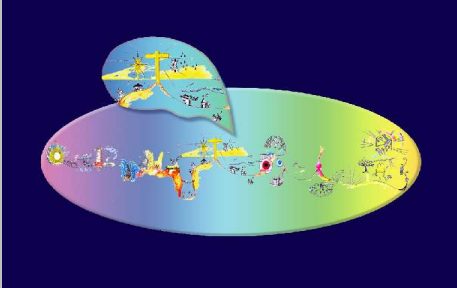


平成17年10月 月報
フルダ・ミニストリー

一主に在る
としえの集い

OCTOBER 2005

NO 120



Eternal Fellowship News Bulletin

We believe in one GOD, in three persons; FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT. We regard the Bible (both Hebrew Bible and New Testaments) as the only infallible authoritative WORD OF GOD.

HULDAH MINISTRY aims to return to the Word Of God, founded on Hebrew background and to interpret it from Hebraic perspective, acknowledging that Jesus is a Jew and the Jewish-ness of His teaching as a continuation from the Hebrew Bible. The Ministry also aims to put His teaching into practice, to have a closer relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ, and to regularly have a Christian fellowship so that this-worldly kingdom of God will materialise in the midst of the followers of Jesus here and now, as well as earnestly seeking Christ's Return to establish the otherworldly Kingdom of God on earth.

All activities are free of charge and no obligation whatever. Just enjoy our fellowship!

www.huldahministry.com
information@huldahministry.com



HULDAH MINISTRY

LETTER TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

[HURRICANE KATRINA]

The LORD said to me, "Take a large scroll and write on it with an ordinary pen: Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz. And I will call in Uriaah the priest and Zechariah son of Jeberekiah as reliable witness for me." Then I went to the prophethess, and she conceived and gave birth to a son. And the LORD said to me, "Name him Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz. Before the boy knows how to say 'My father' or 'My mother,' the wealth of Damascus and the plunder of Samaria will be carried off by the king of Assyria." The LORD spoke to me again: "Because this people has rejected the gently flowing waters of Shiloah and rejoices over Rezin and the son of Remaliah, therefore the Lord is about to bring against them the mighty floodwaters of the River — the king of Assyria with all his pomp. It will overflow all its channels, run over all its banks and sweep on into Judah, swirling over it, passing through it and reaching up to the neck. Its outspread wings will cover the breadth of your land, O Immanuel!"

Raise the war cry, you nations,...Devise your strategy, but it will be thwarted; propose your plan, but it will not stand, for God is with us.

ISAIAH 8:1-10. Lines added.

The Lord has sent a message against Jacob; it will fall on Israel. All the people will know it —Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria —who say with pride and arrogance of heart, The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with dressed stone; the fig-trees have been felled, but we will replace them with cedars." But the LORD had strengthened Rezin's foes against them and has spurred their enemies on. Arameans from the east and Philistines from the west have devoured Israel with open mouth. Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away, his hand is still upraised.

But the people have not returned to him who struck them, nor have they sought the LORD Almighty. So the LORD will cut off from Israel both head and tail, both palm branch and reed in a single day, the elders and

prominent men are the head, the prophets who teach lies are the tail. Those who guide this people mislead them, and those who are guided are led astray. Therefore the Lord will take no pleasure in the young men, nor will he pity the fatherless and widows, for everyone is ungodly and wicked, every mouth speaks vileness. Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away, his hand is still upraised.

Surely wickedness burns like a fire; it consumes briars and thrones, it sets the forest thickets ablaze, so that it rolls upward in a column of smoke. By the wrath of the LORD Almighty the land will be scorched and the people will be fuel for the fire; no-one will spare his brother. On the right they will devour, but still be hungry; on the left they will eat, but not be satisfied. Each will feed on the flesh of his own offspring: Manasseh will feed on Ephraim, and Ephraim on Manasseh; together they will turn against Judah. Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away, his hand is still upraised.

ISAIAH 9:8~21.

