

own ideas and vain presumptions and the way of this world, but warns Jesus, when the rains come, and the floods come, and the winds blow upon that house, that is, when the last judgment comes, it will fall, and great and grievous will be its fall.

In this time that we live in how urgent that you and I not only build on the Rock, Christ Jesus, but that we live, seeking and striving, praying and working that others will do so too, in our families and in the church and our whole wide world. We need to sow the gospel seed regardless of where and how the wind blows, for as Ecclesiastes 11:4 also states, "*He that observes the wind, shall not sow*" and God surely promises His Word shall not fail, but prosper in His hands. To that end let us also pray much for the Spirit's mighty working in our times through His gospel Word, praying with the Bride of Solomon for His saving work in us and through us touching the lives of countless more even. "*Awake O north wind, and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into His garden, and eat His pleasant fruits.*" [Song of Solomon 4:16] Do you so pray to God daily for His almighty saving and reviving sanctifying work in our days through His Spirit and Word? Isn't there so much need for this in our dark and evil days?

The winds seen in the light of Scripture, those winds of nature even seen through the spectacles of God's Word, can remind us of the supremacy of God, the smallness of man, the saving powers of the Lord, and about steadfastness in the faith and the great need for that, and they remind us of the storms to come in the end of the age, and to be safe and strong in the Lord, and witnesses of Him while it is still the time of grace. "O Spirit of the living God, blow in our times, yes, also with this Thy Word, and cause Thy word to prosper for Jesus sake, we pray. Amen.

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### **BANNER OF TRUTH RADIO BROADCAST**

Radio Ministry of the **FREE REFORMED CHURCHES** of North America

*Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee that it may be displayed because of the truth. (Psalm 60:4)*



### THE WIND FROM THE BIBLE'S PERSPECTIVE [2]

Our subject is looking at the wind and windy weather in the light of the Bible. Everyone knows of windy days and wind gusts and wind storms. In Jeremiah 10:13 we are told about God, "*He brings forth the wind out of His treasures.*" Last time, considering various Scriptures, we learned how from the wind in the light of God's Word we can be instructed about the supremacy of God and the smallness of man. There are three more lessons to learn looking at the wind from the Bible's perspective.

The winds should make us think too of the saving power of God. Let me explain. Scripture brings out God rules the winds for the calling and gathering, and equipping of His people, and for the protection of His people too. I think of the striking words in Genesis 8:1 with the world covered with water and the ark with eight people in it. What was their hope of survival, those eight people in the ark, and for the continuance of the human race, and the fulfillment of all God's gospel plans and promises? Genesis 8:1 reads, "*And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle [animals] that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters assuaged [subsided].*" In all of history, who knows how often, God in mercy sent winds to save His people and sometimes to protect His people from that which would harm them. We know God sent winds to feed His people with meat in the desert. Think too of Jesus when here on earth showing His might and control over the winds, and with a word stopping the fierce winds just like that, and thus saving His disciples from out of their danger on the stormy sea!

But when I speak of the winds in the light of Scripture being something that should remind us of the saving power of God and His salvation work for sinners, I think especially of how the Spirit of God, sent forth to apply the gospel to sinners, is compared to the wind, and actually is named with the very word for wind and breath even. When the Holy Spirit was poured out on Pentecost too, we read a sign of His coming was also "*the sound as of a rushing mighty wind*". This is meant to symbolize for us the almighty power and sovereign work of the Holy Spirit in making known Jesus Christ as Saviour in human hearts, leading sinners in repentance and faith before the Lord Jesus Christ. It is very interesting to note how in John 3:8 when Jesus compares the Holy Spirit and His saving work in the heart to the

wind, then Jesus uses the more gentle word for wind, suggesting how the Holy Spirit works ever in gentle and measured sovereign fashion, and not in fierce and violent ways. The word in John 3 is *pneuma*, and not *anemos*, the word more for fierce winds. The Spirit came with a sound as of a rushing mighty wind, *anemos*, but He works as the *Pneuma*, breath of God, bringing and working the salvation of the Lord in the sinner's life. This all brings out, there is such power with the Holy Spirit, in His saving work, and such gentle love and care too, in all His saving purposes.

