

Sudden Destruction Is Coming to the Whole World

The images are disturbing, unnerving. But they are real. All too real. A rock band is performing in Indonesia to the delight of the audience when suddenly, without warning, a massive wave sweeps them off the stage to their deaths. There are screams of terror; then there is blackness. This is what sudden destruction looks like. Yet the Bible says it will come one day to the whole earth.

The band was named "Seventeen," with a large Instagram following, and the band's sole surviving member, Riefian Fajarsyah, lost his wife in the tsunami. To date, the death toll nationwide has reached 430, with another 1,500 injured and almost 22,000 displaced.

Of course, as tragic as these figures are, they pale in comparison to the 2004 tsunami which struck multiple countries at the same time and resulted in a death toll of 227,000. But, in the aftermath of the 2004 tragedy, "countries including the U.K., Germany and Malaysia donated detection buoys and other equipment to Indonesia to help warn of future tsunamis," although upgrading has been needed for the equipment.

Still, the recent tsunami came without warning.

As related by survivor Bapu Suwarna, "The sound grew, and I even heard crashing sounds. Seconds later, I saw people running from the tsunami wave shouting 'Tsunami! Waves! Waves!'"

He added: "It took only seconds not minutes after hearing the thunderous sounds and then the waves hit us. From the bottom of my heart, I sincerely request that the government set up an early warning system so people can anticipate an incoming tsunami. I didn't have much time, after the loud sounds were

heard.”

It was literally a matter of seconds. Moments later, there was devastation.

Yet, to repeat, the Bible says that this will happen again in much greater fashion and on a much grander scale.

As Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, “For you know perfectly that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor upon a woman with child, and they shall not escape” (1 Thess. 5:2-3).

Please don’t take these words lightly. If you believe the Bible to be true, then what Paul wrote will come to pass.

Jesus issued similar warnings as well, telling His followers that:

Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. They were eating, drinking, marrying, and were given in marriage until the day when Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.

“Likewise as it was in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built. But on the day that Lot departed from Sodom, fire and brimstone rained from heaven and destroyed them all.

So will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed (Luke 17:26-30).

The point Jesus and Paul are making is simple. People will ignore the signs of the times. They will be lulled into a sense of false security. They will be caught up with the spirit of the world, enjoying their lives, focusing on themselves, oblivious to God and His demands. They will be sure that “all is well” and that judgment will never come. And

then, suddenly, it will be at the door. And then, suddenly, it will be too late.

But that's not the end of the story.

Jesus and Paul gave these warnings for a reason. It was so that we who believe, we who love the Lord, would not be caught unawares. It was so that we would be serving and alert rather than partying and slumbering.

To quote Paul again, from this same passage just cited to the Thessalonians:

But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all the sons of light and the sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep as others do. But let us be alert and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. For God has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thess. 5:4-9).

This, then, is how we should live. This, then, is how should we conduct ourselves in this world.

As Peter wrote to his readers:

Seeing then that all these things are to be destroyed, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, while you are waiting for and desiring the coming of the day of God, in which the heavens will be destroyed by fire and the elements will be consumed by intense heat? But, according to His promise, we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these things, be diligent that you may be found by Him in peace, spotless

and blameless (2 Pet. 3:11-14).

We who walk in the light, we who are children of the day, we who live lives honoring to the Lord, have nothing to fear. Let us not fall asleep in the light.