

A Cloud That Saved Thousands

Newscaster Paul Harvey told radio listeners the following remarkable story from World War II.

From the island of Guam, one of America's mighty bombers took off for Kokura, Japan, with another deadly cargo. The sleek B-29 turned and circled above the cloud that covered the target for half an hour, three-quarters of an hour, 55 minutes, until the gas supply reached the danger point. It seemed a shame to be right over the primary target and then have to pass it up, but there was no choice, since mission commander Maj. Charles Sweeney had orders to drop the bomb visually and not by radar

With one more look back, the crew headed for the secondary target. Upon arrival, they found the sky clear.

"Bombs away!"

The B-29 headed for home.

Weeks later, an officer received information from military intelligence that chilled his heart. Thousands of Allied prisoners of war, the biggest concentration of Americans in enemy hands, had been moved to Kokura a week before the suspended bombing.

"Thank God," breathed the officer. "Thank God for that cloud."

The city which was hidden from the bomber was a prison camp, and thousands of Americans are now alive who would have died but for that cloud which rolled in from a sunlit sea.

The secondary target that day was Nagasaki, and the missile intended for Kokura was the world's second atomic bomb.

The appearance of that cloud a coincidence? Not in my book.

Scripture is filled with passages that talk about God as a protector. But does God protect us in every situation? In one sense, we'll never know how many times God actually protected us. But in a world with free will to make our own choices, we can't get around the fact that hardships await us; Jesus promised us as much.

We can rest assured, however, that He has a perfect will for us, and that includes different kinds of protection.

Among my favorite promises from God are those in the 23rd Psalm verses 1-4: *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me* (NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter