

# THE WORD

## VOLUME XL NUMBER VII Walking through the Storms of Life II

The Bible teaches that storms are very much a part of life. As man gains education and knowledge, God is often forgotten and therefore either sends a storm or at the very least uses a storm to remind His creation just who has the power to change things! In Exodus 19 God spoke the Ten Commandments to Israel and the earth shook, terrifying the people. Hebrews 12:25-29 describes a shaking that God is going to do. This Hebrews passage says, *“See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, ‘Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.’ Now this, ‘Yet once more,’ indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.”*

For many the Coronavirus pandemic of 2020 has revealed who we fear, God or death! For those who have already passed from death to life, why fear death? God sends storms to remove what can be shaken so what cannot be shaken remains. Saints, is it possible that the current storms of life, the devastations had to get as severe as we are seeing globally for the church to wake up, grow up, stand up, move forth? Preparation, and the maturity which accompanies it must happen now and must happen with purpose and determination. Our God is a consuming fire! Why would God send a storm? He says, *“Do not shed innocent blood.”* and we now have 70 million, infant voices demanding judgment at God’s Throne. Jesus hates the doctrine of Baalam, while the educational curriculum of our schools promote it. God-haters and God-mockers rule in a majority of states and too often judges rule against God, His ways, and His people. 2 Chronicles 36:15-16 is true of our generation. *“And the LORD God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till there was no remedy.”*

Given our current situation, it’s time to survey the spiritual weather report from the Author of the weather. Storm warnings and weather events abound in His Word. Much of the church has been way too lax in spending time developing a heart for the Word and actively developing intimacy with God. And way too many believers are lopsided in their perception of the love of God. Because God is love, He hates evil and judges it before it destroys the culture. Most Christians who know God is love, don’t know that God loves us enough to cut off the wicked. Not for naught did God impress the imprecatory Psalms on the heart of David. Every dimension of who He is embodies His purest form of love. We cannot define love based on human perception. This is the hour for commitment to grow up in Him in all things and act on that commitment, which means being established in truth! The Sonship Gifts are essential for where we are going. A church that is not prepared for persecution is not prepared for their destiny. To live above our circumstances, we must keep an eternal mindset!

Do we have a life-view that is shaped by the Word? Or do we allow the Word to be shaped and interpreted by our life view? We are living through the largest assault on our nation that we have ever seen. But many prophets agree on one thing. This Plandemic was a trial run to see who complied and who resisted. Would the Anti-Christ use a plandemic to legislate a mandatory vaccine that carried a digital tattoo that would qualify as 666? This technology exists along with cellular bio-engineering targeting the part of the brain that adheres to religion so every devout individual can unknowingly be neutralized, anesthetized or rendered Compliant! All authority is given to the church! James 2:13 declares judgment without mercy to those who show no mercy. Let's pray that verse over God's enemies and those who fight for the destruction of democracy. Let's be willing to activate the war Psalms and pray over Godless leaders who are stripping the church of its rights.

We are experiencing serious clashes in foundational beliefs and ideology. People's core character and motives of heart are being revealed in spite of the attempts to deceive and cloak truth. Intents of heart as well as evil deeds are coming out of the darkness and being exposed by God's light. Plagues, earthquakes and financial devastation can create panic spawned through political manipulation. Why are governors of some of the blue states killing jobs by extending the lockdown? Answer: to kill the economy and Trump's hope for reelection. Why has the pandemic warranted social distancing and throngs of protestors shoulder to shoulder been tolerated without concern for spreading disease? Jesus said in Matthew 24:7, *"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines, pestilences and earthquakes in various places."* We are in a war between the Kingdom of light and darkness. The world chooses fear as its own brand of faith and ignores the true fear of the Lord. Proverbs 1:29 promises that those who choose the fear of the Lord qualify for verse 33 which says, *"But whoever listens to me will dwell safely and will be secure without fear of evil."*

Let's examine the two contrasting kinds of fear. These postures and attitudes of fear are distinctly different and oppose one another. Each will sculpt our approach to life and our handling of crisis situations. Psalm 34:9-10 says *"Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints! There is no want to those who fear Him. The young lions do lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing."* This describes healthy, mature fear. It is this fear of the Lord that we should weave into the fabric of our lives. This quality of fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and it brings God's character and glory on the scene. This fear is a weighty reverence toward our Awesome, Majestic, Glorious God, our deep heart response He Who is a Consuming Fire. This mature fear is born out of a heart of humility and surrender that brings us to our knees before Him. In this posture certain Word-passages become easier for us to respond to, such as, *"The fear of the Lord is to hate evil. pride arrogance the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate,..."* For the unregenerate having a Damascus Road moment as Paul did becomes a personal encounter with this awesome, fearful God! It can initiate transformation! *"For disaster from the Lord terrifies me. And because of His majesty I could not do these things."* This experience can cause an about-face in lives!

