

A Neglected Aspect of God's Sovereignty:

The Weather, Psalm 147 & 148



GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE WEATHER: PSALM 147; 148

Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.

1A. The Sovereign's Responsibility:

Psalm 147:8, 15-18; Psalm 148:8

1b. Seasonable rains: S _____

Psalm 147:8-9 Who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains. ⁹He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry.

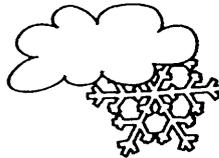
- 1c. Clouds
- 2c. Rain
- 3c. Grass
- 4c. Food



2b. Severe weather: W _____

Psalm 147:16-17 He giveth snow like wool: he scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes. ¹⁷ He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold?

- 1c. Snow
- 2c. Hoar frost
- 3c. Ice
- 4c. Cold



Job 37:6 For he saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth: likewise to the small rain, and to the great rain of his strength

Job 38:22, 28-29 Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail? . . . Hath the rain a father? Or who hath begotten the drops of dew? Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it?

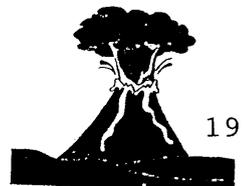
3b. Spring thaw: S _____

Psalm 147:18 He sendeth out his word, and melteth them: he causeth his wind to blow, and the waters flow.

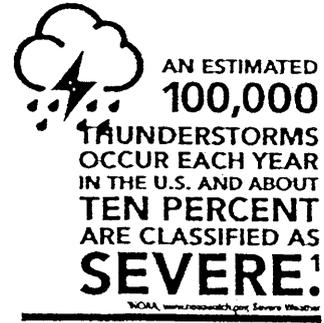
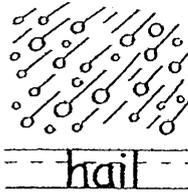
- 1c. Melted snow
- 2c. Warm winds
- 3c. Flowing waters

4b. Natural _____:

Psalm 148:8 Fire, and hail; snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling his word.



- 1c. Fire – lightning (Job 37;1-6)
- 2c. Hail
- 3c. Snow
- 4c. Vapors (clouds)
- 5c. Storms



2A. The Saint's Response:

Col. 1:16-17 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

1b. Acknowledge God's _____:

- 1c. The Savior created all things:
- 2c. The Savior created all things for Himself, including the forces of nature:
- 3c. The Savior controls all things:
- 4c. The Savior commands the forces of nature:



Ps 147:15 "He sendeth forth his **commandment** upon earth." His word is fulfilled immediately.

Ps 148:6 "He hath made a **decree** which shall not pass."

It is "**his ice**," "**his cold**" and "**his wind**" (Ps. 147:17-18)

2b. Accept the weather as the _____ of God:

"Fire, and hail; snow, and vapours; stormy winds **fulfilling His word.**" Psalm 148:8.

3b. Avoid criticism of the weather:

Examples:

- "This hurricane shows the destructive forces of nature."
- "I hate this snow!"
- "That town was struck by a wicked tornado."
- "We've had enough of this rain."



Wicked Weather Weekend

Terrible Tuesday — Light at the End of the Funnel

To despise the weather is to despise the will of God. Chronic complainers about the weather are hardly any different than the complaining, murmuring _____.

One does not have to like the weather in order to appreciate its origin from God. The Psalmist implies that the weather is not always pleasant: "Who can stand

before his cold" (Ps. 147:17). Elihu is fearful of lightning, thunder and torrential rains: "At this also my heart trembleth, and is moved out of its place" (Job 37:1). Elihu acknowledges that while some weather is fair or clement, much weather indicates that "with God there is terrible majesty" (Job 37:22).

- 4b. Appreciate the weather as a _____ from God.

It is incumbent upon the believer to be thankful for everything (Eph. 5:20).

- 5b. Adore the Lord for His working in nature:

Ps 147:7 Sing unto the LORD with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God.

Ps 148:13 Let them praise the name of the LORD : for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven.

