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The Message of the Storm

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The Message of the Storm

The Bible is the total revelation of God to man. It tells man all he needs to know about God, all he needs to know about mankind, and all he needs to know about himself. It tells man all he needs to know about heaven, hell, trouble, marriage, money, death and life. The Bible is God's *perfect* Word to man. It is God's *specific* Word to man. It is God's *completed* Word to man. And the key to receiving all that God has in Scripture is understanding this one basic fact; the Bible has only ONE message: Jesus.

From the Father's conversation with the Son in Genesis 1 to the Son's triumphant conclusion of history in the closing pages of Revelation, every time the Bible speaks, it speaks of Jesus. Jesus, as He walked the Emmaus road, wound His way through the Old Testament and revealed that "these were the things concerning Himself". In the Old Testament, we have His *portrait*. In the Gospels, we have His *presentation*. In the Epistles, we have His *principles*. In the Revelation, we have His *personal triumph*. The whole Bible speaks of Jesus.

The Old Testament perhaps speaks with the most beauty and eloquence. It speaks with the most magnificence and depth. The Old Testament stories are real experiences of real people and a real Jehovah God. These Old Testament unveilings also act out on the stage of life, the story of Jesus. Here is where the diamond sparkles most beautifully, for every word of the Old Testament speaks His name. Abel speaks of Jesus. Abraham speaks of Jesus. David speaks of Jesus. Jonah speaks of Jesus. Isaac speaks of Jesus. Joseph speaks of Jesus. Oh, how Noah speaks of Jesus.

SIX TRUTHS ABOUT JESUS FROM NOAH.

The first message we receive from Noah is the *message of salvation*. If you take the symbolism and the portraits in the life of Noah, you can easily see, even as the Scripture proclaims we can, a perfect picture of the plan of salvation. God's message of salvation is clear. Man is in rebellion to God. God wants to save all who will let Him. So God designs an ark of salvation. His

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name is Jesus. The believer placed in the ark by God is called “in Christ.” Once in the ark he cannot be affected by the final judgment. His life is now in the hands of another. It is up to another to guide him. It is up to another to protect him. He must enter by faith, but God must shut the door. No one but God holds the key. Thus, he is eternally secure in the ark from the storms of life.

The second picture is the message of the resurrection and the third is the message of baptism as told through the life of Noah. I Peter 3 tells us that when it speaks of the spirits in the prison house of eternity:

These were those who were disobedient when the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah while he was building the ark. (I Peter 3:20 paraphrase)

The like figure, Noah and the ark, where unto even baptism doth save us, not the putting away of the filth of the flesh (not the physical act of baptism itself, but the answer of a good conscience toward God, that which baptism represents) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is in the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

In other words, Peter says here are two closely related truths that you can learn from Noah and the flood. The flood is a kind of foretaste of baptism, the going under the water to taste of death and the rising from the water to signify life. But of course, Peter says, the baptism itself doesn't save you, it is the picture of the death, the burial and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. So Peter says then when you read about Noah and the ark and the flood, you need to visualize the message of the resurrection and the corresponding portrait of baptism. It is a message of Christ taught by Noah.

The fourth message we can learn from Noah is the message of the carnal versus the spiritual life. This you can see by the last part of Noah's experience when the raven and the dove were released to go out and find land. The raven symbolizes the fleshly or carnal believer who is sent forth into the world and feeds on the things of the world. The feet of the raven were not contaminated by the vileness and dirt of the world. It thrived on it. It no doubt returned to the ark, but did not re-enter to abide therein. This is symbolic of the Christian who finds a place in

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the world rather than abiding in Christ. The dove, though, is the symbol of the Holy Spirit and the Christian controlled by the Holy Spirit. The dove went forth the first time into the world, only to return again to the ark. Finding no rest for its feet amidst the mire of the world, it returns to its Master who reaches out and draws it back into the ark to be refreshed and sustained. A second time, the dove goes forth, this time returning with the olive branch, the emblem of peace. The symbol of the peace of God is found only in the Spirit-filled life.

