

Perfected in the Word Ministry

“Sunshine Follows the Rain!”

Genesis 7:8;9

Sunday Evening Message

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May 12, 2013



Text:

Genesis 7:1,4,12,24 [KJV]

¹ And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

⁴ For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.

¹² And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

²⁴ And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.

Genesis 8:11 [KJV]

¹¹ And the dove came in to him in the evening; and, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf pluckt off: so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth.

Perfecting in the Word Ministry

Text: [continued]

Genesis 9:11-17 [KJV]

¹¹ [And God spake unto Noah,] ... I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.

¹² And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:

¹³ **I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.**

¹⁴ And it shall come to pass, *when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:*

¹⁵ And I will remember my *covenant*, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.

¹⁶ *And the bow shall be in the cloud;* and I will look upon it, that I may remember the *everlasting covenant* between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.

¹⁷ And God said unto Noah, *This is the token of the covenant*, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.

2Samuel 23:3,4 [The New American Standard Bible]

³ The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me, “He who rules over men righteously, Who rules in the fear of God,

⁴ Is as the light of the morning when the sun rises, A morning without clouds, When the tender grass springs out of the earth, **Through sunshine after rain.**”

Perfected in the Word Ministry

I. When It Rains, It Pours!

“**When It Rains, It Pours!**” – means it hasn’t happened for a long time, and then it happens all at once.

The Morton Umbrella Girl has been an enduring icon since she first appeared on our table salt packaging in 1914. The idea for the little girl and her slogan, “When it Rains, it Pours,” was the result of Morton’s first advertising campaign in 1911. The agency selected was charged with creating a series of ads to run in Good Housekeeping magazine. One of the concepts presented to Morton was an image of a little girl holding an umbrella in one hand to ward off falling rain and in the other hand, a package of salt that was tilted back with the spout open and salt running out. Morton loved the picture that expressed the Morton message – the message that salt would run in damp weather. But they felt the copy that went with it – (“Even in rainy weather, it flows freely”) was too long. They felt it needed to be shorter and snappier. More suggestions included “Flows Freely,” “Runs Freely,” “Pours” and finally, an old proverb, “It never rains, but it pours.” The adage was vetoed as being too negative, and a more positive spin on it resulted in the now famous slogan, “When it Rains It Pours.” [History of the Morton Umbrella Girl]

While these may be catchy marketing slogans for the corporate society to get us to purchase a product of necessity, there is nothing provocative about being deluged [Merriam-Webster: an overflowing of the land by water; a drenching rain; an overwhelming amount or number] by the problems or tests of life! But through the successful completion and overcoming of our storms, God wants us to be assured that ...

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Perfected in the Word Ministry

II. The Great Flood! [Genesis chapters 6 through 8]

The story of the **Great Flood** is not just mentioned in the Bible; as recorded in Genesis chapters 6 through 8. Legends and myths of ancient cultures on every continent tell of a Deluge, which wiped out almost all life on this planet. The Great Flood is not a pure myth, but a real event that occurred in the distant past.

Today we know that natural disasters have cost millions of people their lives. Geological disturbances are a part of Earth's history. Modern technology cannot prevent cataclysms. Our instruments have a limited ability to predict natural catastrophes. If such events do occur in modern times, why could they not have happened in the past?

It has been estimated that ever since the first forms of life appeared there have been at least five huge catastrophes, which caused the extinction of more than 50 percent of the planet's species. Our ancestors were definitely telling us the truth. The ancients' Deluge claims are corroborated by latest archaeological and geological discoveries. Remarkable thousand years old underwater ruins show it is time to re-write the history of man! These underwater ruins cannot be explained away. [Ellen Lloyd – American Chronicle]

In our Statement of Faith, concerning our belief in the Bible, we state that “We believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible written Word of God.” Therefore, we accept the account of *The Flood*, as God's punishment for man's wickedness on earth ... followed by God's restoration of mankind and every living creature, through the righteous of Noah.

Perfected in the Word Ministry

III. It Never Rains Everyday!

It never rains everyday of your life! Although storms may arise in your life; we must become optimists in our belief (and faith) that “This Too Shall Pass Away.” “Troubles Don’t Last Always!”

Forty days and forty nights of constant rain almost destroyed all of mankind; but through God’s grace and mercy we were restored. “And the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man’s sake; for the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.” [Genesis 8:21,22]

“This Too Shall Pass Away.” Although this phrase is common and found in many writings, it does not appear in that exact form in our English Bibles. 2 Peter 3:10-12 suggests the idea that earthly things shall pass and we therefore ought to live for eternity. [“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat (2 Peter 3:10-12)?”]

Perfected in the Word Ministry

Abraham Lincoln once said: “[It is said] an Eastern monarch once charged his wise men to invent him a sentence to be ever in view, and which should be true and appropriate in all times and situations. They presented him the words: ‘And this, too, shall pass away.’ How much it expresses! How chastening in the hour of pride! How consoling in the depths of affliction!”

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says: “To every thing there is a season, and time for every purpose under the heaven.” This has become (in effect) a common phrase offered by many for encouraging us to keep the faith during tough times, and life’s challenging situations. Therefore, this phrase provides to those going through a soliloquy (or a means or act of talking to oneself); while facing their life crisis or situation. It just may be your time to weather the storm!

IV. Hurricane Katrina

Hurricane Katrina was the costliest and one of the deadliest hurricanes in the history of the United States. It was the sixth-strongest Atlantic hurricane ever recorded and the third-strongest landfalling U.S. hurricane on record. Katrina formed in late August during the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season and caused devastation along much of the north-central Gulf Coast of the United States. Most notable in media coverage were the catastrophic effects on the city of New Orleans, Louisiana, and in coastal Mississippi. Due to its sheer size, Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast as far as 100 miles (160 km) from the storm's center.

Katrina was the eleventh named storm, fifth hurricane, third major hurricane, and second Category 5 hurricane of the 2005 Atlantic season. It formed over the Bahamas on August 23, 2005, and crossed southern Florida as a moderate Category 1 hurricane, causing some deaths and flooding there, before strengthening rapidly in the Gulf of Mexico and becoming one of the strongest hurricanes on record. The storm weakened considerably before making its second and third landfalls as a Category 3 storm on the morning of August 29 in southeast Louisiana and at the Louisiana/Mississippi state line, respectively.

The storm surge caused severe and catastrophic damage along the Gulf coast, devastating the cities of Mobile, Alabama, Waveland and Biloxi/Gulfport in Mississippi, and New Orleans and other towns in Louisiana. Levees separating Lake Pontchartrain from New Orleans were breached by the surge, ultimately flooding 80% of the city and many areas of neighboring parishes for weeks. Severe wind damage was reported well inland.

Perfected in the Word Ministry

At least 1,836 people lost their lives in Hurricane Katrina and in the subsequent floods, making it the deadliest U.S. hurricane since the 1928 Okeechobee Hurricane. The storm is estimated to have been responsible for \$81.2 billion (2005 U.S. dollars) in damage, making it the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history.

[Hurricane Katrina: From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia]

Eventhough Hurrigan Katrina was devastating to the lives of many, and only lasted a few days, many more lives were saved by the mercy of God!

V. Rain Water Purges

Marine Toxins and Human Health: Natural toxins represent an increasing hazard to the seafood consuming public. Toxins are produced by marine algae and are accumulated through the food chain and are ultimately deposited in higher predator fish or filter-feeding bivalves. Toxins may also affect people through the air and drinking water.

Marine and freshwater toxin diseases in human populations are due to the contamination of seafood with a myriad of natural toxins created by minute marine and freshwater organisms such as dinoflagellates found throughout the marine and freshwater world, especially in coral reefs and their surroundings.

In general, the natural marine and freshwater toxins are tasteless, odorless, and heat and acid stable. Therefore, normal screening and food preparation procedures do not prevent intoxication if the fish or shellfish is contaminated.

The marine and freshwater toxin diseases are divided into two groups by their primary transvectors, i.e. those associated with the ingestion of shellfish, and those with fish consumption. In addition, there is a group of marine and freshwater diseases associated with water exposure. The shellfish-associated diseases and those associated with water exposure generally occur with algal blooms or “red tides” while fish-associated diseases are more localized to specific reef areas and/or types of fish.

Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP), Red Tide/Neurotoxic Shellfish Poisoning (NSP), Diarrheic Shellfish Poisoning (DSP), and Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP) are primarily associated with the ingestion of contaminated shellfish. Ciguatera Poisoning and Tetrodotoxin Poisoning (Fugu or Pufferfish Poisoning) occur with the

Perfected in the Word Ministry

ingestion of contaminated fish. Aerosolized Florida Red Tide/Brevetoxins, the Blue Green Algae (Cyanobacteria), and Pfiesteria and the Pfiesteria-like Organisms (PLOs) can affect humans through exposure to water droplets or even drinking water contaminated with the organisms and/or their toxins.

