

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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Thankful The Storm Has Passed

Introduction

The week of September 9-15th 2018 will for years be imbedded in the minds of hundreds around the world. While September 11th will be recalled in history books as, up to that time, the greatest act of terrorism ever committed on US soil, yet there is one common thread between the countries of Mexico and the United States, of Hawaii, Carolina, and Florida. Each of these areas had major hurricanes. Hurricane or typhoon Mangkhut had just battered the Philippines; hurricane Florence battered the eastern states of Carolina; hurricane Olivia battered the Hawaiian Islands and Maui; hurricane Irma hit the Caribbean and Florida; and Katia hit Mexico. Each of them had brought preparation and anxiety fearing for the worst as there was anticipated broken families, untold destruction, landscapes changed forever, physical injuries and deaths.

- a) I have never been in one but my daughter, who lives in Florida, has and I understand there is great preparation in the unknowing where the hurricane will hit, precisely when it will hit, and the degrees of it's intensity. Windows are boarded up, people leave the anticipated regions fearing for life and belongings. What a sigh of relief there must have been when the storm had passed, the biggest concern being that the lives of loved ones had been spared. What a relief to see the storm clouds fade into the horizon and the comfort of the blue sky and sun with white clouds reappear.

Musings

As I consider these storms, I am reminded of them indicating two things:

- a) They display the fact that the storms of life are much bigger than humanity is. How weak humanity is in the face of such demonstrations of God's power. He rules the waves and when we see and feel the earthly curtailed fierceness of the earthly storms, permitted by His mighty hand, one must consider, "What must the fierceness of God's storm of eternal wrath be when vented on the individual who rejects His way of salvation?" Well do the scriptures say, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" (Heb. 2:3)
- b) Again, it displays God's grace and is a reminder that earthly things are all perishing and the need to consider the eternal Kingdom of God which cannot be shaken (Heb.12:27). There is great comfort and security in knowing that for the individual who puts their dependence on Christ for salvation, the storm has forever passed. On the cross of Calvary, that which the Lord endured is put pictorially as, "All thy waves and thy billows are gone over me" (Psa. 42:7); "Thou hast afflicted me with all thy waves" (Psa. 88:7); "I sink in deep mire" (Psa. 69:2); "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" (Psa. 22:1); "From above hath He sent fire into my bones" (Lam. 1:13). When the Holy Spirit is using human language to describe the "storm" the Lord endured in three hours of darkness on the cross, He uses words such as "sufferings" (1 Pet. 5:1); "suffering" (Heb. 2:9); "suffered" (1 Pet.

3:18); “blood” (Rom. 5:9); “chastised, wounded, bruised, afflicted” (Isa. 53:5, 7). His storm was not just a mental or physical storm, it was felt in the depths of His being when He spoke prophetically about His death as, “He made His soul an offering for sin” (Isa. 53:10). That “hell” on earth was borne by one perfect man (Christ), and the storms we see in life are warnings of grace as to the horror of the storm of eternal condemnation and being in the place where ease will never be known again, where indescribable grief and pain will be a reality forever.

What happens when an unsaved individual dies?

In attending many funerals of those who have died unsaved, I hear the same sad blind inducing lies told repeatedly. I have heard it said, “They are up there ready for a round of golf” or “sitting in the great bar with friends having a drink, they are better off now”. These are all lies from the father of lies, that is, the devil. Those who had no time for God on earth fail to understand that God will have no time for them in eternity. Those who reject the sacrifice of the Lord as a substitute for their penalty, God will have no mercy for them in their sufferings. Sadly, all those who gave these false words of satanic deception to them will also be there in Hell and no earthly position or works will avail for release.

