

prophecy of the “shaking” of the heavens and the earth to mean its total destruction. The first time God “shook” the earth in the days of Noah, only the earth and its inhabitants were destroyed. But the second time God will totally destroy the earth and the heavens at the very end of Christ’s 1,000 year earthly reign (Revelation 20:11:15).

The Old Testament prophets were looking forward to the first coming of the Messiah. Today we look forward to the Messiah’s second coming. Christ is coming again. It is at the second coming of Christ that this awesome day of the LORD will occur. It is the day when unsaved humanity will cry out to the mountains and to the rocks, *“Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”* (Revelation 6:16, 17).

There is only one way to escape the coming day of the LORD, and that is to trust Jesus Christ, Who died for your sins on the cross and now sits on the right hand of God. “The fuse has been lit, but we don’t know how long the fuse is.” The day of the LORD is certain! The day of the LORD is coming! But before that awful day of doom, Jesus Christ will appear in the heavens to rapture to Himself all who trust Him as their Savior. All who have died in faith will be resurrected, and all who are alive on the earth who believe in Christ will be caught up together with them in the clouds to

meet Jesus Christ in the air. Thus we who are saved shall forever be with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:17). Make your peace with God now, and trust Christ as your Savior. Don’t be a fool. This earth is a powder keg, and the fuse is lit. The Lord will judge the earth in this way because of the sin of mankind. *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up”* (2 Peter 3:10). *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23). Yet God says, *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”* (Romans 10:13). Don’t be another Harry Truman. Choose God’s way and be eternally saved.

(Prophet’s words are paraphrased from Joel 2:11, Amos 5:18, Obadiah 1:15, Isaiah 24:3, 19–20, Zephaniah 1:14, 18, Haggai 2:6.)

~ Dr. Gerald J. Johnson

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David Johnston, geologist for the U.S. Geological Survey, was stationed six miles from the top of Mount St. Helens in the southern part of Washington State when the mountain blew its top. His last words on his radio transmitter to Vancouver, Washington, were “THIS IS IT!” Moments later, he was burned to a crisp by the savage blast of scalding gases and fire-hot ash catapulting at him at 200 miles an hour. Previously Johnston had remarked, “This mountain is a powder keg, and the fuse is lit, but we don’t know how long the fuse is.”

No one dreamed of so hellish a blast. No one expected that Mount St. Helens would explode with the fury of an atomic bomb equivalent to 500 Hiroshimas. May 18, 1980, was a beautiful Sunday morning. Suddenly there was a jolt, and the ground began to sway like a boat rocked by waves. An earthquake registering 5.0 on the Richter scale instantly tore open the north slope of Mount St. Helens, hurling more than a cubic mile of debris toward the Toutle River in a mighty landslide. Fire-hot volcanic clouds of debris and ash spewed out of the ruptured mountain, leveling huge forests of 150-foot-high Douglas firs as far as 17 miles away. Four hundred million tons of hot ash and pulverized rock shot into the earth’s atmosphere. Molten rock blasted from the earth’s interior, firing truck-sized boulders into the sky. Superheated gas and ash buried the valley below, causing it to bubble like a cauldron

of boiling oil. The pillars of hot ash reached to the heavens—60,000 feet up!

A bright Sunday morning suddenly became dark as midnight. Before the mountain blew its top, all was peaceful and serene. Animals and birds made their homes and nests in the surrounding forests. The trees were dressed in lovely green; plants and flowers decorated the landscape. Then suddenly the entire countryside was lifeless and barren. Two hundred square miles of surrounding forests were gone. Thousands of birds, fish, and animals perished in a matter of seconds. Mount St. Helens was a time bomb. Sooner or later it had to explode.

Sixty-one people lost their lives in the eruption of St. Helens. Among them was Harry Truman, who owned a lodge at the foot of the mountain. The sheriff ordered all residents in the area to leave, but Truman refused to go. His speech was always mixed with profanity, and he loved his whiskey. Among his last recorded words were, “I’m going to stay right here . . . I’m having a – of a time livin’ my life alone. I’m king of all I survey, I got – plenty of whiskey, I got food enough for 15 years, and I’m settin’ high on the – hog.” Within a week after uttering these words, St. Helens exploded, and Harry Truman was blown into eternity.

The explosion of St. Helens carries a message of God, a message of warning. The day is approaching when this entire earth is going to be one

gigantic Mount St. Helens. Everything is going to be destroyed. This day of destruction is what the Old Testament prophets called “The Day of the LORD.” As far back as nearly 3000 years ago, the prophets, by the inspiration of God’s Spirit, saw the destruction of this earth and warned the generation of their day and all future generations to repent of their sins and believe in God’s Messiah.

The prophet Joel declared, “*The day of the LORD is indeed great and very awesome, and who can endure it?*” Amos prophesied, “*Alas, you who are longing for the day of the LORD, for what purpose will the day of the LORD be to you? It will be darkness and not light.*” Obadiah prophesied, “*For the day of the LORD draws near on all the nations.*” Isaiah the prophet proclaimed, “*The earth will be completely despoiled, for the LORD has spoken this word. . . . The earth is broken asunder, the earth is split through, the earth is shaken violently. The earth reels to and fro like a drunkard, and it totters like a shack. . . . And it will fall, never to rise again.*” The prophet Zephaniah announced, “*Near is the great day of the LORD . . . . Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to deliver them on the day of the LORD’s wrath; and all the earth will be devoured in the fire of His jealousy, for He will make a complete end, indeed a terrifying one, of all the inhabitants of the earth.*” Haggai prophesied, “*Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth.*” The author of the book of Hebrews interpreted Haggai’s