

3. N. Feb-6, 77 A.M
Feb 10, (P) 80 P.M. WRL

WHY CHANGE THE WEATHER?

I Kings 19:11-12
Gen. 8:22

INTRODUCTION

Dr. Ed Teller said, if men ever succeed in modifying the weather, we will lose our only safe topic of conversation.

Preachers make excuses about poor crops due to the weather!

He opposed all attempts at weather modification unless the effects are fully understood. A MAN Returned his Neighbour's lawn mower last week & Borrowed his Snow shovel.

The other day, Hagar the horrible, asked the question - what is the forecast? His flunky said fair and warmer. In the next frame of that comic strip, Hagar is pictured in his ship. The ice and snow have covered it. The blocks of ice and the ice bergs are before him. And his man says, of course - that is a long range forecast.

People from Canada & Nova Scotia migrate to Chesapeake - folks from Chesapeake migrate to Fla. We've got news for you! Feb 1st things are going to warm up! Birds mate -

It sounds very much like the predictions we have been getting all across the country. The forecasts have been not only pretty accurate. But they have come true.

The expression, everybody talks about the weather but no body does anything about it.

Of course there are lots of people trying to do something about the weather.

Back in 1919 the weather bureau chief, W. L. Moore - issued clear and cold. For the inauguration of William Howard Taft. When the day arrived, it snowed instead and the politicians gave him a rough time.

In 1965 L. B. J. said there are rivers in the sky. And they represent an additional water supply. He was speaking about how to modify the weather and get something done about it.

In 1919 circulares were passed out by the Michigan weather bureau and the weather bureau had made a lot of errors. And congressman W. S. Howard wanted to abolish the weather bureau in his state. He said that down in Georgia he preferred the use of a sour wood stick.

In that same year, the circular that was sent out said this - the weather bureau is hum bug. And a grafting outfit. "If you are honest and work for a living - you don't want to pay for what man don't have anything to do with. The weather is God's business only." So for years, the weather has come to the forefront.

But there are people today who would like push-button weather. Did you ever think how marvelous that would be. Here it is Easter Sunday, you push a button and you get some beautiful sunshine. On another day, you are going to have a picnic. You get the right kind of weather - just right. A parade is coming up or a sports event - and you push a button and you get clear weather.

Now these ideas of changing the weather have come down through the years because we are (dissatisfied creatures). And we have called on all kinds of magicians and witch doctors, to help us with it.

In London they have the FIDO. (Fog Dispersal System) It warms the air and burns the fog away.

Now most of us are going to grumble about the weather no matter how it turns out. But the weather has played an important part in wars, some wars have been lost and some been won. For example, the historians say that Napoleon lost in Russia because of the weather. They also say that the victory of the Allies in Normandy was due to the accurate prediction of the weather.

Since Aristotle's day, some people have been able to walk outside and predict by looking at the sky overhead. Other people judge it by frogs, snails, or bark on a tree. Since 1792, the old farmer's almanac has been famous for getting people lined up on the weather.

Experiments have been made - in fact, they dropped dry ice. 11% of dry ice dropped from a high altitude punched a 3 mile hole in a cloud. They also tried stripes of metal foil, to create rain.

The first thing I want to say today is - it seems that we are living in the worst of all possible times. Few observers of our contemporary scene, who would quarrel with this complaint. And this complaint was made not by me - but hundreds of years ago by Eliphaz. In the book of Job. Man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward. Now that is my story - and that is yours - and that's what this country is going through right now.

To whom can I speak today. The gentle man has perished. The violent man has access to everybody. To whom can I speak today - there is no righteous men. The earth is surrendered to criminals. Now this was not spoken last week. But this was spoken 4,000 years ago. By a civil servant who was contemplating suicide. In the time of Egypt's great kingdom and power.

You move on a few thousand years, and you come to the day when Paul Cart

wrote, oh god, what an awful age you have caused me to live in.

Then you travel on to the 18th century, and you listen to John Randolph of Virginia - this country is ruined beyond redemption. And sure enough, a few years later the Civil War took place. The things that happen to us and have happened throughout the country weatherwise, when we think about what winter has done. We can see that these are disastrous days.

