

## BE STILL... AND THE WINDS CALMED DOWN



(Matthews 8:23-27)

YAHSHUA, after teaching the famous sermon on the mount, came down with a multitude of people following Him. From that crowd, a leper shows up and begs Him to be healed, as he prostrating himself and worshipping Him said, "If You are willing, You are able to cleanse me" ... YAHSHUA then responded, I am willing and healed him. His day begun reaching out to a spiritually hungry and thirsty crowd. These were as if sheep without a shepherd. They always seemed to know where to find YAHSHUA. It was as if they had an appointment with Him. That day was no different. On His way to Capernaum, a Centurion came up to Him begging Him to heal his servant. He expressed the anguish of his servant by saying, Lord, my

servant boy is lying at the house paralyzed and distressed with intense pain (Matt. 8:5-6). This Roman Centurion, without out a doubt, had heard about Him and now came to Him believing Him. It only took the first step for him to receive the result of his faith. In fact, YAHSHUA marveled at his faith and as a result, his servant was healed. Entering Peter's house, He found Peter's wife sick with a fever. He touched her hand and the fever left her. After that, many who were under the power of demons came to Him; He drove out the spirits with a word and restored to health all who were sick. The Word of God concludes, Thus He fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah, He Himself took our weaknesses and infirmities and bore away our diseases (vs.14-17). Those were very busy days for Messiah YAHSHUA. Compelled by love, compassion, He healed diseases- all kinds of diseases, He freed many from the power of demons. Those were physical, emotional, and spiritual storms people brought to Him. None who came to Him left emptied handed or disappointed. Out of His fullness, as John said, they had received one grace after another and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing and even favor upon favor and gift upon gift (John 1:16).

Leaving the crowd, YAHSHUA got into a boat and His disciples with Him. Exhausted, as He was, He fell asleep. In His humanity, YAHSHUA felt the weakness the human body is prone to after a busy day. Yes, He fell asleep. As it happened, a storm arose against Him and the disciples. A storm of a great proposition. However, He well knew beforehand what was going to happen that day and tired, He fell asleep. The disciples, on the other hand, could not understand why He was sleeping in the rage of the storm when they were about to be swallowed up by the sea waves. They panicked because they did not know Who that man was. They yet had not perceived that there in that boat found sleeping, was the Creator of the seas, the winds and all that had been created was created by Him. In their worst fear, they awoke Him up saying, Lord, rescue and preserve us! We are perishing! But before the Lord rebuked the winds, He rebuked His disciples for not having faith in Him. He said, Why are you timid and afraid, O you of little faith? Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great and wonderful calm (Mat. 8:23-25). Where was the disciples' sense of belief in Him after witnessing all that He had done earlier? They saw but they did not perceive, for they were still blind to the fact that YAHSHUA was the Messiah. When He asked the disciples, "Why are you timid and afraid?" He was reminding them of the miracles He had performed before them. They saw, but they did not

perceive that He was the Son of God. Had they perceived that, they would have known Who He was and would not have feared the storm.

The authority YAHSHUA applied to the storm, caused the disciples to wonder Who He was. "They were stunned with bewildered wonder and marveled saying, What kind of Man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?" But they still continued in their blindness of the fact that YAHSHUA was the Messiah – God incarnate, that He was God of the Old Testament, where the words were written were referring to Him: He commands and raises up the stormy wind, which lifts up the waves of the sea; He hushes the storm to a calm and to a gentle whisper, so that the waves of the sea are still (Psalm 119:25,29). You rule the raging of the sea when its waves arise You still them...The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; the world and all that is in it, You have founded them (Psalm 89:9, 11). When YAHSHUA took authority over the winds and the sea, He was expressing the words of Psalm 46 to His disciples saying, Let be and be still, and know that I am God...the Lord of hosts is with you; the God of Jacob is your Refuge (Psalm 46:10-11).

One might ask the question, why did the storm arise against Him and His disciples, since He was their Creator? God's purposes were clear to all who came to know YAHSHUA: to know God and the One He had sent to the world. YAHSHUA demonstrated to all that He was not a mere man like the rest through miracles He performed; when He spoke to diseases they left the body; when He commanded demons to leave the body they obeyed Him; when He spoke to the winds and to the sea and they listened to Him; when He rebuked death and life came into the body of people. Nature and demons knew Who that man was and submitted to Him. Men saw and many perceived Him to be above all men. Miracles and wonders were the meanings in which YAHSHUA showed to be God's Son and God was glorified. "Who is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?" The incarnate God stood in the person of His Son and revealed Who He was: The Heir and lawful Owner of all things, also by and through whom He created the worlds and the reaches of space and the ages of time; YAHSHUA is the sole expression of the glory of God and He is the perfect imprint and very image of [God's] nature, upholding and maintaining and guiding and propelling the universe by His mighty word of power (Heb. 1:2-3). No wind, no storm can ever stand before Him. When He speaks all surrender to His voice. Whatever the Lord pleases, that has He done in the heavens and on earth, in the seas and all deeps- Who causes the vapors to

arise from the ends of the earth, who makes lightnings for the rain, who brings the wind out of His storehouses (Psalm. 135: 6-7). When He utters His voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth. He makes lightnings for the rain and bring forth the wind out from His treasures and from His storehouses (Jer. 10: 13). The Creator was sleeping when the storm broke, but He never lost control of His creation. At the sound of His voice, all became calm.

The winds and the oceans are raging against several parts of the world today; the earth is quaking and causing many to lose their lives. It is as if they were out of control. It is the season to be fearful, humanly speaking. We feel destitute and fearful in face of all the noise and tumult of the storm and forget that our God is in the midst of it ready to save when we cry to Him. Be still, He said, to know Me. When the heart is wrapped up in the arms of fear, then we become blind and deaf to the voice of our Savior, Do not be afraid, I am with you. I will be with you when you pass through the waters, and through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you... Fear not, for I am with you; do not look around you in terror and be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen and harden you to difficulties, yes, I will help you, yes, I will hold you up and retain you with My right hand of rightness and justice... I am the Lord, Who says to you, fear not; I will help you! (Isaiah 43:2a; 41:10, 13b) Faith, my friends, faith will take your supplications to God. He should never be measured by the size of any problem or storm. He is greater than all. And we have access to His throne at any time through His Son YAHSHUA, our High priest and the Creator of all living things, including the winds and the seas.