

're-thinking' some of the parables ... No.12/11 of 11

'IT'S JUST PAST MIDNIGHT' parable - Part 11

A NEW LAND — Acts 27: 11-38

In this parable, the ship equates any evangelically minded fellowSHIP with its cargo of traditional, futuristic and letter-word doctrines and a crew fully convinced that they came from God. In this ship are many prisoners of the Lord; there is a (Reverend?) captain who has much experience in running 'a ship'. He and his crew have weathered many storms.

The word of the Lord is revealed to the overcomer, Paul, because he hears from God, even though most of the crew do not acknowledge it. The all-caring God forewarns them all of a tribulation test ahead. *'Much hurt ahead'* was the word. The captain and the crew, not believing that *through much tribulation we enter the kingdom of God*, reckon that they will be alright because they have their pre-trib. 'rapture' lifeBOAT. (notice in the KJV that the *boat* is in the *ship*).

The sincere District Superintendent traveling with them all, preferred to believe the captain rather than the anointed man of God who just happened to be an apostle. However, the true word of the Lord is never wrong. *A strong raging storm out of the east* called Euroclydon (for that is what it means³³) arrives just before midnight. This new wind of the spirit brings with it new revelation, new power and new expressions of a new day. This so often brings a turbulent reaction from the sea of the co-called 'normal' church people. Tribulation or any testing is an opportunity to discover just where one is in the walk of faith: God will never allow you to be tested above what you can overcome

The crew reacts according to their expectations, *'Launch the rapture lifeboat'* — it is absolutely useless for it has so many holes in it! By contrast, the Paul-overcomer again declares the word of the Lord, *'Be of good cheer, for I believe God'*. We should be quicker to lean upon the word of the Lord of a mature one who hears clearly and then go on to equip ourselves with the same hearing ability. He tells them that all will be well for the people, but the ship's structure will get destroyed. He added that there will be much hurt pride, but the entire crew will be saved. We can see that they will actually only lose their security for God wants them to learn to hear His voice and thus live with 100% confidence whatever the weather might be.

It is now midnight. The first thing that they became aware of was the time and then they were all aware that they were near to land. This land was chosen by God for them at such a time as they found themselves in. It was a land then that, in God's eyes, was promised for that time. It was a new land and it was to save them from the effects of the shipwreck. Paul, with God's word, now leads and instructs all the people who, because of their plight and bewilderment, are now teachable. He tells them to stay together even though the ship would get broken up. Stay in the fellowship of true believers and don't jump overboard from that for there is no security with worldly folks and setups. Life is only found in the expression of what God speaks.

The storm did not abate so it was needful that the cargo be dumped overboard. We will need to cast over the side all our old traditional teachings with their limiting laws and rules (constitutions), which have been our security.

Aim the ship towards this land and don't try to steer the vessel — let the Lord take it. In the Lord's eyes, every person was (and is) important — **all 276**. This number equals 6×46 ; 6 = the number for man with his knowledge of good and evil (Christian or unbeliever). 46 is the number which means *the temple devoid of the spirit*; or 2×23 which equals double death. **Therefore 276 includes all who are empty to what God is doing in this hour** — the folk who do not hear from God . . . but surprisingly were saved.

There were a few useful pieces of wreckage, however, which enabled a few non-swimmers to make it to the land. All 276 made it through this huge test alright. Midnight most decidedly changed their understanding of the plan of God so that their expectations were revised. Such a dealing as a great storm in your life, will cause each one of us to fully throw ourselves upon the Lord. It is advisable to be in that place of complete dependence upon the Lord Jesus Christ before any storm comes. You will then be the vessel to give the saving directions to a people who have been deceived.§

CHECK YOUR SPIRITUAL WATCH!