



He Shall Come as a Flood

What kind of a flood should the Righteous Expect?

Have you ever experienced the bursting of awareness that satan and his demons have directed their attack against you? During troublesome interludes such as these, it may seem that problems are breaking out all over!

It is easy to overreact during these troublesome times when problems seem to break forth on every side. All too often during these instances, we give more credit to satan and his demons than they deserve.

Most of us may recognize the Biblical term, “to burst forth” like waters. Does that Biblical term mean anything to you? Have you ever experienced a torrent of rain? Most of us don’t live where torrential rains are normal. However, in those rare instances when they do come upon us, there is one thing for sure; the natural human simply can do nothing about it! An untamed torrential rain is an unstoppable force as God has already demonstrated, “I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life” (Gen 6:17). One word that we can use to describe a torrent is that it is completely overwhelming. At one time or another in each of our lives we probably have an experience where natural forces have utterly overwhelmed us.

What I am endeavoring to convey through this opening section is the concept of complete vulnerability! Humans can experience a feeling of utter helplessness when they are being completely overwhelmed by their external circumstances!

One afternoon twenty years ago while vacationing in Hawaii with my family we all went bodysurfing. The waves had continually intensified as the afternoon grew toward evening! Obviously, we were having a grand old time on the beach. It seemed that the more we grew capable of riding the ever increasing waves the larger they became. We later learned that there had been a storm out somewhere North of Maui and it created what is known to the Hawaiians as a “swell.” The waves ultimately grew that day up to approximately 25 feet in height. Earlier in the day while the waves were merely at the 10 to 15 foot level, I was picked up by a wave and thrust toward the shore; however, something about that specific wave overwhelmed me as it flipped and literally slammed me to the bottom of the ocean floor. The result was that I hit the sandy ocean floor flat on my back. You might not immediately realize the natural reaction when being slammed to the floor.

Let me demonstrate the normal reaction when one gets slammed flat on their back. You react by taking a deep, quick gasp! – Now imagine doing that while tons of salt water are literally pouring upon you! Needless to say, I was totally overwhelmed! I felt utterly and



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completely helpless and under the absolute controlling power of that relentless ocean! I physically struggled to get out of the ocean as I **exhaled water** and gasped for air!

Have you ever felt out of control in your spiritual battles against satan? Has it ever left you feeling overwhelmed and at the bottom of the ocean? The fifty-fourth chapter of Isaiah is the story of a woman (*the church or Bride of Jesus Christ*) who is left to fight against the “waster;” however, her husband vindicates and protects her as He promises victory, “thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left” (Isa 54:3). Notice in the Biblical account of this verse that it is the bride who is to “break forth!” From God’s perspective, the woman is actually supposed to be taking back lost ground! The Lord continues His promises, “Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame” (Isa 54:4)! The Husband goes on to define His support, “For **this is as the waters of Noah unto me** (*The Lord views His promises as He would view a sacred covenant!*): **for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth . . . 14 In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee** (*We all should have noticed by now that terror is the main tool used by the enemy against humanity!*). 15 Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: **whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake** (*Here we find God proclaiming dire consequences upon our enemies!*). 16 **Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy** (*obviously this is an allusion to satan the devil*); 17 **No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper** (*notice that this promise is in the present!*); **and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn**. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.” (Isa. 54:9-17). God Almighty has an ancient enemy! Therefore since we are His children, His enemies have become our enemies; however, He always protects and preserves us!

In the 14th chapter of the First Book of Chronicles there is a story of King David that describes in verses 8-10 how the Philistines came out against Israel when they heard that David was anointed King over the entire nation. David sought an answer from God if he should pursue his enemies and the Lord told him to give chase! We now pick-up the story, “So they came up to Baal-perazim; and David smote them there. Then David said, God hath broken in upon mine enemies by mine hand like **the breaking forth of waters**: therefore they called the name of that place Baal-perazim” (1 Chron 14:11). “*Perazim*” as in the following, “How hast thou **broken forth**? this **breach** be upon thee: therefore his name was called Pharez” (Gen 38:29), means to “break through,” accordingly, it should be easily associated that “Baal-perazim means the Lord of the Break Through!” We can learn from David through this story that God is able to “break through” all of our problems! God can take us beyond our problems if we will but call upon Him in believing faith! We must realize that our God is the “God of the Break Through!”

