

# Preacher's Pen points

## Evacuate!



Our hearts go out to the many victims of hurricane Katrina as they now sit helplessly on the bridges of Interstate 10 awaiting some means of deliverance from the city of New Orleans. Over a week earlier the authorities solemnly warned of the impending devastation coming upon the city. The charge was simple—“Evacuate!” Perhaps some could not heed the warning; but many of them simply ignored the warning to their own peril. And some, now acknowledging their mistake, suffer the hardship of not having acted wisely before the storm. I do not want to capitalize on other’s misfortune; but we can all derive a needed lesson from their experience. I am reminded of other occasions when God warned of impending destruction only to have His word greeted with similar skepticism and inaction.

### Previous Warnings of Destruction

Before the Great Deluge both Enoch and his great-grand-son Noah, a preacher of righteousness, warned of the impending doom coming upon the disobedient world (Jude 14; 2 Pet. 2:5). Yet when the rains came and the floods ascended, only eight souls had listened to the warning. All else perished.

I remember God’s announcement of the destruction of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and how that with great difficulty the angels of God were able to remove even Lot and his family before catastrophe struck. All the others were destroyed.

I remember the warning that God gave to the people of Israel in the days of Isaiah. The Babylonians were coming with judgment upon Israel like an “*overflowing scourge*”; but Israel ignored God’s warning claiming that they had made a “*covenant*

*with death*” (Is. 28:15). All but a remnant perished in the destruction.

Likewise, Jesus urged His disciples to learn a needed lesson from these examples. He warned them that a similar day of destruction yet awaited the city of Jerusalem and that they should “*remember Lot’s wife*” (Lk. 17:32) and flee from the city. Most did not and suffered the cruel wrath of the Romans in AD 70.

### A Day of Destruction to Come

But now at least one final day of destruction awaits the world, one which these other days portend. There is yet to be a day of wrath of the Almighty against those who have sinned. Yet the good news is there is rock powerful enough to withstand this storm to come: *Therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed.”* (Is. 28:16). That rock is Jesus to whom we may flee and find refuge from the storm of God’s judgment. He died on Calvary’s cross to rescue us from the wrath of God; and those who obey the gospel are described as those who have “*fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us.*” (Heb. 6:18). Sadly Jesus has already told us that only a few will have heeded this warning as well (Mt. 7:13-14).

### Let’s Heed the Warning

And so just as Peter solemnly warned the people of his own day, “*Be saved from this perverse generation!*” (Ac. 2:40), it might be appropriate to say to people of our generation, “Evacuate...before it is too late!” —Johnny Felker (www.truthchasers.com)