

When Niagara Falls Stopped

On the night of March 29, 1848, both the American and the Canadian sides of Niagara Falls were silent – for the first time in recorded history. An ice jam formed on Lake Erie near Buffalo, New York, and blocked the water that flows along the Niagara River and over the falls.

The next morning, several thousand people gathered in the area to find the American falls slowed to a dribble and the Canadian falls stilled.

For many, the sudden, eerie silencing of the falls caused great anxiety and fear. Believing that the world was coming to an end, many thousands attended special church services on both sides of the border. They were relieved when the ice jam broke apart the night of March 30, and the water flow returned to normal.

Do adversities and natural disasters create anxieties and misunderstandings about the end of the world and what lies ahead in the immediate or long-term future? Floods, earthquakes, hurricanes and tsunamis can certainly churn up such thoughts.

Throughout history, people have interpreted Scriptures and current events to predict a certain date for the end of the world. They have all been wrong.

Believers should focus not on dates but on living godly lives, using the years allotted to us for service to, and appreciation of, our fellow man.

We can look forward by remembering that God is in control, and that He has promised a new and better heaven and earth.

--Beecher Hunter