

“You must take it off,” the teacher replied. “That’s the rule!” So, he did. To everyone’s amazement, the little boy had no shirt underneath. Just a little, bony, crippled body. How can I whip this kid? the teacher thought. But I must maintain respect at this school. The classroom was as silent as a cemetery.

“How come you aren’t wearing a shirt, Jim?” the teacher inquired. “My father died and my mother is poor,” the boy replied. “I only own one shirt, and my mother is washing it today. I wore my brother’s big coat to stay warm.” The teacher, rod in hand, hesitated. *Oh, what should I do?* he thought. Just then Big Tom leaped to his feet and and said, “Teacher, if you don’t object, I’ll take Jim’s licking for him.”

Thinking a moment, the teacher replied. “Very well. None of our rules say that one person can’t be punished for another’s crime. Are you all agreed?” “Yes!” shouted the class. So off came Tom’s coat. After five lashes the rod broke! The teacher bowed his head in his hands and thought, *How can I finish this awful task?* Then he heard some students sobbing. What did he see? Little Jim had reached up and grabbed Tom with both arms around his neck. “Tom, I’m sorry I stole your lunch, but I was so hungry. Tom, you’ll be my friend until I die for taking my licking for me!”

Dear reader, this story parallels what our Best Friend did for each of us. Oh, what love! To save our souls, Jesus Himself came to earth and took upon Himself the exact punishment we deserve for breaking the Ten Commandments. In an ancient prophecy, the Bible predicted:

*He was pierced because of our rebellions and crushed because of our crimes. He bore the punishment that made us whole; by his wounds we are healed.—Isaiah 53:5, C.E.V.*

Just like Big Tom took skinny Jim’s beating, Jesus “bore” our “punishment” when He died upon the cross. Now we have a chance to repent (turn from sin), be forgiven, and through *His power* to step onto the safe side of God’s holy law as we await His soon return.

“Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12) is Heaven’s description of God’s loyal people who cheerfully obey the Ten Commandments during earth’s last days because they love their Savior, who died for them.

Which group will you be in, that of commandment-keepers, or commandment-breakers? Will you join self-confident sinners destined for eternal death for rejecting God’s law—just

like that foolish man who perished in Peru? Or will you be among the faithful who are prepared for Jesus Christ’s soon return (read Revelation 14:12-14)? That choice—with its eternal consequences—is *up to you*. Remember, only eight people boarded Noah’s ark.

*Choose Jesus Christ today.*



“Come to Me”  
Matthew 11:28

**Questions? Contact:**

Helping Nashville Now  
PO Box 120131  
Nashville TN 37212

**Phone: (615) 236-6460**

Email: [helpingnashvillenow@gmail.com](mailto:helpingnashvillenow@gmail.com)



**D**eath by selfie: 51-year-old Oliver Parks thought it was a great opportunity for a selfie. A tourist in the Andes Mountains of Peru, he decided to venture into a restricted area for a picture. Ignoring obvious warning signs “to stay away from the cliff’s edge,” Parks suddenly “lost his balance and fell 130 feet to his death” (Source: *Fox News Latino*, July 1, 2016).

The obvious lesson of this tragic event is that everyone—including you, me, families, societies, and nations—need boundary lines to protect us from ruin. *I need not obey those warning signs*, Mr. Park confidently concluded as he “ventured into a restricted area.” But he was wrong. *Dead wrong*. He perished because he refused to obey sensible instructions.

The Holy Bible informs us that our loving Creator is deeply concerned about our safety, too. To protect us from the fatal consequences of wrong choices, He has mercifully given us sensible instructions and warned us about restricted areas. His instructions are embodied in the Ten Commandments. To ancient Israelites gathered at the foot of Mount Sinai to receive this law, Moses wrote:

*...the mountain burned with fire to the midst of heaven, with darkness, cloud, and thick darkness. And the Lord spoke to you out of the midst of the fire... He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.*

*—Deuteronomy 4:11-13 (NKJV\*)*

Believe it or not, God Almighty proclaimed His Ten Commandments amidst thunder, earthquake, and fiery flame not only to impress us with their holy sacredness, but to prevent us from destroying ourselves by breaking them. If you are a bit fuzzy about

what the Ten Commandments teach, here is an abbreviated version as recorded in God’s Holy Book.

Because “God is love” (1 John 4:8), His law is a law of love (Romans 13:10). This being so, to willingly violate this law is to purposefully oppose God’s loving

will and ways. In a nutshell, it means revolt and rebellion against the Supreme Ruler of the Universe. The Bible calls such wicked rebellion “sin.” “Sin is the transgression [violation] of the law” (1 John 3:4, KJV, emphasis added). “By the law is knowledge of sin” (Romans 3:20), penned Paul. Because “all have sinned” (Romans 3:23), we are all sinners, subject to God’s judgment.