In the vicissitudes of the weather God shows off certain of His perfections. God says to Job concerning some of the ice and snow, "I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the days of battle and war" (Job 38:23).

***Josh. 10:5-14

***Rev. 16:21

- 6b. Approach the weather from God's perspective:

- He covers, prepares, sends (Ps 147:8-9)
- He sends, gives, casts (Ps 16-17).
- He establishes, decrees (Ps 148:6).

Nothing manifests quite as clearly the believer's understanding of the _____ over nature than his response to clement and inclement weather.

Very fittingly, the song writer reminds the believer of this truth in the hymn:
"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

Verse 3:

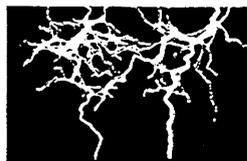
**There's not a plant or flow'r below, but makes Thy glories known,
 And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Thy throne
 While all that borrows life from Thee is subject to Thy care;
 There's not a place that we can flee but God is present there.**

- 7b. Attribute the weather to the _____ and _____ of God:

It should be remembered that the Christ who calmed the tempests on the Sea of Galilee is the same One who caused the tempests in the first place:

**The stilling of the storm -- Mt. 8:23-25; Luke 8:22-25

**Christ walking on the water -- Mt. 14:22-23; Mk. 6:48-51; Jn. 6:16-21



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Psalm 147:8, 15-18; Psalm 148:8

1b. Seasonable rains: **Summer**

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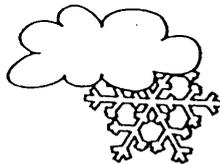
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2b. Severe weather: **Winter**

Psalm 147:16-17 He giveth snow like wool: he scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes. ¹⁷He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold?

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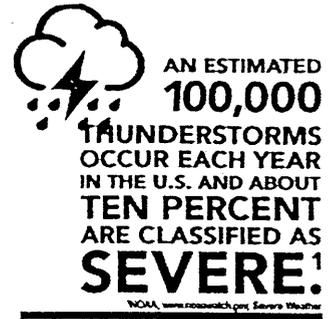
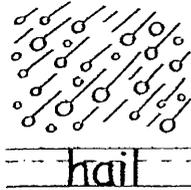
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4b. Natural Catastrophes

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- 3c. Snow
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hail

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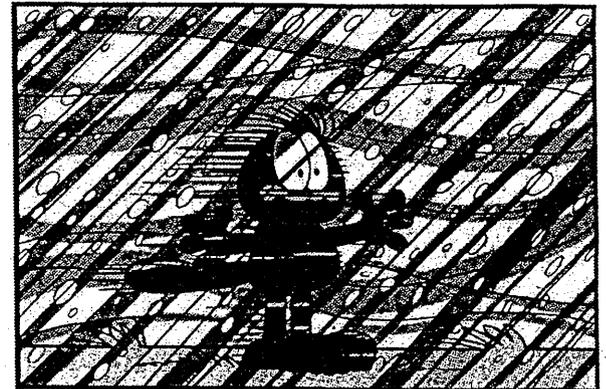
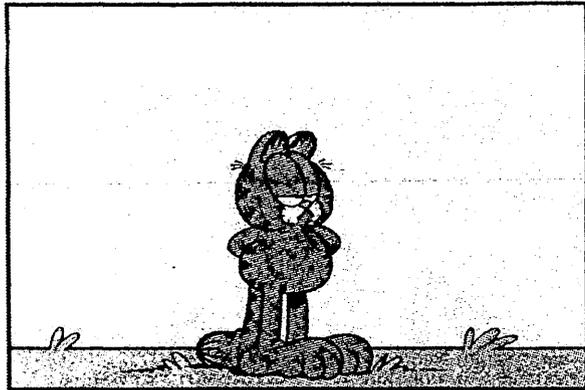
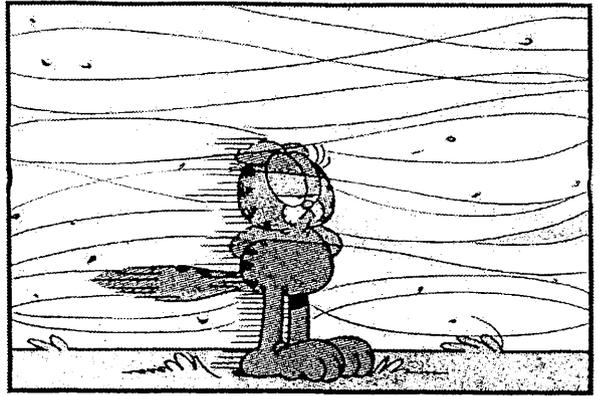
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**Christ walking on the water – Mt. 14:22-23; Mk. 6:48-51; Jn. 6:16-21 .



