



STORM CARRIERS

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INTRODUCTION

*B*eloved, conflict will often find us through the lives of others. No matter where a storm carrier decides to move, the presence and will of God will follow them. They enter on our ship unknowingly, but their presence becomes clear rather quickly. Their presence disrupts our Joppa, our place called beautiful, and it becomes apparent that they are out of alignment with God. May it be known, His Word nor His voice is limited by geographical relocation.

The ***Storm Carrier*** is generally oblivious to the chaos which accompanies them, but one thing they do know is that they are outside of the will of God! The storm which enters with their presence is a clear indication of their being outside of the divine will and purpose of God. Their ability to sleep during the storm is also a clear indication of being a storm carrier. Something must be done with a storm carrier; to leave them on your ship is a consent to go down with them.

As you progress through this book, you will eventually find yourself looking in the mirror as you are confronted with questions which may locate you on another man's ship and outside of the will of God. If this word finds

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you, there will be an opportunity to repent and get back on track to fulfill the great call the Holy Spirit has assigned to your life.

THE MAKING OF A STORM

*I*n Jonah Chapter 1, Jonah received a specific instruction from God to go to Nineveh and warn the people of an impending judgment; But he made a conscious decision to head to Tarshish by way of Joppa. He was so determined not to comply with the will of God, he embarked on a journey which was approximately 3,000 miles from the path of instruction. Oh, I find this disobedience to be very bold because during this time the grace we walk in now was not available! His actions could have been met with his immediate death; but even in the life of Jonah we see the mercy of our God. So, instead of obeying, Jonah went through Joppa to begin a journey which would change the course of his life.

At some point, every storm carrier has received a clear call or instruction from the Holy Spirit. But, for some reason the individual begins to head in the opposite

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direction of His desire. Avoiding the call can be costly and if I must say deadly. As we look at the account of Jonah, we will begin the unveiling of the life of the storm carrier. For now, I will not define a storm carrier, but through the process of this writing, the definition will speak loud and clear. You will not need to wonder what a storm carrier is by the close of this book.

1 Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.” 3 But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. 4 But the Lord sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up.

Jonah 1:1-4

What I find interesting is the word *Joppa* means beautiful. Here was Jonah, heading in the opposite direction of the Word of God as he passed through what would be a beautiful, calm place but he would find out shortly it was not going to be beautiful for him. The

Lord sent a great wind on the waters as he headed out of and through the city beautiful to Tarshish.

No matter where a storm carrier decides to move to, the presence and will of God will follow. His word is not limited by geographical relocation nor will His voice be quieted. The call of God does not end with our disobedience. I also want to take this geographical relocation to another level. Let us look at it from the standpoint of the mind. Even if you try to displace the will and instruction of God from the forefront of your mind and move it to a back or lower region, this will not cause Him to change His mind! Your Tarshish may not be a physical relocation but mental! Regardless, the call of God will continue to stand and one thing you can rest assured of, God will not be ignored, because ignoring Him will always provoke an adverse response.

Truths To Consider.

- ***Disobedience Results In The Making Of A Storm***
- ***Nothing Beautiful Comes From Ignoring The Will Of God.***
- ***Geographical Relocation Will Not Remove You From The Presence And Will Of God!***

2

THE WIND OF GOD

As we progress through Jonah chapter one, we see the Lord send out a great wind to follow him.

But the Lord sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up (Jonah 1:4).

Take a moment and envision this wind in another way. I do not want you to see this as just a great wind or a wind that just happened to result because there was a storm out on the ocean. The Hebrew word for wind is Ruach; One of the meanings of Ruach is the very breath of God! In essence, God literally sent His breath out onto those waters to disrupt Jonah's attempt, if he could, to escape His very presence! The breath of God is what stirred those waters and caused a mighty tempest on the sea. Oh, yes! This was an **INTENTIONAL** storm. It was a God designed and God orchestrated storm

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and it only had one person in mind, Jonah. Most of the time believers like to blame every adverse storm in their lives on the devil. We blame him for a lot of stuff that he is not doing but is a result of our own actions of disobedience to an instruction or law of God. This tempest was not from the devil; it came from God. Like Jonah, if we try to escape the will of God, we can see what awaits us.