“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy” (Psalm 103:8). Aren’t you glad?

*And God spoke all these words, saying...*

- I. You shall have no other gods before Me.
- II. You shall not make for yourself a carved image.
- III. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
- IV. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day [Saturday] is the Sabbath of the Lord your God... For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth... Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.
- V. Honor your father and your mother.
- VI. You shall not kill.
- VII. You shall not commit adultery.
- VIII. You shall not steal.
- IX. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- X. You shall not covet.

*—Exodus 20*

**For Eye-Opening Details about End-Time Events**  
**“The Time Is At Hand!” Information Packet**

1 DVD  
1 LARGE BOOK  
12 SMALL BOOKS  
ONLY **\$20**

plus shipping  
& handling



To order contact: White Horse Media, P.O. Box 130, Priest River, ID 83856 1 (800) 782-4253

For more information about God’s coming judgments, visit [www.warnthecities.com](http://www.warnthecities.com)

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CHATTANOOGA, TN  
PERMIT NO. 1114

White Horse Media  
P.O. BOX 130  
Priest River, ID 83856



If He wasn't, we'd all be dead. But here's the catch. Mercy isn't the only attribute of God's character. He is also "a God of justice" (Isaiah 30:18) who "executes justice" (Psalm 146:7) when circumstances require such a response.

Bible history contains numerous instances when, after countless offers of mercy were stubbornly rejected by reckless, wayward sinners, that divine justice finally struck with holy vengeance. In the days of Noah, "the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth..." (Genesis 6:5). Because human sin had become so horrific, God finally declared, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth" (verse 7).

Yet true to merciful nature, God first instructed Noah to build a massive boat to become a refuge in the coming storm. For 120 years Noah preached and urged sinners to repent. When that 120-year period closed, only eight people responded to God's gracious offer of mercy by entering the boat. Then torrents of rain fell, and a mighty flood destroyed the world. "And all flesh died that moved upon the earth... Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive" (Genesis 7:21,23).



In a sense, this judgment was a bit like what happened to that disobedient tourist who fell off that cliff in Peru. In Noah's day, the entire world stubbornly rejected God's reasonable restrictions and warnings. As a result, everyone drowned. Notice also that in Noah's day, God didn't destroy a wicked world with His own hand directly. Instead, He used mighty agencies of nature—rain and flooding—to implement His just wrath.

Something similar happened to the ancient city of Sodom. "But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the Lord" (Genesis 13:13). So wicked in fact, that divine justice

finally struck there too. But this time, instead of rain, burning fire descended in "the punishment of the city" (Genesis 19:15). "The Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the Lord out of the heavens" (verse 24). Researchers have actually uncovered the ruins of those very cities—covered with ash and unique sulfur balls—just south of the Dead Sea.

Yes, God oversees the mighty forces of nature. He can use all natural elements to punish sin. "Fire and hail, snow and clouds; stormy wind" can all become agents "fulfilling His word" (Psalm 148:8). As difficult as this may sound, in the midst of every major deadly natural disaster, God's pleading voice may yet be heard warning sinners to turn from sin. Be assured of this: human wickedness won't continue forever. An apocalyptic line will soon be crossed. "I will punish the world for its evil" (Isaiah 13:11), predicts God Almighty. Again, yes, He is exceedingly merciful; but He is also righteous, just, and holy. His plan is to utterly eradicate all sin, rebellion, and wickedness from His universe. The last book of the Bible reports:

*Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?."*  
—Revelation 6:14-17

As we approach this cataclysmic "day of the Lord" that "shall come as destruction from the Almighty" (Joel 1:15), all major deadly natural disasters are actually merciful wake-up calls to wandering humans to return to their Maker—before it's forever too late. Notice carefully the Lord's words to ancient Israel:

*Hear, O earth! Behold, I will certainly bring calamity on this people—the fruit of their thoughts,*

*because they have not heeded My words, nor My law, but rejected it.*  
—Jeremiah 6:19

Thus "calamity" follows the rejection of God's "law." The prophet Hosea also listed specific violations of the Ten Commandments as the underlying reason for divine judgments:

*...the Lord brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: "There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land. By swearing [breaking the 3rd commandment] and lying [the 9th commandment], killing [the 6th] and stealing [the 8th] and committing adultery [the 7th], they break all restraint, with bloodshed upon bloodshed."*  
—Hosea 4:1,2

Can't you see this happening today? Swearing, lying, killing, stealing, and sexual immorality are as common as houseflies. God's prophet then describes the terrible consequences of reckless commandment-breaking:

