

## Chapter 18

# Warm Below The Storm

### BIBLE

When they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.<sup>1</sup> Surely the Lord Yahweh will do nothing, unless he reveals his secret to his servants the prophets.<sup>2</sup>

When they had gone through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.<sup>3</sup> When they had come opposite Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit didn't allow them.<sup>4</sup>

However boats from Tiberias came near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks.<sup>5</sup> When the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, they weighed anchor and sailed along Crete, close to shore.<sup>6</sup>

When much time had passed and the voyage was now dangerous, because the Fast had now already gone by, Paul admonished them<sup>7</sup> and said to them, "Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives."<sup>8</sup> Therefore let him who thinks he stands be careful that he doesn't fall!"<sup>9</sup>

### COMMENTARY

<sup>1</sup> **Acts 14:25** [*"They" are the Beatles*]

<sup>2</sup> **Amos 3:7**

<sup>3</sup> **Acts 16:6**

<sup>4</sup> **Acts 16:7** Sometimes we just have to try something that seems reasonable and then find out afterwards that this particular course of action is not part of God's best plan. Perhaps Spirit wants us to learn how to take a step forward, make a mistake, and then get back on course.

<sup>5</sup> **John 6:23**

<sup>6</sup> **Acts 27:13** The Beatles have two songs with a "nautical" theme, both sung by Ringo: "Octopus's Garden" and "Yellow Submarine." Metaphorically, when we are underwater, "below the storm," things are calm and we are resting safely in the peace of God. We're enjoying life and not taking ourselves too serious, sailing in our yellow submarine with all our friends aboard, or singing and dancing around in the octopus's garden.

<sup>7</sup> **Acts 27:9**

<sup>8</sup> **Acts 27:10**

<sup>9</sup> **1 Corinthians 10:12** "Falling, yes I am falling," Paul sings in "I've Just Seen A Face."

A big wind storm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so much that the boat was already filled.<sup>10</sup>

Nevertheless the men rowed hard to get them back to the land; but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them.<sup>11</sup> They reel back and forth, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end.<sup>12</sup>

Then they cry to Yahweh in their trouble, and he brings them out of their distress.<sup>13</sup> God gives them security, and they rest in it. His eyes are on their ways.<sup>14</sup>

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak.<sup>15</sup> Everyone helps his neighbor. They say to their brothers, "Be strong!"<sup>16</sup>

Yahweh, who makes a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters says:<sup>17</sup> "You afflicted, tossed with storms, and not comforted, behold, I will set your stones in beautiful colors, and lay your foundations with sapphires."<sup>18</sup>

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."<sup>19</sup> He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."<sup>20</sup>

<sup>10</sup> **Mark 4:37**

<sup>11</sup> **Jonah 1:13**

<sup>12</sup> **Psalm 107:27**

<sup>13</sup> **Psalm 107:28** To "cry to Yahweh" is to pray, aligning ourselves in consciousness with the higher nature within ourselves.

<sup>14</sup> **Job 24:23** Ralph Waldo Emerson: "The wise man in the storm prays God not for safety from danger but for deliverance from fear."

<sup>15</sup> **Acts 2:4** [*"They" are the Beatles*] The group's prayer has been answered. They are filled with the Holy Spirit and are lifted up in consciousness.

<sup>16</sup> **Isaiah 41:6** After praying, the group is now prepared to take positive action and help each other out of a difficult situation.

<sup>17</sup> **Isaiah 43:16** "I'd like to be under the sea" Ringo tells us in "Octopus's Garden."

<sup>18</sup> **Isaiah 54:11** Ringo was inspired to write "Octopus's Garden" after he found out that octopuses go around the seabed finding shiny stones and colorful objects to build a garden in front of their cave with. Ringo: "I thought this was fabulous, because at the time I just wanted to be under the sea too."

<sup>19</sup> **Revelation 1:8**

<sup>20</sup> **Exodus 33:14** Ringo and his friends are "resting our head on the sea bed" in "Octopus's Garden."

