**CURSES FROM GOD?**

Hopefully no one here was adversely affected by the tsunami that occurred earlier this week. Thank God for His protection–literally! The tsunami got me to thinking…the USA has had a plethora of floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, pandemics, terrorism, and now…a tsunami! About the only disaster we have not had of late is a famine.

Such events were forecast for the nation Israel if she turned away from serving the one true God, Jehovah. I read about that fact again this week in my daily devotions. Moses expounded on this theme in Deuteronomy 28. In verse 22 Moses becomes specific, listing seven afflictions with which Yahweh will strike his people. The catalogue of seven afflictions expresses Yahweh’s sovereignty over all agents of death and destruction. The first four entries elaborate in verse 21 and specify diseases at Yahweh’s disposal: wasting disease, fever, inflammation, and scorching heat. The fifth refers to the sword, which functions as shorthand for Israel’s defeat by enemy armies (cf. vs 25–26), and the last two refer to crop diseases.

Lists like this are found in several places in the Word of God. When things like the above happen, it causes me to wonder, has American turned away from God? We know we live in a sinful society. We also know we have strayed from our original path of serving and worshipping God. Those things were very important from our inception as a nation. But we have grown proud, obstinate, worldly, and lustful. We, as a nation, have turned our backs on God.

The same scriptures that promise curses for turning AWAY from God, promise blessings if we turn TOWARDS Him. That is the very context for 2 Chron 7:14. May we do so – starting with US!