

Weather

*Whether the weather be good, or whether the weather be not,
Whether the weather be cold, or whether the weather be hot,
We'll weather the weather, whatever the weather,
Whether we like it or not.*

As I write this, we have experienced a record cold for our area on this date. Schools are delayed or canceled. Automobiles and machinery aren't starting. Water is freezing, and people are bundled up, trying to keep warm if they must be exposed to the cold weather.

The Bible gives us some mentions of that universal subject of human conversation—the weather. Honestly, if it weren't for the weather, many people would not have any idea on how to start a conversation with a stranger. God uses the weather (which He directs) to accomplish His purposes, and so of course His Word would include references to the weather.

Jesus said to the Jewish leaders in Matthew 16:2-3, “When it is evening you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ And in the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.” They wanted Jesus to give them a sign that He was indeed the Christ of God. Jesus’ answer was that they had such difficulty understanding the obvious signs (His authenticating miracles and careful teaching and exposition of the Scriptures), how would another sign be at all helpful to them?

Nonetheless, He gives them this word, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.” He alludes to this again in Luke 16 when He relates Abraham’s words to the Rich Man, “If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.” Their sign would be of Someone spending three days and nights in the deep of the earth, and then rising from the dead. People were

(and are) given a direct sign from Jesus, and still they refused to believe Him.

God uses weather-related allusions when He spoke to Job. Job is asking the Lord, “Why?” and God simply rests in His sovereign power and decision in answering Job. In Job 38, God says to Job:

*“Have you entered the storehouses of the snow,
or have you seen the storehouses of the hail,
which I have reserved for the time of trouble,
for the day of battle and war?
What is the way to the place where the light is distributed,
or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth?
“Who has cleft a channel for the torrents of rain
and a way for the thunderbolt,
to bring rain on a land where no man is,
on the desert in which there is no man,
to satisfy the waste and desolate land,
and to make the ground sprout with grass?
“Has the rain a father,
or who has begotten the drops of dew?
From whose womb did the ice come forth,
and who has given birth to the frost of heaven?
The waters become hard like stone,
and the face of the deep is frozen.”*

In other words, God is saying to Job (and to us), “You don’t understand the weather, and the ways of creation which you see, so how will you understand My knowledge and My purposes?”

People have been trying to manipulate the weather for millennia, whether through appeals to false idols, or through scientific means. Attempts to influence the weather in more recent times has had mixed results. One volcanic eruption can change more in days than man can do over decades. In A.D. 535, a volcanic eruption led to cold summers and extreme winters, with failed crops and famines in Europe and the Near East. In 1815, the eruption of Mount Tambora led to the “year without a summer” in the northern United States and Canada in 1816. Yet God is directing it all.

Perhaps we speak of the weather as it is one of the things we cannot control, and therefore isn't controversial in itself. It is what it is. You cannot change it. We live with it, and cope as best we are able in both hot and cold extremes.

That's good counsel in living life. We cannot give instruction to God in any area. He has determined that we must trust in Christ, and live our lives to His glory. His ways are beyond figuring out, and often it is a frustrating exercise to attempt such things. So rather seek His glory, and He will take good of His own people in all circumstances.