1977 ✓ The governor of N. Y., N. J. issue emergencies. ^{45,000 Va -} 100,000 workers in N. Y. unemployed as a result of the gas crisis. 340,000 in Pa. 275,000 in N. J. The governor Shapp of Pa. called on all stores, restaurants, factories, theatres, to close. Philadelphia cut its gas supply. And cities such as Johnstown, Pa. virtually shut down as violent winds reduced the temperatures to 50° below zero.

✓ Governor John Rhodes of Ohio, called on the citizens to turn to prayer to help get us through the coldest days of our time. The survival of Ohio is at stake he said.

And of course the latest weather reports tell us that there are blocked roads. In fact, as one governor put it - we are at the end of the road as we know America. The icy winter, and the shortages. 50,000 homes were in immediate danger in the state of Ky. Boats are frozen in water. What winter has done, has brought trouble. The seafood industry has been disrupted in Chesapeake Bay. The citrus fruits and vegetables in Fla. Railroad operations in the North. Construction of projects have been shut down. Wild life is in trouble. In the marshes and in the frozen North. Factories have been closed. And on and on, goes the crisis of what winter has done. Thousands schools - closed

Everywhere people are blasting the weather. Literally this is what took place many years ago - many strange things. Such as strange ceremonies such as the Opis Indians in Arizona beat their drums for rain. And they rejoiced that they received it and thought the Gods were displeased if they didn't.

A tribe of Indians had a rain maker up in Victoria. It dipped a bunch of hair in a bucket of water and twirled it around to make it spray like rain.

In Romania scanty attired girls would go in procession from house to house singing for rain. And were drenched by people with buckets of water.

In one town I am told, that when rain was much needed, the women ceased a passing stranger and would throw him into the river.

The Turks had a quaint way of throwing pebbles into the water, to make rain. They would hang up a couple of bags along the river - and there would be 70,000 of them. There were many rites carried on in this way.

Then there was blasting the weather. Before the invention of gun powder loud noises were used to influence the weather. They generally said that after a battle, when the loud clash of swords, that they would have heavy rains. So people began to fire cannons and guns. And church bells - as far back as 1539. To create noises to drive the evil spirits out of the clouds.

This was practiced by farmers in Italy and Switzerland. To protect their fruit orchards from hail storms in 1750. There was a dispute among the owners of adjacent land. About the effects of firing - since the hail often fell somewhere whether there was any noise or not. And so one neighbor blamed it on another neighbor and they finally took the thing to the court room.

In the 1700's during thunderstorms bell ringing was made illegal. The restriction was instituted because too many bell ringers were electrocuted by lightning.

Over the next century, guns roared and bells tolled. In 1896 in Austria there was a great re-surgence of the hail cannon and they set up a network of 36 of them to protect the valley and the district. During the first year of operation no hail damage occurred. The news spread rapidly - that this was a method that had controlled the climate and the weather. Results were mixed, but in some places - they had less hail and some more.

In 1902 the Austrian government still was not convinced about the hail cannons. They were concerned about the number of casualties. In 1900 for example, 11 people were killed. And 60 seriously injured because of accidents. Caused by the bombardments.

So finally, they came to a point in 1907 that ended the weather shooting.

People have worked at weather modifications. 10's of thousands of years ago -- men lived as the wild animals do. Seeking shelter from the weather in caves. And then they built shelters of stone for better living. But man has discovered that hogs eat more and gain weight faster when they are protected from the heat. But they have also discovered that cows produce more milk when they are cool and contented. And in citrus groves, oil heaters are used to reduce the damage from frost. You might think that over the ages, there has been little change in the climate. They tell us that over the last 10,000 years following the last major ice age - from 5600 to 2500 B. C. - the climate was warm and moist. For the next 2000 years there was a gradual decrease of rainfall

and temperature. They often had dry spells. Starting in 500 BC there was a transition toward weather and cooler conditions. Over the last 2000 years there have been periods of cold, wet weather. Such as the ice age in 1650 and in 1850.

