

GRANT COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST
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WHERE WERE YOU WHEN THE WORLD STOPPED TURNING?

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Today is the tenth anniversary of one of the worst tragedies in American history. Over three thousand people lost their lives in a sudden, vicious and unexpected attack on American soil. This surpassed by about 600 the death toll of 2402 at Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. Mommies, daddies, grandmas and grandpas, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, cousins and friends all died that day. They had gone to work just as they had many days & years before. As citizens of the U.S. they felt safe, secure and protected. Represented among them were varying religious, political and philosophical beliefs. Some were likely prepared for their journey into eternity, but most were probably not (Mtt.7:13-14).

Each of us, who were alive that day, can vividly recall where we were and what we were doing. Thankfully, if I had died that day, I would have done so doing exactly what I believe I was put on earth to do. I was on a door-knocking campaign sharing the saving gospel of Jesus with the good folks of Sioux Falls, SD. I can only hope & pray that I am engaged in something equally as noble when the end **does** finally come for me.

In the words of the song, "Where Were You When the World Stopped Turning" Alan Jackson accurately expressed many of the things we each were feeling. Ready or not, prepared or not, finished or not, for those three thousand plus people the world stopped turning that day.

In reality though, the cemeteries are full of people who were not finished living. The Bible gives us as many examples of people for whom the world stopped turning suddenly and unexpectedly.

THE PEOPLE IN THE DAYS OF NOAH: (Gen. 7:21-23)

Matthew 24:37-39 "For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away.

2 Peter 2:5 And did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;

Genesis 6:5-8 "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and **that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**

They were living in sin (Romans 3:23).

THE PEOPLE OF SODOM & GOMORAH: (Gen.19:4-29)

Luke 17:28-29 "Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: **They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;** but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all."

2 Peter 2:6-7 "...and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction"

They were living "alternative" lives (Rom.1:26-27; 1Cor. 6:9-11).

THE PEOPLE AT THE BASE OF MT. SANAI: (Ex.32:26-28) "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Let every man put his sword on his side, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.'" So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about **three thousand men of the people fell that day.**

They were practicing idolatry (Ex.20:3-6).

THE PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T GET TO SEE THE PROMISED LAND:

(Numbers 13-14). They brought back a great report from the land, but they rebelled and did not think that they could be successful. They were not allowed to enter the promise land, but were made to wander in the wilderness a year for every day of spying, 40 years until all over 20 years old were dead, except for Joshua and Caleb.

They were wandering in doubt (Num.13:31).

THE ISRAELITES WHO WERE TAKEN CAPTIVE:

The Babylonians captured the Southern Kingdom.

II Ki 24:11-14 "And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city,..."

he carried into captivity all the captains and all the mighty men of valor, ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths.”

The Assyrians captured the Northern Kingdom. 1 Chr 5:26 *“Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria... carried the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh into captivity.”*

They were living in disobedience (Deut. 28:1-68).

THE JEWS WHEN JERUSALEM WAS DESTROYED:

Matthew 24:1-34 History tells us that when the Roman General Titus destroyed Jerusalem in A.D. 70 that 97,000 Jews were captured and 1,100,000 perished during the siege! The tribulation was so horrible that *“unless the days were shortened no flesh would be left”* (Vs.22)!

They were clinging hopelessly to a dead system (Matthew 3:10).

NADAB & ABIHU: (Lev.10:1-2) Offering strange fire (unauthorized worship) to the Lord.

KORAH: (Num.16) The earth opened up and swallowed them and fire from Heaven killed the rest.

They were leading a rebellion against God (Matt. 7:23).

WHAT ABOUT YOU? Where will you be when the world stops turning for you? **Will you be** living in sin or practicing an abominable lifestyle or worshiping other gods or wandering in doubt or living in flagrant disobedience or clinging hopelessly to a dead system or living in rebellion?

OR, WILL YOU BE READY? Will you be living righteous, morally pure lives, worshiping God and God alone, walking with faith and confidence toward the goal, living daily in obedience, rightly dividing the word of truth, and never rebelling against God and His will?

The world will stop turning some day for you and for me. The whole world will too (2Peter 3:10ff)! Where will we be? *“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words (1Thessalonians 4:13-18).*