

## SHIP IN THE SEA, PROVERBS 30:18,19

Let us go to the Book of Proverbs, today, for our thought for the day. Proverbs, the thirtieth chapter, verses eighteen and nineteen.

There be three things which are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not: The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; **the way of a ship in the midst of the sea**; and the way of a man with a maid (Proverbs 30:18,19).

Let us have our thought for the day. The secret way of a ship in the sea, the mystery of how a ship stays afloat. Water helps the ship to float. If there were no water, the ship could not float, so the ship is dependent upon the water to stay afloat, to stay balanced, likewise, in the spiritual. We are dependent upon the Waters of Truth to stay in balance and to stay afloat, if we would be successful in our walk, in our relationship with God.

We see a beautiful picture of this in the natural in the story of Jonah. We read about Jonah in the first chapter in the Book of Jonah. After God had called Jonah to go and preach to Ninevah and he was rebellious and he refused to go, his spiritual ship was out of balance. His spiritual ship was not floating because he left the waters of Truth to go another way. God's Truth and Waters of Truth were flowing down to Ninevah, but Jonah went another way. The Bible says:

But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD [That is, from the waters of Truth, from God's Command, God's Word], and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken (Jonah 1:3,4).

So, beloved, you can see what happened here. Jonah had left the Waters of Truth. His spiritual ship was not floating. His spiritual ship was not balanced. He was out of balance. He was running away from the Truth, running away from the Will of God, running away from the *Shekinah* Glory presence of God. So there was nothing left then for God to do but to send him an outward

demonstration, trying to get his attention, to let him know what was going on in the spiritual realm. So here is, then, a natural ship all upset, almost ready to perish, ready to be destroyed because the winds and the waves are not supporting this ship, not balancing this ship. It is ready to be destroyed because Jonah's spiritual ship was out of balance. So it is amazing though when people are in this condition that they can be so ignorant, so unaware, it seems their perception factor, spiritually speaking, is totally darkened, so it was with Jonah.

What did he do? The Bible said:

Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, [even these heathen people were down and praying to their gods for salvation] and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep (Jonah 1:5).

So sometimes the person that is most out of balance, the one that is really running away from the Truth, are the ones who are the most ignorant sometimes. And that is true of us, likewise. Sometimes we are totally unaware of why there are storms and waves in our life. God is trying, beloved, to get our attention to let us know there is something wrong with the Waters of Truth in our life. We have rejected them some way. We are running away from them some way because when you have the spiritual Truth and your spiritual ship is sailing along upon the waters of Truth and there is a calm in your spirit and your soul, then you will find that your natural waters in life will be stilled and calmed.

But if our spiritual ship is in trouble, if we are running away from the Waters of Truth, we may anticipate and expect beyond a shadow of a doubt for God to send storm in our natural life, wind, and waves because the natural types the spirit. and if there is unbalance in the spiritual, there will be unbalance in the natural. If there is balance in the spiritual, there will be balance in the natural. But poor old Jonah was asleep. Everybody else was fasting and praying and sacrificing their goods and their possessions, throwing them overboard, doing everything they could to try to bring

balance. But it goes to show you, that human beings, carnal minds, earthly people, earthly creatures cannot bring balance when God has sent an unbalance out there in the natural circumstances to get someone's attention to let them see their spiritual condition.

So they awakened Jonah and asked him to pray to his God and what was his occupation, what country was he from and what was he doing there? He confessed to them. I am a Hebrew. I fear the LORD which I doubt that. He may have had some fear but very little because, otherwise, I think had he feared God, he would have rushed on down to Ninevah and obeyed God. He would have set his little ship sailing on the Waters of Truth and he would have sailed straight for Ninevah and delivered God's Message.

You know the story. The more they cried, the more the sea was stormy and there was a great turmoil. And, finally, then, they had to cast poor old Jonah overboard. but, beloved, God will not let you out of the natural storm, He will not let you out of the wind and waves until you get your spiritual ship right, until you get the Waters of Truth flowing in to where you can be balanced in your spiritual ship. You know the story. Jonah was cast over into the waves. God prepared a big fish and that fish swallowed Jonah. He actually died and was three days and three nights in the whale's belly until he looked and cried unto the LORD.

God will just keep taking you down and down and down in the waves of the storms of life. Beloved, if you are out there today and this is your problem, things have been going wrong, storms on every corner, winds and waves overflowing until it seems your heart and soul is sinking in despair. Be assured this day, there is trouble in your spiritual life that somewhere you are not allowing the floods of the living Truth of God to come in your soul and balance your spiritual ship. And if you will do that, God will calm the sea. Well, those poor people had calm in their ship after Jonah got overboard.

Then after Jonah repented and became willing to go to Ninevah and turn his ship on the Waters of Truth and go down to Ninevah and preach, God, then, let the fish bring him back up and there was a calm in the sea. So if you want the storms of life calmed, see where you are disobeying and running away from spiritual Truth in the floods and oceans of His Word.

Let us pray,

Heavenly Father, grant that this Truth might be engrafted in our souls today that we might be obedient to the living Waters of Truth. LORD, that we might be balanced, that we might sail forth to do Thy Will and to bring honour and glory to thy Name. In Jesus' Precious Name. Amen. ☩