Hurricane Katrina struck the US Gulf Coast on Monday 29th August and ruined much of southern Louisiana and Mississippi on an unbelievably massive scale. This catastrophe has not been caused by terrorists nor Islamic extremists but by God Himself. Tracing the course of the Hurricane, it gives an undeniable impression that this particular Hurricane wilfully targeted the city of New Orleans, even by abruptly changing its direction on its way to the north, off shore of Florida Peninsula on the day. What is the Lord speaking to us through this natural disaster? The Word of God popped into my mind: *‘The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with dressed stone...’* (Is.9:10), and *‘Yet for all this, (God’s) anger is not turned away, his hand is still upraised’* (four times repeated in Is.9 & 10). What we witnessed on the TV screen was the stern fact that the most civilised country in the world was utterly devastated and remained helpless against a furious power of nature, which relentlessly and amazingly swiftly turned the city’s once elegant and lively streets into flooded canals, once a part of the levee (the six feet below sea level city’s only defence and the last aid to depend on) was broken. It was the very recurrence of the nightmare of that Indonesian Earthquake and Tsunami. Astonishingly, the Hurricane is reported to have generated in an hour the same amount of power that the US uses in a year and as a result its power has left seven million people without electricity, food, water and swift aid for a few days. Widespread looting and plundering followed, exposing an ugly facet of human depravity and inside the city’s Superdome stadium where the region’s poor had evacuated turned out to be hell-like refuge according to a handful of the “internationals,” i.e., the stranded tourists in the stadium, the majority of whom were backpackers. Fortunately, they were rescued in the early stage of the ordeal by the US Army. It was reported that the atmosphere created by chaos and lawlessness following Hurricane Katrina, particularly intimidated the minority among the desperate and resentful locals. Some of the locals descended into more and more craze, scepticism and aggression and many of the weak and helpless were sexually harassed as the physical conditions inside the stadium became worse and unbearable; stiflingly hot, horribly filthy and smelly mixed with sweat, faeces and urine. The terrible situation inside the stadium was beyond description while outside, raging rain and wind were devastating the land.

Regarding the tragedy, generally speaking, the media was harshly critical. Pointing to “global warning”, some defiantly declared that the US was reaping the consequences of their failure to sign up to the Kyoto Protocol. Others criticised “heading to Louisiana to see the devastation that his (President Bush) environmental policies and his killing policies have caused.” A correspondent in Channel 4 News said: “How ironic that the world’s No.1 polluter is now reaping the ‘rewards’ that so many have warned would flow.” Others also comment, ‘Why was one of America’s most densely populated areas left so vulnerable for so long to such a predictable disaster?’ ‘The Government has allowed the city to sink into desperation and lawlessness.’ Such an exposed reality in New Orleans that the tragedy disproportionately and almost exclusively afflicted the city’s African-Americans was pointed out as something of a serious disparity, the very nature of American society, provoking “a fresh controversy about race and class inequality.”

(primarily quoted and composed out of the article by Gerard Baker in The Times p.21 on 2nd September '05).

All these views above are that which were observed from man's point of view. However, from God's view point, what is the Lord speaking through all these disasters? Before examining it according to Isaiah's relevant prophecies quoted at the beginning of this letter, another reference concerning the nature of the city New Orleans is worth being quoted from the article by Ben Macintyre (The Times p.20 on 2nd September '05). Ben Macintyre describes New Orleans as a place apart from America, exceptionally only along with New York, where the normal rules do not apply. This racially mixed city with white, black, French, English, Spanish, Irish, German, and African was 'the first place where slaves could freely sing and dance and practise voodoo while African culture was outlawed across the South', and it became 'a haven of African spirituality, from which jazz, the blues and Louis Armstrong would emerge.' 'People who don't fit with the rest of America gravitate here. "This city is the flagrant vice capital of the civilised world," ... "This city is famous for its gamblers, prostitutes, exhibitionists, anti-Christians, alcoholics, sodomites, drug addicts, fetishists, onanists, pornographers, frauds, jades, litterbugs, and lesbians, all of whom are only too well protected by graft." No doubt, even now, some Bible-thumpers will be hailing divine retribution for decades of decadence, as Sodom-by-Sea is swamped.' Is it too severe to identify what is illustrated here with a present day '**Babylon**,' which the Bible calls '*a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird*' and whose moment of destruction the Bible predicts: '*In one hour she has been brought to ruin*' (Re.18)?