Most people would agree that it would be desirable to be able to control the weather. But when they stop a minute and think about the problems - why change the weather. Here is a certain city that needs water. And we need to look at the legalities of the gift of God. Disputed about the rain fall. It has been to court. People have sought that every land owner has a right to the moisture in the clouds. That are over his property.

We read in Gen. 8:22 "while the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and hot, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease." This is a promise and this is a forecast.

Storms have always been with us. In the U. S. the hurricanes at least 1 to 3 per year. Many years there are 6. In 1928, one came into Florida and left 2,336 dead. In 1957, one came through La. and Texas - 500 people, 50,000 cattle. 36" of rain in 3 days, 1967. Flooded to the roof tops. The damage in the U. S. alone in the last 30 years has averaged about 50 million dollars per year.

Tornadoes they call twisters, in the U. S. come in like a bombing attack. Have been fatal in their results. For 200 years, we find the fatalities of tornadoes have averaged more than 200 people per year.

On Palm Sunday, 1965, during an 11 hour period - 30 tornadoes funneled down in three or four states. Left people dead and an average destruction - 14 million.

Hail storms - the annual average is 50 million dollars to crops per year.

Drought - also has had its powerful influence. Wheat and corn will exceed 100-500 million bushels per year. And on and on we could go through floods and storms such as we are having. What shall we make of all of this. The Bible says that seasons are going to continue. That God has said this is the way it is going to be.

Jesus said. Matt. 24:20 - pray that your flight shall not be in winter. That is, for your bodily conveniences. As he talks in that chapter about his return.

In I Chron. 11:22 - The writer magnified the weather, Beniah - a valiant man went down and slew a lion in a pit, on a (snowy day).

Job. 8:22 - the question is asked, has thou entered into the treasures of the snow.

I believe in this hour that if we are wise, we will hear the voice of God speaking through (nature to us). There are those among us who refuse to admit that nature has any divine purpose. But we may learn something from nature and from this hard winter that we have been through. This long drawn out drama. The idea voices of nature to be listened too becomes less cold when we have to yield to the pressures that are sometimes forced upon us.

I think it has a voice to say. Ps. 19. The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showth his handiwork. Day unto day he dwealeth forth speech. And night unto night, breathing out knowledge. There is indeed no speech and no word that their voice has no audible sound. Yet its message is

sounded over all the earth. These are great voices.

As we look in the Old Testament to a drama that took place of a man that was alone - and yet, not alone. He has something sounded in his ears. And the thrilling question - V. 9. What doeth thou here Elijah.

This message speaks to him through nature.

V. 11 - Elijah is commissioned to leave the cave and to stand in the mount before the Lord. And behold, the Lord passed by. There was a three-fold manifestation. In storm, earthquake, and fire. These terrific voices crying in the wilderness making clear his way in the desert.

1 King

V. 11

I. THE HEBREW PROPHET LISTENS TO THE VOICE OF NATURE AND THE WEATHER THROUGH THE

WIND

A great and a strong wind rent the mountains and break into pieces the rock before the Lord. A tremendous storm - and a tempest let loose from Heaven. The old granite peaks began to crumble. With the sound of a crashing army. The rocks are splintered. Driven too and fro. And the old prophet trumbled at the amazement and marveled at what had followed. The exhibition of power.

The wind was a trumpet voice - hurling its proclamation. This made an appeal

to the practical side of this man.

The sailor the wind tells him it is time for him to unfurl his sails. It tells the farmer it is time to gather in his harvest. It tells the builder to lay his foundations well - so that the house may stand four-square. In some way, this voice says struggle for existence. Health, vigor. It tells Elijah what the struggle is all about. What is worth gaining is worth keeping and fighting for. The danger of having things made easy. The weather has helped us to see that we cannot by the flip of a switch or a button control things. Life is not idle or - but iron dug from the central gloom. And heated hot with burning fears and dipped in bathes of hissing tears. And battered by the shocks of doom to shape and use.

One of the greatest difficulties of modern life is due to man's necessary attempt to get out of hearing of nature's voice. With struggle, as in the early days of mankind, man likes to throw off the yoke.

There is no single remedy we can put in substitute for this trouble.