DESTRUCTION OF THE ARMY OF THE AMORITES

And . . . the Lord cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: they were more which died with hailstones than they whom the children of Israel slew with the sword . . . (Joshua 10: 11)





JESUS SAVES PETER FROM SINKING.

Jesus Christ, as the sovereign creator God, demonstrated His power over His creation by causing the tempest on the Sea of Galilee and then commanding it to subside.

Psalms and Hymns of Isaac Watts

PSALM 147

v.7-9,13-18

The seasons of the year

With songs and honors sc
Address the Lord on hi
Over the heav'ns he spre
And waters veil the sk

He sends his showers c
To cheer the plains t
He makes the grass th
And corn in valleys

He gives the grazing ox h
He hears the raven's cry;
But man, who tastes his finest
Should raise his honors high.

His steady counsels change the face
Of the declining year;
He bids the sun cut short his race,
And wintry days appear.

His hoary frost, his fleecy snow,
Descend and clothe the ground;
The liquid streams forbear to flow,
In icy fetters bound.

When from the dreadful stores on high
He pours the rattling hail,
The wretch that dares this God defy
Shall find his courage fail.

He sends his word, and melts the snow,
The fields no longer mourn;
He calls the warmer gales to blow,
And bids the spring return.

The changing wind, the flying cloud,
Obey his mighty word:
With songs and honors sounding loud,
Praise ye the sovereign Lord.

PSALM 148

Universal praise.

Let every creature join
To praise th' eternal God;
Ye heav'nly hosts, the song begin,
And sound his name abroad.

Thou sun with golden beams,
And moon with paler rays;
Ye starry lights, ye twinkling flames,
Shine to your Maker's praise.

He built those worlds above,
And fixed their wondrous frame;
By his command they stand or move,
And ever speak his name.

Ye vapors, when ye rise,
Or fall in showers of snow;
Ye thunders, murmuring round the skies,
His power and glory show.

Wind, hail, and flashing fire,
Agree to praise the Lord,
When ye in dreadful storms conspire
To execute his word.

By all his works above
His honors be expressed;
But saints that taste his saving love
Should sing his praises best.

Let earth and ocean know
They owe their Maker praise;
Praise him, ye wat'ry worlds below,
And monsters of the seas.

From mountains near the sky
Let his high praise resound;
From humble shrubs and cedars high,
And vales and fields around.

Ye lions of the wood,
And tamer beasts that graze,
Ye live upon his daily food,
And he expects your praise.

Ye birds of lofty wing,
On high his praises bear;
Or sit on flowery boughs, and sing
Your Maker's glory there.

Ye creeping ants and worms,
His various wisdom show,
And flies, in all your shining swarms,
Praise him that dressed you so.

By all the earth-born race
His honors be expressed;
But saints, that know his heav'nly grace
Should learn to praise him best.

Monarchs of wide command,
Praise ye th' eternal King;
Judges, adore that sovereign hand
Whence all your honors spring.

Let vig'rous youth engage
To sound his praises high:
While growing babes, and with'ring age,
Their feebler voices try.

United zeal be shown
His wondrous fame to raise:
God is the Lord; his name alone
Deserves our endless praise.

Let nature join with art,
And all pronounce him blest;
But saints, that dwell so near his heart,
Should sing his praises best.



Isaac Watts, 1674-1748