

SECURITY IN THE STORM #3'

I. Introduction

We have come to an Easter Sunday like we've never seen before and one we will never forget...an Easter weekend where no one went to church!
The Corona virus pandemic is sweeping through the earth like a storm-but I want to encourage today that Jesus is....

"Lord of the Storm"

This message comes from a study of the many kinds of storms in the scriptures.
The first thing I see is that....

A. The Storm is the Norm!

1. I cannot find one Bible character that didn't experience a "storm" of some kind. We should never be surprised by storms!

1 Peter 4:12-13 NLT

Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for you will have the wonderful joy of seeing His glory when it is revealed to all the world.

2. Notice that every storm has a silver lining because God is in control. He is "Lord of the Storm", and we will look at...

3 THINGS STORMS DO

- 1. Storms reveal God to us in new ways**
- 2. Storms humble the nations and drive people seek the Lord**
- 3. Storms reveal the true nature of our spiritual condition**

I. 3 Things Storms Do

A. Storms Reveal God To Us In New Ways

1. The greatest storm in the Bible was the "Great Flood" in the days of Noah.

Genesis 6:13-14

And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark..."

a. Noah knew God; but he did not know Him as the Sovereign God of the earth until the storm.

b. Neither did he know God as the One who saves His people in the midst of the storm.

Genesis 6:17-18

Everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark — you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.

2. In the same way, God revealed Himself in a new way to Israel when the storm of the great Death Plague swept through the land of Egypt.

Exodus 12:23-24

For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.

3. The Flood teaches us that Jesus is our “Ark” and that entering into Him saves us from the judgment of God; the Passover teaches us that the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, can protect us from plagues.

4. In both the Flood and the Passover we come to know God as the one who not only saves us but the one who saves whole households! (Don't be surprised to see lost family members come to Christ).

B. Second: Storms Humble the Nations and Drive People to Seek the Lord

Jeremiah 25:31-32

A noise will come to the ends of the earth — For the Lord has a controversy with the nations; He will plead His case with all flesh. Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Behold, disaster shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the farthest parts of the earth."

1. The prophet refers to disasters as a “whirlwind”; storms that remind the nations that God is God. The great Puritan Bible scholar comments on this...

Matthew Henry

“There is a God that judges the earth, to whom all the nations of the earth are accountable, and by whose judgment they must abide; the God who can easily bring to ruin the greatest nations, the most numerous and powerful, and such as have been most secure.”

Matthew Henry

2. All nations, Christian or not, are accountable to God; storms humble the pride of nations that forget God; even the most prosperous and powerful nations like our own.

a. For the past 3 years, America has bathed in unprecedented prosperity; record setting high employment, high wages and a soaring stock market. We seemed so secure! But then came the Corona virus, and all the wealth we gained over the past 3 years were wiped out within a matter of 3 weeks! How humbling it is to know how fragile we are when we forget God.

3. Storms not only humble the nations, they also drive people to seek the Lord.

Isaiah 26:9

For when Your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

4. There is an old saying: “Deliverance is for the desperate.” It means that some people never seek God until they find themselves in a storm they can’t control.

a. In Psalm 107, the Psalmist is wondering why men don’t give thanks to God...

Psalm 107:21-22

21 Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! 22 Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with rejoicing.

b. He is thinking about the world of business and commerce:

Psalm 107:23-24

23 Those who go down to the sea in ships, who do business on great waters,

24 they see the works of the Lord, and His wonders in the deep.

Psalm 107:25

For He commands and raises the stormy wind, which lifts up the waves of the sea. 26 They mount up to the heavens, they go down again to the depths; their soul melts because of trouble. 27 They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end.

c. What a picture of the chaotic condition of the world economy right now! But the storm that makes them afraid drives them to God!

Psalm 107:28

28 Then they cry out to the Lord in their trouble, and He brings them out of their distresses. 29 He calms the storm, so that its waves are still. 30 Then they are glad because they are quiet; and so He guides them to their desired haven.

5. The Corona virus is a worldwide storm that is humbling the nations and driving people to seek the Lord! (Testimony)

C. Third: Storms Reveal the True Nature of Our Spiritual Condition

1. In Mark 4 Jesus is in a boat with His disciples...

Mark 4:37-38

And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

Mark 4:39-40

Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

2. Remember that these disciples were the best of the best; they had walked away from the world to walk with Jesus and listen to His teaching. Who would have known that their hearts held so much fear and unbelief? How do WE know how much fear and unbelief is in our own hearts? The storm reveals it!

3. The storm here also proves the first point; how storms reveal God to us in new ways. Look what the Disciples said after He stilled the storm:

Mark 4:41

And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

a. They knew Jesus had authority over sickness because they had seen Him heal the sick; they knew Jesus had authority over devils because they had seen Him cast out demons; but in the storm He revealed Himself to them in a new way!

THEY NOW KNEW HIM AS 'LORD OF THE STORM'-THE ONE WHO HAS AUTHORITY OVER THE WIND AND SEA! OVER NATURE!

b. This storm has a silver lining for you and me; we will know God in new ways because He will reveal Himself to us in ways we never knew Him before!

3. Another example of this is in the final section of the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus compares 2 men who each built a house.

Matthew 7:24-25

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

a. Compare this with the 2nd man....

Matthew 7:26-27

"But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

2. From the outward appearance, the 2 houses seemed the same; but one had a foundation on sand the other on rock. It took a storm to tell the difference.

3. How do we know if our life built on Rock or Sand? The storm will reveal it.

III. Review and Close

3 THINGS STORMS DO

1. Storms reveal God to us in new ways
2. Storms humble the nations and drive people to seek the Lord
3. Storms reveal our true spiritual condition

B. Jesus is Lord of the Storm

1. The whole world is in a terrible storm; and many have said, “No one saw this coming”; but that’s not true.

Amos 3:7

Surely the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals His secret council to His servants the prophets.

2. I came across this prophecy from the late David Wilkerson (1931-2011), who was the Pastor of Times Square Church in New York City. He said this 34 years ago, in 1986:

David Wilkerson

“I see a plague coming on the world, and the bars, churches, and government will shut down. The plague will hit New York City and shake it like it has never been shaken. The plague is going to force the prayerless believers into radical prayer and into their Bibles, and repentance will be the cry from the man of God in the pulpit. And out of it will come a third Great Awakening that will sweep America and the world.”

3. He saw a worldwide plague that would especially shake the city of New York; that has happened. So why can’t we look for the rest of it to come to pass?

a. You may not be a prophet; but you can still be in faith!

Rev. Ralph Abernathy

“I don’t know what the future holds but I know who holds the future.”

4. Let me leave you with some verses from David in Psalm 46.

Psalm 46:1-3

**God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed,**

and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling.

Psalm 46:4-5

There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.

a. The great Charles Spurgeon commented on this verse:

Charles Spurgeon

“There is a river of Divine grace, a smoothly flowing, fertilizing, full, and never failing river that yields refreshment and consolation to believers. Its streams make glad the city of God, by assuring the citizens that Zion's Lord will unfailingly supply all their needs.”

PRAYER

Title Slide

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