

What Sort Of Man? (4)

Ponder: Miracle or coincidence?

Scripture: "Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the sea, and there was a great calm" (Matthew 8:26, NKJV).

Was it really a miracle when Jesus rebuked the storm and it stopped? Or could it have been a happy coincidence that the wind and waves ceased at the very time He spoke? Skeptics search high and low for reasons to deny anything supernatural. Do they have a valid point here?

Let's realize this was no minor squall. Several of the disciples were fishermen who made their living on this lake. Undoubtedly they had been in storms before; but this one had them in fear for their lives! Matthew 8:24 calls it a "great tempest." The word for "great" is "mega." We use "mega" to refer to something large. Computer users know that a megabyte is much larger than a puny kilobyte! The strength of nuclear weapons is measured in megatons (one megaton equals the explosive power of one million tons of TNT). Jesus and the disciples were in a mega-tempest.

Matthew also uses an extremely interesting word for "tempest." It is used several other times in the New Testament, and everywhere except here it is translated "earthquake." The idea is not that there was an actual earthquake on the lake; rather, the storm was so intense that it was as though the lake were shaking!

When Jesus commanded the storm to be still, there was a "great calm." It's the word "mega" again. The water was just as calm as it had been raging before. And it didn't take hours for the water to stop churning. That demonstrates that it truly was a miracle, not just lucky timing.

I once lived very near a lake about the size of Galilee. One evening a storm blew through. For several hours after the wind stopped blowing, huge waves continued to crash onto the shore. That's what we would expect if the tempest on Galilee just ceased naturally. Instead, though, we see instant, total calm. That simply doesn't happen in nature. Clearly, Jesus performed a miracle! No wonder the disciples marveled that "the wind and the sea obey Him" (Matthew 8:27). He is, most assuredly the Son of God. Trust and obey Him!

Song: "I Believe In The One They Call Jesus"

Prayer: Father in heaven, we marvel at the miracles Jesus performed, and we happily confess Him to be the Son of God. He is worthy of our complete trust and obedience, but too often our faith is weak. Help us, we pray, to grow and to do Your will. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Joe Slater (Justin, TX)

jaslater1954@gmail.com