

Essay from the bold pastor

#106 - Chelyabinsk Meteor -

On October 16, 2013, Russian Academy of Science Meteorite Committee pulled out a large chunk of the meteorite that fell into Lake Chebarkul in Chelyabinsk Oblast, Russia in February of the same year. The meteorite was 3.3 feet across, weighing 1256 lb. Collection of meteorites of such magnitude is rare. A 55-foot-wide asteroid entered the atmosphere with a speed of 19 miles per second on February 15. It exploded at a height of around 82,000 feet at 9:20 a.m. Yekaterinburg Time and fell to the ground in broken pieces. The temperature of the meteor surface when exploded was 10,832 degrees Fahrenheit, and the energy released was equivalent of 30 times that of the atomic bomb detonated at Hiroshima according to NASA.

Inevitably, many damages and injuries were reported. Due to the blast from the explosion, the total of 4,474 buildings had their doors and windows blown away or shattered. 1,491 people were injured among whom 52 were in severe conditions, including a woman who was directly struck by a meteorite and broke her spine. Furthermore, there was a temporary interruption in mobile phone services as well as some reports of roof collapses. This incident turned out to be the biggest disaster ever caused by a meteor.

With Russia being the leader in installing dashboard cameras in cars, many videos capturing the meteorite were uploaded online. You can see the object flash even brighter than the sun momentarily and cast shadows on the ground. The intense light produced some eye-related injuries. The traversing of the eerie red-white flash reminded me of Revelation chap.16.

The sun was given power to scorch people with fire. From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.

Revelation 16:8, 21

The Chelyabinsk disaster didn't cause any deaths because the meteorite exploded at an extreme altitude. What if the explosion had happened at 2,000 feet in the air as in the case of Hiroshima? What if it had struck the ground without exploding in the sky? Perhaps the situation would've been a lot worse with a part of the world population being wiped out. Jesus' prophecy for the end of the world, which is the catastrophe due at the time of his return, highlights earthquakes, famine, and wars. But the Russia's incident reaffirmed the possibility of disaster from the outer space. Lord will not plunge humans into crisis without warning because He is love. He warns, "Believe in God before Jesus Christ returns."

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