

Prophecy in Perspective

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An Email Newsletter

Our Times - *Prophecy in current events*

"They sow the wind, And reap the whirlwind"
Hosea 8:7

Maybe you were as surprised as I was when two weeks ago huge and sudden storms, called derechos, or "land hurricanes," swept through the eastern portion of the United States. What particularly caught my attention about these devastating storms was the timing of their occurrence: just about 24 hours after the landmark Supreme Court decision affirming the Constitutionality of Obama Care on Thursday, June 28. One of the most evil aspects about this law is that abortion will be more available and, no doubt, more frequent than ever. God is particularly disturbed in the Word of God with the abuse and killing of the innocent and vulnerable. This is exactly what abortion does! First, let's look at a particular Scripture that speaks of the inability of the proud and unbelieving to understand the times. Then we will take a brief look at these derechos. Jesus spoke a message that applies, primarily to Israel, also to the church in America and our nation as a whole when he warned in Matthew 16:1-4:

Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red'; and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah." And He left them and departed.



Strength of Derecho Winds

By definition, winds in a derecho must meet the National Weather Service criterion for severe wind gusts (greater than 57 mph) at most points along the derecho path. But in stronger derechos, winds may exceed 100 mph. For example, as a derecho roared through northern Wisconsin on July 4, 1977, winds of 115 mph were measured. More recently, the derecho that swept across Wisconsin and Lower Michigan during the early morning of May 31, 1998 produced a measured wind gust of 128 mph in eastern Wisconsin, and estimated gusts up to 130 mph in Lower Michigan.

In an article for a Smithsonian Institute newsletter, dated July 3rd, 2012, Kristen Minogue outlined the peculiarities of this unusual "land hurricane" occurrence which, it should be noted, also struck Washington D. C. hard, again, just one day after the Supreme Court's decision affirming Obama Care:

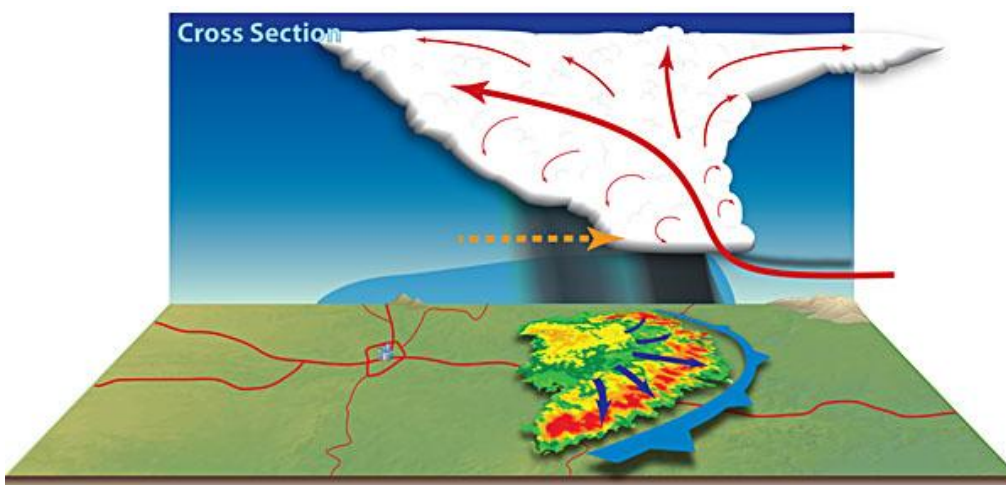
To say the tempests of June 29 took the U.S. by surprise would be an understatement. Near Annapolis, the storms jumped from a mild 10 miles per hour to 54 miles per hour in just five minutes. In other places 70- and 80-mile per hour winds tore through hulking trees and power lines. And yet the most violent part of the storm lasted less than half an hour.

"It all happened in a matter of minutes....I've never seen anything like it," said ecologist Pat Neale, who tracked the wind speeds on SERC's meteorological tower.



How could something so quick cause so much damage? And how would a storm like that form in the first place?

Media coverage brought the word *derecho* into the mainstream vocabulary. A Derecho—also known as a "land hurricane"—needs three ingredients to take shape. All three were present Friday: a storm cluster, a strong wind and, most importantly, a massive supply of hot air. A derecho does not usually start as a single storm, but several that line up in a long, bow-shaped curve. That first set of thunderstorms sets the stage. In this case, the initial storms collected over northern Indiana Friday afternoon.



