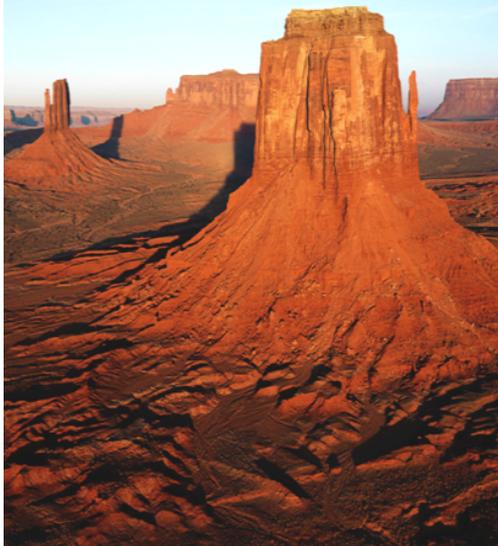


A Monument to Death??



Monument

Valley (MV) is located right on the state line that separates the states of Arizona and Utah. The impressive sandstone formations: buttes, spires, and towers - the geological monuments that gave Monument Valley its name - are the result of centuries of erosion and uplift.

MV is honored as one of the great scenic spots in the USA, yet very little grows there, and erosion and death mark the 5 square mile valley. Many

Indian grave yards are also located there. Is it not ironic that such a barren place is an American icon?

Humans are also marked by years of spiritual erosion and death. From the day we are born, death stalks each one of us. Not only can we NOT escape the inevitability of our own future death, we also have no idea when that death is going to occur. In addition, we face many kinds of trouble. In the Bible, Job said, *“Man is born for trouble as sparks fly upward.”* (Job 5:7).

Man takes great pride in his achievements, and trusts in his own thinking. He is a monument to himself, as he looks in the mirror. But what good is all that we do, if we all end up dying at the end of our lives?

Isn't there something more? Four generations from now, no one will know who we were, or that we ever lived! Do you know anything about *your* great, great grandparents?

Each of us is not only a monument of trouble, and future death, but we also are daily monuments to our own sin and wicked thinking. Honesty must prevail at this point. Do you really think you are a good person? How many times a day do you have a selfish, lustful, angry, lying thought or deed? How many times do you blaspheme God, using His name in vain?

MV is eroding, and so are you! You are collapsing daily under your own weight of evil in your heart and life. It taints everything we do. The Bible says, *“the heart of man is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick.”* (Jer. 17:9). *“There is none righteous, not even one;...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God!”* (Rom. 3:10, 23). No human can take away his own sin and judgment. No criminal can declare himself *“not guilty”* before a judge and we cannot remove our own sins before a holy God either.

MV may be marked by a rugged, stark beauty, but we are not beautiful. We are not nice. We are not wise. Yes, this goes against everything our culture wants us to believe about ourselves, but are humans nice when they sin so much?

Man is a monument to his own folly, self-worship, pride, and evil ways. And then each of us dies, and we end up in hell, according to the Bible, *“And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.”* (Heb. 9:27).

What a waste. There is a better way. God didn't create us to ruin our lives in decaying *“sandstone”* structures of self-worship, sin, and vain pursuits, only to then end up in hell forever. God has offered us a way out of our own **Monuments to Death**, through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Do you know who Jesus Christ is? The Bible is God's Word and it tells us who Christ is. God wrote the Bible for all humans to know about Him: *“All Scripture is inspired by God...”* (2 Tim. 3:16). God's Word says that Jesus Christ is God Himself, who came to earth to become a human being: *“Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.”* (Titus 2:13).

Why would God come to earth and become a human being? *“Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed...”* (Titus 2:14). *“Redeem”* means to free us from the penalty we deserve because we are such sinners. God became a human and was born with no sin. He was sinless, because He is God.

Why did God become a human? So He could grow up and die on the Cross 33 years later, and take the penalty we deserve for our sinful, evil ways. A perfect, sinless human had to take our place and die for us, taking divine judgment for OUR sins! GOD HIMSELF was willing to do this. That is why He came to earth and became a man.

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf...” (2 Cor. 5:21). That is how much God loves you! He was willing to die for YOU on the cross! Jesus Christ is **YOUR** Monument **FOR** Your Death! He died to save you from your own sinful life and give you a new life, lived for Him. He wants you to be **His Monument to His life!**

Jesus came to earth, was born as a human, while still being God, lived a perfect life and died a sinless death on the Cross for YOU! Three days later, He rose from the dead, having victory over all sin and death.

But understand this: The Bible says you cannot be saved from hell if you do not believe Christ is who He claims to be. You must ask Him to be your Lord and Savior. *“For whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved.”* (Rom. 10:13).

The Bible says you must *“believe”* in Him and Him alone to be saved. *“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”* (John 3:36). *“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”* (Eph. 2:8).

Jesus Himself said so, *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; No one comes to the Father but through me.”* (John 14:6).

Are you tired of your life of guilt, sin, and self-worship? Are you living in fear of your inevitable death? Christ has the only solution for you. He died on the Cross so that you could live a Monumental life of purpose in Him. **Talk to God right now:**

“Jesus, I am a terrible wrong doer in my heart and life and feel great guilt. I ask you to forgive me (‘If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.’ 1 Jn. 1:9). I repent and turn away from my life of sin and selfishness, and I believe only in the Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 1:15). I deserve hell, but I ask You for mercy. I freely trust You, Jesus, as my Master and Lord by faith alone. I believe you died for my sins on the Cross, giving me cleansing and freedom from judgment. I believe you rose from the dead, giving me victory over sin, purpose now in this life, and heaven one day when I die. I receive you now as my very own Lord and Savior. Please save me from hell. Thank you Lord Jesus. Amen.”

We are here at East Side Bible to help you if you would like spiritual counsel from the Bible. Feel free to contact us today.

Pastor Jon Stephens.

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