

# Westboro Baptist Church

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Religious Opinion & Bible Commentary on Current Events

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## Signs of the Times: Shining Bible Light on Current Events

The Lord has wrought many blessed judgments in the world this week which can be seen plainly by any who have been given eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to understand by the gracious hand of God. **“Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house.” (Ezekiel 12:2)** This entire world is a rebellious house! Therefore, the Lord, the God of Israel, is punishing the people of it! Let’s view some of this week’s judgments from the proper perspective:

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sunday, the Fuego volcano in Guatemala erupted forming “toxic landslides” and sending lava “careening downhill at speeds between 30 and 90 miles per hour.” The eruption has claimed 109 lives so far and left over 200 missing. Meanwhile in Hawaii, Kilauea continues to erupt, spewing toxic gases and creating 10 times the monthly average for seismic activity on the island. Of the over two dozen fissures erupting, fissure 8 continues to erupt explosively, “forcing fountains of lava 250 feet in the air” on occasion. This is a wonderful work of God and worthy of all praise. He is the master over all these matters, yet people think they are smarter than Him because they figured out a little about this powerful phenomenon. But God created it and can command it as He wills. The Lord’s great majesty and power can be seen in the creation in Genesis, as well as in His response to Job in chapters 38 and 39. There is none other like Him and He alone endures forever. **“The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine: as for the world and the fulness thereof, thou hast founded them. The north and the south thou hast created them: Tabor and Hermon shall rejoice in thy name. Thou hast a mighty arm: strong is thy hand, and high is thy right hand. Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.” (Psalm 89:11-14)**

The CDC released a report Thursday about the increase in suicide rates in the US. The report indicated that there has been a 30% rise in suicide rates since 1999 across all age groups, ethnicities, and economic backgrounds. Nearly 45,000 people committed suicide in 2016 alone, and it is continuing to get worse. One article stated “[t]hese findings are disturbing. Suicide is one of the top 10 causes of death in the US right now, and it’s one of three causes that is actually increasing... [The other two] are Alzheimer’s disease and drug overdoses...” To continue, the article notes that veterans accounted for about 18% of the adult suicides, but they only make 8.5% of the adult population. Furthermore, with the suicides of Kate Spade and Anthony Bourdain this week, many articles have come out about this topic. One of them states that “[why] each of them chose to end an existence that, to outsiders, seemed so idyllic and enviable is a mystery to people.” Well, if you consider how they lived their lives, the mystery evaporates. Bourdain was an atheist and had been divorced from two women and was in the middle of a relationship with another. Both Bourdain and Spade showed no indication that they had any fear of God or had humility and thanksgiving towards Him for His blessings towards them in this life. The conscience is a witness against us. Every human knows inherently the law of God and it condemns them. It is explained clearly throughout the book of Romans. If you read through the first chapter and continue through the first oracle in the second chapter, it gets straight to the point, ending with this: **“Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: For there is no respect of persons with God. For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;) In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.” (Romans 2:9-16)** Much like Judas Iscariot took his life upon seeing his own condemnation and knowing his sin, every person who finds themselves unthankful, uncharitable, discontented, and given to all manner of fleshly sins will be pricked in their heart and conscience. Some turn to alcohol or drugs in an attempt to quiet their spirits, while some end up taking their life. It is all an attempt to cure their ailing spirit within themselves through human sorceries instead of turning to the remedy provided by the Lord, which is to come unto Him and obey, for He is merciful and longsuffering and is the sole giver and source of peace. It is a sad state of affairs in this world, but the Lord will have mercy on whom He will, and it is all building up and leading to His final judgment.

Woe to you who have hardened your hearts against the Lord and His word. The destruction of this world is imminent; you must believe on Christ, repent of your sins, and seek the Lord with humility. **“For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon a desolation: they shall drive out Ashdod at the noon day, and Ekron shall be rooted up. Woe unto the inhabitants of the sea coast, the nation of the Cherethites! the word of the LORD is against you; O Canaan, the land of the Philistines, I will even destroy thee, that there shall be no inhabitant.” (Zephaniah 2:4-5)**

## Repent or Perish!