

## GOD'S PURPOSE IN THE STORM

### THE TRANQUIL "SEA CRUISE" IS TURNING INTO A STORM!

#### When The Sea Is Stirred Up God Gains The Attention Of The People

1. The SEA is created by God and IS BOTH LITERAL AND SYMBOLIC; Acts 4:24
2. He walks upon the windy sea, and treads upon the waves of the sea; Matt. 14:22-27; Job 9:8
3. The "sea" is a metaphor for the nations; it speaks of the mass of mankind, some who are wicked, some who are righteous; Revelation 17:15
4. The "waves" (breakers) of the sea can be overwhelming and violent; Ps. 42:7; Ps. 88:7
5. The sea has a voice, it makes a "noise" and it "roars"; Ps. 65:7; 93:4; 96:11; 98:7; Luke 21:25
6. John stood upon the sand of the sea and saw the beast "rise up" out of the sea; Revelation 13:1
7. The turbulent "sea of humanity" is restless, agitated and in turmoil; Isaiah 57:20; Rev. 17:1
8. It stands in contrast to the "sea of glass" (the pure, clear, peaceful state of those before God's throne); it is "mixed with fire": the saints are purified by being baptized in fire; Rev. 4:6; 15:2

#### Jesus Christ Is Lord Over The Storm

1. Storms are violent, atmospheric upheavals of nature (includes shaking, disaster, calamity)
2. Storms can be supernatural, sent by God for His purposes; Exod. 9:23-25; Josh. 10:11
3. "His way is in the whirlwind and the storm"; Nahum 1:3
4. The Fear of the Lord comes in the storm; Matthew 14:22-27; Mark 4:37-41
5. In a storm, men cry out to God and the heathen come to faith in Jesus Christ; Jonah 1:14-16
6. Jesus Christ is our BEACON OF HOPE; He allows storms to come into our lives to turn us in the right direction; He directs us to follow the COMPASS of the Word of God; Titus 1:2; 2:13
7. He wants us to "cut the ropes" and toss out the excess "tackle, cargo and baggage" in our lives which can distract us, weigh us down and slow us down; Acts 27:18-19, 32, 38
8. The Lord reveals His divine, supernatural power and authority in the storm; Acts 27:22-24
9. God's goal for us in the storm is to bring us to the place (spiritually, geographically) that we may reach our particular assignment and destination; Psalm 107:25-30; Acts 27:44
10. The great storm described in Acts 27:1-44 speaks of the approaching Day of the Lord

#### Ships In The Storm

1. A SHIP IS A VESSEL designed for transport upon water, used for trade and commerce and to transfer people and commodities; James 3:4
2. A ship is a type of the fallen WORLD SYSTEM (its mentality and lifestyle), which is "headed for the rocks"; it will be ruined and destroyed; Jer. 51:64; Rev. 11:18; 14:8
3. It is SYMBOLIC OF AN INDIVIDUAL OR A CITY; it can be associated with a particular group of people; Ezekiel 26:17; 27:1-36; Acts 27:1, 31
4. EVERY SHIP constructed by man's wisdom, placed under his direction, will endure for only a season; it WILL EVENTUALLY LEAK, BREAK APART AND SINK; Acts 27:10-11, 41
5. The construction of NOAH'S SHIP (THE ARK), was fashioned according to God's wisdom, placed under His direction; it WAS UNSINKABLE; Genesis 7:1-24
  - a. It is a type of Christ and those who are in Him; it had 3 stories with "many rooms"; Gen. 6:14-16; John 14:2, which reveals different levels of faith, obedience and fruitfulness; Matt. 13:8, 23
  - b. It was the vessel through which Noah and his family survived the outpouring of God's wrath
  - c. THIS SHIP COMES TO REST UPON THE MOUNT; Genesis 8:4; Hebrews 12:22-23

### When Ships Begin To Sink:

- 1.** The whole sea was “stirred up” by God to reach Jonah; **HIS DISOBEDIENCE CAUSED ALL ON BOARD TO BE IN DANGER OF SINKING**; Jonah 1:3-15
  - a.** The backslidden messenger was asleep in a ship, going in the wrong direction; Jonah 1:6
  - b.** He heard God’s voice, had God’s message, but did not have God’s heart concerning the lost. He sought to evade his responsibility, so God sent a storm, a **WAKE UP CALL**; Jonah 2:1-10
- 2.** In another storm, the **WAVES BEAT INTO THE SHIP**, filling it with water, when Jesus and His disciples were “passing to the other side”; Mark 4:35-41
  - a.** “**WAVES**” of discouragement, fear and oppression **ARE A REALITY**, but God’s Word says “You rule the raging of the sea; when the waves of it arise, You still them”; Ps. 89:9; Ps. 42:7
  - b.** Jesus is with us through the storm; He will take us where He has determined we must go (He has a destination in mind for us); Acts 27:24
- 3.** When Jesus instructed His disciples to “launch out into the deep” for a catch, the weight from a multitude of fish caused the nets to be broken and the **SHIPS BEGAN TO SINK**; Luke 5:1-11
  - a.** Man’s equipment and his methods are not effective in “catching or gathering” souls for the Kingdom; those who become “fishers of men” do so by the supernatural power and authority of Jesus Christ; Mark 1:16-20; Acts 2:38-41
  - b.** Some “fish with nets” (for multitudes), but we can all “fish with poles” (for individuals)
- 4.** Paul was a faithful messenger, a prisoner on a ship when the storm hit. While the crew was toiling at the pumps (the ship was leaking), he was wrestling in prayer for the souls of his shipmates. God told him the people’s lives would be spared; Acts 27:9-10, 21-25
  - a.** Paul brought encouragement and instructions to all, but **THE SHIP BROKE APART** as they drew near to “some country” **ABOUT MIDNIGHT**; Acts 27:20-27; Heb. 6:18-19
  - b.** The “church system” may be leaking and breaking apart, but it takes the combined, joint action by those with insight and revelation to work together to save lives; Acts 27:31, 41, 44
- 5.** A **SHIPWRECK IS DESCRIPTIVE OF AN INDIVIDUAL** whose biblical faith has been ruined due to apostasy; 1 Timothy 1:19-20
  - a.** They began in faith, but turned another way, and followed another course; 1 Timothy 4:1
  - b.** Widespread apostasy is one of the signs of the end of the age; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 4:3-4
- 6.** The Lord will **BREAK THE CONVOY OF SHIPS** used for war and trade with the “mistress”; they will perish and be broken; Ezekiel 27:25-27
  - a.** Chittim was a haven for Tyre’s ships; it held vessels for war, was a maritime center, a trading emporium for world commerce; Numbers 24:23-24; Isaiah 23:1-12
  - b.** Ships of Tarshish supplied goods for Tyre, the prideful, self-sufficient city, which conducted business with the kings of the Earth; Psalm 48:7; Isaiah 2:16; 23:1, 14
- 7.** The ancient city of **TYRE IS LIKENED TO A SHIP** that was “well-outfitted, wrongly piloted and ultimately shipwrecked”; Ezekiel 27:1-36
  - a.** It was a commercial city; it speaks of trafficking and merchandising (the pride of the satanic world system); the “princes of the sea” would lament her destruction; Ezekiel 26:16
  - b.** **BABYLON, LIKE TYRE, WILL “SINK”**; Jeremiah 51:64. Tyre was a like a harlot, a “mistress” of earthly splendor judged by God because of her sin and delight in Jerusalem’s overthrow. She and her company would fall and be “broken by the seas”; Ezekiel 27:32-34; Revelation 18:17, 19