There is another brand of fear. This fear has to do with torment and anguish. It is an out-of-control fear accompanied by demonic darkness with its goal to overwhelm minds and hearts. It is often irrational and brings confusion. It can also come in times of literal crisis with its goal to point us in the wrong direction. *"...Perfect love casts out fear because fear involves torment..."* God's answer for believers is, *"Fear not for I am with you be not dismayed for I am your God I will strengthen you I will help you yes I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness."* Those tormented by the fear of death are unable to walk in confidence concerning God's love. A confident, courageous walk is out of reach for these saints. It stunts Christian growth and fruitfulness. For those who turn to God, He has a deliverance from this destructive kind of fear.

Romans 1:22 says, *"Professing to be wise, they became fools,..."* This verse describes many present day, power-hungry leaders. If these leaders are reelected our love of freedom and democracy will be in even greater peril. America as we know it may disappear. Let's pray as King David prayed when his son Absalom engineered an overthrow of Judah to seize control of the nation. Psalm 143:12 says, *"In Your mercy cut off my enemies and*

*destroy all those who afflict my soul; For I am Your servant.”* God intervened for King David based on covenant and God has not changed.

Proverbs 1 clearly promises, when we choose to fear God, the fear of adversity loses its’ hold on us! This is a necessary preparation for reestablishing the fear of the Lord in the last days. The Bible declares an escalation of fear in the last days as the judgment of God is poured out on a rebellious, anti-Christ world. Proverbs 1 sets fear in context in verses 29-33. *“Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the Lord, They would have none of my counsel And despised my every rebuke. Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full with their own fancies. For the turning away of the simple will slay them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them; But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, And will be secure, without fear of evil.”* When storms come, it’s a real blessing to live in God’s security without the fear of evil!

In our June publication we studied Acts 27. The Apostle Paul is our example. Paul was a champion storm trooper. Paul never lost his determination or his sense of his eternal purpose. He spoke the Word of the Most High God. He stayed steadfast and faithful with His focus on the Lord and God’s eternal purposes. Though he knew there would be rough waters of man’s own making, his relationship with God abounded to the salvation of many. In contrast, Jonah ran from the Lord and encountered a storm of his own making even putting others in jeopardy. The Word of the Lord is quick and powerful and sharper than a two edged sword piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit and it is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. In contrast, God saw Jonah’s heart and arranged circumstances for Jonah to see his own heart. We can learn from God’s servants.

Jonah and Paul both faced daunting circumstances but responded very differently! According to Jewish tradition Jonah’s mother was the widow of Zarethath, and he was raised from the dead by Elijah. Jonah lived during the reign of King Jeroboam II and helped the king to make the kingdom of Israel very prosperous and powerful. Jonah was a well-known statesman. Nineveh was the capital of Assyria, a very wealthy cultural center which would have disdained a Hebrew prophet like Jonah. The stronghold of the city of Assyria was 30 miles long and 10 miles wide and Assyria was an archenemy of Israel. There were three moats surrounding the city. The walls were 100 feet high and wide enough for four chariots to race abreast. There were great and beautiful palaces with the finest of gardens. There were 70 halls decorated magnificently in alabaster and sculptures. The temple in the city was in the form of a large pyramid which glittered in the sun. The city was as great in wickedness as it was in wealth and power. Their intellectual attainments were said to be incredible. Jonah probably felt that if he delivered God’s prophetic word and it led to repentance that his friends would very likely label him a traitor. No wonder Jonah fled in fear of the assignment. Jonah needed a refresher course in the true fear of the Lord and it came in the form of an unrelenting storm and being imprisoned in a very dark place! Jonah had to admit the storm was his fault and only throwing him overboard could save his fellow passengers. Immediately upon throwing Jonah into the water there was a great calm. The fear of the Lord was birthed and all present were aware of the God of the Hebrews. Jonah had told them, *“I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”* The others aboard were awed at the stilling of the storm and *“offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him.”*

Jonah was swallowed by a great whale and transported for three days back to Nineveh repenting as he went. No doubt anybody who looked and smelled like Jonah did, could tell a fish story like his and be believed. Nineveh, the great adversary of Israel was saved from destruction which made it hard for Jonah to return home! God’s ways are not our ways! Both Jonah and Paul learned the fear of the Lord through adversity, one through blindness and one with seaweed wrapped around his head and probably accompanied by inner terrors as he remembered being imprisoned inside of a whale. Could we say that Jonah, learned obedience through the things he suffered? At this point, disobeying God was no longer an option. Job 31:23 HCSB says, *“Disaster from the Lord terrifies me and because of His majesty I could not do these things.”* To Jonah the option of disobeying the very Creator of the land and sea, and every creature of the sea, was more fearful than the potential shunning, outrage

or worse. he could imagine enduring at the hands of his fellow Israelites. Jonah obeyed, and Nineveh repented! When the manifest glory and majesty of the Lord is present we will either bow in reverence or be knocked down in fear.

