

# Rain

Every time it rains, I am drawn back into the history of humanity, a time of Divine consternation and frustration, when the natural inclination to sin, left to itself, became a spiritual pandemic. God's prescription for this outbreak of evil was to cleanse His pallet and start fresh. In righteous indignation, God destroyed every breathing creature on the face of the earth (Genesis 6:17). However, God has never blindsided the pinnacle of His creation where justice is involved; He always gives a warning. And, sometimes, a timeframe.

“For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made.” Genesis 7:4

I could not scripturally assert that the urgency of Noah's sermons ramped up since he had been preaching for some time that the end was near (2 Peter 2:5). One could assert that, given a short week before the impending disaster struck, Noah and his family's urgency might have shifted to the cataloguing and coordinating of loading the ark (and that scene inspires endless speculation). Suffice it to say, God sent the animals to Noah and who knows that they didn't “instinctively” plod into their holding compartments on the Ark by Divine direction. Whatever the case may be, one could assert by implication that, on a project of this magnitude, Noah was real busy for that last week.

I suppose we are all busy, rushing to and fro either putting out fires or creating them. It should be noted that God is not being deceptive or secretive about the next (and last) cataclysm to completely decimate and destroy this “blue marble” (2 Peter 3:10). True, God doesn't give us an exact timeframe (day, month or year, cf. Matthew 24:36-39), other than “right now” (James 4:14). That doesn't mean that He hasn't given us fair warning. It's just that the gamble that He won't come today is supported by the odds, and full of false hope. Nevertheless, the warnings are prolific, prophetic and pointed: He is coming back (1 Thessalonians 5:13-18) and, after that, the Judgment (Revelation 20:12).

There is no record of how the rain started in Genesis 7; we don't know if it began with the gentle drizzle I am enjoying from my back porch, causing puzzled looks toward the sky from those about to die. Or, if the floodgates of heaven and earth opened up like a super-tsunami to swallow up all breathing beings in the blink of an eye. What we do know is that for over one-hundred years, they had been warned. So, there I sat watching the rain.

I really like the billboard posted just east of Hamilton as your coming into town that reads something on the order of: “Fight like you're the third monkey on the ramp to the ark; and it's starting to rain.” Urgency is often little appreciated until it's too late.