The fifth message is the raven and is representative of the law which when sent forth into the receding waters of God's wrath brought no lasting peace. The dove represents the gospel of peace sent forth to bring hope and new life to man under judgment. So a third time the dove goes forth from the ark, never to return again, even as the Spirit in the church will go forth at last to the Father to be with Him forever. That is just a glimmering of the truth that is here, but enough to see that God has a message from Noah to us about Jesus.

The sixth message is the message of judgment and deliverance and is perhaps the most evident. This is the. Judgment like the flood is coming to the world. As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be. We don't know the hour or the day, but we do know it is coming. However, in Christ, that is, in the ark, we are untouchable. When the rain of judgment falls, we will be safe in the ark of heaven, where like the ark, many rooms or many resting places have been custom designed by the Father for us. Just as the storm approaches, He will doubtless come again to receive us to Himself, that where He is, we may be also. So Noah's story is the story of redemption. It is the story of the cross. It is the picture of Jesus Christ.

GOD'S CHARACTER REVEALED THROUGH NOAH

While Noah's message speaks of the Son, it also speaks of the Father and the character of God. There are at least four aspects of God's character revealed in the life of Noah. I am going to mention three, then *really* look at the last one. First of all, Noah's story tells about the righteousness of God. Because of God's righteousness, He spared not the world, but saved righteous Noah. (II Peter 2:5)

1) God can delay judgment, but He cannot withhold judgment.
For God to be a God of holiness, God must judge sin. If no

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judgment is coming, the cross was a mockery, a game God played with His Son; the gospel was a fairy tale and hell is a joke. The martyrs died in vain. It is not so. Our God is righteousness and our God is righteous. Therefore, judgment must come. Noah's story paints a vivid picture of the righteousness of God satisfied in judgment.

2) Noah's story tells of the mercy of God. Because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, He could have wiped the slate clean and started mankind again. His righteousness must be satisfied, but His mercy made allowance for whosoever would come by faith. So God designed a plan for redemption. He left a blueprint for His church. He told his disciples to build the ark. God intervened and offered salvation to Noah and to us. So Noah speaks to the mercy of God.

3) Noah's story tells of the long-suffering or the patience of God. I Peter 3:20, tells us about the patience of God. He waited and waited and waited. For 120 years God waited while Noah built the ark. The patience of God is beyond understanding. While Noah toiled, God waited. Though all mankind was on a collision course with destruction, God stayed His judgment and waited until all who would come and all who could come, had come. It is a portrait of God in the latter days.

But beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering [patient] to us ward, not willing that any [even one] should perish, but that ALL should come to repentance. (II Peter 3:8,9)

GOD'S AWESOME POWER

So Noah speaks of the righteousness of God, the mercy of God and the patience of God. As we journey through the other Living Legends in Scripture, we will come back to these qualities and deal with them in detail. This lesson will look, however, in some depth at one primary aspect of the character of God: *His awesome power*. First, we will see how the Scripture reveals a glimpse of His power, then at how with Noah and with us, God reveals a tiny measure of His power through the elements of the storms, storms He purposefully sends on the just and the unjust alike. We see His power through storms such as hurricanes,

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storms such as the ones that you and I are so fearful of when we read or hear of their devastation. The power of God, who can fathom it? Who can grasp the magnitude of His power? Like the tiny rays of light that shine beneath a closed door but do not reveal the intensity of the brightness inside, so the revelation of Scripture concerning God's power shines through a glass darkly. We cannot comprehend it fully. We can increase our grasp of it as His revelation unto us unfolds.

The power of God is manifested in many ways and for many reasons. For the sake of this lesson, we are going to look at just three areas of the power of God. The first is the *power of God in creating and sustaining life*. The second is the *power of God in judgment and reproof of the nations*. The third is the *power of God manifested in the elements of storm*.

The Power of God in creating and sustaining life.

First, the Scripture says that every one of God's children should regularly stop and meditate on God's power because He created the heavens and the earth. He just spoke and it happened. His power is also greatly revealed in sustaining life. Should God but sneeze, the universe would crumble into nothingness, along with all of the scientists who think they understand what holds it all together. says this:

By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses.

Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. (Psalm 33:6-8)

When was the last time you went out on your front porch in the midst of a storm and just stood in awe of God, fell down on your knees and worshipped Him, the Omnipotent God of power?

For He spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast. (Psalm 33:9)

Isaiah adds:

Harken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, My called; I am He; I am the first, I also am the last.

Mine hand hath also laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens. When I call unto them, they stand up together. (Isaiah 48:12,13)

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In other words, all God has to do is say, "Attention!" and the heavens and the earth and all the angels and all the inhabitants of the earth will stand up at attention because of the power of God.

Ah Lord God! Behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee: (Jeremiah 32:17)

That is the lesson. If God created it all, then there is nothing He cannot do. The Creator can handle all of His creation so you and I can relax.

He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.

When he uttereth his voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures.

(Jeremiah 10:12,13)

Job 34:14 and 15 from the Living Bible says:

If God were to withdraw His Spirit, all life would disappear and mankind again would turn to dust.

If you want to worship God for His sustaining power, memorize that verse. If God were to withdraw His Spirit, all life would disappear and mankind again would turn to dust. God's power is awesome. We understand just a little speck of it.

Just as awesome and perhaps more readily understood is the power of God in judgment.

Hell is naked before him, and destruction hath no covering.

He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing. (Job 26:6,7)

The pillars of heaven tremble and are astonished at his reproof.

He divideth the sea with his power, and by his understanding he smiteth through the proud. (Job 26:11,12)

Psalms 29 in the Living Bible says:

Praise the Lord you angels of his; praise his glory and his strength. Praise Him for His majestic glory, the glory due his name. Come before him clothed in sacred garments.

The voice of the Lord echoes from the clouds. The God of glory thunders through the skies. So powerful is His voice;

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so full of majesty. It breaks down the cedars. It splits the giant trees of Lebanon. It shakes Mount Lebanon and Mount Syria. They leap and skip before Him like young calves! The voice of the Lord thunders through the lighting. It resounds through the deserts and shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord spins and topples the mighty oaks. It strips the forest bare. They whirl and sway beneath the blast. But in His temple His people are praising, "Glory, glory to the Lord."

At the [Noah's] Flood, the Lord showed his control of all creation. Now He continues to unveil His power. He will give His people strength. He will bless them with peace.

(Psalm 29:1-11)

THE POWER OF GOD MANIFESTED IN THE ELEMENTS OF THE STORM.

So God's mighty power has been unleashed in tiny bits and pieces in the universe to demonstrate who He is and to cause us to fall down and worship Him. He revealed Himself by creation and by judgment. But I honestly believe that the most vivid portrait of the power of God is found in the everyday evidence of God through the elements of the storm. I believe that everything from the activity of the volcanoes to the devastation of the hurricanes is saying to the unbeliever, "I AM GOD, and I AM HERE. Come to Me in repentance before I come to you in judgment." To the believer He says, "You have not touched the power that is available to you, the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. See it in the volcano. See it in the hurricane. See it in a tornado. See it in a rainstorm. See it in a flood. Wherever you see it, experience it for yourself. It is the victorious power of God in the Christian life." Every time a volcano erupts, God is saying, "Here I am, worship Me."

He looks on the earth and it trembles; He touched the hills,
and they smoke.

I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to
my God while I have my being. (Psalm 104:32,33)

Why do we sing praises? Because we have a God of power who can touch volcanoes and cause them to erupt.

Bow thy heavens, O LORD, and come down: touch the
mountains, and they will smoke. (Psalm 144:5)

So every time you read of a volcano erupting, fall down and

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worship. The God of the heavens just whispered His power. Some day soon, He is going to shout it. You may ask, "Why the storms?" God wants our attention. Nahum says this:

A jealous and avenging God is the Lord; The Lord is avenging and wrathful. The Lord takes vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies.