The primary toxic effect of the marine and freshwater toxins is to the neurologic system, however, affected individuals usually present a wide range of symptoms resulting in a confusing clinical picture. The acute onset of severe gastrointestinal distress after eating the contaminated fish occurs within minutes to hours. In the case of PSP, Fugu, and Ciguatera, this gastro-intestinal picture can be accompanied by acute respiratory distress which may be fatal within hours (up to 50% of cases of Fugu and 10% of PSP).

In the case of Ciguatera and ASP, debilitating chronic neurologic symptoms lasting months to years have been reported. The majority of people with Ciguatera, especially in the Caribbean, suffer for weeks to months with debilitating neurologic symptoms, including profound weakness, temperature sensation changes, pain, and numbness in the extremities. ASP has left people with permanent and severe memory loss, even years after their initial illness.

In addition to increasing worldwide seafood consumption, anthropogenic causes may have furthered the spread of the dinoflagellates and their toxins. There is a body of evidence to indicate that man-induced transportation of the cysts or “seeds” of the toxic marine and freshwater organisms such as dinoflagellates, or of the dinoflagellates themselves located inside the ‘spat’ (young bivalve shellfish sold commercially to global markets for aquaculture) and ship ballast water (international

Perfected in the Word Ministry

regulations are now changing to require ship ballast water purging in the open ocean prior to docking).

It is hypothesized that human-generated environmental changes such as reef destruction and eutrophication, may be responsible for apparent increased reporting in human cases of marine and freshwater toxin disease as well as increased incidence of red tides reported worldwide. There is even evidence connecting the apparent global increase of algal blooms with Global Climate Changes, such as seen with the El Niño phenomenon. [University of Miami National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Marine & Freshwater Biomedical Sciences Center (NIEHS MFBS)]

Is God taking you through a process of *purging* and *purification*, in an effort to relieve you of all the deadly contaminates in your life caused by the toxins of sin?

Perfected in the Word Ministry

VI. **The Rainbow in the Sky!** [Genesis 9:11-17]

A perverted representation of God’s covenant rainbow is the so-called called ‘freedom flag;’ which was popularized as a symbol of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) pride and diversity by San Francisco artist Gilbert Baker in 1978. The different colors symbolize diversity in the gay community, and the flag is used predominantly at gay pride events and in gay villages worldwide in various forms including banners, clothing and jewelry. Aside from the obvious symbolism of a mixed LGBT community, the colors were designed to symbolize: red (life), orange (healing), yellow (sunlight), green (nature), blue (harmony), and purple/violet (spirit). The removed colors stood for sexuality (pink) and art/magic (turquoise).

God has given to mankind a constant reminder that He will never again use rain waters (or a flood) to destroy the earth. A rainbow is defined as an optical and meteorological *phenomenon* that causes a nearly continuous spectrum of light to appear in the sky when the sun shines onto falling rain. It is a multicolored arc with red on the outside and violet on the inside. The full sequence of colors is red, orange, yellow, green, cyan, blue and violet. It is not just a coincidence that the rainbow is in the shape of an “*arc*” ... it is there to remind us of the *Ark of Safety!*

During your testing season, are you outside of the “*ark*” – exposed to the raw elements, or are you safe inside the “*ark*” – protected from the true destructive forces of the storm, like Noah’s family?

Perfected in the Word Ministry

Conclusion:

In conclusion, my brothers and sisters, consider the following while going through your rainy period:

- Is God trying to spare your life? The flood waters will take you above dry ground to another place ... your *spiritual Mount Ararat*. [Genesis 8:4]
- Are you chosen to go through the storm?
- Are you in the *Ark of Safety*?
- Airplane Analogy: Above the clouds the sun is constantly shining. Take flight (spiritually) upon the wings of an eagle.

In closing, I leave you with the words of the song entitled: “**Sunshine Follows the Rain!**”

Sunshine Follows the Rain

Verse:

Though winds may blow oft times in your life;
Storm clouds may suddenly come to dim your sky;
Billows may roll again and again;
But, O, remember sunshine always follows the rain.

Refrain:

Sunshine always follows the rain;
Remember, no matter what you've been through;
Sunshine always follows the rain;
Remember that the Lord, He cares just for you;
Cause He knows all of your pitfalls;
And He is brighter than the joy you've been through;
Just remember that sunshine always follows the rain.

Vamp:

Through your misery, heartache, pain, rain;
Just remember that sunshine always follows the rain.