



When the Restrainer is Gone, Watch Out!

2 Thessalonians 2:1-13

The Johnstown Flood (1889) was one of the most tragic events in American history. There were 2209 deaths, almost 700 more than died on the Titanic. The South Fork Dam was the product of poor engineering. The 3.8 billion gallons of water were restrained by this dam so that

mostly rich people could enjoy fishing and boating on Lake Conemaugh. Then it happened. Days of heavy rain caused the dam to fail. The restraint was removed, and the entire lake emptied into a mountain ravine with a force that was able to carry trees and railroad cars. The wall of water was 35 feet high, traveling at 40 miles per hour heading for Johnstown about 14 miles away. The people had little warning and little time to evacuate. They perished.

Today the forces of evil are being restrained by God Himself who dwells in His Church. Evil is rampant in our day; but not as bad as it could be, and not as terrible as it will be.

God tells us that the day is coming when the Restrainer will be removed, and the dam will break: “And now ye know what withholdeth (*what restrains* or *holds back*) that he [the man of sin] might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity (*lawlessness*) doth already work: only He [the Holy Spirit] who now letteth (*restrains*) will let (*restrain*) until He be taken out of the way” (*2 Thess. 2:6-7*).

Believers are the salt of the earth. We do not eliminate societal corruption, but we may hinder it and slow it down. When the Holy Spirit-indwelt Church is removed by rapture, the forces of lawlessness will be fully unleashed. Antichrist will be revealed and woe to the earth dwellers!

May we be salt in the midst of corruption and light in the midst of great darkness (*Matt. 5:13-16*)!

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org



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