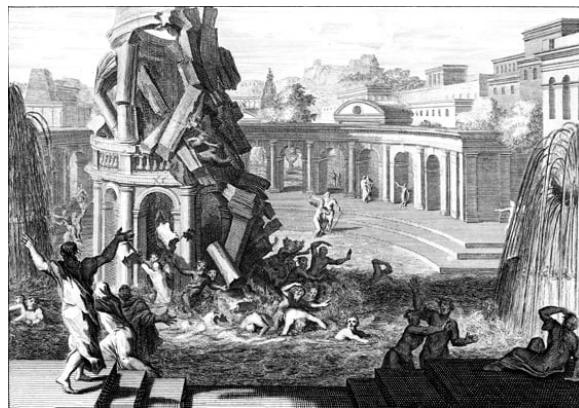


Lessons From Tragic Events Involving Multiple Deaths

Luke 13:1-5



Our Lord mentioned two tragic events that His listeners were familiar with. The first involved people dying a horrible death due to the actions of Pilate and those under his authority: “The Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled (mixed) with their sacrifices” (Luke 13:1). This was a massacre by Pilate who slayed Galilean Jews who were offering sacrifices. The second event could be described as an accident, resulting in the deaths of 18 people. It happened because a tower fell in Jerusalem. We can think of similar events which we are familiar with: The Titanic (1517 dead), the Johnstown Flood (2209 dead), the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11 (about 3000 dead), Pearl Harbor (2403 dead), the Oct. 7, 2023 Hamas attack in Israel (1,219 dead), the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004 (230,000 or more dead), the USS Arizona (1177 dead), etc.

Did these people die because they were more sinful than other people? The Lord Jesus answers this with an emphatic “NO”—“**Nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish**” (Luke 13:3,5). When we think about such tragic events resulting in physical death, it should be a reminder to us that we are all in great danger. We are all going to die sometime in the not-too-distant future, whether it be by murder, by disease, by car accident, by a tornado or by dying peacefully in bed.

What is even worse than physical death is the fact that **we are all going to perish** and be lost forever, **unless we repent!** Thankfully we can turn to the living God, repent, and recognize our sinfulness. If we believe in Christ, we will not perish, but we will have everlasting life (John 3:16). Dear friend, is all well with your soul? Are you resting totally on the Person, Word and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ, God’s only Saviour?

George Zeller, www.middletownbiblechurch.org

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