touch them, and it is not only free but free of any human endeavour.

On that fateful previous night before the fire in Lahaina, there was no evidence of any danger. In the morning people went to work, children went to school, women went shopping, taxis slowly drove along the tourist sites, and all were unaware the fire had already started. Then suddenly there was an awareness of a fire and as it swept over the city things became real, priorities suddenly changed, but for many, it was too late. Foolish is the individual who rejects the warnings of God and then too late awakens to the wrath of God and its reality. "Behold now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2).

Come sinner come, Oh why do you delay
The blessed invitation is that you should come today,
Tomorrow has no promise that it can give to you,
Tomorrow is eternity just hidden from your view.

. . . . Rowan Jennings

"Prepare To Meet Thy God"

"Careless soul, O heed the warning,
For your life will soon be gone;
O how sad to face the judgment,
Unprepared to meet thy God."

www.scripturaltruths.org

e-mail: scripturaltruths1@shaw.ca

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