

SESSION SEVEN
November 4, 2012

REGARDING STORMS, FAMINES, AND TEMPESTS: The week of the NE coast "Mega Storm."
Consider that these are NOT occurring without the God's knowledge to fulfill his purposes:

Signs of the times:

Luke 21:25 25 "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; 26 men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

Judgement: Nahum C.1

v2 God is jealous, and the LORD avenges; The LORD avenges and is furious. - - The LORD will take vengeance on His adversaries, - - And He reserves wrath for His enemies;
3 The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, - - And will not at all acquit the wicked. The LORD has His way In the whirlwind and in the storm, - - And the clouds are the dust of His feet.
4 He rebukes the sea and makes it dry, - - And dries up all the rivers. - - Bashan and Carmel wither, And the flower of Lebanon wilts. - -
5 The mountains quake before Him, - - The hills melt, And the earth heaves at His presence, Yes, the world and all who dwell in it. - -
6 Who can stand before His indignation? - - And who can endure the fierceness of His anger? - - His fury is poured out like fire, - - And the rocks are thrown down by Him. - -
*7 **The LORD is good**, A stronghold in the day of trouble; - - And He knows those who trust in Him. - -*
8 But with an overflowing flood He will make an utter end of its place, - - And darkness will pursue His enemies. - -
9 What do you conspire against the LORD? He will make an utter end of it. Who plots evil against the LORD? A wicked counselor!

SESSION SEVEN
BOOK OF ACTS NOTES
CALVARY METHODIST CHURCH
C Pinkney - - Conclude Chapters 4 and 5

AMAZING SIGNS AND WONDERS INCREASE IN THIS TIME OF OUTPOURED GRACE

ACTS 5: READ 12-17 -12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. 13 And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. 14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) 15 Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and

laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. 16 There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one. 17 Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation - -

FEEDBACK** WHERE AND WHEN ARE SIGNS AND WONDERS SEEN TODAY?

SOME PENTECOSTAL EVANGELISTS USE PRAYER CLOTHS TODAY.

DISCUSS: **WHY** ARE SO FEW SIGNS AND WONDERS SEEN TODAY? (LIST THESE ON BOARD)

a. Bad Theology b. Unbelief c. No Power d. No faith e. No anointing (why???)

ACTS 5: READ 18-25 -18 And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison. 19 But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, 20 Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life. 21 And when they heard that, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. 22 But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned and told, 23 Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors: but when we had opened, we found no man within. 24 Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow. 25 Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.

FEEDBACK** APOSTLES ARE RELEASED FROM A HOLDING STOCKADE BY “THE ANGEL OF THE LORD”
RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES ARE DEEPLY VEXED BY THE OCCURANCE OF UNEXPLAINABLE ACTS

ACTS 5: READ 26-34

26 Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned. 27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, 28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. 29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

FEEDBACK** ACCEPTANCE BY THE MASSES WHO WITNESS GOD AT WORK IMPEDES THE ACTION OF THE JEWISH LEADERS A HEARING IS HELD BY THE JEWISH COUNSEL FOR PETER AND OTHER APOSTLES

Peter addresses the religious leaders again in an attempt for them to see and understand God's purposes in the Messiah were shown and validated by Scripture.

ACTS 5 30 – 32 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. 31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a **Prince and a Saviour**, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him. 33 When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them.

GAMALIEL AN ESTEEMED RABBINIC AUTHORITY OFFERS A POSSIBLE PLAN OF ACTION

(Gamaliel is a Pharisee of the highest order of experience and learning. Gamaliel was the master of a rabbinical school in Jerusalem. (He was the authority who mentored Saul.)

34 Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space; 35 And said unto them, Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men. 36 For before these days rose up Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to nought. 37 After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed. 38 And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: 39 But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God. 40 And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. 42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

FEEDBACK WHAT IS THE ADVICE THAT GAMALIEN OFFERS TO THE SANHEDRAN?**

CHAPTER 6:

6 Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the **Hebrews** by the **Hellenists**, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. 2 Then **the twelve** summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. 3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; 4 but **we will give ourselves continually** to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

5 And the saying pleased **the whole multitude**. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, 6 whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

FEEDBACK v. 1** — The Grecians were Hebrews with a background of Greek culture, while the **Hebrews were those who still followed the Mosaic Law – Probably considered themselves more authentic (proudful)**.

The high plane to which the Spirit had brought the church was interrupted by the **intrusion of satanic division** and confusion. The sharing of material substance, which first characterized the church (Acts 2:44-46), begins to give way to the selfishness of the old nature. The **Grecians a minority group**, felt neglected and demanded that their widows be given equal consideration with the Hebrews.

FEEDBACK v. 2** — The apostles do not feel that they should have the burden of this detail, as it would take them from the **study of the Word of God**, prayer, and the ministry of the Word .

STUDY OF THE WORD OF GOD: They are likely, now searching the Law, Prophets, and Psalms to see what was already concealed their about the Messiah who was Jesus. There was much to catch up on.

FEEDBACK v. 3** — Certain qualified men are chosen to assume the burden of handling the material substance. Notice **their qualifications:**

1. men of honest report
2. full of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)
3. men of wisdom — application of scriptural truth
4. men of conviction (v. 10)
5. full of faith — not only saving faith, but serving faith and witnessing faith

- v. 5 — Of the list of the first 7 deacons, we have only the record of 2 — Stephen and Philip.
- v. 6 — Laying on of hands merely designates these men for the office, denoting their fellowship in the things of Christ and representation for the corporate body of believers.
- v. 7 — The church continues to grow in spite of the internal condition.

Stephen Accused of Blasphemy

8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. 9 Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen. 10 And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke. 11 Then they secretly induced men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." 12 And they stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they came upon him, seized him, and brought him to the council. 13 They also set up false witnesses who said, "This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law; 14 for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us." 15 And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel.

FEEDBACK Compare Stephen's trial to that of Jesus - - - Peace and God focused and inspired.**

FEEDBACK What teaching (prophetic utterances) of Jesus are realized (fulfilled) in Stephen's trial?**

- a. If they hated me they will hate you also... **John 15:18**
- b. They who kill you will think they are doing God's work or a favor... **John 16:2**
- c. When you are brought before magistrates or ruler do not premeditate... **Mark 13:11**

FEEDBACK Any others? ... John 20:23** If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Matt: 5:43 (Loving your enemies, those who persecute you... etc.)

FEEDBACK**

FEEDBACK Compare Stephen's execution to that of Jesus**