



From Tsunami to Hurricane

— Thomas Wang

"Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said, 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.' In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong." -Job 1: 20-22

Shortly after Christmas 2004, a huge tsunami devastated in Indonesia, Thailand, and other nearby places, took more than ten thousand lives and left a world in shock. Eight months later, the southern coastal area of America suffered an unprecedented loss from hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

From the news media, we saw peoples' various reactions. Some murmured complaints, some blamed the governments for their slow rescue, some alleged racial discrimination, and some considered both the tsunami and the hurricane to be God's judgement on sinful human societies.

These opinions and reactions led me to think of Job, who had suffered even greater personal losses. Within a single day, he lost his oxen, servants, sheep, camels, and all of his children! But Job's reaction was so different. To begin with, he did not show any intention of vengeance towards the Sabeans and the Chaldeans, nor did he complained to God about the consuming fire from heaven and the great storm. Job's attitude during the suffering of the losses from both natural and man-made disasters serves as a good example for us today.

1. Job *"tore his robe"*: This is Hebrew people's

expression of extreme sadness (Gen. 37:34) or indignation. (Matt. 26:6)

2. *"Shaved his head"*: For a Hebrew Nazirite, "all the days of the vow of his separation no razor shall come upon his head." (Num. 6:5) Hebrew men valued their hair and beard. While forced shaving implies insult, (I Chron. 19:4-5) self-shaving suggests humiliation and submission.

3. *"Fell to the ground and worshiped"*: In the midst of great pain, Job worshiped God, submissively accepting whatever happened to him under the permission of God.

4. *"Blessed be the name of the Lord"*: Job not only worshipped and submitted to God, but was filled with praise in his heart, something for us to imitate indeed.

Among peoples' reactions in Asia and America following the two disasters, we have not heard anyone mentioned that we should examine ourselves to see whether our sins have caused God to remove his protective hands! Furthermore, today's church should examine herself for her silence, individualism, negligence of the outside world, and failure in giving warnings to the people and allowed the disasters to occur over the years!

May God have mercy upon America, the world, and His Church, and send down a spirit of repentance and revival to reverse the deteriorating trend in America, the world, and the Church!

(Translated by Dr. C.Y. King)



California Christians Launched 1,000,000 Voter-Signature Campaign for Constitutional Amendment on Marriage

California assemblyman Mark Leno together with other liberal assemblymen repeatedly proposed same-sex marriage bills (e.g., AB1967, AB19, AB 849) at taxpayers' expense, with the intention of legalizing same-sex marriage in a legislative process without people's vote. In the first two weeks of September 2005, the congresses of both the State Senate and Assembly passed the AB 849 bill which will legalize the same-sex marriage. It is obvious that the homosexuals and their supporters have manipulated the congresses. Fortunately, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger courageously vetoes the bill on September 29 in spite of enormous pressure from the homosexuals. However, in view of the aggressive and tactical schemes of the homosexuals, it is inevitable that, in time, same-sex marriage will be legalized in California if we do not make a radical change in law.

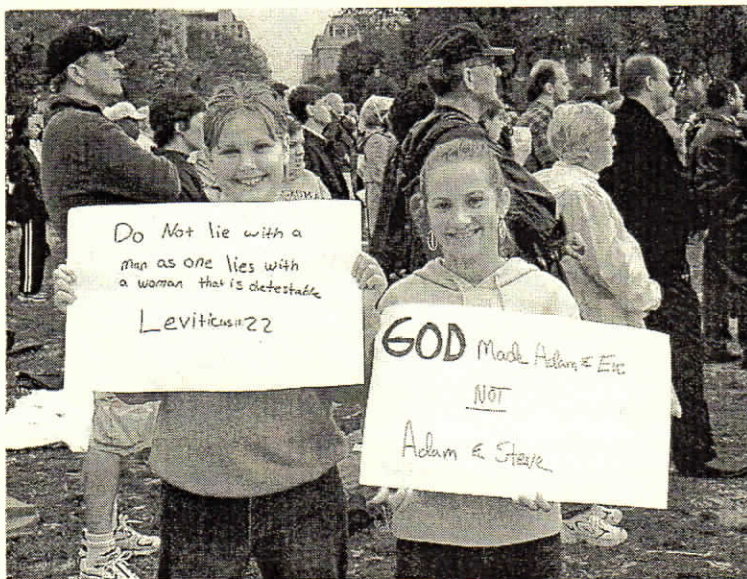
Now we have an opportunity to amend the marriage law in California's constitution. After careful study and consideration, the Chinese churches in California have decided to support www.ProtectMarriage.com, a Christian initiated organization, to promote a constitutional amendment in California