The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, And the Lord will by no means leave the guilty unpunished. In whirlwind and storm is His way, And clouds are the dust beneath His feet.

He rebukes the seas and makes it dry; He dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel wither; The blossoms of Lebanon wither.

Mountains quake because of Him, and the hills dissolve; Indeed the earth is upheaved by His presence, The world and all the inhabitants in it.

Who can stand before His indignation? Who can endure the burning of His anger? His wrath is poured out like fire, And the rocks are broken up by Him.

The Lord is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take refuge in Him. (Nahum 1:2-7 NAS)

Psalm 77 says

Oh, God, Your ways are holy. Where is there any other as mighty as You?

You are the God of miracles and wonders! You still demonstrate Your awesome power. (Psalm 77:13,14 TLB)

The waters saw Thee, O God; the waters saw Thee; they were in anguish; The deeps also trembled.

The clouds poured out water; The skies gave forth a sound; Thy arrows flashed here and there.

The sound of Thy thunder was in the whirlwind; the lightnings lit up the world; The earth trembled and shook.

(Psalm 77:16-18 NAS)

Your God and my God is still demonstrating His power in this day. More than just His power; through the storms He reveals the whole of His character, the whole of His deity. If you work through the Scriptures and see specifically what the Word says God is doing in each and every area of the storms, you will never again be fearful, you will never again be unconcerned over storms. Rather, you will listen to the weather forecast every night. As you do, you will look with an eye to receiving a Word from God. For in every element of the storm, God has a message for us about Himself. Let's take a look.

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God Speaks through the Clouds

God speaks to us through the message of the clouds. *The first things the clouds teach us is the strength of God*. Suppose you turn on the weather forecast and you hear “partly cloudy tomorrow”. What do the clouds say to you? What does that do to cause you to worship God? It tells of the strength of God.

Ascribe ye strength unto God: his excellency is over Israel,
and his strength is in the clouds. (Psalm 68:34)

In other words, His power is made manifest in the heavens and the clouds reveal it.

The second aspect of His character you see when you look at the clouds is the wisdom of God. You can teach these things to your children so that they can learn as with Jesus, to understand the parables of nature. You can see the wisdom of God in this verse.

Who can number the clouds in wisdom? or who can stay
the bottles in heaven, (Job 38:37 KJV)

God has all these bottles of water in heaven waiting to pour down upon earth.

Also can any understand the spreadings of the clouds, ...

With clouds He covereth the light; and commandeth it not
to shine by the cloud that cometh betwixt. (Job 36:29,32)

Do you know what that verse says? It says that God knows every cloud that passes in front of the sun. He has divinely ordained the exact position of that cloud in heaven so that darkness will not cover the earth in any spot that He does not intend it to be. It means that God has perfectly arranged the clouds in the presence of the sun.

The third character quality to learn from the clouds is the glory of God.

...behold, the glory of the Lord, appeared in the cloud.
(Exodus 16:10c)

For the cloud of the Lord was upon the tabernacle by day.
(Exodus 40:38a KJV)

Over and over again in the Old Testament, God revealed His glory through the cloud. Now, every time you see a cloud, you can stop and magnify and glorify the Lord. You can look at every cloud that passes overhead; you can look at the weather forecast that mentions cloudy skies and you and your family can kneel

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in your living room and have a worship time over the glory of the Living God.

The fourth aspect clouds teach us about is the coming of God. Scripture reminds us:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air:
(I Thessalonians 4:17a)

Now when you look up in the sky and see the clouds, you ought never to look up without wondering, "Could this be the day"? Visualize all the saints being caught up together in the midst of the clouds to spend eternity with the Lord. Then, when the Lord comes back with us,

...and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (Matthew 24:30b)

Hereafter shall ye see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven.
(Matthew 26:64b)

Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him...
(Revelation 1:7a)

So don't ever glance up at the sky and see clouds and not worship.

The fifth aspect that clouds speak of is the provision of God.

