

Message Series: Famous Shipwrecks

Today's Message: "Titanic and America Today"



A SouthPointe Message

Message Study Guide

Introduction

April 14, 1912 is one of the most important historical dates in history. In modern culture, we have somehow lost the need to remember, study, and understand the significance of important historical events. Few people today would be able to identify the importance of that date. History students know that the R.M.S. Titanic, the pride of the White Star fleet struck an iceberg on the night of April 14, 1912 at 11:40 p.m. Within two hours and forty minutes, Titanic was resting more than two miles beneath the surface on the ocean floor. The impossible had happened. The greatest luxury liner ever made by man had sunk on her maiden voyage.

Said by many to be the "unsinkable ship", the only thing that Titanic ever did was to sink. Who could have argued against such an impressive ship? The ship measured 882 feet 9 inches in length, 92 feet 6 inches wide, 59 feet tall, and weighed in at 46,328 tons. It had a capacity of 3,547 people. On that fateful night, it was carrying 2,240 people including 889 crewmembers. Some of the world's richest and most famous and powerful people were on board for this maiden voyage. On this night, 1517 people would die.

The ship was equipped with 20 lifeboats with a total capacity of 1,178 people. Only 706 people survived. Lifeboat #7 was the first to be launched at 12:20 a.m... Although it held 65 people, there were only 28 people who got in the boat. Few people today realize that Titanic actually was carrying more lifeboats than was required by law at that time.

When Titanic struck the iceberg at 11:40, there were no outward signs of the ship or its passengers being in any imminent danger.

Discussion Points

Everything that happens in history, happens for a reason. God is the beginning and end of all history. Historical events should always carry two questions since there are never any accidents with God: (1) What is God saying to me (us)? (2) What does God desire to say through me (us)?

Discussion Questions

1. As you think about the name Titanic, what is the first thing that comes to your mind?
2. Why do you think people are so fascinated with Titanic today? Does the average person see any spiritual lessons in Titanic sinking?
3. Called the "unsinkable ship", what spiritual lesson can you apply to your life with that phrase?
4. Apparently, Titanic failed to heed warnings that icebergs had been spotted in the area. What verses of Scripture come to mind when you think of that?

Think About It

The builders of Titanic never allowed for the possibility that Titanic would ever sink. Only 16 lifeboats and 4 inflatables were provided that would hold about 1,200 people. The capacity of the ship was 3, 547 people - provision for only one-third of the passengers.

Do Something About It!

It seems like America is on a collision course with numerous icebergs ahead. As Christians, we have an unprecedented opportunity to confront the culture in a God honoring, humble way to warn of what lies ahead. 2 Chronicles 7:14 remains the answer to all of the challenges we are facing.

Be Willing To Change

"Give us help from trouble, for vain is the help of man." (Psalm 60:11)