

# 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:

The Lord has wrought many wonderous works to glorify His name this week. Be thankful for your life for it is a mercy that you are given the chance to repent. The Lord gives the breath of life (**Genesis 2:7**) and you would do well to remember every night and every morning what King David prayed: **“I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me.” (Psalm 3:5)** If the Lord decides to no longer sustain you, that will be the end because **“none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?” (Daniel 4:34-37 & Job 9:1-13)**

On Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 20 people lost their lives after a limo “party” bus carrying 18 passengers crashed in Schoharie, New York also taking the lives of two pedestrians. This is one of the deadliest traffic accidents in the U.S. since 2009. One owner, Nauman Hussain, was arrested October 10<sup>th</sup> and charged with criminally negligent homicide because the vehicle had recently failed a safety inspection and the driver was inadequately licensed. The 18 passengers who died is like the following passage: **“Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:4-5)**

Forming on October 7<sup>th</sup> and making landfall October 10<sup>th</sup>, Hurricane Michael was one of the most powerful tropical cyclones to strike the U.S. on record. With winds reaching upwards of 155mph, this modest display of God’s power destroyed large swathes of the southern U.S. and Central America. Michael has claimed at least 32 lives, caused damages estimated to be in excess of eight billion dollars, and has left hundreds of thousands without power. **“I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. ... But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.” (Proverbs 1:20-33)** Therefore, humble yourselves before the Lord and seek His forgiveness with meekness and fear. **“If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.” (Psalm 130)** Fear God!

After a powerful June 3<sup>rd</sup> eruption that left 190 people dead and 235 missing, the Fuego volcano in Guatemala erupted again early Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. The eruption released a cloud of ash 3 miles into the sky and sent a 600-meter flow of lava down its slopes. The eruption was then followed by a 5.8-magnitude earthquake later that day. Thanks be to God for this event and that no lives were reported to have been lost! Give praise unto the Lord for your deliverance. **“I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works. I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High. ... The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.” (Psalm 9)** To “shew forth all thy marvelous works” means to remember and to number all the mercies the Lord has given you. But if you harden your hearts and forget God, you will meet the punishment that is due, which is death.

Also, this week, reports from the CDC revealed a rise in an illness known as acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) in the U.S., with 85 cases reported, of which 38 have been confirmed so far this year. AFM causes symptoms reminiscent of polio ranging anywhere from muscle weakness to complete paralysis. But, He who created our bodies can heal all things. Like the man whom Jesus made whole in the temple of his lame feet and commanded to take up his bed and walk, heed this warning: **“Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.” (John 5:1-16)**

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!