Whenever we find ourselves in a place of disobedience, the wind of God will find us. His expectation of us is repentance because it's the only thing that silences His wind. Our God has an infinite memory and only forgets what we have asked forgiveness for and repented of. True repentance does not say, "God, I am sorry" and no permanent change results. True biblical repentance means I think differently or like God about a situation after hearing the truth of His Word. Repentance requires a change of mind in order to change behavior. Saying I am sorry does not necessarily mean I am in agreement with what the Word of God says. Repentance means I realize I am not thinking or acting in accordance with the mind and will of God, so I am going to come into agreement with what He says, and it will cause a permanent change in my behavior. I have often shared in my teachings that behavior modification is not repentance. It just means I have stopped doing "that" until some life event occurs to turn me back in that direction again.

One thing I do know, obeying the voice of God, obeying the will of God, and staying on course with the Holy Spirit will avoid the intentional storms of God! As merciful as God is, there is no bypassing the storm of disobedience.

Truths To Consider:

- *Disobedience Always Provokes An Unfavorable Response From God!*
- *We Will Never Get Past Our Last Unrepented Act Of Disobedience.*

MINDING YOUR OWN BUSINESS

*H*ave you ever felt like you were just minding your own business and in the perfect will of God and a storm erupts in your life? Now of course if we are about the Father's business, we are inviting spiritual warfare. I am not talking about storms which erupt in this manner, but a storm caused by our disobedience or when someone who is running from the presence and will of God gets on our boat!

Can you imagine how these mariners felt? There they were about their normal course of life, minding their own business, and if I could just say this, being in the will of God and a moment comes where the forces of nature respond with a violence they had never seen or experienced before!

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When your peaceful world is disrupted, you must take an inventory of who or what has entered your atmosphere. You must look at who has gotten aboard your ship. As a result of Jonah's disobedience, his storm became their storm! I want to take a moment right here and say this, when someone enters your life who is trying to partner with you or even cultivate a friendship with you, it would be wise to be sure the relationship is a God idea because their storm will become your storm.

Let's look at verse seven before we move forward in this thought.

Now we will look at *Jonah 1:7-12*

7 And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. 8 Then they said to him, "Please tell us! For whose cause is this trouble upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" 9 So he said to them, "I am a Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." 10 Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, "Why have you done

this?” For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. 11 Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?”—for the sea was growing more tempestuous. 12 And he said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest is because of me.”

I am certain the Holy Spirit is talking to somebody. Like these mariners, you may have been/be in the will of God, minding your own business, but it is apparent somebody has gotten on your ship who is out of the will of God. What I am trying to say to you is your storm may not be your storm, but theirs! Do you know why? Because you might have a **STORM CARRIER** aboard. The confession of a storm carrier, which many will never hear is, “*For I know that this great tempest is because of me.*”

I have had some experience here. Oh, my life was peaceful and going along fine! I was minding my own business, and a storm carrier got on board my ship. My Joppa was not so beautiful for a few years because a young lady who was a storm carrier got on my ship. Everything she was involved in, and everything I interacted in with her seemed to carry an unnecessary agitation and storm

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with it. She was never satisfied with anything and caused a disruption with just about everything she touched. I was also confronted with one financial dilemma after another – hers, and I was always there to quiet **HER** financial storm! Those were four long years. Through this one relationship I feel I have learned a thousand lessons! I now know a storm carrier when they enter or try to enter my boat, but their presence is always short lived. The life lessons of a storm carrier are ones you will never forget!

Time for An Assessment

It is time to do an assessment of your crew. Can you identify a time when you were minding your own business, and someone entered your ship, and everything changed? This is what the crew did in the account in Jonah chapter one. I have a habit of doing this very frequently. I am always assessing the people in my life because a storm carrier can slip on unknowingly. They come with the pretense of needing help, wanting to learn from you or to be mentored by you, but they know they are out of the will of God and are looking for a place to hide! I think It is time for you to also do an assessment of the crew on your ship. If there has been a sudden or continuous storm, identify the possible cause of the commotion and locate your storm carrier.

