

Sermon Notes



When Mountains
Explode!

REFLECTIONS

5-16-2010



Reflections

May 18, 1980 was a profoundly amazing, and sobering, day. 30 years later many of us can still remember the power and awesome impact of the eruption of Mt. St. Helens. We can remember that the cloud of ash was a destructive force in and of itself in addition to the local devastation wrought by the explosions that emanated from the mountain as it released power that exceeded even man's most powerful weapons. Such major events, for which man has no solution or equal, are often declared to be "acts of God". God always gets credit for the destructive forces but no recognition as the Creator. Forests were leveled for many miles around the mountain and, floods and mud flows carved out new pathways into the Columbia River down the Toutle Valley, and searing hot winds took several lives as they roared out of the great eruption at several hundred miles per hour. To view the damage was to stand in awe at the tremendous power of the planet that God has designed as the dwelling place for His created ones.

As many scientists, particularly those who adhere to a naturalistic explanation for creation rather than the God of the Bible, are now viewing the area that was impacted a mere 30 years ago, and are seeing the same kinds of features for which they had declared, in other areas, to have happened only over periods of millions of years. Forests of trees stuck in the mud of the lakes created by the eruption appear to already be petrified. Even so they try to "spin" the evidence to make it fit their strange theories of beginnings and time. It makes one mindful of the Scripture when it tells us... *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, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man-- and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. (Romans 1:20-23 NKJ)*

History informs us that mountains larger and more powerful than Mt. St. Helens have exploded with incredible devastation and with global impact as clouds of ash flow with the winds. Even today the skies over Europe have been closed to air travel due to volcanic ash clouds that make jet travel hazardous. Why then do men try so hard to dismiss the creation claims of the God of the Bible? He has shown them His

awesome power by displaying it in the creation itself, yet still, He is rejected and replaced by fictional scenarios devised to try to embrace the evidence in front of their eyes as something without divine cause.

When mountains explode and the world trembles under their terrible release of energy, I am reminded that God is not to be trifled with. He is described in Scripture as a "consuming fire" ([Hebrews 12:29](#)) In the book of Job, God confronts Job regarding their relative positions. He asks some rhetorical questions that point out His sovereignty and reminds Job of his position as a mere creation of the sovereign God. [Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: ² "Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? ³ Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. ⁴ "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. ⁵ Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶ To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, ⁷ When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy? \(Job 38:1-7 NKJ\)...](#) God continues His questions as He challenges the very limited human thinking at work in the self-righteous talk of Job and his friends. Here the Creator clarifies for Job that He is God and that beside Him there is no other. He created and can tear down. He alone knows the times and epochs for creation and He alone can save and destroy, and that all humanity must face Him after their few short years on the Earth.

It seems that, for man, nothing has changed much in the hundreds of centuries since His conversation with Job. Man still pontificates about the beginnings and duration of the Earth and Universe as if he was there when it began. I am certain that God is no more impressed with the self-proclaimed wisdom of modern man than He was with Job and his friends. Men today still try to impress one another with their knowledge and "understanding" of the Universe. Stories have been invented to try and expunge the obvious work of God as mere products of chance and time. When one story is disproven by the evidence, a new one is made to try to accommodate the new discoveries. Man's "science" seems to be governed by the notion that if the facts do not support the story, they must be rejected in favor of a modified story.

Since the Garden of Eden, Satan has spread the same lie to the same type of gullible audience as was Eve. The lie then and now is that God is not truthful and He really isn't who He has declared Himself to be and He really wants to keep man ignorant and subject. If you begin to listen to this lie, remember when the mountain exploded and who was given credit then.

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