He gathereth the waters of the sea together as a heap: he layeth up the depth in His storehouses. (Psalm 33:7)

What that means is that no matter what they tell you in the newspapers, we are never going to run out of water. There may be spots in the world that think they are out of water, but, the Scripture says that God has a storehouse in heaven that is connected to a pipeline that never runs dry. He dispenses every drop by divine decree. When it rains, He measures it with special spiritual tools. Not one single drop comes down without His permission. Nor does one single drop fall in a place that has not been pre-ordained. God is the God of the rain. It is part of the message of the clouds.

God Speaks through the Rain

God speaks to us through the rain. He speaks through the *mist*. There are several kinds of rain. There is the slow, misty rain. There is the steady rain. Then there is the violent thunderstorm. The scripture says that God speaks through the tender mist. In

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Psalms we read:

He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth.

In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth. (Psalm 72:6,7)

Through the steady, constant rain He speaks of the faithfulness of God.

My words shall fall upon you like the gentle rain and dew, like rain upon the tender grass, like showers on a hillside.

I will proclaim the greatness of God How glorious He is. (Deuteronomy 32:2,3 TLB)

The consistency of the rainfall testifies of God's glory. Rain also speaks of *the fruitfulness of God's Word.* Anytime you hear a rain shower, your mind ought to automatically think of the Word of God over and over and over again.

For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and returns not there, but waters the earth, and makes it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

So shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void... (Isaiah 55:10,11)

The rain speaks of the consistency and faithfulness of the Word of God. Your family can get down and worship God for the faithfulness of His Word every time the showers fall.

The rain also speaks of God's spiritual blessings.

And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the showers to come down in their season (*in other words, when God says so*); there shall be showers of blessing. (Ezekiel 34:26)

So the steady rain speaks also of God's faithfulness. It speaks of the Word's fruitfulness and the Spirit's blessedness as showers of blessing fall. The spiritual treasures that God brings into the Christian's life are typified by the showers.

The violent torrential rains also speak of God. They speak of His provisions in the tests and trials of life.

Whosoever hears these saying of mine and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on a rock. The storms come and the floods come and the winds blow, but the house stands. Whosoever hears these sayings of Mine and does not act upon them, I will liken him to a foolish

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man who built his house on the sand. When the storms come and the floods come up and the winds blow, his house will fall. (Matthew 7:25-27)

What is the difference? Obedience to the Word of God is the difference. The violent, torrential rains that come speak of the tests of life that separate those who walk with God from those who don't. So when you see a violent rainstorm, you and your family can stop and worship God for His faithfulness for your house is built on a rock. When hurricanes come, those who live in trailer houses and are not absolutely sure they are firmly fastened to the ground need to leave and go to a safer place. Worship God in the rainstorms.

When you see rain, no matter what form it comes in, you can stop and worship Him. Your prayer of worship may sound something like this: "Thank you God for the beauty of your message of the rain. You paint such a beautiful picture album for us by every rain drop that falls. Thank You for the beauty of the rain, for the preciousness of the spiritual blessings You've given us and for the faithfulness of the rain that speaks of Your Word. Make us excited when we see the rain fall that there is a God in heaven who controls every drop and who does it to magnify and glorify His name."

There is also a message in the hail storm.

Hail always speaks in scripture of the anger and judgment of God.

He destroyed their vines with hail,

He gave up their cattle also to the hail, (Psalm 78:47a,48a)

Exodus 9:18-26 tells the same story. Revelation 11:19 says that God sent destruction with thunder, an earthquake and hail. Hail always speak of *the anger of God*.

God Speaks through the Wind

God also preaches a sermon every time the wind blows. The wind is a picture of the Spirit of God. Jesus says:

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from, and where it goes.

