

## Repentance, Not Defiance, Because of Sendai, Japan by [John T Polk II](#) For [The Fellowship Room](#)

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Some may ask, "Were the citizens of Sendai, Japan sinners above all Japanese?" Jesus' reply would be, "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish" ([Luke 13:1-5](#)). These horrific "natural" destructions are not necessarily direct condemnation from God, but certainly qualify as "attention-getters."

'Hear this now, O foolish people, Without understanding, Who have eyes and see not, And who have ears and hear not: 22 Do you not fear Me?' says the LORD. 'Will you not tremble at My presence, Who have placed the sand as the bound of the sea, By a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass beyond it? And though its waves toss to and fro, Yet they cannot prevail; Though they roar, yet they cannot pass over it. 23 But this people has a defiant and rebellious heart; They have revolted and departed' ([Jeremiah 5:21-23](#)).

With this statement, God called attention to His power over the seas, and though they are stirred to overlap the land on occasion, they return to their God-given boundary. Truly, only God could assign "the sea its limit, So that the waters would not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth, ([Proverbs 8:29](#)).

God has proved that all power is His, not man's, and when He releases His power upon the earth, nothing can stop it. Do we not all take shelter from lightning; hide from hurricanes and tornadoes; seek high ground from floods; and feel the bone-chilling winter blasts? It seems that only times of extremities can remind many of us that we should bow the knee to God. Hence, the Psalmist said, it is "good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes" ([Psalm 119:71](#)).

If we have not been awed at the absolute power of God, then we must truly have a "defiant and rebellious heart." On the Judgment Day, "it is written: 'As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.' So then each of us shall give account of himself to God" ([Romans 14:11-12](#)). Let everyone be warned of the Judgment to come, and seek shelter from our sins in the love of God in Jesus Christ ([Romans 8:31-39](#)). Each one should surrender to the Gospel of Christ ([Acts 2:38](#)), and then no "depth" will take us from His love.

--- **John T Polk II**