It is a biblical principle that God uses both natural disasters and man-made disasters including war, civil strife, slavery, exile, conspiracy, exploitation, deception, persecution and so on to give a warning. In the days of Ahaz, king of Judah, the prophet Isaiah was called by the Lord to write words, '***Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz***' meaning "swiftly looted and easily plundered," which suggested an impending judgment, on a scroll. When Isaiah's probably second wife gave birth to a son after his first wife died [after the first wife bore the son named, '***Shear-Jashub***' meaning "a remnant will return," which suggested the returning of Judah's remnant to God (Is.7:3)], the Lord ordered Isaiah to call the boy by such a name that bore the Lord's prophetic words of impending judgment upon Aram (Syria) [whose capital city was Damascus and whose king was Rezin], and Ephraim (Israel) [whose capital city was Samaria and whose king was Remaliah's son, Pekah]. The super power of the then Middle East was the king of Assyria and he, as the Lord's agent, i.e., 'the rod of God's anger' would attack those two countries; Aram and Ephraim as if the mighty floodwaters of the River Euphrates were overflowing all its channels and running over all its banks. The reason why the Lord determined to sweep away those kingdoms by Assyria lay in the fact that the people of Israel '***rejected the gently flowing waters of Shiloah***,' in other words, they did not rely on God of Israel the true and the source of all power, who dwelled in Shiloah, i.e., Jerusalem, but they put their trust in a mere pagan king Rezin. This rushing power of the floodwaters would reach the adjoining kingdom Judah, almost completely swirling over it, so that Judah would scarcely be saved. Why? Because '***O Immanuel (God is with us)!***' Even if the enemy's power like rushing waters were to swiftly spread over the breadth of the land of Judah, as likened to the swiftness of the eagle, Judah would endure '***for God is with (her).***'

Isaiah, who delivered God's Word to Judah as warnings was never welcomed by the people of Judah. They, who had deliberately rejected the Lord and who in their depravity, had been willing to '***consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter,***' i.e., to '***consult the dead on behalf of the living,***' instead of turning to '***the law and to the testimony***' (Is.8:19-20), called Isaiah's prophetic message from God '***conspiracy.***' In the perilous days when he lived,

Isaiah, his own children and his disciples, i.e., his school of prophets who were called to preserve Isaiah's teaching and testimony on scrolls until the time of its fulfilment, were a very minority group of people, insulted and virtually surrounded by enemies of their own country-men on all sides. Under such a situation, the Lord encouraged very depressed Isaiah by placing His mighty hand upon him and He admonished him never to follow the way of the godless worldly people however fashionable and popular it might have been. Responding to his firm confession: ***'I will wait for the LORD, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob. I will put my trust in him,'*** the Lord declared that those who would not heed the Lord's Word would ***'have no light of dawn,'*** and would only descend to deep distress (Is.8). This is followed by prophecies starting at the beginning of Isaiah 9:1, which is one of the messianic promises, that the northern border lands of Israel, Zebulun and Naphtali, i.e., Nazareth and Galilee which suffered repeated attacks by the enemy would be honoured by the promised Messiah's appearance and His ministry in the region. The anointed king, Messiah would be called: ***'Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace'*** and His ministry would be extended to the Gentiles as a ***'light for the Gentiles.'*** Despite Judah's unfaithfulness to the Lord at that time, to say nothing of the rebellion of Ephraim, it was God's loving heart that He shared with the prophet Isaiah: He would send the Messiah as a Davidic king to reign over His kingdom with justice and righteousness for ever and that the ***'zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.'*** This prophecy was actually and partially fulfilled by Jesus Christ in His first coming and yet still awaits the consummation in His second coming.

