

## The God of the Bible Kills People

I'm coming to you over this microphone today to make an announcement — don't go away. The God of The Bible — not the popular “god” of the vivid imaginations of this generation of confused men and women, but the God of the Bible, who at the same time is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ — kills people. I'm coming to ask you in the next 18 minutes, will God who kills people, who threatens to do so, who plainly announces He will, who evinces His character by His Wrath and killing people, cutting them off — will He have to kill you?

There are two statements that I'd like to make that no one can deny now, nobody, wiseacre or humble. The first statement is this: That this is a day in the once Christian nation of America that is now a pagan society. This is a day of armed, active hostility to the claims of God for His Son Jesus Christ. This is a day when scientists announce they believe in God and everybody claps their hands. This is a day when everybody believes in God but not the God whose character is pictured and outlined and delineated in the Word of God. This generation is dead set against the God of the Bible because God will not resign from his throne, will not abdicate, will not water down His demands nor His claims.

The other statement that I wish to make is this: The most alarming fact of our day, your day and mine now — the most alarming fact of our day in America is that every time two people in America die one of them dies suddenly. This has become the land of sudden death. Men and women do not bring their children and loved ones about them like Jacob of old and make disposition of one's property and tell everybody goodbye and turn their face towards the wall and go to sleep with their fathers. But men start out for work and have an accident in a car and wake up in eternity; men get on a plane and wake up in eternity, men start to take a bath and wake up in eternity. This is the day of accidental death. Men die now without doing what they fondly said they'd do, take time out to pray — they die with no warning and no chance to pray. Men die today and never get the opportunity to do what they said all the days of their lives — “Tomorrow I'm gonna repent,” but tomorrow comes and instead of that being the time when you have space given you for repentance, that's the time that you to die. Men aren't always going to yield to the claims of God for His son Jesus Christ — because one half of the people of America die suddenly. We call it accidentally, but there are no accidents in the kingdom of God; nothing happens that takes God by surprise and there is a verse of Scripture in the Word of God and hundreds of other verses in God's Word reinforce this verse. There is a verse of Scripture to which your attention is now called that explains exactly what's happening in America, why America is now the land of sudden death. That verse of Scripture is found in the Old Testament in the book of Proverbs, the 29th chapter and verse 1, and it reads like this: “He that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.”

What's happening in America? In this nation that was founded by men and women seeking a place to worship and serve God without compulsion. In this nation where the

Gospel has been preached over the length and breadth of the land! This nation that's been smiled on by Almighty God as no other nation since time began. His nation that's been so wonderfully blessed of God and called of God, this nation has departed from the faith of our fathers and the God of the Bible and is blowing the smoke of its downright, outright rebellion and unbelief in the nostrils of a thrice Holy God. And God is answering that awful, rebellious, lawless spirit by cutting men and women off.

If you just stop to think of it, you might be one of the people that are going to suddenly be cut off and die suddenly and be hurled out yonder into the hands of the Living God for the Bible speaks the truth when it says, "It appointed unto men once to die and after that the judgment." Think with me this morning — don't you go away, don't you touch that dial, don't you take out on me now. I'll meet you at the Judgment with this warning from Almighty God's Word, "He that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck" You know what's gonna happen to him? I'll tell you exactly what will happen to him — he's going to be suddenly cut off, be destroyed, be ruined in this life and damned in the next and GOD IS GOING TO DO IT. And that destruction and that remedy is utterly, utterly without remedy. One out of two people in America die suddenly why? Because America's been rebuked, America's been reprov'd; you've been reprov'd by the Holy Spirit. For this verse of Scripture does teach us that that God does reprove men. I'm not talking about the Hottentot in Africa that lives way out yonder in the jungle a long way from the nearest dirt road. Oh no, I'm not talking about the man who spends all the days of his sojourn here on this earth and never hears the name of God or the title of God or the precious name of Jesus. But I'm talking about you here in America with a church on every corner and one in between, where a Bible can be bought in most of our 5-and-10-cent stores, with the Gospel on the radio and the television here in America where God's hand has been so blessedly upon us.

I'm talking about you: God has reprov'd you, God had reprov'd you! "He that being often reprov'd" — men meet that reproof by rebelling and hardening themselves. God always has been after sinners and He hasn't quit until this day. He was after sinners in Noah's day. He was warning sinners in the day of Noah and, bless God, He warns people today. Every time you go down on one of these freeways and the traffic is stopped because of an accident and there's death — that's what I'm talking about over this radio right now — that didn't happen accidentally, that didn't just happen and somebody had to telephone God and tell Him it took place! There are no accidents in the heart and mind and plan and purpose of God.