Yahweh is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knows those who take refuge in him.<sup>21</sup> He makes the storm a calm, so that its waves are still.<sup>22</sup> He has responded to the prayer of the destitute, and has not despised their prayer.<sup>23</sup>

Then they are glad because it is calm, so he brings them to their desired haven.<sup>24</sup> Happy are the people who are in such a situation. Happy are the people whose God is Yahweh.<sup>25</sup>

So when they got out on the land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread.<sup>26</sup> But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand.<sup>27</sup> However he shook off the creature into the fire, and wasn't harmed.<sup>28</sup>

But they expected that he would have swollen or fallen down dead suddenly. But when they watched for a long time and saw nothing bad happen to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>21</sup> **Nahum 1:7** George, on "Octopus's Garden," "For me, you know, I find very deep meaning in the lyrics, which Ringo probably doesn't see, but all the things like 'resting our head on the sea bed' and 'We'll be warm beneath the storm' which is really great, you know. Because it's like this level is a storm, and if you get sort of deep in your consciousness, it's very peaceful. So Ringo's writing his cosmic songs without noticing."

<sup>22</sup> **Psalm 107:29** "We lived beneath the waves," Ringo tells us in "Yellow Submarine."

<sup>23</sup> **Psalm 102:17** Our faith in God calms the storms in our life. "Sometimes God calms the storm. Sometimes He lets the storm rage and He calms you." (Anon.)

<sup>24</sup> **Psalm 107:30** In "Octopus's Garden" everyone is glad: "Oh what joy for every girl and boy, knowing they're happy and they're safe."

<sup>25</sup> **Psalm 144:15** In "Octopus's Garden," people are happy with their situation: "We would be so happy you and me, no one there to tell us what to do." Esther Hicks: "The greatest gift you can ever give another person is your own happiness."

<sup>26</sup> **John 21:9** [*"They" are the Beatles*]

<sup>27</sup> **Acts 28:3**

<sup>28</sup> **Acts 28:5**

<sup>29</sup> **Acts 28:6**

They talked with each other about all of these things which had happened.

<sup>30</sup> Amazement took hold on all, and they glorified God. They were filled with fear, saying, “We have seen strange things today.”<sup>31</sup>

“It is a good thing to give thanks to Yahweh, to sing praises to your name, Most High;<sup>32</sup> to proclaim your loving kindness in the morning, and your faithfulness every night.”<sup>33</sup>

“For you have been a stronghold to the poor, a stronghold to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat, when the blast of the dreaded ones is like a storm against the wall.”<sup>34</sup> You rule the pride of the sea. When its waves rise up, you calm them.”<sup>35</sup>

“So we, your people and sheep of your pasture, will give you thanks forever. We will praise you forever, to all generations.”<sup>36</sup> Be exalted, God, above the heavens! Let your glory be above all the earth!”<sup>37</sup>

“Sing to Yahweh! Bless his name! Proclaim his salvation from day to day!”<sup>38</sup> Bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat, and celebrate.”<sup>39</sup>

They rose up early on the next day, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.”<sup>40</sup>

<sup>30</sup> **Luke 24:14**

<sup>31</sup> **Luke 5:26** “Fear” in this sense means awe.

<sup>32</sup> **Psalm 92:1** Dietrich Bonhoeffer: “In ordinary life we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich.”

<sup>33</sup> **Psalm 92:2** Starting and ending the day with gratitude and joy attracts people and circumstances that keep us in that state of consciousness throughout the day.

<sup>34</sup> **Isaiah 25:4** In “Octopus’s Garden,” Ringo is safely “below the storm” and “in the shade.”

<sup>35</sup> **Psalm 89:9** Meister Eckhart: “If the only prayer you said in your whole life was ‘thank you’, that would suffice.”

<sup>36</sup> **Psalm 79:13** Willie Nelson: “When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around.”

<sup>37</sup> **Psalm 57:5** Oprah Winfrey: “Be thankful for what you have; you’ll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don’t have, you will never, ever have enough.”

<sup>38</sup> **Psalm 96:2** In “Birthday,” “we’re going to a party party.”

<sup>39</sup> **Luke 15:23** “You can celebrate anything you want,” John reminds us in “Dig A Pony.”

<sup>40</sup> **Exodus 32:6** In “Dear Prudence” John urges us to “greet the brand new day” and “come out to play.”