So is everyone who is born of the Spirit. (John 3:8 NKJ)

The same thing is true in Ezekiel 37:9. The wind not only speaks of the Spirit, it speaks of tribulation. Jesus is walking

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on the sea in the midst of the storm in Matthew 14. Peter was walking toward Him on the water and Peter began to doubt and began to sink. Jesus reached out to him and called him to Himself. When they were coming to the ship, the wind stopped. In Matthew 8:26 Jesus rose and rebuked the wind. The test was over. The winds of life accompany tribulation. The wind also speaks of God's mystery in John 3:8. The wind speaks of God's miracles in Acts 2:2. At Pentecost, suddenly a sound from heaven came down as a rushing, mighty wind. Numbers 11:31 speaks of how God brought the quail to the children of Israel as a miracle through the wind. Over and over and over again the wind speaks of the miraculous power of God. Our God is not through with miracles. Every time a mighty wind comes, we should fall down on our knees and worship the God of miracles who still raises men out of the ash heap of life and lifts them up on the solid rock and turns them into new creations in Christ Jesus. It is a daily miracle that takes place all around us. All of us are miracles as we now exist in the family of God as by His grace, He reached out and redeemed you and purchased you. Every time the wind blows, you should praise God for the miracle of salvation. Every time the wind blows, it whispers, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus."

God Speaks through the Lightning and Thunder

The message of the storm also speaks through lightning. The lightning says this: "Attention, I am God and here I am." Exodus 19:16 tells of when the children of Israel became aware of the presence of God, it was a mighty thundering and a flash of lightning that called their attention to Mount Sinai. The same is true in Exodus 2:18. But more than just that, the lightning also reveals the presence of His voice. His voice is the thunder, but the lightning always accompanies the voice. What does the lightning say? *The lightning illuminates His Word.* What is that a picture of? It is a picture of the Holy Spirit who takes the Word of God and illuminates it and makes it come alive and says, "Here is God." So the lightning is a picture of the Holy Spirit that illuminates the voice of God which is the thunder. The lightning also reminds us that *He is coming again.* In Luke Jesus says:

When I return, it will be as evident as the lightning that flashes from one part of the sky to the other.

(Luke 17:24 paraphrase)

You can't miss the lightning if you go out at night in the midst of a thunderstorm. Jesus said that we won't be able to

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miss it when He comes again. The lightning also reminds that *His coming will be quick.*

For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.
(Matthew 24:27)

Every bolt of lightning says, "I'm coming, I'm coming, I'm coming!" The lightning also reminds us that Satan will one day fall. In Luke 10:18 the disciples said:

... "Even demons obey us when we use Your name."
"Yes, he told them, "I saw Satan falling from heaven like a flash of lightning!"
(Luke 10:18 TLB)

The lightning reveals the sovereignty of God. Read Job 28:26 and Job 37:3. These verses teach us that God places each bolt of lightning in precisely the place He wants it, down to the fraction of an inch. There are no loose lightning bolts falling down from heaven in the midst of a storm. Never does one carelessly fall to the ground. Each one is a divinely guided missile, perfectly placed to best display the power of God. God makes no mistakes. We must make no mistake then; there is a message in the lightning.

God speaks through the thunder. As we have already heard over and over in the Scripture it says that God spoke and it thundered. The thunder of His voice is described in Psalm 77:18. Whenever you hear a thunder clap, you have heard God whisper. I say whisper because it is such a tiny expression of God's power. If God really shouted, you and I would be smashed into pieces. God whispers and that is when it thunders.

The voice of thy thunder was in the whirlwind;
(Psalm 77:18)

Always the thunder speaks of the power of God.

But the thunder of his power who can understand?
(Job 26:14c)

Or hast thou an arm like God? And canst thou thunder with a voice like him?
(Job 40:9)

God Speaks through the Rainbow

The last message of the storm is the rainbow and is the most beautiful. It was God's gift wrapped package to Noah. The rainbow speaks of the *mercy* of God because the Son shines through the glory cloud. When the Son shines through the glory, His reflection shadows a portrait of mercy and we call it a rainbow.

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The rainbow also speaks of God's *faithfulness*. He says from this point on there would always be day and night, seed and harvest, winter and summer. The rainbow also speaks of God's *promises*. He said there would be no more flood of the entire earth or the destruction of all mankind.

God Speaks through the Eye of the Storm

Even the eye of the storm has a message. It is in the center of the will of God that you will find peace. Anytime you see a hurricane coming, you will know in the very center of the eye, there is perfect peace. There is always perfect peace in the midst of the will of God no matter how much turmoil exists round about.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO THE STORMS

GOD SENDS?

