

## A TALE OF THE TWO FINGERS OF GOD

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This is not a tale of two cities, but a story concerning the “Finger of God” (Exodus 8:19; Luke 11:20). The Bible uses pictorial language to help us understand things that are beyond the time space world, in which we live, to convey Biblical truths and principles to us, for our understanding and admonition. Such are the two tales that herewith are recounted. Both are true.

The first story reveals the judgment of God, on the sinful behaviors of people who call themselves Christian, but are behaving outside the principles of the Bible, and thereby incurring the wrath of God. In July 2009, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, held its annual convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The central issue of the assembled delegates was to consider affirming homosexual behavior among its clergy. A Christian businessman who is a friend of mine, relegated to a Christian businessman friend of his, the responsibility to set up tables and umbrellas outside the downtown Lutheran church where the sessions were being held, in order to feed the delegates. As this man was setting up the tables and umbrellas, he asked God to bring condemnation on the whole proceedings. The next day, a tornado went through the city, only instead of it being a wide swath, as tornados usually do, it was pinpointed within a short space on the Lutheran Church, destroying the steeple and turning the cross on top of the steeple upside down, swaying back and forth, as well as destroying the tables and umbrellas on the pavement outside the Church. Nothing much else was damaged surrounding the Church.

Was this the “Finger of God” sending a message to assembled delegates, Pastors, and Bishops of the Lutheran denomination? Was this God’s condemnation on the passage of their declaration to ordain and accept homosexual behavior of their clergy (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26,27; 1 Corinthians 6:9), as is plainly stated in Scripture, that this is an abomination against a holy God?

The second story reveals the love and grace of God to all mankind. Since the Bible plainly states that God never created any person to go to Hell, but conversely Jesus Christ came to provide salvation from judgment to all mankind ( John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4), this story not only tells a tale of one man coming to salvation in Christ, but of the magnificence of God’s operating power to bring many factors into play, in making it become a reality.

Our story begins, from a human perspective (God had it all choreographed long ago for this man’s salvation, even though he did not realize or know it), with a Christian friend of mine (the same Christian

businessman who told me the scenario of the first story) who was recently speaking at an evangelistic series in a small community North of Minneapolis, Minn. After the evening service the speaker went to the local hotel for the night. As he checked in, he spoke with the lady at the counter, who was the night clerk. My friend went to bed, but around three in the morning, God woke him up, and told him to go down and witness to the night clerk. He dressed and went down to witness to her. But the person he saw was a man. He asked him where the lady night clerk was, and was told that she became sick, and he was taking her place. The man told my friend that he was the owner of the Hotel. As they were chatting, the owner brought out a current ASK newsletter that he had just received in the mail. The article was entitled, "Is The End Coming Soon?" The owner had been reading it, and it stirred within him a desire to know more concerning the soon return of the Lord. He asked my friend, "Do you know Dr. Stoll?", and my friend replied, "He is a good friend of mine". The owner also told my friend that I had counseled he and his wife, in our clinic in Minneapolis, many years ago, and as a result he was on our mailing list to receive our quarterly newsletter. As a result, my friend led this Hotel owner to the Lord.

But there is another element to this whole scenario, to which no one can ascribe it all to luck, or chance. Our ASK organization has published our quarterly newsletter for over 30 years. In all those years, it has been mailed out on December 1, March 1, June 1, and September 1. The issue the clerk had been reading was supposed to have been mailed December one, but for some unknown slip, the issue was mailed the middle of October. It was in the hands of the Hotel owner many weeks before it should have been mailed. Did God, who foresees everything, have a hand in seeing that this issue of our newsletter was mailed early, so that the Hotel owner who read it, was witnessed to by my friend, who led him to the Lord? Did God use the contents of the article to awaken his need for Jesus Christ, so when my friend approached him with his need of a Savior, he was ready to accept? Coincidence, or divine providence? The Bible states that "All things work together for good" (Romans 8:28), and I believe this story is living proof that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all accept Him as Savior and Lord of their life. From the many Biblical stories, we know of a certainty that God controls and directs the destiny of all mankind, and though He has granted each person a will of his own, and many refuse to acknowledge Jesus Christ, yet God in His omniscience, knows who will receive His Son, Jesus Christ, does direct in the affairs on mankind, to work things out for our eternal good, and His honor and glory. What a remarkable story, undoubtedly duplicated in various ways, many times, over many years. All glory and honor to our loving Heavenly Father.