All too often instead of calling upon God to help us “break through” our problems, we thoughtlessly give license to the forces of the fallen world which seek to keep us in



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bondage! My dad often voiced a then-common adage, “Every time that I get a nickel ahead, I break a shoestring!” This saying in itself is not necessarily malicious or evil; however, it promotes a negative attitude and more importantly it gives voice to the unseen spirit forces that “hold back,” rather than to those who move the individual forward! Realize, satan is only, “as a roaring lion” (1 Peter 5:8). This means that he is not a lion; just as one! His most distinguished characteristic is that he roars out to us the false message that humanity is doomed to failure.

In the story of David that we just reviewed, it seems that the Philistines whose hero was Goliath, soon forgot the source of David’s dominance. David did not hide his source of victory! Instead, he boldly proclaimed, “I come to thee *in the name of the LORD of hosts*, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied” (1 Sam 17:45). The Philistines must have forgotten that David still worshipped the same God who defeated Goliath! They did not realize that David’s power came through vocalizing his faith in the covenant that he shared with his God! David completely depended upon God. This is so simple it is almost lost on us! David thoroughly understood that God specializes in the impossible. Like Moses, he understood, “the LORD your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you *against your enemies*” (Deut 20:4). God came out like a flood and broke forth against David’s enemy, “God hath broken in upon mine enemies by mine hand like *the breaking forth of waters!*” All of satan’s devices will be swept away when we act like David and utterly rely on the Almighty. Do you trust God to fight your battles?

We must realize that when God moves in our favor, satan is unable to stop His (*God’s*) overwhelming force! Yet a skeptic who has some familiarity with the Bible might ask, “Doesn’t the Bible teach just the opposite, that satan moves like a flood against the Christian? After all, Isaiah wrote, **‘When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.’** Doesn’t that verse indicate just the opposite of what we have been studying? Isaiah teaches that satan certainly can come against us like a flood and overwhelm us!” This line of questioning does voice a question that needs to be answered. Now, open your Bible to Isaiah Chapter 59:19, once you have read that verse, I suspect that you might acknowledge that your interpretation might actually agree with the views offered by our “skeptic.”

Maintaining our view that God will utterly protect us is difficult; especially when we remember that the Biblical flood in the time of Noah overwhelmed everything! When we truly understand that a Biblical flood completely overwhelms, then this concept or realization creates a real problem. The fact is that if it is possible for satan to come against us like a flood, then it would be impossible for us to contain his onslaught. However, the Bible teaches that satan cannot overwhelm us! This presents a real dilemma. Let’s study Isaiah’s passage as we seek understanding and clarification.

When one reads Isa 59:19 it does at first seem to indicate that it may be possible for satan to sweep us away just like that wave swept me away and slammed me on the ocean floor!



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Now carefully consider the following question. Is it possible for satan to sweep us away and slam us to the floor (*as it were*)? NO! Absolutely Not! And I will prove it to you!

Biblical and even natural floods utterly carry things away! They wipe out whatever is in their path. During the time of Noah, God used a flood to wipe out the people from off the face of the earth, “the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast” (Gen 6:7). The point is that floods totally wipe things out.

What we must realize is that God has never given satan the ability to totally wipe us out! The “Biblical flood” is a powerful force! With that in mind we can relate how a flood cannot be contained; it does whatever its will is. So, if satan could come against us like a flood then we would be helpless to stop his overwhelming force against us. Yet the scripture teaches us differently, “greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

The nineteenth verse in Isaiah 59 conveys not even a hint that the devil can overwhelm the Christian! Let us read that same verse again with just a slight change in the location of the comma (*Remember, punctuation was not in the original text! The translators added it in an attempt to promote understanding. In this instance they actually created a misunderstanding by their placement of the comma. The point is that when we move the comma three words earlier, we are doing no harm to the text!*), “**When the enemy shall come in,** like a flood the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isa 59:19). Notice what that slight change in the comma position brings to the verse! Let’s read and discuss the difference from the KJV that previously read as follows, “**When the enemy shall come in like a flood,** the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isa 59:19). The biblical message supported by other scriptures is that when the enemy shall come in against your family, finances, health, peace, happiness, etc; like an overwhelming flood the Almighty will fight against that foe!

