

## Whether Weather

Does God control the weather? Does it matter whether he does or not? These are questions which can determine how we believe, and how we then live.

God is sovereign. God has created the universe. He has set the planets in space and determined their orbits.

The gravity of the moon determines the tides and the waves which crash on the seashore. The weather systems, which meteorologists do their best to understand, defies their logic. Theirs is the only profession where one can be wrong every day and still keep their job.

The scientist might be able to explain how the sun rises and sets every day. But he cannot explain why. God set the sun and the moon in place as a blessing for his people and his creation. Everything, including the weather, was good.

But sin came quickly, and damaged the relationship between us and God, and there are moments when God chooses to harness the winds and the waves to get our attention. That was true in biblical history, and is still true today.

Jonah is infamous for us desperate run from God's direction. While he sailed away as fast as a fair wind could take him, God sent a great wind into the sea, and a great tempest came up which threatened to capsize the ship. A three day experience inside a great fish later, Jonah washed up on the shore, and he and God have been buddies ever since.

A storm came up on the Sea of Galilee while Jesus and his disciples were crossing over. They were in fear of their lives and woke Jesus up. He calmed the winds and waves with the words, "Peace. Be still." They said, "Who is this that even the winds and the waves obey him!"

They believed. And though they and we can be sometimes buffeted by waves of all descriptions in life, we know that God in Christ is in control, and peace comes through those same simple words.

What has happened, one might ask? Why do people speak of "Mother Nature" as a substitute grandmother for God? Why do people see weather as something we can control? Has something changed?

Nothing has changed from God's perspective. He is still in charge of the winds, the waves, the sun and the moon, and can use them at any time to get our attention, or to bless us.

What has changed is we so seldom talk with God that we think that we are in charge now. We think somehow that we have affected the temperature by starting our car one too many times. We think we have lowered the water levels in the oceans because we are irresponsible stewards of this earth.

How could we be so assuming that we actually think that we are God? How could we even suggest that we have changed God's laws and systems? It is part of the old sin of thinking that we are our own gods, even god ourselves.

Whether weather is hot or cold, dry or wet depends on God's plans for all of us. Whether weather is calm and cool or a tsunami depends on God's providence or protection.

In today's world, the only time the news media mention God and weather is when a disaster such as a hurricane or earthquake strikes. Then those who do not believe ( and this is full of irony) say, "If God exists, why would he let something like this happen?"

I would be more interested in talking about how God blesses us every day with weather which grows crops, provides food for our tables, and makes it possible to help other people.

Sure he still uses weather to get our attention. Bravo, God! When a white snow blankets the land, we can get a sense of the quiet and peace, and the holiness of God is suggest by the white of the snow on the ground and the fact that every snowflake is unique.

When a disaster strikes, people realize their limited role in creation and turn to God. Whether it's a weather disaster or a personal disaster, God will do what it takes to help us find his grace.

Let's say we got rain every time we asked for it. That would be too much for some. Or conversely, we pray for it to stop raining when a farmer desperately needs the heavens to open wide.

God is sovereign. He knows what we all need, and decides when and where it will rain, snow, or blow, and when or whether the sun will shine each day. I'm glad I don't have that responsibility!

Mark Twain, the famous writer and comedian, was asked one day after it had been raining for many days, if it would ever stop. "Always has," he replied.

That's the key. Whether it's weather or anything else, the always, (and everywhere for that matter) is God's dominion. Whether weather happens or not, it's God's business, not ours.

Whether the weather be fine  
Or whether the weather be not,  
Whether the weather be cold  
Or whether the weather be hot,  
We'll weather the weather  
Whatever the weather,  
Whether we like it or not. ~Anonymous British