

Nepal, September 11 and deadly surprises

Surprises can be deadly. A devastating flood recently hit Nepal and China. A glacier collapse caused a massive flood that killed over 1,300 people and left more than 5,000 missing. The flood destroyed entire communities, including the border crossing between Nepal and China and caused over \$2.56 billion in damages. Rescue efforts are still underway, but the search area is divided into seven zones, with three remaining to be searched. A devastating flood hit the Grand Canyon on August 29, killing two people and leaving one missing. The flood was caused by heavy rainfall and compound climate extremes, sweep-

ing through Bright Angel Canyon and the Phantom Ranch area. It destroyed footbridges, trails and utilities, and damaged the Trans canyon waterline, causing stage 4 water restrictions. The South Rim of the park is still open, but with limited access to water. In July, 2025 a horrific Texas flood occurred. Heavy rainfall and a flash flood warning that came too late swept through a campsite in Texas, killing at least 120 people, with 160 still missing. The campsite Camp Mystic, lost 27 campers and counselors. Hurricane Katrina was a category 3 storm that made landfall off the Louisiana coast on August 29, 2005 with maximum sustained wind speeds of

120 miles per hour. An estimated 1,200 people died as a direct result of the storm, which also cost an estimated \$108 billion in property damage making it the costliest hurricane on record. These events were surprising and deadly. Who could have imagined such tragedies? These people were shockingly surprised. Surprises can happen to any of us at any time. It's almost impossible to always be on guard. We can travel and live with a cautious attitude but weather conditions can rapidly change. Events can happen in our daily travel routine whether we are driving,

flying or just going to the office. Such was the day of September 11, 2001. Hundreds of people had booked airplane tickets for a day of routine air travel that ended up being their last life's event. People in the World Trade Towers had reported in to carry out their daily work assignments, but it would be their last day of life. Officials at the Pentagon had shown up for a routine day of service. Terrorist hijackers of four planes successfully carried their surprise mission of death to over 3000 people. Their planning to hijack our planes and carry out their mission was successful. Most of us remember where we

were that day and the terror of that day. Just last week a demented woman with a knife took the life of another woman in Times Square in New York City. The demented woman was shot by police and killed but her surprise attack injured one woman while killing another. So often, it is the surprises that we can't handle. A motorist who is drinking intoxicated. The surprise medical report. A financial surprise that drains us and many more. Typically, if we know, we can handle the situation. We can move to higher ground, or take shelter. We can try to avoid bad people if we know where they are and what they are up to. We can seek medical care if

we have advanced information. What brings us the most grief is when we are surprised. May we all remember the families impacted by these deadly events. May we be very aware that we are not immune to such events and live our lives prayerfully and as intuitively as possible. Dr. Glenn Mollette is the author of 15 books. He is a graduate of Georgetown College, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville Kentucky, Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, Kentucky, and is the founder of Newburgh Theological Seminary, Newburgh, Indiana. His column is published in over 600 media outlets nationally.



GLENN MOLLETTE

They should have read the Bible

Van Yandell

In the early 1840's, a Hungarian doctor named Ignaz Semmelweis made a discovery. A doctor had performed an autopsy. Then he went directly to the delivery room and delivered a baby. Soon after the delivery, the mother died. Semmelweis determined the doctors hands were covered in a substance that caused the mother's death and insisted doctors wash their hands

often and with a cleansing agent. He presented evidence their hands were transferring "cadaverous particles," which we now call bacteria to the mother and baby. As a result of his assertion and subsequent practice of extensive hand washing by physicians, the death rates of maternity clinics dropped significantly from eighteen percent down to one to two percent. In 1847 Semmelweis demanded doctors wash

their hands in a chlorinated lime solution before being in physical contact with patients. Had they read the Bible, they would have known God knew, and published in Leviticus, the necessity of washing hands under running water. This simple action could have saved many; written over three-thousand years before their actions of ignorance killed the first mother and baby. Leviticus 15: 13 "And

when he that hath an issue is cleansed of his issue; then he shall number to himself seven days for his cleansing, and wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in running water, and shall be clean." Washing hands in running water is now a common practice in operating rooms around the world. Washing in a pot of still water only circulates and redistributes the germs. Microorganisms were first seen under hand-made microscopes in the 1670's. Connecting them to diseases did not occur until the 1860's when numerous experiments proved the connection. By surgeons knowing to thoroughly wash their hands, many lives were saved that may have otherwise died a horrible death. The Bible also teaches quarantine which is another disease preventing measure. Leviticus 13: 46 "All the days wherein the plague shall be in him he shall be defiled; he is unclean: he shall dwell alone; without the camp shall his habitation be."

scriptures. People mostly believed before 500 years ago the earth was flat and was stationary in space. Job 26: 7 "He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing." Obviously, God knew and the writer of Job realized the earth is constantly spinning and in an orbital path around our star (the sun). Those movements keep us in orbit and keep us from falling into the sun. Isaiah 40: 22 "It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in."

absurdity. Conventional wisdom is many times not wisdom at all. Generational handed-down information is also, at times, inaccurate. Always read the scriptures to know what God says. Prior to the placing of the space telescopes by NASA (Hubble 1990 and James Webb 2021), some astronomers claimed that someday, they would chart and name the stars. Jeremiah 33: 22a "As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured." God and Jeremiah told us 2700 years ago there were so many stars they could not be counted; astronomers are now in agreement, that is correct! With the space telescopes we are now told there are billions of galaxies, most of those having billions of stars. Counting the stars in the heavens would be like trying to count the grains of sand on all the world's beaches. When we come to the understanding that God knows more than we do, then we can come to grip with the truth of the scriptures. Several have been credited with the statement "If one knows a little about the Bible he is an atheist; if he knows a lot about the Bible he is a believer in God." God told us about the currents in the seas (Psalm 8: 8), proper nutrition (Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14), photosynthesis (Genesis 1: 1-3) and many other science related topics. Whereas we understand God gave us tremendous information thousands of years ago that no man could have known, perhaps we should listen when He tells us about His Christ being the Savior of the world! The Bible teaches there is only one eternal salvation. That is by a faith based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) that Christ Jesus was crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (Romans 4: 25), resurrected (Matthew 28: 6) and ascended alive into Heaven (Acts 1: 9). Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and missionary. His email is vmy3451@gmail.com



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