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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1640 ~ Jesus Calms the Storm.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

Today's Bible Adventure shows how God is in charge of the weather and does amazing things for His people when they pray to Him in distress.

Ever so many years ago, a godly German widow and her son lived in a quiet village on the shore of the Baltic Sea near Denmark. One day, some frightening news reached the people there. A hostile army was rapidly approaching a nearby city and would be passing through their area. These soldiers would probably arrive the next day, stealing and destroying whatever was in their path.

Fearing an attack, the widow and her son moved furniture against the windows and doors to make their cottage as secure as possible. When they had done all they could, the son sat down in a chair. Despite his efforts, his fear increased. And to make matters worse, a terrible snowstorm was raging outside. The wind howled around their home, making strange and eerie noises.

The widow calmly read her Bible and prayed to God. When she finished, she smiled at her son and repeated two lines of a well-known poem:

“Round us a wall our God shall rear,
And our proud foes shall shrink back with fear.”

Her son stared her in disbelief. “Mother, how can you believe that?” he cried. “How can God build a wall around our cottage strong enough to keep out an army?” She replied: “Have you never read that ‘not a sparrow falls to the ground without His will’?”

During the night, the storm ended. Soon after that they heard the fearful sound of the approaching army. Screaming, crashing and yelling could be heard from their neighbours’ cottages. The widow’s son felt sick with fear. Even after the noise had stopped, he didn’t dare to move for hours.

In the morning, the son removed the boards that he had nailed across the windows and doors. When he tried to open the door, it too was stuck. After a great deal of effort, he had it opened enough to crawl out. Then he had to dig his way up through much snow, as a snowdrift had covered the entire front of the house! With a lot of effort, he climbed over the drift and down onto the road. He stood there in amazement. He couldn’t believe what he saw! From the road, no house could be seen at all, only a large snowdrift!

“Round us a wall our God shall rear...” he thought. He rushed back to his mother and brought her out onto the road to see what God had done for them. The two of them stood together looking at ‘God’s wall’ and wept. Then the widow looked up to heaven and quietly said: “Faithful is He who has promised. He has also done it.” God can provide remarkable and immediate answers to prayer in times of need.

In today’s drama, the disciples had to learn that Jesus is a lot more powerful than they thought.

Sudden storms often swept down from the surrounding hills onto the Lake of Galilee. This wasn't the first time fishermen like Peter had been caught in storms not expected to blow up. The men just had to ride out the rough waves, as there was no possible way that they could row against the wind's fury in any direction.

In very recent times, this whole region has been in severe drought for at least seven years. The Sea of Kinneret, as it is now called, became only a fraction of its previous size. Tourists had to be carried more than 1.5 kilometres over the sea bed just to see the water's edge. Yet good falls of snow during the region's winter of 2012 caused a large snow melt and the lake has filled up remarkably again.

If the disciples feared for their own lives, did they also think their Master could be drowned too? The Lord Jesus had healed so many people by God's power. Could God then leave Jesus to die in a storm? The disciples thought that they might drown and didn't stop to think in such an emergency about these matters at all.

So they woke Jesus up and they told Him they were perishing. "Save us!" they cried. Jesus replied, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then Jesus arose and rebuked the winds and sea and immediately there was a great calm. His disciples then marvelled at Jesus' power over the winds and sea. Is anything too hard for our Lord? This incident is recorded in both Matthew and Luke, in Chapter 8 of each.

Jesus always showed there was a difference between doubt and unbelief. 'Doubt' means 'can't believe'; yet 'unbelief' means 'won't believe'. Doubt is honest; unbelief is stubborn. Doubt is looking for light; unbelief is content with the darkness. Loving darkness rather than light was what Jesus rebuked in His teaching. In the cases of Thomas, Philip, Nicodemus and many others who came to Him to have their difficult problems solved, He was respectful towards them and generous and tolerant.

How did Jesus meet their doubts? He taught people the facts.

There was a second time when Jesus rebuked Peter for having too little faith. Jesus came walking on the sea towards the boat the disciples were in. This is listed in Matthew, Chapter 14. The disciples were very afraid when they saw Jesus and cried out in fear. But Jesus reassured them. Then Peter asked that if that person was really Jesus, that He should command Peter to come to Him walking on the water. So Jesus said: "Come." Peter climbed over the side of the boat and started to walk towards Jesus. But when he saw how rough the waves surged and how strong the wind blew around him, he stopped looking at Jesus and became afraid, and quickly started to sink.