The hurricane passes by and the wind has spoken.

II. THE NEXT VOICE IS AN EARTHQUAKE.

Something awful that stirs a man to his bed rock. The sky is darkened. The earth begins to tremble. The hills begin to thunder. And then the summit. What next. The old prophets fears the realing earth before him. There is the reverence that ought to come into his heart. Yes, the weather ought to cause you

to reverence God. To see his power and his handiwork. As Aristotle said, there is throughout nature something of the astounding and the sense of wonder - is one of the saving graces of life. It has often led men to religion. Sometimes in an overflowing enjoyment. It may be the mystery of the sky or the mountain, but we must confess the wonder here of changes from age to age.

In your childhood you wondered about the sun beams that danced upon the walls. Or on the ceiling of a darkened room. And then you discovered that this was due from reflection - maybe from the leaves of a tree outside. But it brought wonder.

✓ Wordsworth said, my heart leaps up when I behold a rainbow in the sky! So was it when you were a child. So it is when I have grown old - or let me die.

God is on his throne. The poet said. And he moves the whole world.

Emmerson had the right idea when he pictured a boy looking through the maple branches at the moon and stars. Over his head, was a maple bud - and over the tree was the moon. And over the moon was the stary studs that dropped from the angels ~~starry~~.

Here is something that causes wonder. And God speaks.

And old sailor who had seen many of the wonders of the deep for 40 years - sailed around the world and the seven seas. They asked him, what in all of his life had impressed him most. He answered the nails on a baby's fingers. He had cultivated a sense of wonder.

A visitor on a street in London where the market was and where incubators showed the chickens scrambling out of the eggs. That was a familiar sight to those who had lived in the country. But it almost startled this man when he saw it for the first time. His two friends insisted on going on - but he continued to look. After that, he said, there is no use for anyone to tell me there is no God.

Yes, God has a voice and he speaks.

Corance said, all knowledge begins and ends with wonder. But the first wonder is the child of ignorance. While the second is the parent of adoration.

V.12
III. THE FIRE

The next symbol was a fire. The burning - as the sky was red with flames in the dim twilight and every mountain summit seemed to light up and be set ablaze. It was like a flash - a brilliant Eastern lightning. The most terrible of all. The voices of nature that spoke. Because this had something of the divine wrath and the divine judgement.

It was fire that was hurled down from Heaven like it was on the cities of the plain. It was fire like burning on the top of Sinai.

This is a mighty parable of nature and it is yet incomplete as you see the wonder of it.

As Mr. Hearn tells of an old Japanese family. He says they open up their treasures of things that have been passed down from generation to generation.

A pretty little ~~box~~ is opened. There was a silk bag with a cord and a tiny tassel. You open the bag, and there was another bag of similar quality. Then he opened a third, a fourth, a fifth, and a sixth. When he came to a little hard vessel of Chinese clay. Yet it was not only pure - but precious. Because it has been made more than a thousand years before. Indeed, he says, there was an idea, as you open the beautiful box. The silk.

Ruskin said the spirit of God is all around you and the air that you breathe. His glory is in the light that you see in the fruitfulness of the earth. And in the joy of its creatures. He has written for you day by day purest revelation. He has granted you day by day, daily bread.

V. 13
And then there came a whisper - V. 13. It was called a still small voice. The Lord was there. His voice had spoken. The wind. The earthquake, and the mountains are still after the blaze of fire. And here the letters come - God is love. It is enough. The prophet reads this. He rejoices in this.

✓ The old prophet wrapped his mantle around him and goes forth and stands at the entrance of the cave. And there all the glory of God passed before him.

✓ We need to hear that this weather is designed to help us to depend upon God. Dependency of the prophet - he was unworthy, he could not discuss God's power. He knew that he was not left alone by himself. He was revived in his convictions that he was a servant of God.

God has spoken not only once - but three times. And power belongeth unto God.

Elijah bowed in reverence.