It is good to think about the winds in nature and how that is all in God's hands, and how it is a picture of the way God is spiritually speaking too for our salvation from sin and evil. What strong and sweet powers to save even the vilest of sinners is found with Him, our Triune God as revealed in Jesus Christ, and by His Spirit and Word. How sad if you should be one who sees and recognizes the power of God in the winds of nature, but you don't and won't see it in the realm of His saving work! The God of the winds is so very great but He is so much greater still as the God of salvation, for sinners. What reasons to trust Him for all our salvation and to find refuge with Him time and again in all of life, against sin, Satan, death and hell! Do you trust Him for your salvation from all sin and evil, my friend?

The gospel is that Jesus experienced the full blast and all the terrible tempests of God's holy wrath against sin for sinners, **and He suffered all the gusts of Satan enmity, and the violent storms of hell came against Jesus as Sinbearer and Saviour, and Christ as Saviour has swallowed them all up through His perfect finished work as crucified and risen Saviour of sinners!** Whatever obstacles in the way of your true and complete salvation and real and ongoing sanctification, the complete and gracious removal of them all is found with the Lord Jesus. Whatever hindrances there are in any way for you to be a true child of God, Christ Jesus can and will, as it were, blow them all away, even as you look to the Lord and plead His mercy and grace for Jesus sake. In Psalm 18 when the psalmist in his distress, also because of sin within himself and all around him, when he called to the Lord and cried to him for help, we read in verse 6, God heard his cry, and then verse 10 states, *"And He did fly upon the wings of the wind"* coming to his help. In other words, so instant and so powerful was God's help for him and God is still the same Saviour God today. Indeed, we may know so even better than David living now in our New Testament age.

Are you trusting in the Lord God over all, the Saviour of sinners, also in your challenges and struggles and anxieties? We read in Isaiah 7:2 about King Ahaz and the Israelites so moved with fear, because of the threat of war, yes, *"as the trees of the wood are moved with the wind."* The meaning there is, they just felt so overwhelmed in other words with fear and dread for their situation, but the trouble with them was they would not trust in the Lord for their help. Maybe you feel overwhelmed and despairing about this or

that, but do you give it over to God, or will you not trust Him either? Oh, may these messages about the wind from the Bible's perspective urge you to trust the Lord and to know and believe you have a great almighty Saviour God as revealed in Jesus Christ, so ready to hear and to help us in all our needs both in life and in death, and even forevermore!

There is a fourth truth we should take notice of in light of the wind from the Bible's perspective, and that is the need for steadfastness in the faith. How the winds in nature remind us if a tree is not deeply rooted it can come down easily, and if a house wall or frame is not well based and anchored, it will quickly come down when the wind comes. Well likewise, for us to stand in the evil day we live in, how well grounded in the truth and deeply anchored in God's Word we must be and seek to be and we must take care as Paul says in Ephesians 4:14 not to be *"tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine"* that comes our way says Paul again, *"by the sleight [or trickery] of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive."* Are you one maybe, dear friend, so easily knocked off your balance in the ways of God, caught up with different and new teachings that not so anchored or as grounded on the foundation of apostolic doctrine as should be and needs to be.

Windstorms, when you know them, it leads to preventive measures on our part in natural life, [I think just of the huge wind fence people set up here in some area, or people boarding up their houses] so as not to be negatively impacted by the winds when they come. What are you doing spiritually speaking to be steadfast in the faith and not tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine out there? What is so needed in our times also for our families and the generations following, is steadfast and growing Christian believers, standing strong and faithful for the truth in love to Christ and His church. Do you see this too as a high calling in our times of many winds of doctrine out there, or will you be far more foolish even than the person who ignores windstorm warnings in our weather forecasts?!

I come to my last point that I would bring out in connection with the wind, and viewing the winds in the light of Scripture. How the winds now, and even any windstorm, should be a reminder to us of more storms ahead, especially of one final great storm to come. We read in Revelation 7:1 about *"four angels...holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree."* This is a picture of God holding back on His final judgment of the world, but when the time comes, those last and final winds will blow, and how prepared we need to be for those end times! How does Jesus put this in Matthew 7 at the end of the Sermon on the Mount? He forewarns all who hear His word need to be doers of His Word, and to be living in true faith in Christ and honest repentance before Him for only then will we be saved and more than conquerors. The foolish man builds his house on sand, that is, he builds his life on himself his