“Lord, save me!” he cried. Jesus was immediately by his side, held out His hand and caught Peter. Jesus rebuked Peter for his doubting. Then they both climbed into the boat and the wind stopped. Some people seem to think that when a person becomes a Christian, there should be no further doubts. But this isn’t so. Peter still had faith when he panicked and he took his eyes off Jesus. His faith wasn’t gone but it was weak. Doubt mastered him when he was out of his comfort zone. Doubts will attack us too, but we must not allow them to win over us.

Do we struggle to believe that God is in charge of world events and especially answers the prayers of those who pray for others in trouble or danger?

An elderly lady named Mum Keymer played the piano at her small church in the United States. One bitterly cold night, she was sleeping in bed as a missionary couple experienced a drama on the other side of the world. In the rugged high mountains of Tibet not far from China, the missionary couple, Mr and Mrs Schmidt, were travelling home after visiting some people they’d hoped would soon become Christians.

As the missionaries drove down the steep winding road, the brakes on the van failed. Mr Schmidt prayed, “Dear God in heaven, have mercy. Protect us!” The vehicle was out of control. Mrs Schmidt pleaded, “God, please have someone pray for us!”

Mum Keymer woke suddenly. An inner voice said, “Pray for the Schmidts.” “What?” she whispered. “I don’t know anyone named Schmidt.” But the inner voice persisted, “Pray for the Schmidts.” Mum Keymer got on her knees beside her bed and prayed fervently for the name that had been given to her.

Although Mr Schmidt was wrestling with the steering wheel, it was a losing battle. Then suddenly and miraculously, they reached the bottom of the mountains safely. Mr Schmidt bowed his head on the steering wheel, “Thank you, God!” “Someone’s been praying,” whispered Mrs Schmidt.

The following Sunday, Mum Keymer related her strange experience to her church friends. And the next month when the missionary magazine came out, there was the story of the missionaries named Schmidt and their narrow escape from death in the mountains of Tibet!

This is an example of how important it is to obey the voice of God when He speaks to our hearts, even when we don’t understand the circumstances we find ourselves in. Many people think that forces of nature or ‘Mother Nature’ as they call it are outside God’s knowledge and sovereign control. Because they don’t know their Bible very well, they think that there’re no scientific concepts written in it.

A man called Matthew Maury lived in the 1800s. And he believed his Bible. When he read in Psalm 8 the concept of 'paths of the sea' he said, "If God said there are paths in the sea, I'm going to find them." He went looking for these paths and we are indebted to his discovery of the warm and cold continental currents. His book on oceanography remains the basic text on the subject and is still used in universities. Yet Psalm 8 was written 2,800 years before Maury made this discovery.

In the same way that the cycle of air currents are mentioned in the Bible, the concept of wind patterns moving around the world is listed in Ecclesiastes Chapter 1: "The wind goes toward the south and turns around to the north; the wind whirls about continually and comes again on its circuit." It took someone 2,000 years after this was written to discover that the air currents around the earth turn in huge circles, clockwise in one hemisphere and counter-clockwise in the other!

For many centuries, people believed that the world was flat and boats had to be careful or they'd fall off. In Isaiah, Chapter 40, it says: "It is He (that's God) who sits above the circle of the earth." This concept was written at least 300 years before Aristotle suggested in his writings that the earth might be a sphere. It took another 2,000 years for the Scriptures to inspire Christopher Columbus to sail around the world and prove it!

In Genesis, Chapter 6, God gave Noah the dimensions to build the 1.5 million cubic-foot ark he was to build. In 1609 in Holland, a ship was built after that same pattern ratio of 30 to 5 to 3. This revolutionised shipbuilding. By 1900, every large ship on the high seas was inclined towards the proportions of the ark. But to this day, very few people think God has any engineering knowledge.

When God gave Moses rules on not eating meat torn by beasts in the field, in Exodus Chapter 22, God knew about good and bad bacteria. It took human beings thousands of years to identify bacteria as a source of illness.

Even the world's most famous living atheistic scientist is quoted as saying: "the universe and the laws of physics seem to have been specifically designed for us. If any one of about 40 physical qualities had more than slightly different values, life as we know it could not exist."

Some people make science their god and reject the God of the Bible. They make themselves willingly ignorant of God's ways and pretend that at their life's end, they won't have to give an account to the Creator of the universe. Have you been dazzled by the claims of scientists that science has superseded God? Isaiah, Chapter 55, Verse 6 says: "Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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