

Katrina Moments ...Then & Now

Katrina – 20 Years Later

August 31, 2025

How lonely sits the city that was full of people!
How like a widow has she become, she who was great among the nations!
She who was a princess among the provinces has become a slave.
She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks;
among all her lovers she has none to comfort her;
all her friends have dealt treacherously with her; they have become her enemies.
The roads to Zion mourn, for none come to the festival;
all her gates are desolate; her priests groan;
her virgins have been afflicted, and she herself suffers bitterly.
From the daughter of Zion all her majesty has departed.
Her princes have become like deer that find no pasture;
they fled without strength before the pursuer.
Jerusalem remembers in the days of her affliction and wandering
all the precious things that were hers from days of old.
When her people fell into the hand of the foe, and there was none to help her,
her foes gloated over her; they mocked at her downfall.
All her people groan as they search for bread;
they trade their treasures for food to revive their strength.
“Look, O LORD, and see, for I am despised.”
“Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,

Remembering Unique Moments...

...Today, I want to accomplish a few things with this message:

- (1) I want to remember the works of God from 20 years ago (Ps 145:4 *One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.*
- (2) I want to invite the voice/message of the Prophets to bring commentary to that day, when we were "Having a Moment"!
- (3) I want to Awaken us (Class of 2025) to be prepared to Live In OUR MOMENT!

CHAPTER: "You Take Your Theology into These Katrina Moments"

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." **A.W. Tozer**

Theologically ...this is a "L.U.T.S." MOMENT

Mark 13:7-8 ⁷ And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.

Rom 8:18-22 ¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of

God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

... ***These Horrible, Tragic Moments must FIRST Find a Theological Touchpoint!*** ...in the midst of the heartache, the bitter suffering, the confusing emotions—I Will NEED "The Ministry of the Word"!!

- God's Great Plan/Purpose IS Unfolding! PLAN = Creation ...Fall ...Redemption ...RESTORATION!
- We have seen the "INAUGURATION of REDEMPTION" (The Christ!) ...but God has also explained that we have "Not Yet" arrived at Full Restoration!
- Between the Cross ...&... the Consummation ...we are to understand our lives "Theologically" —Matt 13, Rom 8!

1Pet 4:12-13, 19 ¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ...¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

CHAPTER: "The History of LCC ...on the Way to Our Katrina Moment"

...1997 ...a Change in Leadership

...1998-2005 ...Clarifying a Unified Vision (Doctrinally & Practically)

- 1997, 1999 ...Frame a Pulpit Series on the Vision of the Church - "**Growing, Together for the Glory of God**"
 - **["GLORY"]** A people who's life priorities, life experiences, and life explanations would be located under the Biblical Priority that—"All things exist for the glory of God"

There are "good" things, "tragic" things, "delayed" things, "hard" things, "death" of things, "rewarding" things, "adventurous" things, "new" things, "unpreferred" things ...that ALL exist for the "Glory of God"!!

Lam 1:1 ... "How lonely sits the city that was full of people!..."

??—Where is My "Theological Footing" in that moment?? ...Is this simply "BAD LUCK" ...
"Bad Karma" ...to big a Carbon Footprint from Fossil Fuels!! ...Suffering with NO
Explanation!

Lam 1:12 "Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which was brought upon me, which the LORD inflicted on the day of his fierce anger."

Lam 3:37-38 ³⁷ Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it? ³⁸ Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come?

Amos 3:6 Is a trumpet blown in a city, and the people are not afraid? Does disaster come to a city, unless the LORD has done it?

Isaiah 45:4-7 ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me.

⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me,

⁶ that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other.

⁷ I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the LORD, who does all these things.

- **["GROWING"]** We recognized the normative pattern of God's engagement of our lives was "transformative discipleship"

2 **Cor 3:18** And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

2 **Cor 4:17-18** ¹⁷ For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Rom 5:3-4 ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,

- **["TOGETHER"]** We recognized the centrality of God's method/means was the local church 'body'.
- 1999-2001 ...studied and prayed through the way we approached fellowship and evangelism. ...Launched "CG Ministry" ...Launched Alpha
- 2000-2005 ... among the Expository emphasis in that time would be: Romans ...1Peter
- 1997 - 2005 ...church would just about triple in size
- 2005 (July) ...LCC officially become a SG church
- 2005 (Aug) ...Katrina!

CHAPTER: "The Terrible Pause, the Great Scattering, and the Long List of Questions"

- A Prayer Meeting in Houston!
- Our First Regathering! (Keith & Gina's house in Destrehan)
- A Little Church in Boutte ...Kenner 1st Baptist Church (on Saturdays) ...1st Assembly of God (Saturdays) + Palace Theater Clearview (Sunday AM)
- Nov 2008!!

CHAPTER: "Is There a Future?"

...Will the City Return ...or will it relocate to the suburbs and seek higher ground? ...Do we stay and rebuild in a location that we had outgrown? ...or do we move farther out?

...What was God wanting us to build if we stayed?

...A People with Faith & Practice for that moment!

CHAPTER: "The THEN & NOW of Katrina-Moments"

The Purpose of God—for Jerusalem

Lam 1:1 How lonely sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow has she become, she who was great among the nations! She who was a princess among the provinces has become a slave.

...This “Katrina/Jerusalem-MOMENT” had all the features we’ve talked about today! ...the questions, the chaos, the uncertainties...

...But GOD has a Purpose—BEYOND THESE MOMENTS!

Acts 13:26-33 ...600 years later—Jerusalem would be the “Stage” upon which God would Accomplish His Great Salvation for Man!!

...Lesson! ...there are Moments that may feel permanent, defining, and the final word!—but the “Forces” in those Moments DON’T Get to Write the Script of Our Lives! The Sovereign Lord Does!

Acts 13:34-39

...v. 38-39 ...Our Lives Pass Through these “Katrina/Jerusalem-Moments” ...But There is a Grand Purpose of God that is “Running in the Background”—ALL THE TIME during our “L.U.T.S.”!!

...v. 36 “For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers...”

...David's generation and the purpose he served existed 500 years before Lamentations!

...Our generation and the purpose we will serve sits now 20 Years After Katrina!

...LCC Class of 2025 ...What Purpose Does God Have in Our Once “Lonely City” that seemed to be at a “Dead End”??