Toward the culmination of Paul's ministry, as the Jews were plotting to kill him, Paul appealed to Caesar the Emperor of Rome. As a Roman citizen he was guaranteed a hearing in Rome. In Acts 27 God gave Paul a prophetic word of warning about the trip they were embarking on. Nevertheless, the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman, who was the expert in sea navigation. That helmsman represents professional wisdom. We all tend to honor the experts. Our leading American doctors denied the surveys declaring "lockdowns would do more damage than good by imposing a draconian throwback to antiquated medicine." Anyone who brings supposed professional wisdom must be critically examined before applying their suggestions! Professional wisdom is based on information that is one dimensional or may be tainted. The Bible says Test All Things! God desires looking circumspectly. Professional wisdom has to bow to God's Word. The owner of the ship had a profit motive. The harbor was not suitable so should we allow a little discomfort to lead us into death? The majority on board with Paul advised sail when God said, 'Don't sail.' A majority that goes against God can lead a nation to destruction. The only true source of sound wisdom is the voice of God!

The south wind blew softly making it appear as if they could sail but they could not sail safely. They were exceedingly tempest tossed. The weather was so violent that they felt forced to throw the cargo overboard, and eventually the ship's tackle was tossed in the sea as well. All of these measures were taken but still there was no relief. They all fasted and finally gave up hope of being saved until an angel appeared to Paul declaring he was to appear before Caesar and assuring him that God had granted him all his companions on board would be spared. The ship ran aground and the soldiers were going to kill the prisoners to avoid their escape. The centurion prevented them and they were all saved. They took shelter on the island of Malta. As Paul gathered kindling for a fire all present witnessed a deadly viper fasten itself to Paul's arm. The devil had arranged another 'surprise.' God not only spared Paul's life again but He used another incident as an opportunity for a revival accompanied by healing and deliverance.

Both Jonah and Paul gained a harvest and both were moved by the fear of the Lord through adversity! Both walked out the effects of the fear authored by darkness leading to out of control circumstances. Jonah was the source of the fear and panic aboard his voyage. No doubt he was awe-struck by what his disobedience had caused, whereas Paul quelled fear and panic through his supernatural composure and timely prophetic words and actions. The storms of life formed their character and fully qualified them to fulfill their destiny. The power of God was on display among Paul's fellow travelers as they pulled themselves onto dry land, miraculously spared from death at sea thanks to Paul's faith. God used and honored Paul with several harvests in route to Rome! The fear of God opens the door to fearlessness in deadly circumstances. The fear of the Lord is a great launching pad and platform for faith to bring in a harvest. In Mark 4 the disciples feared exceeding saying, "*Who is this that even the wind and seas obey Him.*"

What do we need to personally shake off to gain our harvest? Can God provide for us when the enemy has come to steal what we need for the last days? The storms will come. It rains on the just and the unjust. God has given us a navigation manual. He is the Way-Maker and the Promise-Keeper! He is also the Weather-Maker and the Mighty One who commands stillness and peace to fall. Those who have studied with us for any length of time are familiar with imprecatory mercy, and judicial prayer. Out of the heart of the sweet Psalmist of Israel came some amazing prayer Psalms. These are prayers we need to familiarize ourselves with. These prayers show us the heart of the Prince of Peace spoken through His servant David. The Holy Spirit knows what we need to pray when we long to gain our harvest and perhaps this is a season that God has ordained to give us a testimony of His goodness and provision! God intervened in our last Presidential election. God's choice revealed hearts all across the nation. For three years our president has been mercilessly blistered with unrelenting hostility and assaults in multiple

attempts to remove him from office. Many groups have shown Him no mercy, like the media, Hollywood, even underground enemies embedded in national agencies. A number of elected officials, groups and leaders motivated by nothing but power and self-interest have been among the attackers. God anointed our current President to stand in office! Proverbs 105:15 says, *“Do not touch my anointed ones...”* Let all who touch God’s anointed ones, those born for such a time as this receive fire and lightening until their every evil plot collapses and is destroyed under the weight of their own affliction. God uses affliction to change hearts or remove. Dt. 7:15 says, *“And the Lord will take away from you all sickness, and will afflict you with none of the diseases of the terrible diseases of Egypt, which you have known, but will lay them on all those who hate you.”* Lord start with the Supreme Court & do it now until three vacancies develop, then visit the other branches of government in Jesus Name!

