

with *Uncle Pee.*

JESUS CHRIST THE CALMER OF STORM

Text: Isaiah 43 vs 2

Like optimistic sea farers, everyone would wish for a smooth sail on placid sea in the journey of life. However, in reality there could be an abrupt storm that could trouble both the sea and the mariners. If a person has Jesus Christ aboard his ship, he will weather the storm without drowning, Isaiah 43 vs 2, and Mark 4 vs 38-39. In the Bible the Psalmist eulogized God for his ability to control and quieten the intractable storms of the sea, psalm 89 vs 9, psalm 107 vs 23-29

Like his father Jesus Christ also stilled the storm. As he journeyed with his disciples on the Sea of Galilee, a violent storm arose and threatened to sink the ship. The disciples panicked. Jesus arose from his sleep and rebuked the wind and said to the sea peace be still. The wind ceased instantly and there was great calm Mark 4 vs 37-39.

A storm is a violent disturbance of the atmosphere with strong winds and sometimes with rain, thunder and lightning or snow, when it blows upon the sea it stirs up the waves and makes the sea violent and dangerous, John 6 vs 18. Storms are often caused by purely natural phenomena but sometimes they can be spiritually instigated, for example God sent a storm to trouble the ship conveying the fleeing and disobedient prophet Jonah. As soon as he was cast out of the ship the storm ceased, Jonah 1 vs 4-16. Similarly, the devil can manipulate storm to afflict his enemies as in the case of Job (Job 1 vs 18-19). Man is helpless in the event of a storm. Only God has the supernatural power to still a storm and prevent its destructive activities. Figuratively or spiritually speaking a storm can be in form of a sudden or unexpected negative turn of event for an individual or group. It could be in form of trials, temptations, persecutions, health challenges, financial hardship, economic downturn, job loss, matrimonial crisis or diverse troubles and distress.

How can we cope with the storms of life?

When the storms of life arise it is only wise to cry desperately into God who alone can still the storm

whether they are naturally or spiritually instigated, psalm 107 vs 28-29, Jonah 2 vs 1-3, Mark 4 vs 38-39. In Mark's account Jesus rebuked the wind which was the invisible root cause of the storm which resulted in visible palpable and destructive impacts. Having rebuked the wind Jesus spoke to the sea, peace be still and there was a great calm. Like the wind, storms of life are often rooted in invisible spiritual causes. They could be daunting unsettling and intractable problems or situations which defy human solutions. As we learn to cry desperately in faith to God, he will rebuke the spiritual root of the problem and there will be calm.

Rebuke is God's potential weapon against Satan and his destructive activities against human beings, Zach 3 vs 2, Malachi 3 vs 11. At God's rebuke the chariots, the horses and its riders (symbolizing destructive forces) are cast into deep sleep psalm 76 vs 6.

When you are in the same ship with Jesus Christ in the journey of life through personal relationship with him you should not fear. The storm might howl and billow menacingly as if to swallow you up but you cannot sink. Just remember that Jesus Christ the storm stiller is by your side, cry desperately for his mercy and help and he will surely intervene. Psalm 50 vs 15, call upon me in the day of trouble, I will deliver thee and thou shall glorify me. So the period of storm is not a time to panic, despair or become despondent. It is a time to hold on tenaciously to the faithful God who is ever ready and able to deliver his people. It is time to exercise patience and radiate joy

which is a spiritual lubricant and strengthener, Neh 8 vs 10, Isaiah 61 vs 3, Hab 3 vs 18.

Anytime there is storm pray for the grace to endure the storm while it lasts. Faith, joy and patience are sure guarantees of victory. That challenging situation will end in praise because God is faithful and does not forsake his saints Num 23 vs 19, psalm 37 vs 28, and James 5 vs 11.