Having given wonderful future promises, God returned to the reality of Ephraim, the northern kingdom of Israel and started pointing out four of their serious problems, which begin in 9:8 and end in 10:4, the first three of which were addressed to Ephraim. God's first message given to Judah, the southern kingdom, was His denouncement of the people of Ephraim against their ***"pride."*** The inhabitants of the capital city of Ephraim, Samaria should have been alarmed by the Lord's initial sign of warning revealed through natural disasters when bricks fell down and fig trees were felled. However, they failed to repent and not only did they ignore all the signs, but also they boasted of their power and ability to replace them with much better and even best ones. Their pride and arrogance made the Lord very indignant and hence, he would spur their enemy Assyria to destroy them.

The second message given to Judah through Isaiah was His denouncement of Ephraim against her ***"wickedness."*** God's punishment did not wake them up and they failed to seek after Him. Hence, He would remove ***'both head and tail, both palm branch and reed in a single day,'*** i.e., all the prominent leaders, the soothsayers and false prophets, because they were responsible for misleading and leading their people astray. The removal of the wicked leaders would, however, only expose more wickedness of the afflicted under the oppression of such tyrannical leaders. Consequently, overwhelming lawlessness filled the whole land and the Lord would just let the ungodly descend to even more wickedness and vileness.

The third message was against ***"discord and division"*** within the society, community, and family. The depravity of man's nature would come to dominate every realm of man's life among the unrepentant and the ungodly if they never returned to the Lord and His Word. The love of everyone would grow cold and no-one would get concerned about others, instead, selfishness and self-centred greed would just go on growing. Man-made disasters along with natural disasters would result in people devouring each other and wickedness would burn like a fire and roll upward in a column of smoke from among them because the wrath of God will allow the land inhabited by the wicked to be scorched.

'Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away, his hand is still upraised' and the fourth message against ***"injustice"*** (10:1-4) follows. But this fourth one is addressed not to

Ephraim but to Judah. If Judah will not wake up and return to the Lord, both Manasseh and Ephraim (the whole northern kingdom of Israel which had already begun to decline) will together attack Judah. This was a part of the third message of judgment. Now the Lord speaks to Judah so that she should turn to Him, by casting a question: *‘What will you do on the day of reckoning, when disaster comes from afar? To whom will you run for help? Where will you leave your riches?’* The reason the Lord had to address Judah with warnings was because their leaders were not observing God’s law at all and because they had been doing whatever their selfish minds desired, i.e., they made unjust laws, issued oppressive decrees, deprived the poor of their rights, withheld justice from the oppressed of God’s people, made widows their prey, robbed the fatherless and so on. All these meant that their spiritual decline had already been progressing despite outward prosperity and their seemingly organised social structure. However, this was soon to be followed by social, political, and economic decline. If they dismiss the first warning sign of depravity which first appears in the spiritual realm or the first warning sign through natural and man-made disasters, even Judah will be destroyed by the Lord’s anger. The day of judgment will without doubt fall upon all the unrepentant and the ungodly. A train of signs were God’s loving warning to try to save Judah before it became too late.

Isaiah’s message, though it was addressed to the ancient Israel, is yet very relevant to each of us living in these wicked and perilous days. What is globally happening now is all God’s cause as examined above. God’s wrath has been simmering against our rejection of both taking heed to Him and of changing our rebellious and selfish attitudes with repentance. All the kingdoms on earth are guilty, from the rich to the poor, from one race to the other, from the leader to the oppressed, from the righteous to the criminal and all worth destruction unless each individual repents.

NEWS-NEWS-NEWS-NEWS-NEWS-NEWS-NEWS-NEWS-NEWS-NEWS-NEWS-NEWS

This month a money gift of £**** has been sent to MARY JANE in the Philippines. Also, a money gift of £**** has been sent to FREDERIC in Burundi to support his ministry for salvation of his countrymen, Burundians and also for refugees in Tanzania. Both devote themselves to reaching the unreached and delivering the Word of God to the untaught. Pray for the Lord’s assured guidance and protection upon both of them, their co-workers and their ministries so that His salvation will work out through them especially where Christ is not known yet. FREDERIC’s fifth child is due in December. His wife and whole family who have been left behind still in Kenya are moving to Burundi to join him and their eldest daughter there in December. Pray for the Lord’s blessing and protection upon them, especially for his wife and the coming baby.