HURRICANE HITS JUST BEFORE HOMOSEXUAL

EVENT

Christian activist: Act of God prevented 'Southern Decadence' festival

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Note from pastor Kevin Lea follows this article.

Hurricane Katrina walloped New Orleans just two days before the annual homosexual "Southern Decadence" festival was to begin in the town, an act being characterized by some as God's work.

Southern Decadence has a history of "filling the French Quarters section of the city with drunken homosexuals engaging in sex acts in the public streets and bars," says a statement from the Philadelphia Christian organization Repent America.

This year's 34th annual Southern Decadence festival, which drew 125,000 revelers last year, was set to begin today in the Big Easy and run through Monday. The massive flooding of the city and evacuation order from Gov. Kathleen Blanco has forced the event's cancellation.

"Although the loss of lives is deeply saddening, this act of God destroyed a wicked city," stated Repent America director Michael Marcavage in a statement. "From 'Girls Gone Wild' to 'Southern Decadence,' New Orleans was a city that opened its doors wide open to the public celebration of sin. May it never be the same."

Repent America says three former and current mayors of New Orleans have issued official proclamations welcoming visitors to Southern Decadence.

"Let us pray for those ravaged by this disaster. However, we must not forget that the citizens of New Orleans tolerated and welcomed the wickedness in their city for so long," Marcavage said. "May this act of God cause us all to think about what we tolerate in our city limits, and bring us trembling before the throne of Almighty God."

Marcavage was one of the five Philadelphia Christians arrested last year for protesting at a homosexual event. The charges eventually were tossed out.

Note from pastor Kevin Lea: Some will argue that the Katrina devastation of New Orleans is just a coincidence and has nothing to do with God or His judgment.

The Word of God disagrees. The wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah required the judgment of God (Gen 18-19). Israel was not allowed to take over the land of Canaan until the "wickedness of the Amorites was complete" (Gen 15:16, Deuteronomy 20:15-20). Jonah was told to warn the gentile city of Nineveh about the impending judgment of God if they did not repent because "their wickedness has come up before Me" (Jonah 1:2). In Jeremiah chapters 5 and 9 God asks, "Shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?" after listing the flagrant disregard for God's laws by the Jewish nation.

Indeed the tribulation period described in the book of Revelation comes upon a world that has utterly rejected God and His laws, refusing to repent even in the face of global cataclysms (Revelation 16:9).

Some will site the following passage from Luke as a rebuttal to the above:

Luke 13: 1 There were present at that season some who told Him [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices [Pilate had murdered hundreds of Jews during a feast riot in Jerusalem]. 2 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? 3 "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. 4 "Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." (NKJ)

However, those attempting to use these verses are doing so out of context with the subject at hand – the wickedness of the people involved in the judgment. Pilate murdered orthodox Jews from Galilee who were considered by some Judean Jews as geographically inferior. In order to equate this example given by Jesus to the Katrina hurricane, we would have to be saying the people of New Orleans suffered this destruction because they were southerners instead of northerners. The second example is about a construction accident on eighteen people, with nothing said about their devotion (or lack thereof) to the laws of God.

These examples are not what Christians, who believe this judgment on New Orleans could be from God, are saying. We are simply pointing out that New Orleans is KNOWN for their blatant sinfulness. It has nothing to do with where they are located or freak accidents on eighteen of their citizens; it has to do with the complete destruction of a wicked city, a city that a wise person would have fled long ago.

Consider the following quote taken from a New Orleans website's FAQ page, which is devoted to encouraging/promoting their annual, world famous, Fat-Tuesday celebration. Then compare it to Exodus 32 and Deuteronomy 9:

Is it true that Mardi Gras is really a pagan holiday?

If you've ever been on Bourbon Street on Mardi Gras, as a drunken mob gathers around a Golden Calf beating drums and blowing horns and shouting "Hail to the Calf!", you won't need to ask that question. There is no doubt that the period of celebration that we call Carnival has roots in pagan end-ofwinter and beginning-of-spring rituals reaching back thousands of years. These festivals - some of which can only be described as drunken orgies - existed across most lands that were being overtaken by the Christian Church, and like many other holidays and rites, the Church sought a balance between the old and new. Understanding that the party was not going to stop, the church placed limits on it, decreeing that it could not start until the finish of the Christmas holidays and had to end on the day before Ash Wednesday.

Without dispute, New Orleans is a wicked city, encouraging their people to worship an idol instead of the God who created the heavens and the earth. This conclusion is not excluding the fact that there are plenty of other cities in America that are also known for their wickedness and rejection of God, and they would do well to take notice of the destruction of New Orleans and then take prudent action.

If their Mayor and leaders truly cared for their people, they would publicly call for a time of repentance and lead the people in departing from their sinfulness, like the King of Nineveh did, thus sparing them from the judgment planned by God (because God desires that the wicked would turn from their wicked ways and be saved – Ezekiel 18). If Americans don't repent and turn back to the God who has blessed us, then we can expect more destruction until we become like Sodom and Gomorrah (destroyed).

It is highly unlikely that any Mayor, Legislator or President will call Americans to repentance, so I believe the fall of America as a great power is imminent and inevitable. But what can the reader do if the leaders won't? I recommend that you apply the following words of Jesus to your life, if you haven't already.

"I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

And Jesus meant perish forever in the Lake of Fire if you don't repent from your rejection of God, turn to His only salvation plan, Jesus, and believe in Him as your Savior. Then act as His servant, treating Him as a worthy master, because He saved your soul.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (NKJ)

John 6: 67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 "Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (NKJ)

John 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (NKJ)

Our Wednesday study (8/31/05) was from the book of Jonah. It was a teaching about judgment and mercy (for the repentant) and how it could apply to the Katrina hurricane disaster. It is available for downloading (free) from our website (www.calvarypo.org - click on sermon archives and then click on the book of Jonah).