Over time, if a strong enough wind pushes them in one direction, the storms curve out into an elongated bow echo that stretches the most violent area of the storm into a thin strip—never lasting very long in any one place, but able to leave a wide trail of destruction in its wake. Rising warm air (red arrow), creates new thunderstorms with their own winds that push the storm system outward into a bow-shaped curve. (National Weather Service)

If storms and wind are the seeds, hot air is the fuel. A normal thunderstorm cycles air through updrafts and downdrafts. Strong downdrafts—the sinking of colder, heavier air—usually signal that a thunderstorm is dying out. Many meteorologists expected it would after it crossed the Appalachians in West Virginia Friday evening.

But instead it encountered a large expanse of warm air still simmering from the mid-Atlantic heat wave, giving it a new lease on life.

Warm, moist air rises easily. The cold air pushes the hot air upward, where it can then fuel more thunderstorms. These new thunderstorms add their own winds and downdrafts to the ones already in place, creating a vicious cycle of ever-rising intensity. In this case, the scorching air sustained the storm for 700 miles on its path from Indiana to the Atlantic Ocean.

Because they rely on heat, derechos are most common in late spring and early summer, with more than 75 percent emerging between April and August. In the mid-Atlantic derechos occur once every four years on average. They're more common in the Midwest, where land hurricanes can be an annual affair.

The derechos are not the only disastrous events plaguing the United States today. There have been raging fires in Colorado for weeks. Reuters reports that:

Colorado Springs Fire Chief Rich Brown called the firestorm threatening his city - in a metropolitan area of more than 650,000 people - "a monster" and said at this point flames were "not even remotely close to being contained."

The fire, which has charred 15,517 acres in the shadow of the famed Pikes Peak mountaintop, was not as intense early on Wednesday as the day before, but would likely build up again as the temperature rises during the day, fire information officer Rob Deyerberg said.



The number of evacuees stood at 32,000 on Tuesday night, before some residents in Woodland Park, population 7,600, and surrounding areas were also told to leave their homes, Deyerberg said. He could not provide a total number of evacuees. "The evacuation area is expanding as a precaution," he said.

Prophetically, Scripture is filled with warnings to nations which give themselves over to sin. The level of covetous behavior and selfish attitudes in America today is at record levels. More and more people are looking to government to give them what God has promised to provide if we are faithful to Him. Droughts, floods, fires, storms, winds, earthquakes, increased violence, rampant immorality, are all foretold as certain judgments and warnings to nations that seek their help from any BUT THE LORD. Government leaders today, heavily enamored with God and Bible rejecting Marxist-Socialist, and secular-humanistic world views are seeking to give people what they want so that they will continue to vote them into office. Amos speaks a great warning to nations like America when he says:

Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of the people of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, Because they ripped open the women with child in Gilead, That they might enlarge their territory. But I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah, And it shall devour its palaces, Amid shouting in the day of battle, And a tempest in the day of the whirlwind. Their king shall go into captivity, He and his princes together," Says the LORD. (Amos 1:13-15)

It is too bad that our leaders are so blinded by their own arrogance. God notices their wickedness even if people in America, even in the church, do not. The Prophet, Nahum, speaks to us today especially as the storms appear suddenly causing damage of a biblical proportion, as well as fires that seem to refuse to be put out. Sin stirs God, even if it does not stir us. But the Lord will stir us another way, through disasters, debt that is beyond our control, and a nation that is

already being invaded by our enemies. Listen to what Nahum 1:2-4 predicts about the visitation of His wrath upon His enemies who steal the affection of God's people away from Him toward themselves for the sake of pride and power:

God is jealous, and the LORD avenges; The LORD avenges and is furious. The LORD will take vengeance on His adversaries, and He reserves wrath for His enemies; The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked. The LORD has His way In the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet. He rebukes the sea and makes it dry, and dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel wither, and the flower of Lebanon wilts.

There is much on the world scene that tells us that the prophetic **"sky is red and threatening."** We are seeing war already flaring in Syria. Iran and Russia are sizing up Israel, perhaps to invade in the near future. The Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt plans to over-throw Jerusalem to make it Egypt's new capital. Egyptian Islamists are even now planning to remove the Pyramids and any monument in Egypt that is pre-Islamic. In America we have been **"sowing to the wind,"** and we are now beginning to **"reap the whirlwind."** Therefore, we need to be in prayer that believers in America will awaken to the reality that Jesus is about to return for His church!! **Meanwhile we need to stand for truth, and pray for revival in America and in Israel.**

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(Note: If you would like to interact with Dr. Downing concerning this newsletter, views, etc. you can "blog" with him at prophecyinperspective.com. If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter at no charge, please send your email address to: sgdowning@bellsouth.net. Also, you can purchase his book, "Good News From a Far Country", a study in the book of Daniel [\$15] by contacting him. You can also purchase his latest book, "Becoming Mighty in Spirit...through Revelation's Prophecies [\$10] by contacting him.)