

HELEN SANDERS

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BE AN ENCOURAGER

In this season of unprecedented weather disasters, political unrest, wars, and a society that calls good evil and evil good, many are discouraged.

Recently I had a friend ask how to explain the destruction from Hurricane Helene to those that are not Christians. It is a tough question, but questions like this are just opportunities to be used by God.

When someone asks a question like this, I would say, "Have you ever read any of the bible?" Then say, "It is written that in the last days these kinds of disaster will take place."

Many might say, "How can a loving God allow this?"

My answer would be, "The same God that allowed his sinless son to be tortured and put to death on a cross. The same God that loved us enough even while we were sinners to allow his only begotten son to be a sacrifice." Then share the gospel with them and tell them that our only hope through these times is knowing the Lord as our Savior.

You see my friends, God knows the past, present, and future. He is long suffering. He has patiently waited for every soul to be given a chance to repent and come to him. In Romans 1:20 it says, **"...so that they are without excuse."** This means that everyone has an opportunity to know God personally and are given the choice to serve him or not. No excuses!

As we ponder what is coming upon the world in the near future, we must remember that what is coming is no surprise to God. He has given us a wakeup call through many tragedies in our nation, but our country has repeatedly turned its back on God. Just like Israel of old was warned and warned, they too, did not repent. It caused them to lose everything that they had known. Yet, that God that judged their sin has brought them back to their land.

God wants each of us to be a witness to those that are lost, hurting, and without hope. This is our hour to share a way to eternal life with Jesus. Will we do that? Most have never done it, and sadly, most will continue to say it isn't their "call." I believe if you are reading this message that you are one of those that are willing to be a light in the darkness for Jesus. This is your time to shine! Encourage others to do the same.