We must realize that satan is limited! We need to stop proclaiming that the devil has performed this or that great thing against us. We need to stop attributing all that extra power and credit to the devil! He literally feeds on the credit and those foolish words through which we attribute to him such great power. The Bible nowhere teaches that satan is awesome; rather it teaches that God is the Awesome One!

So what exactly does it mean that God shall lift up a standard against him? It rather sounds as if God has promised to raise some kind of a flag in order to scare-off the enemy. Isn’t that what a “standard” does? Used in the non-biblical sense, the elders in our midst will recall the old “Cowboys and Indians” classics of the past. Usually when the Indians had the settlers completely surrounded and about ready to be wiped out, the cavalry would ride in and save the day! The most notable elements of their impending arrival were the sound of the trumpet and the flag briskly waving above the troops! However, this is not the kind of scene that Isaiah 59:19 portrays.

There is a mystery imbedded here in the original Hebrew word. That Hebrew word “*nuwc*” pronounced (noos) is translated into the English word “standard.” It can be found



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160 times in the Old Testament; however, 159 times it means “to flee or to leave!” Only once, in our key verse is that word translated into the English as “standard.” So what were the original translators trying to convey to us? It is certainly true that the raising of a standard or flag, which symbolizes the presence of a powerful force (*as in the case of the cavalry*), will cause the enemy to flee; however, that is not the exact message embedded in this verse from Isaiah.

We who speak the English language have learned that one sure method of figuring out what any word means is to simply consult the dictionary. One dictionary defines “standard” as: “That which is established by sovereign power as a rule or as a measure by which other objects are to be adjusted.” Let’s carefully notice this definition: “That which is established by a sovereign power (*this sovereign would obviously be God Almighty!*) In essence, God has established a rule or standard. As we continue with the verse we realize that God has established a rule or measure that when the enemy shall come in against one of God’s children, God will cause His power to burst forth like a flood that overwhelms the devil! Get the picture! Here is another way to describe the rule that God has established: If the devil ever comes against you in any form, (financial, family strife, health, etc.) then God Almighty will come on the scene like a flood and the bursting forth of His power will make it so satan cannot hold back what God has released in your favor! However, this rule does not convey to us when God will appear on the scene. God will come but not necessarily immediately. He always shows up; but never too late nor too early. He is always on time!

WE OPERATE UNDER A STANDARD! This is a powerful rule that all of creation is subject to, even satan! God knew that satan would attack His children! However, you and I are soldiers in God’s army and there is a powerful rule made in our behalf that we can begin to depend upon! Whenever we suffer an attack all we need to do is bring out Isaiah 59:19 and claim it, “*When the enemy shall come in, like a flood* the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard (*rule*) against him” (Isa 59:19)! It is perfectly legal to quote this rule to the devil and his malicious cohorts!

We have earlier read what Isaiah wrote, “Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the **waster** (*referring to satan*) to destroy.” (Isa 54:16). Many believe and cite this passage as one of their proof texts that God is completely responsible for satan’s existence. We must understand that prior to the creation of the earth, God created a being that He originally named as Lucifer, meaning his God given responsibilities were as, “the light bringer.” However, Lucifer’s pride caused him to transform or morph himself into something entirely different, “Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, **till iniquity was found in thee**” (Ezek 28:15). Satan fashioned his own heart toward evil. He planned a rebellion against the Almighty, “for **thou hast said in thine heart**, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God” (Isa 14:13). The very thing that made Lucifer beautiful, which was his brightness became his downfall, “Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom **by reason of thy**



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brightness” (Ezek 28:17). If you are interested in a deeper understanding of the origin of evil, you may obtain a copy of “Evil, Where did it come from?”

<http://www.rivkah.org/PDFs/021010.pdf> You can obtain a free copy of the **Rivkah Ministries** Bible Study from your own computer by visiting us on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.rivkah.org>.

