

in Matthew 14:24 and Mark 6:48 that “*the wind was contrary unto them*”, opposing all their best efforts, and what helpless, hopeless men they were, about to be swallowed up by the stormy sea if Jesus had not watched over them and come to them. How humbling windstorms can be, and should be for us. Has the wind ever, maybe of this past season here too, caused you at all to live in awe of God and in humbleness before Him and others?

The winds should remind us of our smallness not only as creatures before the Almighty Creator God but as sinners in ourselves before His holy sight. Who can stand before the winds of God’s holy judgment against sin and evil? When God spoke to Job “*out of the whirlwind*” as it says in Job 38:1, Job humbled himself before God confessing in Job 40:4, “*Behold I am vile; What shall I answer Thee?*” Think here of the vision of Ezekiel 1, that mysterious majestic whirlwind vision of God in all His sovereign glory and splendor, and how it resulted in Ezekiel responding as recorded in verse 28 of that first chapter, “*when I saw it, I fell upon my face...*” These texts teach us, among other things, who are we before also the God of the wind? How the winds in nature should remind us how God could sweep us all away just like that! Don’t you feel sometimes in yourself so much more just like “*a reed shaken with the wind*”, deserving in and of yourself to be crushed forever rather than a sturdy oak of righteousness before the Lord?

The wind and winds, in the light of God’s Word, can teach us about the supremacy of God, and the smallness of man, and as we will see next time, it can teach us about the saving power of God too, and more besides. Amen.



THE WIND FROM THE BIBLE’S PERSPECTIVE [1]

Wherever you live, you no doubt know of wind and windy weather at some time in your life. At times we hear of, and maybe have experienced, great gusts of wind and windstorms of one type or another. Well let us consider the wind from the Bible’s perspective. Are you interested in this? Isn’t this what distinguishes true Christians constantly that always we want to understand life and look to observe things from the Scriptural point of view? Do you have a Scriptural point of view also of the wind? What is that, you ask? Let us find out looking at various texts in the Bible. Yes, seeing the wind in God’s general revelation through the spectacles of Holy Scripture, God’s special revelation, I invite you to notice with me at least five important truths in relation to the wind, yes, also the winds in your area.

For one, notice with me from Scripture clearly with wind we learn the supremacy of God. The supremacy of God! The God of the Holy Bible, the Triune God is above all and over all, God supreme without question, and the wind, and winds, in nature are another proof of this fact. This comes out so clearly in Jeremiah 10. Here Jeremiah is teaching the people of Judah that idol gods are nothing, lifeless and useless, but God is the true and living and everlasting God Who not only created this world but Who is also the God of the wind. He is the Source of all wind in nature. Yes, there is a scientific explanation for wind, and yes, people who forecast the climate, can tell us ahead of time often whether it will be windy or not, and even how windy it might be, and even what direction the winds will come from, but only God is the Source of the wind. This comes out in Jeremiah 10:13c and you find the exact same phrase expressed in Psalm 135:7c, “[God] *brings forth the wind out of His treasures [treasuries]*”. In other words, He causes the winds to blow which is what Psalm 147:18 also expressly states.

If you stop and think about it, wind is such a wonder. You can’t see the wind; it is hard to grasp what is driving it, where it comes from, where it goes to, what makes it go faster, what makes it stop. It is an amazing reality in natural life, The point we need to see from the Bible is that God alone is the God of the winds. With the slightest breeze and with the great gusts of wind, God is the cause and source of it! The fact is, even your and my breath comes from the Lord as we read in Acts 17:25, “*He gives to all life, and breath, and all things.*” On the other hand we read about the idol gods, and

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

all gods of man's making, in Jeremiah 10:14, "*There is no breath in them.*" It is the same word in the Hebrew, breath and wind – 'ruach'. God is the source of all wind, giving breath to all His creatures, but the idol gods have no breath even in themselves, and certainly they are powerless to create wind at all. How important to catch the contrast!

