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Prepare To Leave

Introduction

July 22, 2024 a fire broke out in Jasper National Park, Western Canada. In the park is a little town called Jasper and as the fire increased, police and park rangers went around the parkland among camping sites that were unaware of the approaching imminent danger, telling people to leave their homes and camping sites or be prepared to leave in moments notice. There was little time for a relaxed packing of suitcases. Time was of the essence. It was a matter of grabbing passports, important papers, basic clothing and hoping the car or camper had lots of gas and, "Let's get out of here".

Today, humanity stands on the brink of a greater fire than that in Jasper National Park. Graphically God gives a description of it when He has its features recorded, "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 the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?" (2 Pet. 3:10, 12). There will be no escape for the entire world will be on fire.

This sphere called earth was distinctly set aside for humanity to dwell in, and more, as he lived here man was meant to be in perfect fellowship with God His creator. Unfortunately, man chose present delights over the perfect purpose of God.

God's ideal was for man to rule the earth in harmony with God himself, in harmony with creation, with fellow man (Eve) and having peace in himself. However, there came a day when a choice was presented to man, "disobey God and experience death" or "choose your wife and lose the harmony and tranquillity of life you know. Humanly speaking, it was just a matter of taking a piece of fruit and having a bite of it. Doing so was an activity of disobedience to God, a siding with Satan. In taking that bite, that act of disobedience, he brought all humanity into being damaged human beings. Gone was his fellowship with God, with creation, his fellow man and in Himself. He was afraid and tried to hide from God. Quickly Satan indicated to man he did not need God, He could enjoy the fine arts, music, poetry and farming. In time he physically died under divine condemnation, but in the meanwhile, it was a good life.

Then we read, Adam lived and he died (Gen. 5:5); Enos lived and he died (Gen. 5:11); Mahalaleel lived and he died (Gen. 5:16-17). Each generation since then did that which we have all done in our lifetimes, looked on the face of a corpse and sought ways to cancel it's power, but there was no cancelling for the decaying "germ" of sin ravaged every human body, making man debased and morally corrupt.

Time passed and man could not change. God gave him laws, but they could not be kept; God poured blessings of goodness on man, but he attributed the benefits to himself. God was being left out of life. He began to fear thunder so he made a god call Thor whom he would try to please. He wanted to soar like the eagle so he made a carved piece of wood like an eagle and it became his god. He found nature was beyond his understanding and began worshipping it. Today, when a message from God occurs it is attributed to "Mother Nature". Man is back to worshipping nature.

As this world increases in degradedness it is as dry wood ready to be consumed. Morally the amoral world has been corrupted by man's blasphemy, satanic indulgences, and religious deceivers, and humans are flocking to paganism irrespective of how God seeks to alert him. The same thing happened in the days of Joash when Amos prophesied. God sought numerous times to get man's attention to repent, but repeatedly man refused to repent and turn to God even when God virtually pleaded with him, "Seek the Lord". There was a lack of bread but man did not return to the Lord. A drought came by a lack of rain and no water, yet man would not return to God. There were plagues, as in Egypt, but still man would not turn to God. At last, God proclaimed, "Prepare!" "Prepare to meet thy God" (Amos 4:12). Man had spurned God's opportunity for the last time and judgment fell.

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Today God is longsuffering and not willing that any should perish (2 Pet. 3:9) or be banished into the caverns of the lost, is still lovingly calling individuals to repent and prepare to meet God. God does not make threats but gives promises. It is either accept His way of salvation or suffer the wrath of God for all eternity. This is not an idle threat but a solemn warning. The rejection of God's way of redemption and cleansing from sin's penalty is exclusively through the work of Christ on the cross.

“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 Pet. 3:9).

. . . . *Rowan Jennings*