

THE LAST GREAT STAMPEDE

3/6/12

The Klondike gold rush of 1897-1900 was the last great gold rush of recent history. Skagway and Dyea (Di-ee-ya), Alaska, located 600 miles south of the gold fields, were the closest salt water ports to the Klondike. More than 100,000 stampeders set out for the Klondike (stampeders... the name given to those who rushed anywhere a fortune was rumored to be made). However, no more than 40,000 actually reached Dawson City, the center of most of the action. In the end, only some 4,000 or so prospectors actually found gold in the gold fields with a few hundred becoming rich. Yet, out of these, only a mere handful managed to hang on to their wealth. This short moment in history, has much in common with the end of this age, as 'would be Christians' rush to and fro to find the spiritual riches of a true relationship with God.

Just like real gold, true salvation can be elusive and hidden from sight.

MAT 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Modern Christian doctrine is the opposite... God loves everyone, thus all are saved (this is wrong).

The stampeders were required by law to be properly equipped, before they could seek their fortune. Many of these people took the first advice that came their way... often ignoring sound instruction from people with expertise. The modern Christian also faces such obstacles... both from pride and ignorance. 2TIM 4:3 For the time will come when they will **not endure sound doctrine**; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; *Only hearing the things that please them. 4* And they shall turn away *their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*

There was a group of traders called outfitters... it was their job to equip the stampeders with the right advice and goods to survive their ordeal. MAT 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **20** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you *always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. The modern gospel heard today is rarely Christ's Gospel.*

Fraud was rife... and like modern religion; everyone claimed to be an expert. Inventors, speculators, promoters, and prospectors were going about with propositions for making everybody immensely rich... effectually they were making themselves rich at the expense of others.

JAM 5:3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the **last days**. *They have been scammed by liars and cheats who manipulate and exploit God's word for their own gains.*

Merchants, prostitutes and thieves hustled stampeders, restrained by nothing more than their talent, imagination, and scruples. One of the great scams of Skagway, related to shares in the Consolidated Trans-Alaskan Gopher Company, offered at one dollar each. They offered return dividends of ten dollars a minute as soon as the company got into production. The idea was to take contracts for tunneling gold claims with trained gophers being used to dig mines and fill their cheeks with gold nuggets. Not much different than many religious scams operating today, where false doctrine and untrue promises distract people of their ability to find the true God of the bible.

One of the most famous conmen, Soapy Smith; charged five dollars to send a telegraph message anywhere in the world. Eager to send news of their adventures to folks back home, no one bothered to peer behind the shack where the telegraph wire petered out in the brush. Yet within hours of sending a telegram, a reply was bound to come--collect, of course. He even operated an "army enlistment" tent where the victim's clothes and possessions were stolen while a "doctor" gave them a physical.

The North West Mounted Police were stationed at the summit of both passes that led to the goldfields. Their assignment was twofold; collecting duty on incoming goods and ensuring that every stamper was adequately outfitted to survive one year in the Klondike. "Adequate" translated into one ton of goods per person, including food, tents, cooking utensils and tools. This is very similar to the required duties of true Christians.

MAR 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; ...they shall speak with new tongues;

1JOH 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many **false prophets** are gone out into the world. *Don't believe everything you hear... compare it with the various aspects of the scriptures.*

Hard work, suitable assets and proven mineralisation was the only true formula to golden riches. *The true gospel is also the only provable doctrine we need to obey, if we seek heavenly riches... we are given a signs following gospel.*

MAL 3:2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a **refiner's fire**, and like fullers' soap: **3** And he shall sit as a **refiner** and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. *Gold needs refining.*

2PET 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know *these things* before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness. *Real gold is as unmistakable as the true blessings of God's Spirit.*