You see God is supreme as sole source of the wind. Let me give some examples of God sending forth the wind. Can you think of some examples in the Bible? Jonah 1:4 comes to mind. When Jonah would go opposite to the way God told him to go, we read there, "*But the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in [on] the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.*" God would pursue his runaway servant, and He used the winds as His instrument to do so. Think of the crossing of the Red Sea and the Egyptians all perishing under the waters. We read in Exodus 15:10 in the Song of Moses celebrating that victory over their enemies, "[Lord] *Thou didst blow with Thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in the mighty waters.*" Think of what God says to Moses in Numbers 11 when the people complained they wanted meat and Moses wondered how God could give more than two million people in the wilderness meat. "*And the LORD said to Moses, Is the Lord's hand waxed short? thou shalt see now whether My word shall come to pass unto thee or not.*" And then we read in Numbers 11:31, "*And there went forth a wind from the LORD, and brought quail from the sea....*" and you know the rest of that story. I could give you more examples, but clearly you see with me that God is the source of the wind and how this proves what a supreme God our God is!

His supremacy comes out, indeed, also when you think of the strength and power of the wind in His hands. Have you ever experienced how strong the winds can be? God can send winds that no one can stand up against, literally! God can send winds that reach hurricane and tornado cyclone level, destroying and flattening everything that stands in its way. I remind you just of hurricane Katrina for example. And God can send gentle breezes too clearing the air and chinooks melting the snow and ice. The Lord our God is almighty and what a God He is! My God is so big and so strong and so mighty, there is nothing My God cannot do. Even the blowing winds should remind us so much of the supremacy of God.

The winds teach us, from Scripture's perspective, God is supreme not only as source of the winds and considering the strength of the winds, but think too of the ways of the wind. There is always something mysterious about wind. It is an invisible force from the invisible God, concerning which as Jesus says in John 3:8, "*The wind blows where it listeth [wishes], and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence [from where] it comes, and whither [where] it goes...*" Yes, God has given us in our times lots of knowledge about the winds, yet there is something awesome about it still and we know the wind is not in our hands. God is not bound to the

weatherman's forecasting of the wind for He can create wind as He wishes and when and where He likes. When you think of it, as Scripture teaches, that the wind is in His hands, doesn't that bring out to you the supremacy of God?

Not only should we think of the supremacy of God with the winds but notice next surely the winds bring out the smallness of man. All too often we can think so much of ourselves, as if we have the whole world in our hands, yet the fact is our very breath, and each and every breath, is something that God gives us and that we are dependent on God for, whether we realize it or not. Again as Acts 17 teaches, we live and move and have our being from God! And this is true not just sometimes but at all times, and it is so not only of some people but of all people. If and when God chooses that our next breath be our last, so it will be! We read in Psalm 78:39b about God describing us as "*a wind [breath - ruach] that passes away and comes not again.*" Listen here to Psalm 103:15&16 too, "*As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone....*" Thinking of this, how small we really are before God!

Yes, when you think too of the strength of the winds as God sends them and allows them to go forth. You make your plans, but a windstorm can change your schedule completely; you can build your estates, but a windstorm can flatten it all easily; you can say you will do this and that, but a windstorm can stop you in your tracks and there is nothing you can do about it. If the bridge is closed because of the winds, you can't cross it; if the road is closed because of the fallen trees and hydro wires across it on account of the winds, you just can't make your way through it, at least not by car, and it would be most unwise to do so any other way then too! Windstorms can stop travel by foot, by bike, by car, by plane, by boat, and even by train! Have you ever felt very small before the mighty winds God sometimes sends our way?

Let me give you some examples in Scripture of the wind in God's hand bringing out the smallness of man. In Daniel 2 with Nebuchadnezzar's dream of that great image that he saw destroyed by that stone cut without hands, we read, "*Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.*"[vs.35] You see all the kingdoms of men blown away with the wind, but God's kingdom filling the whole earth. The point here is that God with the wind also shows man's smallness and nothingness in himself. So we read too in Job 21:18 about people apart from God, "*They are as stubble before the wind, and as chaff that the storm carries away.*" In Proverbs 30:4 the question is asked, among others, to bring out the smallness of man compared to the greatness of God, "*Who has gathered the wind in his fists?*" Think of the disciples in the boat in a storm where we read