

TRAGEDIES: Intentional or Accidental: What is God saying?

The basis for this short article was prompted by one of my recent Facebook posts and it related to the current **CORONA-VIRUS** pandemic but the reality is that it has application to **TRAGEDIES** whenever and wherever they occur. This was my Facebook post –

CORONA-VIRUS DEATHS – WHAT IS GOD SAYING?

As the death toll in the UK related to **CORONA-VIRUS** continues to rise I have been considering the question that many have posed in recent weeks on social media – ‘**What is God saying**’?

We must keep in mind that this pandemic has claimed the lives of both believers and unbelievers alike. Whatever the spiritual ‘standing’ of the one who has died, it means human grief and sorrow has visited a home and believers know that the Lord weeps with them in their sorrow (**John 11:35**). We know also that God is grieved even when an unbeliever dies (**Ezekiel 18:23-32; 33:11**).

There has been much speculation in the various forms of media as to how this **CORONA-VIRUS** has been able to wreak the havoc that it is doing – was it through **HUMAN NEGLIGENCE** or was it through **DELIBERATE INTENT**?

Whatever the truth behind how it is doing what it is doing is to a degree irrelevant BUT, I do believe that we can learn from Scripture ‘**what God is saying**’ in the midst of all this disruption and death.

In **Luke 13:1-5** the Lord made reference to two incidents where people had unexpectedly lost their lives. In **verses 1-2** He refers to an act of evil, human **DELIBERATE INTENT** – the murder of Galilean worshippers by Pilate.

Then in **verse 4** He refers to the deaths of 18 people who had died when a watchtower collapsed and fell on them, more than likely caused by **HUMAN NEGLIGENCE**.

In both instances the Lord said the same thing to his listeners – **“Except ye REPENT ye shall all likewise perish” (verses 3 & 5)**. The Lord was reminding those listening to Him of their own mortality (**Hebrews 9:27**) AND of the reality that if they die physically without having **“repented”** then they will **“perish”** eternally.

John MacArthur in his Study Bible wrote **‘Christ called all to repent, for all were in danger of sudden catastrophes. No one is guaranteed time to prepare for death, so NOW is the time for repentance – “Behold NOW is the accepted time; behold NOW is the day of salvation” (2nd Corinthians 6:2’)**.

I referred earlier to **Ezekiel 18:23-32** – many times in those verses we read God’s word to people – **“return ... and live” (v 23) “when the wicked man turns away from his wickedness ... he shall save his soul alive” (v 27) “Repent and turn from all your transgressions” (v 30) “Cast away from you all your transgressions ... and make you a new heart and a new spirit” (v 31) “turn yourselves and live ye” (v 32)**.

This affirms what I wrote in a recent article – ‘I firmly believe that He is saying to the world that He has not changed His message of the gospel - that the world must REPENT and believe in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ in order to be saved from eternal wrath’.

That article is located on

<https://www.takeheed.info/pdf/2020/April/egypts-gods-and=gods-plagues.pdf>

and is titled –

**EGYPT’S ‘Gods’ and GOD’S PLAGUES:
Today’s ‘gods’ and CORONA-VIRUS**

Cecil Andrews – ‘Take Heed’ Ministries – 21st April 2020