

April 11, 2021

Dear Easter People,

Within the first few days of creation, God set in motion the heavenly expanse along with its incalculable systems. And with each new phase of the Master's plan, He carefully added His eternal signature—beauty, wonders, precision and energy.

The heavens do more than just "declare the glory of God," they also showcase His unfathomable power.

For example, He *spoke* into existence...

- The violently spinning funnel of a **tornado**, unleashing the fastest winds on earth. Its spout can open two miles wide and travel in excess of 300 mph. The suction of a twister's vortex can rip apart anything above ground.
- The **hurricane**—nature's version of a merciless heavyweight boxer, pounding away, blow after blow, with *50 terawatts* of energy. *One* terawatt is equal to one trillion watts, but *fifty* terawatts is equivalent to 200 times the total electrical generating capacity on planet earth.
- The **cyclone**—a large-scale air mass that packs an even bigger wallop. The *average* cyclone can release 600 terawatts of energy—that much power will literally raise the ocean's water level, producing devastating tsunamis thousands of miles away.

Impressive, huh!

No matter how you look at it, God's creation makes quite a statement!

The impact of these storms are all uniquely different and wildly dangerous—from the destructive funnel of a tornado, to the unpredictable pounding of a hurricane, to the violent upheaval of a cyclone.

However, what makes the hurricane and cyclone most unique is, they have an **eye**.

The *eye of the storm* sits smack dab in the middle of the storm's chaos. While the ferocious winds swirl and slam the earth at a dizzying pace, the *eye* remains uncharacteristically calm. The *eye of the storm* is quiet and placid, and void of winds. In the *eye*, peace prevails.

That's how God designed the storms. And, in doing so, He gave us a metaphor for life ... *in the midst of chaos, there's a haven of safety.*

It may not always look that way. In fact, it *rarely* looks that way. But it's there.

However, there's more to this picture: each *eye of the storm* is ringed by another phenomenon—the *eyewall*. The *eyewall* is a powerful circle of towering, thunderous activity that whirls around the *eye*, always threatening to overthrow the *eye's* tranquility. Despite that, the *eye* remains calm, unaffected by the ferocious *eyewall*.

The metaphor is clear—we can take shelter in the calming presence of the *eye*, or live in the intimidating chaos of the *eyewall*.

Is it any wonder that Jesus slept through the storm mentioned in Matthew 8, Mark 4 and Luke 8? (Or that all three synoptic gospels record this story?)

It had been a long day of ministry. The lines seemed endless as anxious folks hoped for an audience with the Master. As the sun faded behind the hills, and the crowds finally dispersed, Jesus and His men climbed into a boat and set sail. An exhausted Messiah retreated to the boat's stern, laid down on a cushion and fell asleep.

Soon, a powerful storm rocked the sea, sending waves crashing into the boat. Though they were in the presence of the Almighty, the disciples panicked—they abandoned the *eye of the storm* and stepped into the *eyewall*. With a tone of anger and a heart of disbelief, they shouted, "Wake up, Lord! Don't you care that we're about to die?"

Jesus calmly stood up and spoke just one word to the storm, "*SIOPAO*," (translation: *Put a muzzle on it!*). And, as scripture says, "The wind died down and it became perfectly calm."

Believers in Jesus Christ are not immune to these intimidating storms—they beat on our door every week. However, let's not forget, there's a safe harbor available. And God has invited us to find calm in Him, *the ultimate eye of the storm*.

As the psalmist said, "He causes the storms to be still."

Blessings,
Pastor Lucero