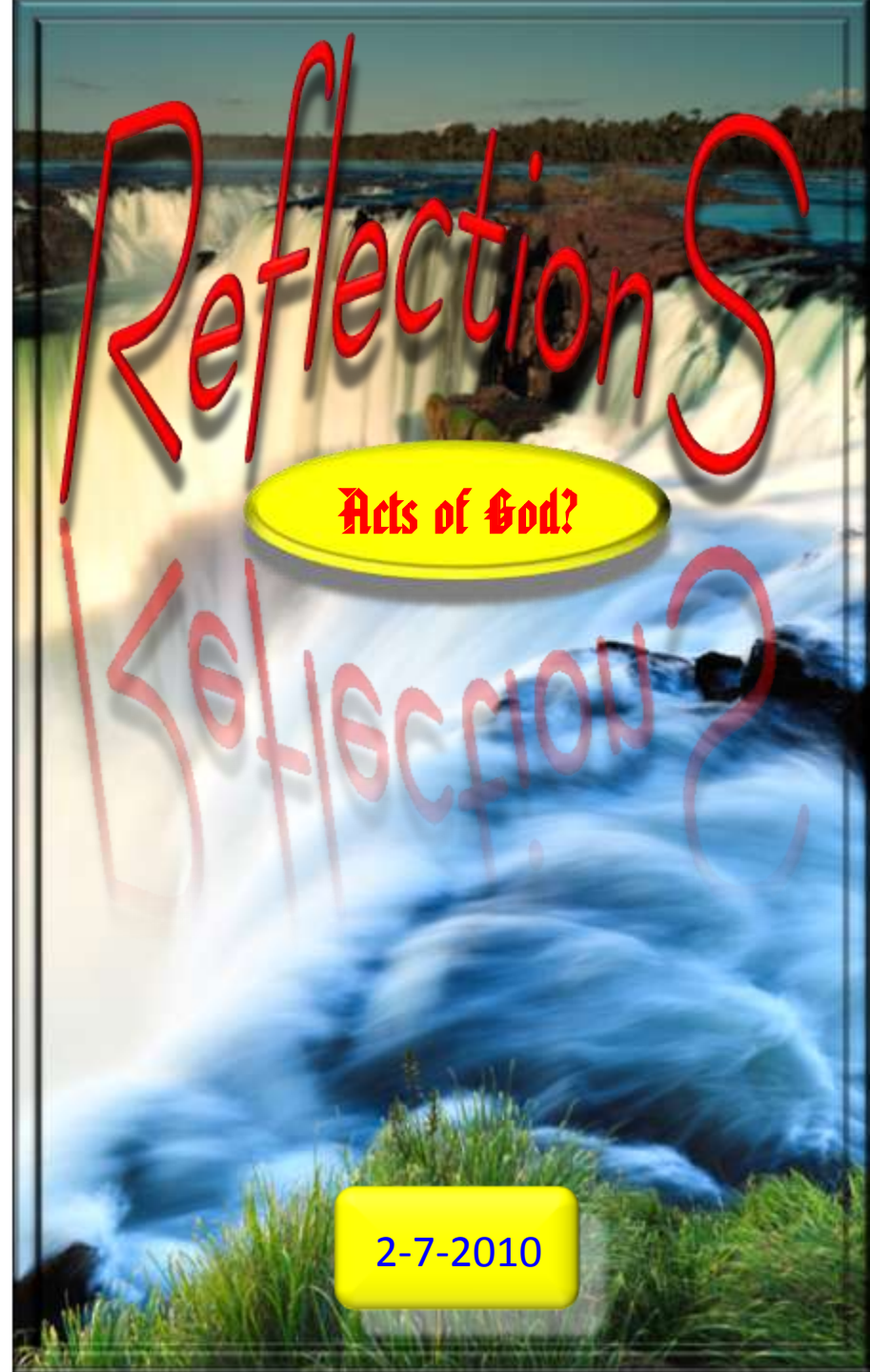


Sermon Notes



Acts of God?

2-7-2010



Reflections

As we have been reminded in recent weeks, the forces that are unleashed from time to time in our world can be devastating. Mountains that explode, as did Mt. St. Helens in 1980, earthquakes that shake the ground as seen recently in Haiti and in the Indian Ocean a few years ago with the resulting Tsunamis that were created by the tearing of the Earth's crust, winds and destruction caused by tornados and hurricanes, are all forces that humble, and often humiliate, man's efforts to withstand them.

Newscasters and insurance companies call such events "acts of God." It seems that God suddenly is declared the culprit in causing these forces to be so destructive. Men who would never even acknowledge God in their normal lives, are quick to declare that He is the one at fault for the resulting suffering and destruction caused by these powerful events. What they are really saying is that these things are so far above man's power that only God could explain the power that is at work. This, of course, seems ironic given man's frequent declaration that God doesn't exist.

The Scripture has, however, made it quite clear that He not only does exist but that He has created everything and then has put His glory on display in what He has made. The Apostle Paul states... *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, (Romans 1:20 NKJ).* David writes in the Psalms... *The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. (Psalm 19:1 NKJ).* When God, the great I AM, has made such a marvelous creation we would expect that His power and glory would be seen in everything

therein. History has shown that God has never relinquished His ultimate control over the earth. We see in the Scripture that He has used His creation as a tool of judgement as in the global flood in Noah's day but we also know that His creation is a dynamic planet with ongoing forces that leave us helpless in the face of their power.

If man would see God's power reflected in the creation instead of cursing Him when the storms, volcanoes, and earthquakes impact our lives we might be better motivated to assist one another in the aftermath not only in the repair of damage, loss, disease and injury, but to introduce them to the only one who can repair the damage caused by sin. As we approach the interventions and services that these great and mighty forces cause as they overpower our puny attempts to defeat them, we can then minister to the whole person who has been harmed by the "storm". Jesus has said that... *for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. (Matthew 5:45 NKJ)* ,,,in so doing He has explained that this sin-cursed planet does not in any way discriminate on whom its forces may fall.

The great hope in the face of a dynamic, and powerful creation is that we can know that whether we live or die, our eternal future is guaranteed by Christ when He tells us... *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16 NKJ).* The ultimate act of God, after creating the heavens and the earth, was when He sent His Son to earth to live as a man, die on the cross for our sins, and then to raise Him from the dead that we might have this eternal life. So, when the winds, mountains, and the earth exhibit great power, we can know that it pales next to the power of God. Remember that He created them. Let your response to the ultimate act of God be to receive Jesus as your Savior, **Pastor Doug**