In any case, God Almighty created this being who morphed himself into something different from that which God originally intended Him to be! Nevertheless, the LORD of Hosts always remains supreme and He always maintains complete authority and control over all of His creation! Since God created satan as a free moral agent and with the ability to make his own choices, God made all of creation absolutely subject to certain of His established rules; no matter how His subjects might rework themselves!

As we noted earlier, God was fully aware of danger and therefore possible attacks against the sons of God; therefore one of His previously established rules was designed to protect those growing into sonship! In essence those who will claim that standard can battle against satan and win every time! We have already observed the standard; however, let’s look at it one more time: If the devil ever comes against you in any form, (financial, family, health, etc.) all you need to do is claim the rule and then God Almighty will come on the scene like a flood and the bursting forth of his power will make it so satan cannot hold back what God has released in your favor! The power that God releases in our favor is called GRACE!

So how are we supposed to act when under attack by the devil? We are to quietly rest under the promise that God is always there to give us protection! Yes! Circumstances may seem bleak, however, we are children of faith and we are to claim God’s deliverance even when faced with the appearance of destruction! Notice how that passage about the destroyer ends, “**No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper**; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. **This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD**, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD” (Isa 54:17). God made us to be winners! This passage gives us a clear witness of God’s standard or rule which He made on our behalf. God has always got us covered. We are His heritage – His children! He constantly has His eyes on us.

Let’s notice another Biblical passage that gives witness to the concept of the rule or standard which God has established. We observe in the second book of Corinthians, “Now thanks be unto God, **which always causeth us to triumph** in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place” (2 Cor 2:14). According to God’s new covenant, we always win!

No, it is not satan who sends a flood against the children of God; rather, it is God who sends the flood against satan and his demons. Notice the only place where the Bible makes mention of satan sending forth a flood, “the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. 16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the



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dragon cast out of his mouth” (Rev 12:15-16). In this instance, God even causes the earth to help the woman as it swallows up the flood sent out from the devil! Demons are actually fearful of the *sons of God*, “they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, **thou Son of God?** art thou come hither **to torment us before the time** (Interesting, the demons know that their future is one of torment brought on by the sons of God!)” (Matt 8:29). In the last verse we observe the devils claiming that the “sons of God” actually cause torment to their fallen realm, “Behold, I give unto you power to **tread on serpents and scorpions**, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you” (Luke 10:19).

One might ask, “So why hasn’t God’s rule been in effect for the last two thousand years? What makes our generation so different? Why can we all of a sudden begin to claim God’s rule now?” To best understand why the rule has seemingly not been in operation for that last twenty centuries let’s begin by noticing Jesus’ words, “ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition” (Matt 15:6). Jesus here teaches that humanity can actually render God’s decrees or rules of none effect! The church as a corporate whole has traditionally believed that they were under the dominion of satan! After all, doesn’t the Bible say as much, “In whom ***the god of this world*** hath blinded the minds of them which believe not” (2 Cor 4:4). Notice that the exact verse which identifies satan as the “god of this world” also makes another important point regarding how satan has maintained his rule. It says that he has, “blinded the ***minds*** of them ***which believe not!***” This verse teaches us that blindness and unbelief are powerful tools that satan employs. In other words, if he can get us to either lose sight of God’s rule or to somehow stop believing in the rule, then we will not claim through faith any of the rules that have been designed to give assistance on our behalf! If we do not claim the rule through faith as our heritage, then the rule will not work in our lives, “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Heb 11:6). The answer is simple, if we do not have faith in and claim the rule then it will not work for us; and therefore from the world’s perspective, the rule **appears** to not work!

Our modern society demonstrates to us how one must have faith in and claim even man’s earthly regulations. Let me explain: How many of you know who Rosa Parks is? What is it that brings a mark of distinction to her name? What famous act did she perform?

Rosa Parks is the black woman who refused to act like an inferior human being while riding a bus in the south during the late 1950’s. She ***claimed*** that she was entitled to “equal rights under the law” to sit wherever she chose! President Abraham Lincoln along with thousands of soldiers gave their lives to uphold her demand nearly 100 years before Rosa’s claim. However, for ninety-some years even though the law of the land was clearly in her favor, black people had failed to achieve equal rights under the law. The condition of discrimination persisted because they had become accustomed to their oppression! In the same fashion, humans must have total faith in and claim their rights as they are freed from the bondage of satan through Jesus Christ, “the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath



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made me free from the law of sin and death” (Rom 8:2). The next Bible Study will focus on “the law of sin and death.”

