

There is nothing in nature that is quite as awe inspiring as a really good thunderstorm. Living in Southwest Florida, we get our fair share of some real good "boomers" in the summer months. This area actually is aptly called the "lightning capital of the world." Day or night when one comes rolling on through, the sky and surrounding areas light up bright with dazzling lightning and shake with the ensuing powerful thunder.

Creating a Spiritual



The writers of the scriptures have used this powerful force of nature to invoke the power and presence of a Mighty God. They have used the term, "thunder" as a symbol of the power of God's voice (Job 37:2,4,5; Psalm 29:3-9; 2Samuel 22:14) and in some instances His vengeance and wrath (1Samuel 2;10. In Jewish thought, God dwelled behind the thunder cloud and actually called it a "secret place of thunder" (Psalm 81:7) where the Most High dwells.

Before we get into "lightning" let's first take into account and bring to our remembrance that God is "Light" (1John 1:5) and that Jesus is the "Light of the world" (John 8:12; John 9:5) Interesting to take note here is that Jesus also refers to those who believe in Him as "the light of the world" as well (Matthew 5:14). Hold on to that thought for later on in our discussion.

The term "lightning" is used throughout the scriptures in referring to the manifestation of God's power and might (Job 28:26). The term "lighting" is used to represent His instruments in bringing forth the destruction of His enemies (Psalm 18:14; Zechariah 9:14, 15). The same word is also translated in some parts of scripture as the "glittering sword" of God (Deuteronomy 32:41; Job 20:25; Ezekiel 21:28). Again, this invokes the idea of an instrument used against His enemies. (Obviously, "the sword" refers to the Living Word of God) The term "lightning" is also used to describe the brightness of the Glory of Lord. (Luke 17:24).

We see that God's "shekinah" glory is represented by a "thick cloud" - the "chabad" - and within that cloud, as well as emanating from it, are thunders and lightning. In the account found in Exodus 19 when God's presence came and engulfed Mt Sinai for the purpose of meeting with Moses and the people there was quite a "thunderstorm." Verses 16-18 reveal quite an awe inspiring visual to all that were present as to exactly Who they were in the presence of. If we are honest with ourselves, we might have moved away from the mountain a little, just as the children of Israel did. And we might have told Moses to go speak with God and "if" you return, tell us what He said and we will do it.

One of the greatest "Thunderstorms" we will be able to experience will be the one that John foretells in Revelations 4:1-5 that continually takes place within the very throne room of the Living, One and Only True God - Yahweh. As we read in John's account, there were thunders and lightning that surrounded the throne as well as a rainbow of beautiful colors. This is the scene that awaits those who believe in the Lamb that was slain from the foundations of the earth.

It is interesting to note that in a thunderstorm, it is the lightning that occurs first. Without going into all the scientific jargon and technicalities, which is beyond the scope of this article, I will give you a "layman's" explanation of what happens. Lightning occurs when a negative electrical "leader" is released from within the cloud. It continues to search out something that has a positive charge. When the two connect we get the powerful electrical charge known as lightning. The affects in the atmosphere surrounding that electrical charge is that the air is superheated which then pushes that air at supersonic speeds. These speeds literally break the sound barrier resulting in the sound we hear as thunder.

So what does all this have to do with "Creating a Spiritual Thunderstorm?" Well, what I would like to present is that as we take what we know in the natural realm we can see how that would reflect and represent what actually can happen in the Spirit realm. Just as we see the clouds in the natural realm we know that God dwells in the midst of His "glory cloud," the "shekinah," the "chabad." This can be referred to as what the scriptures refer to "the secret place of thunder" (Psalm 81:7).

God is constantly releasing "leaders" or we can say He is constantly seeking after true worshippers (John 4:23). We must always keep in mind that it is God who always initiates the worship encounter or any encounter with His people. We cannot make anything happen in and of ourselves. It is when we respond to God's initiative in relationship and acknowledge Him (Proverbs 3:6), then things happen. He is looking to "connect" with anyone who is "positively charged" with an attitude of heart that desires to worship Him in "spirit and in truth." (John 4:24). When God connects with that true worshipper, look out!!! Spiritual sparks will fly!!! There will be such a powerful detonation of the Kingdom of God in the spiritual atmosphere that causes the Kingdom of Light to explode upon this earth and the "thunders" will be heard by the forces of darkness. The enemy will be thrown into confusion and disarray and flee as God arises as His presence fills the atmosphere.

Psalm 68:1, 2 - *"Let God arise and His enemies be scattered. As smoke is driven away, [so] drive [them] away: as wax melteth before the fire, [so] let the wicked perish at the presence of God."*

The thunder of His mighty voice (His Word) will go forth and destroy the enemy. The "lightning of the "glittering sword" (His Word) will pierce the darkness and Light and Life will prevail. The "rain" of the Holy Spirit will fall and quench the thirsting of the soul as well as refresh the dry, arid land."

Yes, we can hear the sound of "distant thunder. The "storm clouds" are forming. They are charged with God's desire to connect with people who have a desire to connect with Him. Yes, there's a "mighty wind a blowin!" As we connect with the awesomeness of our God there will be a tremendous "spiritual thunderstorm" that will cause heaven and earth to shake.

The heaven will no longer be as brass, and the earth that is under thee will no longer be as iron. God will go before you, and make the crooked places straight: God will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron (Isaiah 45:2). Just as with Paul and Silas, when they worshipped there was a tremendous connection with God that created a sound that shook the foundations of the prison and set the prisoners free (Acts 16:25, 26).

Can you hear it coming??!! Do you hear the sound of thunder which means that others are connecting with God causing spiritual lightning to happen??!! Will you be one that God is seeking after to join in with others and connect to create a "spiritual thunderstorm" that will cause lightning to pierce the darkness bring thunder that will shake this earth??!!

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