

Bethel

Prayer Meeting Addresses

Number 19 The Wind in His Fists

Reading: Proverbs 30. 1-9

1 The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, even the prophecy: the man spake unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal,

2 Surely I am more brutish than any man, and have not the understanding of a man.

3 I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy.

4 Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?

5 Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

7 Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die:

8 Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

9 Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the Lord? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

Address

We do not know who this Agur was who wrote these verses, but we do know this: he had very clear, believing views on the greatness of God. O may we have those very clear views, how great God is. The most impossible thing with Him is easy.

“Thou art coming to a King;
Large petitions with thee bring.”

So in our approaches in public and in secret may there be the realisation that our prayer-hearing, prayer-answering God is almighty.

I think the thing about it that seemed specially to lay hold on me was this: that He has gathered the wind in His fist. We thought about it these last few days, even literally, naturally, these severe winds. Men cannot control them, but

the Lord holds them in His fist. It means He has complete control. Man cannot make the wind blow and man cannot stop it blowing. It is a very striking figure. He holds it in His fist. If somebody has something tight in his fist, it is hard to get it out. Perhaps you remember those days when the children were little and they had something they should not have, and they held it in their fist and would not let it go. Could you force them to open their fist? If someone is holding something in their fist, even if they are only a child, it is hard work to get it from them. Almighty God is so great He holds the mighty winds in His fist.

And just two ways I see this, two aspects of it, and they are absolutely, completely different. First of all, the winds of trouble, sin, affliction, adversity, sorrow. Now He holds them in His fist. They cannot blow without His divine permission, and it is an easy thing for Him to stop them blowing. Are you familiar with Revelation 7? In one way it is one of the most beautiful chapters in Scripture. “What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?” But at the beginning if you remember there were those mighty angels and the wind was going to blow on the redeemed. These terrible winds were going to blow, but by God’s commandment these holy angels held these winds tight. “Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.” So He who binds the floods from overflowing is the One who holds the winds in His fist and the One to whom we pray.

Now the second view of it, completely, entirely distinct, in the light of Ezekiel 37 and John 3: the Holy Spirit in His powerful influences and His gentle influences compared to the wind. Ezekiel 37, the dry bones, and, “they were very dry.” But, “Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” And that great shaking as bone came together with bone, and they arose a great army, a living army. And then John 3, the Lord Jesus speaking of the new birth. “The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.” We might also mention that beautiful word, “Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden” – the Holy Spirit compared to the wind.

Now Almighty God, not just as the Creator, but as our covenant God in Christ, He holds the wind in His fist. You and I cannot command it. He can, and He commands it, and the wind blows, and that sinner is born again; and He commands again, and that sinner in bondage is brought into the sweet liberty of the gospel. He commands again and Jesus is revealed. He has complete control,

however you see it, in Jesus as the great Head of the church. He holds the wind in His fist. Now we cannot control it, we cannot command it, but we can pray for it, and we are encouraged to pray for it, and we meet this evening to pray for it, the moving of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

This address was given at Bethel Chapel, Luton, by Mr. B. A. Ramsbottom, on Monday, 2nd February, 2004

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When the blest day of Pentecost
Was fully come, the Holy Ghost
Descended from above,
Sent by the Father and the Son,
To bring immortal blessings down,
And shed abroad God's love.

Sudden a rushing wind they hear;
And fiery cloven tongues appear;
And sat on every one;
Cloven, perhaps, to be a sign,
That God no longer would confine
His word to Jews alone.

And were these first disciples blessed
With heavenly gifts? And shall the rest
Be passed unheeded by?
What! has the Holy Ghost forgot
To quicken souls that Christ has bought,
And let them lifeless lie?

No, Thou Almighty Paraclete,
Thou shedd'st Thy heavenly influence yet,
Thou visit'st sinners still;
The breath of life, Thy quickening flame,
Thy power, Thy Godhead, still the same,
We own, because we feel.

J. Hart