- a) When any human seeks to secure salvation and acceptability with God and heaven at death by their own works, kind deeds, or religious rituals, they are declaring that Christ is a liar, for when it came to providing salvation He cried, “It is finished” (Jn. 19:30) and they are saying what Christ did is not enough, I must do my part. Despite the fact the Scriptures inform all men everywhere, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Eph. 2:8) and, “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost” (Titus 3:5), to try to gain Heaven by ones own endeavors is the ultimate insult to God and the work of the Lord.
- b) At the moment an unsaved individual dies they go from:
 - i) Hell being a theory to being a reality
 - ii) Opportunity for accepting salvation to never again hearing a Biblical verse of invitation
 - iii) Laughing to wailing, not just weeping
 - iv) The prompting of the Holy Spirit to being left forever, never to hear His invitation again.
- c) Perhaps the worst is the knowing that they have no escape from the ineffable, standing before God and not having a word to say. The books will be opened and their opportunities for salvation reviewed, the fulness of their understanding exposed, the deliberate rejection of God’s way revealed, and then they will be cast into the Lake of fire for all eternity (Rev. 20:11-15).

The preparation to escape the coming judgment

The angel of the Lord commanded Lot and his family, “Escape for thy life” (Gen. 19:17), but some of the family did not believe him and shrugged it off. They defied the promise of God that He would destroy the cities, and decided to stay. However, when the fire (lightning) came from heaven, it was too late to repent of their decision, there was no escape. That is why it is wise with great haste to grasp the offer of God’s salvation and escape the coming wrath. As it is recorded in the scriptures, “How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation” (Heb. 2:3). Foolish is the individual who thinks they can ride out this eternal judgment. Let them be assured they will ultimately be banished from God for all eternity. It is by complete dependence on the finished work of Christ and the acceptance of Him as their Lord and Saviour. Just as a young man accepts a young lady to be his wife, the individual accepts the Lord Jesus to be their Saviour. This is not just a mental decision, but a spiritual decision, 100% dependence on the finished work of Christ from the storm of God’s wrath for all eternity.

Personal testimony

I am grateful to God that on the 7th of September 1957, as a lad of 13 years old sitting in a children’s meeting, I accepted Christ as my personal Saviour, and from that moment I know that the storm is past, and I shall never hear the cries of the damned or see the judgment of hell.

In the dark of the midnight have I oft hid my face,
While the storm howls above me, and there's no hiding place.
'Mid the crash of the thunder, Precious Lord, hear my cry,
Keep me safe till the storm passes by.

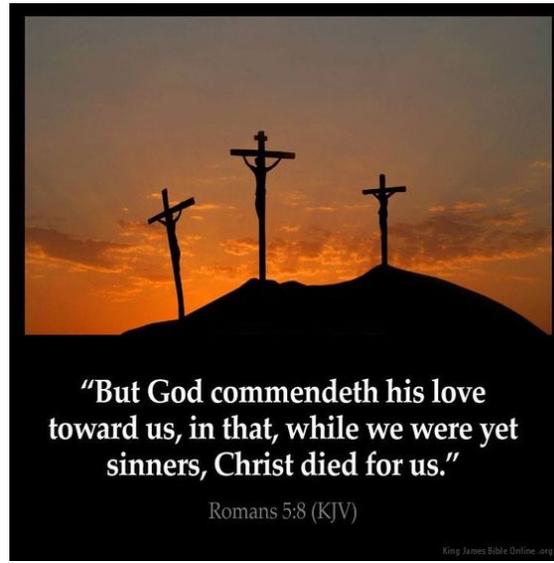
Chorus

*Till the storm passes over, till the thunder sounds no more,
Till the clouds roll forever from the sky;
Hold me fast, let me stand in the hollow of Thy hand,
Keep me safe till the storm passes by.*

Many times Satan whispered, "There is no need to try,
For there's no end of sorrow, there's no hope by and by"
But I know Thou art with me, and tomorrow I'll rise
Where the storms never darken the skies.

When the long night has ended and the storms come no more,
Let me stand in Thy presence on the bright peaceful shore;
In that land where the tempest, never comes, Lord, may I
Dwell with Thee when the storm passes by.

Mosie Lister



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