

Jesus Walks on the Sea

Job replies to Bildad

Job 9:1-12

Then Job answered and said:

² "Truly I know that it is so:

But how can a man be in the right before God?

³ If one wished to contend with him,

one could not answer him once in a thousand times.

⁴ He is wise in heart and mighty in strength

—who has hardened himself against him, and succeeded?—

⁵ he who removes mountains, and they know it not,

when he overturns them in his anger,

⁶ who shakes the earth out of its place,

and its pillars tremble;

⁷ who commands the sun, and it does not rise;

who seals up the stars;

⁸ who alone stretched out the heavens

and trampled the waves of the sea;

⁹ who made the Bear and Orion,

the Pleiades and the chambers of the south;

¹⁰ who does great things beyond searching out,

and marvelous things beyond number.

¹¹ Behold, he passes by me, and I see him not;

he moves on, but I do not perceive him.

¹² Behold, he snatches away; who can turn him back?

Who will say to him, 'What are you doing?' ESV

To whom is Job referring?

Job is, of course, referring to Jehovah!

How is this prophecy fulfilled?

That is the subject of our study: Jesus Walks on the Sea

Matthew 14:22-33

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him **walking on the sea**, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

²⁸ And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind,* he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him,† "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Mark 6:45-52

⁴⁵ Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶ And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. ⁴⁷ And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. ⁴⁸ And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, ⁴⁹ but when they saw him **walking on the sea** they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, ⁵⁰ for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." ⁵¹ And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, ⁵² for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

John 6:15-21

¹⁵ Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸ The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus **walking on the sea** and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. ²⁰ But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹ Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

The feeding of the 5000 excited the multitudes to the point that they wanted to make Jesus a temporal king [John 6:14-15]. They grossly misunderstood the mission of Messiah.

They wanted a king that would break the yoke of Rome. They were not interested in a king who rules in the hearts of men. The crowds without realizing it were opposing His very purpose in coming.

This is the same thing that Satan failed to do in the wilderness temptation of Jesus. Satan offered a crown and a kingdom without a cross.

In Matthew 14:22-23 Jesus sent His disciples on ahead of Him. The word “made” is “strongly urged” or constrained His disciples to go before Him. They did not want to go. He sent them away so He could be alone.

There comes up a sudden and furious storm and the disciples were not making any headway against the strong wind.

Jesus comes walking on the sea and they think it is a ghost. Jesus reassures them.

Peter’s faith is impulsive but it is honest. The waves quickly frighten Peter and he cries out for the Lord to save him. And He does.

A miracle within a miracle:

Cf. John 15:21 and Psalm 107:23-30

Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

Psalm 107:23-30

²³ Some went down to the sea in ships,
doing business on the great waters;
²⁴ they saw the deeds of the LORD,
his wondrous works in the deep.
²⁵ For he commanded and raised the stormy wind,
which lifted up the waves of the sea.
²⁶ They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths;
their courage melted away in their evil plight;
²⁷ they reeled and staggered like drunken men
and were at their wits' end.
²⁸ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.
²⁹ He made the storm be still,
and the waves of the sea were hushed.
³⁰ Then they were glad that the waters were quiet,
and he brought them to their desired haven.

Lessons and Observations:

Sometimes trials are to take our minds off of temptations. E.g., the disciples were about to get into trouble by trying to make Jesus an earthly king. They wanted to argue with Him and had to be constrained to go on ahead of Him. So He gave them something to occupy their minds – a terrible storm!

Sometimes trials are only preparation for higher service.

E.g., John Kitto, author of “Daily Bible Illustrations,” et al was an archeologist who became a great writer. He said that he might not have been interested in writing had he not gone deaf.

Mr. Charles Spurgeon in “Commenting on Commentaries” said:
“Sell what you have and buy Kitto.”

Here is an example of Mr. Kitto's work:

The Flood – Kitto: Excerpt from “The Deluge:”

There was a pause of seven days after Noah had entered the ark, before the flood waters came. How awful that pause! Whether any who were then smitten with fear -- any on whom the striking spectacle of the animals passing into the ark, and the Noachic family last of all entering, and all being then shut securely in made any salutary impression? Our Savior says, they were obdurate until the day that Noah entered into the ark; were they *all* obdurate the day after – the seven days after? We cannot know. If anyone then bethought himself of the evil of his way and turned his heart to God, it was well for him, well for his soul, but it was too late for this world. The door of the ark was shut. Even then the judgment of God was not instant. The fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the rain fell not in drops, but in cataracts. Yet it was not immediately that the lower levels were filled. Thus it was forty days before the ark floated and an hundred and fifty days before the waters rose to their highest point, which was twenty-seven feet above the loftiest mountains. Thus were the various tribes of creatures driven, day by day, from one resource to another, until none was left. The men who hoped that the waters would soon subside or whose retreat from their towns and villages was cut off by the surrounding flood, may be conceived to have retreated to the towers and the trees watching, with horror the gradual rise of the waters, and dropping off one by one, in fatigue and want, from the extremest boughs into the encroaching flood, even before it reached them. For those who retreated to the high lands, there was reserved even a more terrible lot than for those whom the waters soonest slew. Thousands, who had succeeded in reaching the mountains, must have perished with hunger even before the flood swept off the miserable remnant of their number. With them, how soon did the joy of escape to a station of fancied safety, give place to the consciousness that they were without food, or the means of obtaining any, upon the mountains, and that they must speedily perish there unless the water soon subsided? But they did not subside. They rose; and in their rise narrowed day by day, the area of possible existence. The young and tender died, the aged died; men in their prime died; till at last, some sole survivor, who had seen all the dear companions of his prime perish before his eyes, stood alone upon the mountain, and rushed to meet the flood in his frenzy, or sunk into it in the listlessness of his despair.

The horrors of this most fearful judgment that the world has ever yet seen, are imperfectly realized, if we think of it as we usually do, as a sudden visitation. It was slow -- dreadfully slow; and during the months in which the waters rose, the scenes of agony and despair which one day after another presented in different quarters, are such as strike terror into the heart, and sickness into the soul, of him who suffers his mind to dwell upon them and picture forth the horrible details. The eye shrinks from the backward view of the righteous judgment of God; and the ear vibrates with torture at cries of children, at the sobs of women, at the groans of men, and at –

“The bubbling cry of some strong swimmer in his agony.”

Daily Bible Illustrations, John Kitto, 1850, Pages 139-140

During our trials the Lord is watching and praying for us [see Mark].

And he saw that they were making headway painfully,....

The Lord came to them over the very thing that threatened them.

What are you afraid of?

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