

My Father's House

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HURRICANE KATRINA Where was God's Hand in It?

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God Does Protect Us

One of the most powerful and oft-repeated themes of the Scriptures is that God protects His people if they stay under the umbrella of His protective hand. We read in 2 Chr 16:9 "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show themselves strong on behalf of those whose heart is perfect towards Him." We mediate on Ps. 34:7 "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him and deliver Him." We ponder further Ps. 91:4 "God shall cover you with His feathers and under His wings you shall trust. His truth shall be your shield and your buckler." Yes, over 1000 times in Scripture we realize that God protects, delivers and saves His people if only they would turn to Him. He is their defense, their fortress, their shield, their refuge, their rock of salvage. We read how he protected the 3 young men in the fiery furnace (Daniel). We read about the young man in 2 Kings 6:17 who had his eyes open and saw the mountain of horses and chariots of fire protected Elisha. We read how the angel Raphael protected Tobia and how Joseph was warned in a dream to flee Bethlehem. Yes, over and over God protects His people. We ourselves pray in the Our Father "lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." Yes, our God is a God who protects us and delivers us from all evil.

if only we will stay under His protective arm. All the angels were under the protective arm of God until Lucifer and his followers rebelled. They were cast out of Heaven and took over the earth. Adam and Eve then gave to Lucifer the birthright over her children, that is all of us. And so, satan is the lord of this world. Jesus, by His death and resurrection offers us a plan to allow Him to conquer satan and all evil. But we must chose Him and His life of holiness for God's protection to work.

God Warns

First of all God warns us of impending danger and tells us how to escape it. Down through salvation history God warned His chosen people of impending danger and taught them how to escape it. He did this with the Israelites under Moses and they fled the wrath of the Egyptians through the Red Sea which God miraculously opened to save them. We read of His protective hand in the time of Gideon and then in the time of Hezekiah all of whom God miraculously protected.

God's Blessings and Curses

From God's point of view we receive His blessings and curses depending upon our response to Grace. A positive response to His Graces wins us His blessings. A negative response wins for us the lack of blessing, which in the biblical tradition is called the curse. So God blesses and curses us by doing the same thing. He gives everybody what they want. If they want a life of holiness, fidelity, purity, and prayer they are blessed here and hereafter. If they want a life of sin, selfishness, greed, lust, and pride they receive His curse here and hereafter. God does not send anybody to hell, nor does He send anybody to Heaven. With His outstretched hand He offers everybody Eternal Life. Those who take His hand in theirs receive the blessing. Those who refuse it receive the curse, which is nothing more than a lack of the blessing.

A perfect world

God could have created a perfect world in which there would be no sin, no disasters, no sickness, and no death. It would be a determined world. He could have made us all His bionic men and women, totally computerized to talk, walk, and act perfectly. But we will be completely incapable of love. In order to create loving persons God had to grant free will. We would be given the choice to act in union with Him or reject His Graces. Unfortunately, as we know, the history of the world has been that most people, by and large, reject holiness as a way of life. The saints, as Jesus foretold, are few. Therefore, the world suffers a flood of sin, degradation, pornography, deceitfulness, greed, lust, envy, and dishonesty. You see it all around.

A Light to the Nations

Just as God choose Israel to be a Light to the nations, so He also choose the United States to be an example to the rest of the world. Our founding fathers set up a theocracy, that is a nation under God whose guiding principles would be the Bible, the Ten Commandments and the Holy Spirit. As a people we would be pro-God, pro-life, pro-marriage, pro-decency, pro-religious education of our children, pro-woman, pro-children, and pro-morality. Integrity, truthfulness, and long courage would be our guiding principles. But

something happened in the heart of America during the terrible 60's. We allowed our Supreme Court to forbid prayer, Bible reading, and the study of the Ten Commandments for 40 million of our youngsters. This was the "breach in the levy" and the flood that followed inundated our young people with pornography, perversion, abortion, lawlessness, and sin. By the time the child now reaches the age of 18, he has been abused in many ways. A quarter of a billion of our youngsters have been murdered through abortion. Countless other millions have been taught that they descended from apes and that religion has not part in their curriculum. They are pro-choice, pro-promiscuity. Co-ed dorms are now prominent in our colleges with all the immorality that goes therewith.

God's Warnings

So for the past 4 decades God has been warning us to return to Him. And by and large we failed to listen to His warnings. And so 9 of the 10 worst national disasters have struck America for the last 13 years. The epicenter of the earthquake that hit California turned out to be the epicenter of the American porno industry. Only the most unspiritual of minds could not have seen God's hand in this. The Tsunami that hit Southeast Asia turned out to be centered on countries that allowed millions of young girls to be sold into prostitution. God swept them right into Heaven in order to save them.

Prophets For Our Time

God never acts without revealing His plans through His prophets, then as now. Prophetic voices have been warning us of upcoming national disasters if we fail to repent of our sins. Significant prophets, even now, have been telling us to repent before something worse overcomes us. We, as a nation, must repent. A nation that legally kills its young to the tune of a quarter of a billion babies; a nation that allows pornography to flood our schools and our homes. A nation who trains their children without God's principles, a nation who allows greed and lust to be bantered in our movies and our media. A nation who allows decadent stars to be the role model of our youth. A nation that literally defies the Ten Commandments and legalizes their absence from the minds of its people. A nation that betrays its own roots as a Nation under God, such a nation must come under the chastising hand of God. Our prophets are warning that this is only the beginning of the chastisement.

God Brings Good Out of Evil

As on September 11th so also now, God is bringing a great good out of much evil. Millions of Americans are responding in charity and commitment. For over a week now, our airways have been void of vain advertisements so that news of the rescue operations may come through. The Governor of Louisiana called for a day of prayer, and every Church and Synagogue this weekend will take up a special collection. Once again, we discover that the real heroes are not the movie stars, but tens of thousands of national guard, Red Cross workers, nurses, doctors, rescue workers, and ordinary people who have rushed to aid their fellowmen. Will God draw great good out of this?... He always does. Are we about to heed His warning and return to Him?... that remains to be seen. He holds out His promise "If My people who are called by My Name will humble

themselves and pray and seek My face, I will hear from Heaven, I will restore their nation and heal their land." If America will truly turn back to God there would be a flood of Holiness, Grace and Love sweeping our land. Our Churches will be full again; our children will all learn the Ten Commandments; our legislatures would all respect life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death; our doctors would no longer support abortion; our lawyers would no longer create a "suit happy" people; our fathers and mothers would stay together in committed marriages; and America would once again sing "God Bless America, land that I love, stand beside her and guide her through the night with a light from above." Across America this weekend millions of us will be praying for the victims of the hurricane--the loss of loved ones, homes, and jobs. Our hearts will go out to them with a message that we care and are truly trying to help. In times of tragedy Americans respond. May God not have to get our attention again in this way.

"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong on the behalf of those whose heart is perfect towards Him." (2 Chr. 16:9).

"When you pass through the waters I will be with you: when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. Since you are precious and honored in My sight and I love you, I forbid you to be afraid." (Is. 43:2,4).