

ACTS OF GOD

I was recently talking to an insurance salesman who referred to natural disasters as Acts of God.

Insurance companies seemed to be willing to calculate and insure human phenomena but are unwilling to do it for and 'Natural' or 'Acts of God' phenomena. This concept seems to have been generally accepted by most people over the years.

While the unbeliever looks for scientific reasons for natural disasters, the believer looks for biblical reasons. The scientist studies the laws of nature for explanations of cause and effect. The spiritually advancing believer studies the Bible for a Divine explanation.

These are not in conflict except when there is some form of negative volition to the truth.

This lesson will study FOUR categories of what could be classified as natural wind disasters recorded in the Bible.

1. Job dealt with one type of wind disaster categorized as undeserved suffering. The world would have categorized it as a severe tornado (Job 1:18-22).

It was classified as a “mighty wind (gedolah ruach).” (1:19) Mighty describes the magnitude and extent of the tornado. This was Job part of his first test in the angelic conflict.

The spiritual advancing believer is interested in how Job handled what the news would call a terrible natural disaster in the life of Job.

The spiritual advancing first response to disaster is from the left lobe of mentality. The left lobe surveys the reality of the magnitude and extent of the disaster. It attempts to deal with real problems associated with it. It can get complex, stressful, and build anxiety and become very depressive as you focus on the problem. **YOU MUST NOT DWELL ON THE PROBLEM AT HIS POINT.**

To COPE, the spiritual advancing believer must shift to the right lobe of categorical bible doctrine pertains to the human experience (1 Cor.10:13). Shift from subjective thinking about the problems (left lobe) to the objective thinking of the PROMISE of God (right lobe) (Rom.4:21; 1 Pet.1:5-8). The word of God will bring simplicity to it and confident hope in God is able (Matt.9: 28-29; Ps.119: 50). Job did this in 1:18-22.

2. Jonah dealt with a second type of wind disaster categorized as divine discipline (Jonah 1:3-17).

It was classified as a violent hurricane storm (gidol saar) on the sea (1:4,12).

In chapter one, Jonah is **running from the Lord** and is under divine discipline.
In chapter two, Jonah is **running to the Lord** and is divine deliverance.

As a spiritual mature believer, Jonah understood that he was putting others at risk (1:10). The pagan sailors are seeking spiritual advice from this reversionist believer (1:11-16) read carefully Jonah thinking and the sailor's prayer). Because of divine discipline, Jonah went from the eye of the storm to the stomach of sea monster (1:17; Matt.12:40).

Jonah stayed in left lobe thinking and unwilling to cope with his problem from divine viewpoint (OMCD).

Unfortunately, it was with seaweed wrapped around his neck and in the stomach of the sea monster that Jonah prayed and not in the eye of the storm (ch.2). Better late than never! (1 John 1:9)

3. The Exodus generation dealt with the third type of wind disaster as national deliverance and at same time national discipline (Ex.14: 13-31/ Israelites and Egyptians at Red Sea).

It was classified as strong east wind (azzah qadim ruach) that drove (halak / hiphil impf) the sea back (14:21-22) dry land.

It was deliverance for the nation of Israel and discipline for the nation of Egypt (14:13-14). It didn't have to turn out this way for Egypt but they refused divine warning (10 plaques) (14:18, 24-28).

“Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. And when Israel saw the great power which the Lord had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses.” (14:30-31)

GOD HAD PLANNED FOR IT AHEAD – “Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.” (Ex.3:10)

THIS IS TRUE FOR YOU AND ME AS SONS OF GOD (James 4:13-15). Can you see the deliverance ahead of time? You can with the eyes of faith that understand God has it all planned – “I will instruct and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.” (Ps.32:8; 32:8-11)

4. The disciples of Jesus dealt with the fourth type of wind disaster as spiritual training ground on how to over come fear by faith (Mark 4:35-41).

It was a lesson on how to keep the storm on the outside and not panic and allow it on the inside of the believer (James 1:6-8).

It is classified as great windstorm at sea (megas anemos lailaps / sea tornado) (4:37).

The disciples panic was due to left lobe focus on problem rather than right lobe focus on doctrinal solution (4:38). “Why are you so timid (deilos / OMCD thinking / unwilling to do the right thing at the right time / cowardly)? How is it that you have no faith (NMDV thinking)?” (4:40)

This lesson teaches that Jesus is not only Lord of the church but Lord of all creation. We can be confident that we are protected in the plan of God because Jesus is the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls (1 Pet.2:25).