

When Storms Come

Zechariah 9:14-15 (NIV®)

¹⁴ Then the LORD will appear over them; his arrow will flash like lightning. The Sovereign LORD will sound the trumpet; **he will march in the storms of the south, ¹⁵ and the LORD Almighty will shield them.**

Watch, listen, think, act!

John 16:33 (NIV®)

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

I. Great Responses to Tremendous Storms

A. Biblical Examples

Moses

Exodus 15:22-25 (NIV®)

²² Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. ²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. ²⁴ So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?" ²⁵ Then **Moses cried out to the LORD**, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the LORD made a decree and a law for them, and there he tested them.

David

1 Samuel 30:6 (NASB®)

Moreover David was greatly distressed because the people spoke of stoning him, for all the people were embittered, each one because of his sons and his daughters. **But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.**

Daniel

Daniel 2:16-18 (NASB®)

¹⁶ So Daniel went in and requested of the king that he would give him time, in order that he might declare the interpretation to the king. ¹⁷ Then Daniel went to his house and informed his friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, about the matter, ¹⁸ **so that they might request compassion from the God of heaven concerning this mystery**, so that Daniel and his friends would not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Jesus

Matthew 26:36-41 (NIV®)

³⁶ Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, **"Sit here while I go over there and pray."** ³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. **Stay here and keep watch with me.**" ³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." ⁴⁰ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. ⁴¹ "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

Peter

Acts 12:11-17 (NIV®)

¹¹ Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating." ¹² When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, **where many people had gathered and were praying.**

¹³ Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer the door. ¹⁴ When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!"

¹⁵ "You're out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel."

¹⁶ But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. ¹⁷ Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. "Tell James and the brothers about this," he said, and then he left for another place.

Ananias

Acts 9:10-16 (NIV®)

¹⁰ In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. ¹¹ The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

¹³ "Lord," Ananias answered, **"I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."** ¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

Priscilla and Aquila

Acts 18:1-3 (NIV®)

¹ After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ² There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, ³ and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them.

Paul

Acts 27:21-26 (NIV®)

²¹ After the men had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. ²² But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. ²³ **Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me** ²⁴ and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' ²⁵ So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. ²⁶ Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

John

Revelation 1:9-10 (NIV®)

⁹ I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ **On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit,** and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,

B. THE Essential Response — PRAY

- ❖ Minimum, Daily
- ❖ Include Your Children
- ❖ Pray with Trusted Christians

- ❖ Fast & Pray
- ❖ Watch & Pray

II. Storm Response (Unexpected Interruption/Disruption)

A. Evaluation

- 1) Family & Home are Secure
- 2) Trusted Christian Friends Secure
- 3) Do I have neighbors that need help?

B. Intentional Prayer Response

C. NOT a Holiday

- ❖ Early response yields better outcome . . . true with sickness & disease, true with storms

D. Think Globally, Act Locally

- ❖ How can I respond where I live? Diminishes frustration with what I cannot do

E. Preparation

- ❖ What would have been helpful in most recent storm?
- ❖ Simple things, not elaborate or expensive . . . shovel? Ice scraper? Boots?

Universal Preparation — Good for All Storms

- ❖ Established relationships with people who pray
- ❖ Biblical Awareness
- ❖ Spiritual Listening Skills
- ❖ Familiar with spiritual conflict/spiritually aware

F. Each storm, is a training exercise

Hebrews 5:8 (NIV®)

Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered

G. Give Thanks

Acts 5:40-42 (NIV®)

They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin, **rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.** ⁴² Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, **they never stopped** teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

WE WILL NOT STOP

Proclamation

Psalm 91:1-7 (NIV®)

- ¹ He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
- ² I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."
- ³ Surely he will save (me) from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.
- ⁴ He will cover (me) with his feathers, and under his wings (I) will find refuge; his faithfulness will be (my) shield and rampart.
- ⁵ (I) will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,
- ⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.
- ⁷ A thousand may fall at (my) side, ten thousand at (my) right hand, but it will not come near (me).