marriage law. The Initiative states: **"A marriage between a man and a woman is the only legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this state."**

To achieve this constitutional amendment, the ProtectMarriage.com has initiated a campaign to gather 1,000,000 voter signatures by the end of November, which is required for proposing the amendment for voting in 2006 by California voters. May God help His children to try their best to support this amendment initiative, so that the institution of marriage between a man and a woman ordained by God can no more be arbitrarily changed by the homosexuals, politicians, or judges, and our offspring will inherit correct marriage concept and life.

The Chinese Christians in California have decided to fully support this campaign. Several organizations, namely the Traditional Family Coalition, Great Commission Center International, Chinese Christian Herald Crusades and Chinese Family Coalition, will work together for this cause. It is their hope that all Chinese churches in California will encourage their members to launch a signature campaign among their relatives, friends and colleagues, and even the Chinese communities.

This is our time to be salt and light. Hope you will join our action to be the good soldiers of God in this spiritual struggle. The success of this action depends on the effort of us all. If you are not a Californian, please encourage your Californian friends to participate in this significant campaign. For more information, please go to www.ProtectMarriage.com or contact Traditional Family Coalition or GCCI at 848 Stewart Drive, Suite 200, Sunnyvale, CA 94085.



GCCI President Thomas Wang Speaks on Same -Sex Marriage

Bill AB849 that would allow same-sex marriage was approved first by California State Senate and then the Assembly in early September 2005. It was the first time a state legislature in the United States has endorsed gay marriage. Thomas Wang, President of Great Commission Center International, was interviewed by the Gospel Post on September 7, 2005, one day after the Assembly passed AB 849. The following is a condensed version of his interview.

It was a sad day in the history of California. We see here, the fallibility of man.

The first point I am going to make is the limitation of democracy. It is one of the best social system that men have conceived. Democracy believes in the principle of majority rule on the assumption that the majority is always right. We follow and obey the opinion of the majority. But, how about when the majority is corrupted and wrong? Here we see it is happening today. The majority of the Senate and Assembly are clearly against the Bible, against nature, against morality, against family principles, and against the social system.

This shows the limitation and indeed fallibility of democracy. But, can we get rid of democracy? No, we cannot, because there is no better political system conceived by men. Unfortunately, men rebelled against theocracy in ancient times. They rebelled against God's rule and asked for monarchy. God gave them King Saul. (I Sam 8:7) Thus, began the system of "rule by man". We all know that human situation became worse. The world, including the West, are rejecting God and seeking a human substitute. The worst is yet to come.

America today is standing at a precipice. We are in a moment of no return. America is coming into what I call the "beginning of the end". Edward Gibbons, the author of *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, gave one of the main reasons of the decline and fall of that great Empire was corruption from within. I think that is what happening in the West and America today.

Most of the European countries were built up by Christian principles. But one by one they have turned their backs to God. Five European countries have endorsed homosexual marriages. Several other countries agreed to same-sex union with full privileges of a family. Western Europe to a degree has already fallen, and so is Canada. Make no mistake about it, throughout history, God does not tolerate a homosexual society.

Let us speak up for God! Let us call upon God to save America and rest of the world from this curse—the homosexual life style!



The mission of the Great Commission Center International is to serve alongside the evangelical churches and para-church groups for the progressive realization of the Great Commission. The ministries of the center will focus on the three-fold aim of: the transformation of churches into mission-committed churches; the transformation of pastors into mission-mobilizing pastors; and the transformation of Christians into mission-participating Christians.



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Your prayers for our beloved nation is appreciated.

Editor: Thomas Wang

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