

## Something's Coming

Many Pacific Northwesterners remember today's date, May 18<sup>th</sup>, as the day in 1980 that long-dormant Mt. St. Helens blew its top. The mountain had been rumbling for weeks, and an ominous bulge was growing on the north face – warning signs that gave adequate time for an evacuation. Unfortunately, the experts couldn't predict exactly when the inevitable eruption would come or how big it would be. Over 50 people died in the blast – many because the area in danger was underestimated, but others because they stubbornly refused to heed the warnings. Which reminds me of these two passages:

*In the last days, scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is the 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word... and by water... the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the Day of Judgment and destruction of ungodly men. (2 Peter 3:3-7)*

*...the Lord[<sup>s</sup> return] will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly... and they will not escape. But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you... You are sons of the light and sons of the day... So then, let us... be alert and self-controlled... putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-9)*

Unlike man, God knows all and always speaks the truth, so we can be sure His foretelling of the future is accurate. He doesn't say when, but destruction is indeed coming. Since God doesn't want us to perish, however, He also gives us accurate information about where we can be safe from that destruction: only in Jesus. Will you take God at His word? Will you listen to His warning and flee to safety while there's still time?

It may be tempting to think, like the scoffers, that there's no danger. "Where is this judgement you speak of? Everything goes on just as it always has." It's tempting to think that because we've never witnessed a major divine judgement, it can't happen. Won't happen. Don't make that fatal error. Be alert and prepared. Put on the protection of faith, love, and salvation in Christ. Remember, none of the people alive in 1980 had ever seen Mt. St. Helens erupt before either.

S. Johnson