I'm saying to you, those are warning signals put out there by a loving God who's yet thrice Holy, who warns men to STOP on their road that leads to destruction before they are plunged by their own sins into the abyss of eternal Hell. Thank God, God does reprove sinners. I can't save anybody, I can't convince anybody, I can't turn anybody — I know that, but God can. And I'm so glad that God kept after me, I'm so glad God didn't give up on me, I'm so glad he hasn't given up on the human race. I'm so glad it seems that more men spurn Him and spit at Him and scoff at Him and deny Him — and we have preachers who deny the truths of the Word of God and make fun of the Deity of Christ, put the Bible out as an old scrap book, and junk morality and junk

the Ten Commandments, and blow their smoke in the face of God. I'm glad that in spite of that fact God's Holy Spirit is still running down sinners and stabbing them in the heart and reproofing them of their ungodly conduct and warning them of a Judgment and a Hell to come and pointing them to cease relying on themselves and to cast all their confidence on the bloody Son of God hanging on a cross. God does reprove sinners, but you know how people in our day meet God's reproof? They harden themselves.

"He that being often reproved, hardeneth his neck." God does the reproofing and man does the hardening. He spits on his hands and rolls up his sleeves and grits his teeth and says, "God is not gonna move me. I wouldn't mind being a church member and I don't mind being converted and I don't mind what's called being "saved" now, but God is not going to change me; God's not gonna give me a heart of flesh; God's not gonna plant a Holy disposition within me. God's not gonna start the work of making me like His Son; I will not be changed and so I'll fight this business. If God thinks He's going to run my life, He's got another think coming!" That's how men talk today; men simply harden themselves. They harden themselves — they can't be *neutral* so they harden themselves, they can't get rid of God so they harden themselves against His reproof. They say, "Well, I don't believe in God," but at night when they go to bed or they wake up at night scared, they'll pray to that God they don't believe in to keep them out of Hell (like I used to do) before morning. Men harden themselves — am I talking to you? Every time God comes and warns you do, you grit your teeth and spit in His face and go on down the road that leads to Hell? You know you have to harden yourself to do that; you have to harden yourself to do that.

I know in Detroit, Michigan one morning after I'd brought a message in an evangelistic campaign in a big tabernacle. It seated a lot of people and the pulpit standing mighty high and I climbed down three little segments of stairs to get down to the bottom floor to shake hands with the people, and I'd shaken hands with many people when I felt something tugging at my coattails and looking down, there was a three-and-a-half-year-old-girl, curly flaxen haired, beautiful little gift from Heaven, and she crawled up into my arms and put her little arms around my neck and in her baby way she began to cry, and she said, "Oh, brother Barnard, I want my daddy to get saved. Oh, brother Barnard, I want my daddy to get saved. Brother Barnard I want my daddy to get saved!" Now the little girl didn't know exactly what it meant to be "saved," but she knew that life in her home was a living hell and she knew something needed to happen to her daddy. And, poor little ol' heart, she just broke my heart and up came her mother and began to sob and she took the little baby out of my arms and I said to the wife and mother, "I'll be on the radio this afternoon at three o'clock here in Detroit." And I said, "Your husband cusses preachers, and he cusses God and he's ordered me out of your home; he's ordered the Pastor out of his house, and he never darkens the door of an assembly of God anywhere, and he brags about how tough he is." But I said "Sometimes he will listen to the radio, and (I said) try to make it convenient and maybe he will this afternoon and I'll preach to him."

And that afternoon over that radio, I stopped in the middle of my sermon, asking the audience to pardon me, and I said, "I believe there is a man listening to the sound of my

voice now and I believe God sent him a last call this morning.” And I told over the radio how that little three and a half year old girl had come and climbed up in arms, put her arms around my neck and cried out “Oh, brother Barnard, I want my daddy to get saved, I want my daddy to get saved!” And I said, “I believe the daddy of that little girl is listening to me right now and I you wouldn’t listen to God, you haven’t listened to any of His threats, you haven’t listened to the pleas of your wife, you haven’t listened to anybody, but now hear God talking to you through the tears and heartbreak of your little three and half old girl.” And I said, “If there’s a spark of manhood within you, get down on your face and begin to repent of your sin and cry to God for mercy.” He heard that message, and do you know what he did? He got up and turned that radio off, slammed his hat on his head, opened the door and cursed me and cursed the radio and cursed God and cursed his wife, and slammed out of there and went to the nearest honky-tonk and within 20 minutes after he got out of the house a man had pumped 5 bullets in his body! And you say God won’t do something when men harden themselves against Him! You say “That was accidental.” No sir, bless the Lord! “He that being often reproveth hardeneth his neck” — you know what’s gonna happen to him? Judgment’s coming! God will get hold of him as He did that man. He kills people who harden themselves against Him.