Truths To Consider:

- *Another Man's Storm Can Be Financially Draining.*
- *The Absence Of Peace Is Time To Give An Invitation For An Exit!*

IT IS EITHER THEM OR YOU

*T*ake a moment to reflect on Jonah's getting aboard the ship. If the truth is told, the storm was really in Jonah. No matter where he would have ended up, somebody was going to be confronted by his storm! You know, a lot of times we think we can be disobedient, or others can be disobedient and come into our lives as if nobody is going to know. Oh! no, the Holy Spirit is going to identify it. He will uncover and expose them but not for injury. We serve a God who reveals to redeem.

The longer you permit that storm carrier to stay on your boat, the more significant the storm is going to get. I believe the Holy Spirit is speaking to you at this very moment and this chapter is going to seal the deal for you.

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In Jonah 1 verse 11, take note of the description of the storm.

11 Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?”—for the sea was growing more tempestuous.

The verse does not say it was raining. It did not hint that the winds were a little high or there was some pretty bad weather that day. The Bible is very direct and very clear; the storm is called ***tempestuous***. I love words. I always have. I take note of words and the word ***tempestuous*** got my attention! This was not your regular storm, and the mariners knew it. These were men who were skilled on the sea and quickly realized this was an uncommon storm! This was a divine storm! The use of the word ***tempestuous*** means it suddenly came upon them. Their ship was being violently shaken and this was not a natural event. They knew if the cause were not identified, they would not live through it.

Beloved, listen to me carefully, keeping a storm carrier on your boat is going to result in a tempestuous storm and if you keep them in place, if you continue to ignore the conflict, if you continue to ignore the wind and the waves, it is only going to get worse. And let me tell you this, if you refuse to disconnect from them, you must

be prepared to go down with them! The only relief for a storm carrier and for you is to throw them overboard.

After Jonah was thrown over, there is a turn of events.

15 So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.

Again, I am speaking from personal experience, I have walked through this. In my previous example of the young lady on my boat, the storm carrier, I did not have relief in my life, ministry, and spiritual family until I threw her and every memory of her overboard! I had to decide if I wanted to sacrifice God ordained relationships, my ministry, and my sanity, or throw her overboard. Had I not done the latter, I do not believe I would have a thriving ministry or have experienced so much favor and goodness of the Lord. I remember the day like yesterday when I threw her overboard and the four-year tempestuous storm suddenly ended! I remember a return of peace that had been missing because of her stormy presence.

Truths To Consider:

- ***Disobedience Carries With It A Storm That Is Going To Affect The Boat And The Lives Of Everybody On It.***

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- *You Will Have To Decide To Release The One To Preserve The Crew. It Will Be Them Or You.*
- *The Moment You Release The Storm Carrier, The Storm Will Cease. And Peace Will Come!*

THE THROW OVER IS INEVITABLE!

*I*f you continue to read on through this account, you will find, once Jonah was thrown overboard God sent a great fish that He Himself had **prepared** to swallow Jonah. I want to state this again in case you missed it the first time. God prepared it. God sent it! While those on the ship were anxiously trying to preserve Jonah's life, while they were throwing cargo over and trying everything, they could think of to preserve protect him; God had already assigned or appointed a great fish to meet Jonah. This fish met him at the precise moment and time in which he was to be thrown overboard. Let me say this to you, and I want to help your heart, because sometimes the heart is afraid or too weak to push people out of our lives or throw them overboard. We adopt this mindset because we believe somehow, we will be able to help them. We feel sorry for them because according to them, they have been through so

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much! You do not have to feel sorry for them. Do not feel sorry for releasing a storm carrier from your ship.

You may feel like you are hurting them, but you are helping them. You are preserving your destiny and coming into agreement with the will of God for their life! Allow me to breathe Holy Spirit life into your situation with this statement: ***What looks like their destruction has been sent for their preservation.*** Our God has already prepared a vehicle and a means to rescue them. His goal is never destruction; He wants to get them back on course to their destiny. The same way God sent a vehicle of rescue for Jonah, He will do the same for them. Beloved, the throw over is inevitable. It is the only solution to calm the storm.

