

Storms

By Keith D Troop

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Last Saturday was the fourth of July. It was a rainy, stormy, nasty day in the morning and the same going into Sunday. Fortunately, for everyone who doesn't have large white puppies or PTSD, the weather was perfectly clear for the doing of stupid dangerous things. I was thinking on this and the stormy weather we had the week before and it got me thinking about the very war we had started with that declaration all those years before.

George Washington retreated during some very bad weather. The British thought that very rude. Then George turned around and attacked a bunch of German mercenaries under cover of another winter storm. They made a famous painting about it. It's very nice.

The real fun was that we kicked off that whole revolution in the middle of a global climate change event known as the little ice age. It was apparently caused by all that buffalo flatulence out west which is why we had to get out there and get it dealt with so quickly. Think about it. When the buffalo were nearly extinct, nobody talked about the climate. Now there's enough of them for us to serve buffalo burgers, everyone's telling us to buy electric cars. Coincidence? But I digress.

Storms have affected history rather radically. A mighty storm stood between Moses and the Jews and the pursuing Egyptian army until the Jews had gotten safely across the Red Sea. Everyone thinks the crossing was the big miracle. Heck, Napoleon reported the same phenomenon during his Oriental Expedition and I can't imagine God did that because Nappy was such a great guy. It was the storm that protected the Israelites until they could reach safety.

We always talk about the English defeat of the Spanish Armada. Truth is, there was a storm that smacked the paella out of the Spanish before the English got there. The English did do a rather thorough job of follow through after that. If it had not been for that, many of us might have been Catholic. Except for my friends who are Catholic, I don't know how it would have affected them.

Had it not been for the Kamikaze, or Divine Wind, that twice protected Japan from Mongol invasion, Pearl Harbor might have been bombed by men on tiny horses... in boats... or something, the point is, for the Japanese, those storms were more than fortuitous, they were Heaven Sent.

On the day Hiroshima was bombed... wait for it... perfectly clear skies. Sometimes the sunny day is not your friend.

Patton had a chaplain write a prayer for good weather. The chaplain did, the sky cleared, Germany lost the war, the chaplain got a medal. Look it up sometime.

The point of all of this is that we tend to look at storms as bad things. But God loves us and He controls the weather and maybe we need to mature our thinking some. Probably just me, but maybe you too.

When thinking of storms and God, of course, Jesus' name came up. They're always mentioning each other, Jesus and God. I wondered about Jesus and storms and found that His response to them is

significant. He slept through one and He took a walk with a friend through another. That's where it starts to get really interesting. With Jesus, it wasn't about the storms effect on Him but the affect it had on others.

Think about it. I mean, it's Jesus, shouldn't He have known about those storms? Shouldn't that have been a thing He did? Big prophecies saying, "STORM TODAY, dress appropriately." Instead, He puts the people most important to His ministry into a boat and gets out past where they can stand up in the water. What's up with that?

But take another look at the world then. When Jesus is walking around ministering, throngs gather. Not throngs, it's not Daytona. These gathered throngs follow Him and He teaches them and heals them and feeds them (with very small capital investment, mind you). He does all these things for them and suddenly they want to make Him king... by force (seriously, were they not listening at all). So what does Jesus do? A boat ride. In a storm. That could kill them all. Unless Jesus is who He says He is in which case, they're every bit as safe as they would be on "it's a small world" at Disney. And the ride will be far more interesting and less ...Satanic.

Jesus never saw the storms as an obstacle or as a thing to be feared. They were opportunities. They were a great way to disperse large crowds of people who had lost their way. They were a great way to get some personal training time with His inner band. It was a great chance to catch a nap. It was a great chance to get across a large body of water. The storms were a great chance to show His destiny and knowing His destiny, the storm had little to say to Him about why He could not achieve it.

So how then should we view storms? First, you should understand your destiny and if that is a blank spot in your understanding, you should fix it. Start by getting to know Him and what He thinks about you. It makes all the difference.

Next, when confronted by anything, you should ask the question, "what is God doing for me in this storm." Is the storm keeping me from something dangerous? Is He telling me to rest up before the next big push? Is the storm keeping my enemy pinned down with fear so that I can take advantage through maneuver? Is the storm giving me an opportunity to be with the ones I love?

You see, when you are loved of God and walking obediently with Him (and sometimes, even when you aren't, think about that Jonah guy), you have to stop asking silly things like, "if God loves me, then why am I going through this storm?" The question that we should be asking when confronted by a storm is, "since I know that God does love me, what is He doing for me in this storm? What should I be doing for Him?"

And stay off 'Small World.'