So each time the storm clouds gather, God is preaching a message to us. The question is, are we listening? When you see tremendous amounts of rain and a lot of high wind, lightning and thunder, remember the message of the storm. How will you respond? *First of all, we should have a response of faith.* A God of such great power is worthy of our allegiance. If He can speak and a forest is destroyed, can He not handle your inner turmoil? If He can deliver lightning across the heavens to an exact prescribed location, can't He send you where He wants you to go? If He can destroy a city with hail and wind but deliver His anointed, can't He deliver you from the clutches of besetting sin? If He can destroy all mankind and safely escort righteous Noah through the waters, can't He deliver you safely into His Father's arms when the storm is over? A God of such power deserves a response of faith.

The second response should be a response of worship. That is how Noah responded. The majesty of His power brought Noah to his knees. That should be our response. Every time we hear thunder, we should worship God for His power. Every time the lightning flashes, we should worship Him because His Son is coming soon. Every time the rain falls, we should worship Him because He is faithful. Every time the wind blows, we should worship Him for the miracles of His Spirit. Every cloud should say, "Worship Me for My glory." Every rainbow should whisper, "Worship Me for My mercy."

The Message of the Storm

When you hear of thousands huddled in shelters waiting for a coming hurricane, expecting their homes to be destroyed, hiding for the very safety of their lives, remember the message of the storm. When you hear of highways jammed, bumper to bumper with those fleeing an impending hurricane, remember the message of the storm. No one knew the hour, but all knew it was coming. Man has no control over the course of a hurricane. With all of the gadgets and all of the expensive research materials, we can view a hurricane, but we can't control it. No man has control over its intensity. Man is helpless. All he can do is flee or wait. When we see what we think are horrendous storms, we are seeing only one-ten-trillionth of a fraction of the power of God. The news is not that God unleashes such power and some are destroyed, but the miracle is the restraint of a holy God who is grieved over sinful man, and yet in patience, He holds in check the other 99% of His power until the day of judgment. When that day comes, the world *will* see the power of God. It will be so awesome and so magnificent that the Scripture says that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

That is the message of the storm. It spoke to righteous Noah. Through Noah it speaks to us. If you are reading this today and you are not a Christian, every clap of thunder should penetrate your heart and say to you, "I am a God of power." Every flash of lightning should say to you, "I am coming soon for those who name My name." Every drop of rain should say, "Come unto Me, all who labor and are heavy-laden and I will refresh you and give you rest." God has built a shelter for you. It is stocked with all you will ever need until the storm is past. Come to Him right now. Listen to the message of the storm.

The Message of the Storm

THE STORM SPEAKS

Yes, God speaks through the mountains
He speaks through His sunlight so warm,
But, oh, His loudest voice is heard
When He speaks to man through the storm.

When the clouds hover over in darkness
He speaks of His wisdom and glory
And echoes the song of His coming
To fulfill and complete His great story.

And the rain whispers, "God is so faithful
To bless us and make us content,
To assure His Word will be fruitful,
To fulfill that for which it was sent."

The hail resounds the anger of God
And reminds us that judgment must fall,
But also it speaks of deliverance
And cries, "There's a refuge for all."

The wind whispers, "I am God's Spirit.
I am present in life's testing hour,
But I also announce God's miracles
And remind you of His mighty power."

The lightning says to man, "I AM GOD,
I'll come quickly and Satan will fall."
Yet, in comfort, it whispers, "I AM the I AM,
So I will deliver you all."

The thunder says, "Listen, I speak
Like a whisper o'er mountains I trod,
And the cedars of Lebanon fall at My voice
For I am the voice of God."

And then, at last, the rainbow sings
A song of God's mercy and grace.
Its radiant reflection of glory and color
Mirrors the joy on God's face

The storms of life have a message.
When you hear God's thunder begin,
Worship the God of the storm clouds
For the Master has spoken again.

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