*Therefore the land will mourn; and everyone who dwells there will waste away, with the beasts of the field, and the birds of the air; even the fish of the sea will be taken away... "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge... Because you have forgotten the law of your God... So I will punish them for their ways, and reward them for their deeds."*  
—Hosea 4: 3,6,9

It is because humans have "forgotten the law" of God that untold suffering exists today. God warns, "So I

will punish them for their ways." Just like in the days of Noah, Sodom, and ancient Israel, even so is God punishing human wickedness today through the agencies of rain, fire, earthquakes, and storms. Unfortunately, it is part of the messy consequences of sin that innocent souls often suffer with the guilty. Now mark these words: much larger judgments are pending, far beyond what we can possibly imagine. Los Angeles, Las Vegas, San Francisco, New York, Paris, Rome, Moscow, London, Mexico City and countless other sprawling cities will soon reap terrible devastation for their great wickedness—just like in Bible days. *You are now being warned of pending judgments.*

Significantly, right before God destroyed Sodom, He informed Abraham what was about to occur. "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing?" (Genesis 18:17), God asked. He didn't. Similarly, it makes sense that as we approach the time of God's final judgments, that He would once again reveal His purposes to chosen individuals, just like He did to Abraham.

God has done exactly that. Prophecy predicts that in "the last days" the Lord would give "dreams" and "visions" (see Acts 2:17-21) to chosen persons. In our modern times, one such woman to receive heavenly illumination was Ellen White (1827-1915). Her books have now been translated into over 140 languages. During her lifetime, Mrs. White had numerous dreams and visions of future events. Shockingly, in one particular dream she saw "an immense ball

of fire" descending upon a specific city: *Nashville, Tennessee.* Her exact words were:

"When I was at Nashville, I had been speaking to the people, and in the night season, there was an immense ball of fire that came right from heaven and settled in Nashville. There were flames going out like arrows from that ball; houses were being consumed; houses were tottering and falling. [Some]...were standing there. 'It is just as we expected,' they said, 'we expected this.' Others were wringing their hands in agony and crying unto God for mercy. 'You knew it,' said they, 'you knew that this was coming, and never said a word to warn us!'" (*Manuscript* 188, 1905. For more information about Mrs. White's revelations, read the small booklet, *God Speaks Before the End of the World*, now available from White Horse Media, or visit [www.whiteestate.org](http://www.whiteestate.org)).

In her Nashville dream, Mrs. White spoke of "mansions" being destroyed, as well as one particular building noted especially for its "pillars." "...especially the pillars were presented to me," she wrote. *Might this be the Parthenon?* Time will tell. Speaking of the final worldwide "seven last plagues" which will soon devastate Planet Earth, the book of Revelation reports:

*Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God upon the earth."... "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are your judgments..."there was a great earthquake...and the cities of the nations fell.—Revelation 16:1,7,18,19*

If we take Revelation 16 at face value, Planet Earth is slated for total devastation (at least for a time). But it's not all bad news. Not at all! Yes, God will eliminate all rebellion and evil, but He has a loving and eternal purpose in mind. He's going to start all over again and He wants His universe free from sin. All who surrender their hearts to Him can enjoy eternal bliss. Take a look:

*But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt*

*with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up...Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*  
—2 Peter 3:10,13

The biggest question is: how can we sinners who have violated the Ten Commandments find a place in God's "new earth"? There's only one answer. Through a merciful Savior, who took our punishment on the cross. To illustrate, read this touching story:

Years ago a little one-room schoolhouse in the mountains of Virginia housed a group of boys so rough that no teacher could handle them. A new teacher applied for the job, willing to take the risk. On the first day of school, the new teacher appeared for duty. One big fellow named Tom whispered smugly to a friend: "I won't need any help with this one. I can lick him myself."

"Good morning, boys," the teacher began. The boys shouted back, making fun of the wimpy-looking teacher. "Now, I want a good school, but I need your help. Let's start with a few rules. You tell me what they should be, and I'll write them on the blackboard." "No stealing!" one student yelled. "Be on time!" shouted another. Finally, ten rules appeared on the blackboard.

"Now," said the teacher, "all laws are worthless without a penalty. What shall we do to someone who breaks the rules?" "Beat him across the back ten times without his coat on!" was the class response. "That's pretty severe, boys. Are you sure you're ready to stand by that?" "I second the motion," one kid screamed out. "All right," said the teacher, "So be it. Class, come to order!"

A few days later, 'Big Tom' discovered that his lunch had been stolen. In time, the thief was located—a hungry little boy about ten years old. "Ok. We caught the thief," said the teacher. "He must be punished according to your rule—ten stripes across the back. Jim, come up here!" The little fellow, trembling, walked up slowly with a big coat fastened up to his neck. "Teacher," he pleaded, "you can lick me as hard as you like, but please, don't make me take my coat off!"

