

SERMON: Still Not Saved?

GOOD Morning OIC & Welcome to Father's House

I hope you all got to see the fireworks along the Yodogawa River the other night. Not those a week ago at 8PM on Saturday, but on last Tuesday night. For along the Yodogawa River the LORD put on a show of His fireworks of lightning and sound of His mighty thunder to remind us all **that Jesus is Lord of Heaven and Earth.**

Regarding God's power through what men **call natural:**

The Bible says: *He shot his **arrows** and scattered the enemy, with great bolts of lightning he routed them*". Somehow, without logic or reason, many people think that God no longer does these things with His Creation. Believe me, He does. It seems that with all the destructive works from nature that God sends to Japan, tsunamis, earthquakes, typhoons; lightning arrows are not frequent. The highest fatality rate from lightning in the world is the state of Florida in America with several hundred deaths each year. Of course, God does not deny His Creation nor does He have to overrule the weather and climate to accomplish His purposes. The point is that if you ever witnessed these more powerful Thunderstorms, you might realize that God wants the effect from this to be as the Bible says: *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.* When I lived in Southwest Missouri in America I experienced the most frequent and the most violent Lightning Storms with tornadoes in my life. Yet, I will never forget one Thunder Storm when I was a young boy and a golf caddie at an exclusive golf course near Boston, Massachusetts in America. Golf courses are nothing but open spaces and trees. When a sudden Thunder storm came upon us, the golfers and caddies fled for the clubhouse as the trees on both sides of us were being struck by lightning! I was still dead in my sin, not yet a Christian, and very afraid! The natural deep inner response even for Christians is a sense of awe and powerlessness before such Arrows of Destruction. But we Christians know the Lord who controls the path of each of His arrows.

I chose today to only give references for two Bible Passages in the Older Testament by the *weeping Prophet, Jeremiah.* The sad conclusion by Jeremiah and this pastor-preacher, I must say, is that many people have not connected God's Acts in Nature to their thinking about God. Or, in fact, many of these people are not only unsaved without Christ, but also do not believe that there is a

God! Then, these people fit what the Bible says of them: *The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'*

In the remainder of this Message, I will direct my comments to non-Christians here today – when I say “you,” I refer to either a single or several people here this morning without Christ in this life so therefore with no hope for the next life. To these I must say as the Prophet Jeremiah in **Jeremiah 8.20** said to the people of Israel as he identified himself by compassion with the sinful Israelite Nation, thus he said “**we**”:

*'The harvest is past,
the summer has ended,
and we are not saved.'*

Only you and God know how many preachers have pleaded with you to Get Saved by simply *Calling on the Name of Jesus!* For the Bible tells lost sinners this *for, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'* You thought to yourself I feel peace when in Church so I am alright! But you have not called on the name of Jesus with your whole heart. You trust in the world's teachings and not the Holy Bible so for you still today:

*'The harvest is past,
the summer has ended,
and we are not saved.'*

In Japan, a country with few Christians, you have been privileged to have witnessed a harvest of men and women in God's Harvest and witnessed their death to self for Jesus to become their Eternal life. You see both the Beauty and Terrors of God's Creation here in Japan, but somehow think that you are not accountable for your sinfulness to this Holy and Almighty God. You depend on the physicians and doctors, not the Promises of God, for your physical **and spiritual health.** You pretend not to hear God's Word when He says:

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the Judgment,

God has also said:

But God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent. Hath He said, and shall He not do it? Or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?

&

God also says:

All Men will die, for All Men have sinned.

There is only One Remedy and Medicine for the fatal sickness of your SIN, Jesus Christ the Son of God's sacrificial Death on the Cross.

You have heard this Way of Salvation from the pulpit, and your friends have tried to explain it to you. The Holy Spirit has given more or less of blessing upon the Word which has been preached in your hearing, and times of refreshing have come from the Divine Presence, and yet you are without Christ.

*'The harvest is past,
the summer has ended,
and we are not saved.'*

Affliction and prosperity have alike failed to impress you; tears and prayers and sermons have been wasted on your barren heart. Are not the probabilities zero against your ever being saved? Is it more likely that you will abide as you are till Death forever bars the door of Hope? Do you not know that the Bible proclaims that all without Christ will be cast into Hell at their departure from this Earth?

I will close my Message this morning with your only Hope in the Hymn Titled *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* by Isaac Watts. As we the Saints at OIC pray these words, I beg you!!! **to pray them too. If you pray these words from your heart then God will promise to you what Jeremiah said to the Israelites who sought the Lord with all their hearts in (Jeremiah 32.41/KJ21) Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with My whole heart and with My whole soul.**

Jeremiah, **Israel's Weeping Prophet**, gave this final message of hope to barren hearts of Israel to move them to return to their God. So now, this pastor who often weeps under the power of the Spirit of Jesus as I consider your eternal future in Hell if you don't call on Jesus. So I give you the Hymn *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* as my closing prayer.. **Pray this hymn in your heart and then you are calling on the name of Jesus, the LORD who died for you. If not, instead of the sound of the Heavenly and Glorious music of today's Gospel Handbell Concert, you may soon hear the hound dogs from Hell biting at your heels.**

Let Us Pray,

**1 When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,**

**my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.**

**3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

AMEN

REFERENCES

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When I survey the wondrous cross , **Author: Isaac Watts (1707)**