Truths To Consider:

- ***What Looks Like Their Destruction Is Meant For Their Preservation.***
- ***Your Attempt To Harbor A Storm Carrier Is In Direct Conflict With The Purpose Of God.***
- ***The Throw Over Is Inevitable. It Is The Only Solution To Calm The Storm.***

A LOOK IN THE MIRROR

Now that you have had an opportunity to hear about the storm carrier and to see how dangerous this posture is for all involved, I have a question for YOU. Are you out of the will of God? Are you the one He has given instruction to and for whatever reason, you decided to go through Joppa and get on somebody's ship heading to Tarshish? Here is my question for you. Are you the storm carrier? Is the Holy Spirit talking to you today? It is time to look in the mirror.

Could it be possible it is not the people around you? Could it in fact, be you? You might be the storm carrier. The conflict might be in you. The disobedience might be in you. If everywhere you go, conflict breaks out, it is not them; it is you. If you find yourself saying, "It seems like everywhere I go, you know, people misunderstand me. Everywhere I go I am mistreated, or they cut me off

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from ministry or it seems like something tempestuous happens!” I am going to ask you to reflect on the statement below.

- There has been one common denominator in every tempestuous situation – YOU!

Is there an instruction you left behind? Is there something God told you to do? Is there a place He told you to go that you did not follow through with the assignment; and as a result, everywhere you have been a tempestuous storm seems to find you, and somebody must throw you overboard? Have you gone from injury to injury, from devastation to devastation, from sorrow to sorrow? God wants to talk to you today. The Holy Spirit is speaking to you! Beloved, He wants you to get back on course. If this word has found you, get back on course and I pray God will bring healing to you.

My prayer is you realize that those people that bought you on their boat, He sent them, but because the storm was still in you, you did not recognize God had sent them to help you, to get you back on course and to get you back into your destiny but your storm broke out. They were your great fish! May you come to understand because the storm was still gaging in you, they had to throw you overboard at some point. But he prepared another great fish to rescue you, to give you another opportunity to say yes to His call, to His assignment, to His will. How many

lives will you continue to impact with the storm that is raging in you? How many ships will you need to board just to eventually be thrown overboard again? How long will it take you to admit, “I am a storm carrier?”

Remember there are some ships. Some great fish we do not need to stay on/in; He just sends them to rescue us, to bring healing, to get us confined long enough to give you another opportunity to say YES!

Here is a final thought I would like to leave you with; there will be many attractive ships on our journey. We do not belong on everybody's ship. Some bail out on God and go the other direction because another man's ship looks like it is going faster or farther than we can go. My friend, we can network onto another man's ship if we want. But a storm is always going to find us!

Truths To Consider:

- ***Some Rescues Are Only Temporary Until The Holy Spirit Can Get You To A Place Of Confinement Where He Can Speak To You Again.***
- ***Another Man's Ship May Look More Attractive, It May Look Faster And As If It Can Take You Farther Than You Can Go, But A Storm Is Going To Find You!***

A Moment Of Repentance

If you are the storm carrier then tell the Holy Spirit you are ready to go wherever He wants you to go and do whatever He has called, you to do and mean it! There is no rest in running from the call of God. There is nothing like being in the perfect will of God on the right ship, with the right people. A ship absent of storm carriers is a ship/life sailing on the peaceful waters of the Holy Spirit.

Pray This Prayer:

Father, forgive me from going in the opposite direction of your call. Forgive me for fearing men, doubting your ability in me, questioning how the provision will come and for not responding to your voice. Cleanse and purify me of all unrighteousness. Speak again for I am ready to go wherever you may lead me. In Jesus' Name.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

*A*postle Sonya L. Thompson of ARISE Ministries International is called as a teacher to the body of Christ to; **“Train, Educate and Advise through the Gospel with Simplicity and Purity.”** She holds a Bachelor of Science in the field of Business Administration, a Master of Arts in Biblical Leadership and a Doctorate in Biblical Finances. She is an entrepreneur, mentor and spiritual mother. Apostle Thompson was ordained as a Pastor by world renowned minister of the gospel, Dr. Nasir Siddiki and affirmed as an Apostle, by Apostle Jerry D. Owens of Joshua Generation Outreach Church.

She is driven to introduce people to the Living God; To teach the Living word; To equip & edify the body of Christ for the work of ministry; To lead others to encounter the abiding presence of God in a way which will forever change their lives; To see an awakening that leads to Revival!

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