The result of hardening yourself under the reprovng, convicting, pleading, persuading power and person and presence of God in the Holy Ghost is *sudden death*. God warns, “I kill and I make alive.” The Scriptures tell us about God killing people in the days of the flood; scientists tell us there were maybe as many people living on the earth in the days of the flood as now (nearly three billion souls), and do you know how many people God killed and sent to hell? All of them! God did it! God did it! This God you say you believe in and live as though He does not exist — this God that the preachers make fun of His holiness, this God who says “I warn you! I kill and I make alive!” This God who is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ — you know what He did? He wiped off the face of the earth, nearly 3 billion souls with one fell swoop and sent them all to Hell. That’s the God of the Bible. That’s the GOD that kills people! Is He going to have to kill you? The Scriptures say that if you keep on hardening yourself, you will never get by! Not on your bottom dollar! No, I warn you; I warn you! God knows I wish I knew how to warn you. God kills people. What kind of people does He kill? People who harden themselves when He calls them, like those people who listened to Noah and didn’t pay any attention to him for 120 years — and God wiped them off the face of the earth. **God kills people.**

I was in a city in Oklahoma (I will not name the town); it was called the richest small town in the world. The pastor came and asked me to hold meetings and I got there on Sunday morning between Sunday school (you know what that is, don’t you?) and church service. Seven deacons of that church came to the pastor and said “Now brother Pastor, we’re not gonna oppose anything; we just don’t believe in this emotionalism, we don’t believe in what’s called evangelistic campaigns and we’ll just not be back until this preacher is gone and the meetings are over.” And the pastor Said, “Well, I hate to see you take that attitude but if that’s what you want to do I appreciate your coming and telling me.” Well, you know, if they had done what they

promised it would have been all right — but we couldn't get a crowd for a few nights and it was pretty hard and those fellows were glad and they got to bragging about how we weren't getting anywhere with the meetings.

They violated their word that they wouldn't oppose us and the pastor came to me broken hearted and said, "Brother Barnard, it is killing me, what can we do?" I said, "I don't know; are you game for us to get down on our knees and ask God to save them or kill them?" And he agreed. And we got down on our knees and said, "Lord, You know what these men are doing. They're ruining the meetings, they're making fun of the Gospel and the church and the Lord Jesus Christ and putting God's preachers down just filling the whole town with it!" That town was about ten thousand people and everybody gets bad news pretty soon and everybody was talking about how the meeting was no good and those seven deacons were making fun of it and we just prayed, "Lord, save them or kill them! Amen." And somehow or other (neither one of us was supposed to tell and I don't think I did, but somebody did) those deacons heard about our prayer, but they heard just half of it. And so they just cackled and had a big time and said, "The preachers are up there praying for God to kill us." But we weren't praying for God to kill them; we were praying for God to *save* them or *kill* them, for God to get them out of the way! They were bucking God, they were hardening themselves against God, and I think that's dangerous. And so they just laughed and had a big time. But in four days' time the pastor had seven different funerals — the funerals of those seven Baptist deacons, and every one of them died a horrible sudden death! God kills people that harden themselves against His claims for Jesus Christ.

You better quit making fun of Christ's church and Christ's Gospel and Christ's people and Christ's Bible and Christ's Spirit! You better quit spitting in the face of the truth of God. For God hardens people, God kills people, God cuts people off who harden themselves against Him. You know I'm gonna tell you, the day when you'll be cut off — Acts the 17th chapter and the 28th verse has a statement that is true of the preacher who speaks now and of everybody that listens to me; the Word of God says "For in Him we live and move and have our being." That means that this man who is speaking to you now is dependant on God for my next breath, and you are dependant on God for your next breath. You know one time God started all over again by sending the Flood and wiping everybody off the face of the earth, but He's not going to all that trouble to cut you off. All God would have to do is just not give you the next breath — that's right, our breath is in His hands!

How does God cut people off? Well, He does it without any remedy. Oh, I will meet you at the Judgment and you'll hear again my voice before you're sent to Hell! I pray that you've heard this message, and that maybe somebody is just a little bit scared. I'll tell you, I don't think it's nice to be sent to Hell but God says the wicked shall be cast into Hell. Will you be one of them to turn from hardening yourself to surrender to God in Jesus Christ? Amen.

**(Radio message for Pastor Allen Broughton in Houston, Texas, from old LP recording)**