

# An Avalanche Ahead

A news article in *USA Today* in January 2007 told how Dave Boon and his passengers got caught in an avalanche that swept their car over a guardrail on Interstate 40 in Denver.

When he first saw it, Boon said, it was only a puff of powder. After that brief warning, a snowy burst of wind knocked the car out of control.

“Not even a second later, a freight train hit us,” Boon said.

Boon had been traveling with his wife, June, and Gary Martinez, 13, on their way to a youth group ski trip. The three of them had been discussing the possibility of an avalanche. “We were talking about avalanches and how there was so much snow and stuff. Then we turned the corner and saw some white powder, and it slammed us into the guardrail,” Boon said.

The wall of snow knocked the car over the rail and caused it to roll hundreds of feet down a steep mountain slope. In the middle of the descent, the car struck a tree and was knocked out of the avalanche’s grasp. It came to a stop upside down and pointing back uphill.

Fortunately, Boon and his wife were well trained. After clearing an airway and freeing himself from the seat belt, Boon was able to exit the car along with Martinez and then cut his wife free from her restraints. Despite several bumps, bruises, and scrapes, none of the three required hospitalization.

For Boon, the experience was a reminder that warnings and hints of danger need to be respected.

“The signs read, ‘Avalanche Area, No Stopping,’” he said. “We’ve driven by that place hundreds of times. We’ve skied avalanche chutes, worn beepers, always carried an avalanche shovel. We’ve seen avalanches. But in our wildest dreams, we never imagined getting hit in a car by one.”

As human beings, we have a tendency to ignore obvious warnings as we travel life’s road. The Bible is filled with advice for successful living, but it also includes signs for dangers that should be avoided. To heed them requires alertness, wisdom and discipline.



(more)

*For man also does not know his time: Like fish taken in a cruel net, like birds caught in a snare, so the sons of men are snared in an evil time, when it suddenly falls upon them (Ecclesiastes 9:12 NKJV).*

– Beecher Hunter