Regarding those who have gone out of bounds and fully sold out to evil, God spoke James 2:13 to me. God asked, ‘Has this president been given any mercy?’ I answered, ‘No Lord!’ He said, ‘A boundary has been crossed; the cup is full! Now I give judgment without mercy to all who have shown no mercy! I, the Most High am not mocked! What a man sows that shall he reap! Tell My people, when they see those who show no mercy, it is time to prophesy, declare and decree judgment.’ God is not mocked. Judgment without mercy will find those who show us no mercy! Now, more than ever, I was acutely aware that the church needs a keen ear and a heightened awareness of this important verse in James 2 viewing it with a broader lens. So often our attention is drawn to the phrase, *“Mercy triumphs over judgment.”* But do we neglect to fully comprehend the power of the first part of that verse? *“Judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy.”* King David said it well in Psalm 139:21-22. *“O that you would slay the wicked O God. Do I not hate them, O Lord, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.”*

It’s up to the Lord to show us by His Spirit who qualifies for those no-mercy decrees and declarations! It is the Most High God Who initiates such prayers for only He knows the hearts, and only He knows what the times and the seasons demand. To pray in this manner we must partner with the Holy Spirit. He is the conductor and our declarations are the instruments. Proverbs 26:26 says, *“Though his hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness will be revealed before the assembly.”* May lies perpetrated by God-haters and God-mockers be exposed and brought to light. May those who lead others to destruction receive merciless judgment! Out of their own mouth God judges them! All those who are laboring to kill this nation, now receive destruction in their own path! Judgment without mercy manifests on the head of all who have shown no mercy! May judgment without mercy be manifested on the head of all who have shown no mercy. Reward them according to their works! We pray that judgment will abound to the salvation of this nation.

The end-time army of Joel 2 is rising up. Joel 2:3-11 says, *“A fire devours before them and behind them a flame burns; The land is like the Garden of Eden before them, And behind them a desolate wilderness; Surely nothing shall escape them. Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like swift steeds, so they run. With a noise like chariots Over mountaintops they leap, Like the noise of a flaming fire that devours the stubble, Like a strong people set in battle array. Before them the people writhe in pain; All faces are drained of color. They run like mighty men, They climb the wall like men of war; Every one marches in formation, And they do not break ranks. They do not push one another; Every one marches in his own column. Though they lunge between the weapons, They are not cut down. They run to and fro in the city, They run on the wall; They climb into the houses, They enter at the windows like a thief. The earth quakes before them, The heavens tremble; The sun and moon grow dark, And the stars diminish their brightness. The Lord gives voice before His army, For His camp is very great; For strong is the One who executes His word. For the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; Who can endure it?”*

It’s time for the rising of God’s army! How much transformation has to take place for the true church to grow into this army? Are we willing to yield to the growth process? God has had a remnant hidden away in His secret place who have counted Him as their Most High God. These devoted ones have been willing to repent and

walk through a season of rending their heart and not their garments. Through their listening ear and surrendered heart, they have been recruited to bring forth a revival of repentance. They will be given the anointing to cleanse and purify major sections of the Body of Christ. Through grace and understanding, they have been surrendered to repentance. Through their commitment, they will impart the anointing of producing repentance. The anointing for repentance far exceeds that of healing and miracles in fruitfulness. Healing and miracles gain attention but the anointing for repentance is transformative! It can transform cities and turn nations! The cry of this army's heart is: 'Lord, spare the cities, spare the nations; deliver the church from reproach and the bondage to governments who have yielded to wickedness.' Holy Spirit demonstrations are necessary to release the fear of the Lord! Restoring the fear of the Lord will gain us a great harvest! God sees all we give toward His eternal purpose! God takes it personally. Just as if we handed precious gifts to Him. *"He who gives to the poor lends to the Lord and the Lord will repay him!"* Proverbs 19:17. Finally God rewards accordingly sometimes in this life and sometimes that reward comes in eternity. But be assured, the reward for your obedience and sacrifice will come.

*The fear of the Lord, it fell upon Paul.*

*It fell upon Jonah too.*

*Of the two fears, either terror or awe,*

*Which fear will fall upon you!*

*By Jayne H*

#### ITINERARY

6/25-6/27	Quincy, IL	Untired Minister's Fellowship Conference River of Life Church 2901 Payson Rd. Quincy, IL 62305 6/25 12 PM – 6/27 2 PM Call to verify details	Ira Milligan 318-613-8271
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