

CLOUDS OF BLESSING

A Biblical View

So often, a cloudy day seems synonymous with dreariness, disappointment or despair, a time when we think that special events and longed-for activities will probably be ruined. We may feel as though our hoped-for glorious day has been stolen from us, along with the enjoyment we sought. From a human viewpoint, we seem to want every day to be sunny with only a few clouds here and there.

We learned that early in life. I remember a song we sang in Sunday School that gave us the impression that clouds were not something that we should want. The words were, "Sing the clouds away, night will turn to day, if you sing and sing and sing, you'll sing the clouds away.

Smile the clouds away, night will turn to day, if you smile and smile and smile, you'll smile the clouds away."

One of the best loved and most popular hymns of the Christian Church was written by Henry Van Dyke and put to the familiar tune composed by Ludwig Van Beethoven. We have all sung "Joyful, Joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of Love." In the hymn are the words "clouds of sin and sadness."

Even the secular world views clouds in the same manner. A few years ago, one of the most popular pop/rock bands had a hit-tune with the words, "Our love will chase the clouds away."

No one seems to realize that not all clouds carry gloom and doom, and not all should be chased or driven away.

Look at the Scriptures and see what a different picture is drawn. Clouds as seen in the Bible often symbolize the presence of God, a viewpoint contrary to the opinion or attitude so prevalent today.

We note that there are various types of clouds - some great, some small, some white and some black. Just as some are cumulus, some cirrus, some stratus and some altostratus, so the Bible says that some are "clouds of heaven," (Daniel 7:13), some "clouds of the Lord," (Numbers 10:34), and others "the dust beneath God's feet," Nahum 1:3).

Sometimes, clouds mentioned in the Bible reveal God's presence as at the transfiguration of Christ, (Matthew 17:5), and sometimes they are instruments of God's judgment as seen in the story of Noah and the great flood, (Genesis 7:1-12)."

Clouds provide water, (Psalm 104:13), a necessity for life, and as in the case of the children of Israel, they were the map of God showing them the path to follow, (Exodus 13:21). Again, in the book of Exodus, a cloud was the chariot of the Lord, (Exodus 34:5).

The Bible also warns us concerning false teachers who are described as "clouds without water, carried along by winds," Jude 1:12. It describes a sinful, fraudulent, person as a "cloud without water," Proverbs 25:14.

So, in our lives each day, as we check the weather and look to see if it is sunny or cloudy, and then try to determine what kind of a day it will be for us, let us remember the teaching of Scripture.

It may be that the cloudiest day of all will be the most glorious of all as God, the Father in Heaven reveals Himself to us in all His glory and Blessing.

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