Another thing, here was the unfolding of the terror of God's wrath on sin. Yes, it spoke of the redeeming love that had come. Do you remember when God sometimes has layed his hand upon you - maybe upon a sick bed. Or broke you up in some dream of earthly happiness. And brought you to the brink of the tomb. Have you felt that you were not ready - unprepared to die. And yet you were standing on the verge of eternity. Your mind was filled with blank despair. Visions of unrepented, unforgiven sins. Do you remember how your conscience came to you. God's righteousness and judgement, and holiness. And here is a voice. Accented in his ears.

Elizabeth Browning caught the spirit - earth is crowned with heaven. And every common bush a fire with God. But only he who sees takes off his shoes. The rest sit around it and pluck blackberries.

Old Elijah wrapped his face with his mantle, and it was when he listened to the still small voice that he was overwhelmed by the majesty. The goodness of God that leads to repentance.

And he who says if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw men unto him. It is the same one today that comes to his miracles and speaks to your heart. And to say to you that he is omnipotent. If you are having earthquakes, storms, snow and the ice - and (open your ear,) you will hear the sweet tones of the Gospel voice. It will be a still small voice of peace and hope. It will come. Power was a great symbol here. This is a warning to every sinner that God is hereby telling each one. You may now be resisting him. How manifold are the means that he employs to bring you to himself.

2
What could God have done more for you than he has done. Look back on the past of your life. As you think of this passage in the prophets life. God has been trying to lead your soul to repentance.

V-11-
The solemn word in this text - the Lord passed by. God is passing. Soon he will be passed altogether. Your needs and privileges will be at an end. It is an awful thought but there is a time coming when you will be in despair.

He has passed again, again, and again. And each time he gets fainter.

P
The poet Tagore from India asked. One asked him what the idea of God was. He said, when I was a small boy my father took me in the darkness of the woods. Just before the dawn was about to break, and said to me - now son, the sweet smell of this earth is God. He is of it and in it. And it is his. Then the first light of the dawn struck through the darkness of the jungle of a forest. And my father said, now son, God is the light of our lives. And the light of the world.

The birds started their singing. And my father said to me, now son, God is music. The music of pure souls. And may you so live that you strike no note of dissonance into harmony and beauty that is God's.

11
In conclusion, Matt. 16:2-3 has something to say about the weather. He said you will say when it is evening - it will be fair weather, the sky is red. And in the morning, it will be foul for the sky is red. He said, you hypocrites, you can discern the face of the sky. But you cannot discern the signs of the times.

We begin our message - with the subject, why change the weather? And Jesus here, in this point, is saying there are men who would try to regulate the

weather. And think about it and believe they can predict it. But they have no knowledge of the coming of Jesus Christ again to this earth. Now what you ought to do and we ought to do today is not try to change the weather, but turn to the one that controls the weather and let him make a complete change of our lives. Let it speak to your heart today. And hear that still small voice coming through. God may be saying something to you if you have had to go without heat or you have been hard pressed. Because of the shortages. Or suffered in anyway.

Is it winter time in your heart?
God is saying let him bring in the sun shine of his son &

John 37:23 Fair weather cometh out of the North -

Psalm, 25:20 merciful - to take away various garment in cold weather,

Matt. 16:2-3

God in Pent spoke through the weather: -

Noah's Day - used 40 Days of Rain & a flood to Judge the wicked.

Jacob's Day - used the Lack of Rain & Famine to scour his family in Egypt.

Pharaoh's Day - used Hail to chastise the Evil Pharaoh & his Nation.

Jonah's Day - used Storm at Sea to convict a Backsliding Preacher.

Paul's Day - used Hurricane & Ship wreck to fulfill his promise to save.

Job - 38:22 - Treasure of Snow - God is an Artist - 96 kinds snow flakes identified with no 2 alike.
Solid water grows as it falls into crystals.
It's snowing somewhere all the time!

I. Power - Representative of accumulative Power;
Roof collapses - Locomotive stops - Block your driveway - Stop Man's Work.

II. Purity
Job washed hands in snow water - Not wash his sins - ISAIAH - Sins - scarlet - white as snow.
Heaven - wear white robe, white throne judgment - Hymen told Jesus all tongues to be perfectly white
wash myself shall be whiter than snow

Why change the weather let the weather change you - God is speaking to you! -