God has established a rule or standard. Simply stated it reads, “Thou (*fallen spirit world*) shalt not beat up onSons of God.....!” Since/If you are a Christian, you can just as easily insert your name on that dotted line! Satan can and does cause us difficulties in life; however, we are free from his dominion! Instead, Satan is always subject to God’s rules! The devil ruled over Adam and Eve in the garden and subsequently over all of mankind. However, we have been set free from Satan. As we recognize our standing in the New Testament as the “Righteousness of God,” then the rule or standard which we have observed from Isaiah 59:19, comes into effect for us! However, just like Rosa Parks we must stand up for and vigorously claim, in the presence of the angelic kingdom, those blood bought rights!

The Christian is repaid for his/her trouble from the devil! In fact we get double for our trouble! We observe as the prophet writes, “For your shame *ye shall have double*” (Isa 61:7)! Even Zechariah makes this observation, “ye prisoners of hope: even to day do I declare that *I will render double unto thee*” (Zech 9:12).

There is a fanciful opening in the secret agent – 007 movie, “Die Another Day;” James Bond comes riding on a surf board on the crest of a tidal wave! He rides in on the wave during the opening scenes of the movie! James Bond is incredibly puny to the point that there is no comparison; however, this ought to remind us of our God who rides upon the flood, “The LORD sitteth upon the flood” (Ps 29:10); this means that unlike any of His creation the Almighty is the only one who has the power to harness the mighty overflowing waters!

There is no way that we can ever lose! Satan’s days as “god of this world” are numbered. He does not have power to bring a flood against the bride of Christ, “The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the *floods* have lifted up their voice; the *floods* lift up their waves. 4 The LORD on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea” (Ps 93:3-4). On the contrary, God is the source of the mighty flood against His enemies, “The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him. 8 But with an overrunning *flood* he will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue his enemies” (Nah 1:7-8).

God is our defender! We need to realize that in times of trouble He defends us, “He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved. 7 In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. 8 Trust in him at all times; ye people, *pour out your heart before him*: God is a refuge for us. Selah (Ps 62:6-8). We are to pour our hearts out to Him, “I poured out my complaint before him; I shewed before him my trouble. 3 *When my spirit was overwhelmed within me*, then thou knewest my path. In the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for me” (Ps 142:2-3).



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Yes, we have all experienced times when satan and his minions have directed their attack against us! Yes, there are times when it seems that troubles are breaking out all over! However, we cannot overreact during these troublesome instances when problems seem to be breaking forth on every side. All we need to do is remember God's standard. We must call upon our God who will "break forth" like an overwhelming flood against our enemies. As in the life of David we can experience God working in our behalf, "the LORD hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters" (2 Sam 5:20).

Oh yes, the violent waters will come against us! However they will never overwhelm us. Therefore, just like Rosa Parks and King David, stand firm upon Jesus Christ and your rights under the laws of God! If we do so we will be like the wise man, "which built his house upon a rock: 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock." (Matt 7:24-25).

The bible clearly teaches that we are to stand up for our rights under God's law, "**Stand** fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free" (Gal 5:1), knowing that "the foundation of God **standeth** sure" (2 Tim 2:19). Paul told us to put on armour, "that ye may be able to **withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand**. 14 **Stand** therefore" (Eph 6:13-14); as you stand keep your eyes on Jesus, "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we **stand**" (Rom 5:2).

Realize that, "thou **standest** by faith" (Rom 11:20); therefore, "**stand** fast in one spirit" (Phil 1:27). My earnest prayer for you is, "that ye may **stand** perfect and complete in all the will of God" (Col 4:12). John asks, "Who shall be able to **stand**?" (Rev 6:17) We know that it is those who know and claim God's liberty. "Verily I say unto you, There be some **standing** here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom" (Matt 16:28).

You and I can easily stand against the wiles of the devil known that, "**When the enemy shall come in, like a flood the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.**" (Isa 59:19).