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2 Storms are Scary

- Storms scare us because they exhibit forces that are:
 - Very destructive
 - Beyond our control
 - Seem bigger than life
 - Unpredictable
- Examples

3 Hurricane Season

- Hurricanes are the largest storms produced by nature.
 - Winds up to 155 mph.
 - Embedded tornadoes and thunderstorm
 - Torrential rains
 - Cover hundreds of miles.
 - In Galveston, 1900, over 8,000 people were killed by one Category 4 hurricane.

4 Storm Preparation

- The state of Florida is hit by 36% of all hurricanes and their readiness is the best in the country.
- Both at the State and Local levels there are plans on what to do.
- Citizens are prepared too.
 - Know better not to ignore the warnings.
 - Know their escape route.
 - Stocked up with supplies.
 - Board up their windows and doors.

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6 Storm on the Horizon?

- Who is this man on the right?
- His name is Adnan Oktar and he is a Turkish poet, artist, and philosopher.

- He is also an advocate of Islamic creationism and believes Darwinism, not religious fanaticism is the cause of terrorism.
- He has also written extensively on the return of Christ and how Jesus will come and bring peace, justice and happiness to the world by uniting all religions into one moral movement.

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8 Storm on the Horizon?

- When asked if he is the Mahdi (Islamic Messiah), Oktar will not say it is true, but he won't deny it either.
- In fact, he will list the several physical similarities he has with those reported that the Mahdi will have.
- He also goes into detail on his web sites concerning how all Islamic prophesies about the coming of the Mahdi have now been fulfilled in our generation.
- Many of his devoted followers, do in fact believe he is the Mahdi.

9 Storm on the Horizon?

- While Oktar is against Zionism, he does support Israel's right to exist.
- In fact, in the past few weeks Oktar has been meeting with the newly reformed Jewish Sanhedrin (see www.thesanheddrin.org) and discussing with them the possibilities of building a temple for all religions in Jerusalem.
- Many Jews are excited about this as they agree with Oktar that religions around the world need to unite and promote moral values against the increasing tide of secular humanism.

10 Issues

- During the last-days there will be a third temple built in Jerusalem.
- He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.
(2 Thessalonians 2:4 NIV)
- So if there is no temple in Jerusalem or any possibility of a temple being built in Jerusalem, then last-day events are probably not imminent.

11 Temple Mount

- Storms scare us because they exhibit forces that are:

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12 Preparing

- So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. (1 Thessalonians 5:6 NIV)
- Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day — and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. (2 Timothy 4:8 NIV)
- Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. (2 Corinthians 7:1 NIV)

13 Purify Ourselves?

- Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. (2 Peter 3:11–12 NIV)
- But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. (1 John 1:7 NIV)
- Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. (John 17:17 NIV)

14 Preparing

- And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24–25 NIV)
- Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, . . . — in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. (Philippians 2:14–16 NIV)

15 Preparing

- May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. (1 Thessalonians 3:13 NIV)
- May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:23 NIV)

16 Great Joy

- I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints. (Philemon 1:4–7 NIV) [See also Eph. 1:15–16; Col. 1:3–4; and 1 Thes. 1:2–3]
- Philemon's faith and corresponding actions gave the Apostle Paul great joy.

17 Great Joy

- It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us. (2 John 1:4 NIV) [See also 1 John 3:10]
- It gave me great joy to have some brothers come and tell about your faithfulness to the truth and how you continue to walk in the truth. (3 John 1:3 NIV)
- The church's faith and corresponding actions gave the Apostle John great joy.

18 Conclusion

- It seems we are finding more and more evidences that the day of the LORD's return is approaching.
- No matter where we place the rapture, turbulent times might be right around the corner.
- The question is will we be ready?
 - Will we be strong enough to handle all the trials, temptations, and tribulation?
 - Will we be found blameless and sanctified in the truth or will we be ashamed?

19 Conclusion

- What is God saving us from?
 - Selfish self-centered attitudes and actions that cause us to be greedy where we lie, cheat and steal to get what we feel we need.
- What is God saving us to?
 - Charitable other-centered attitudes and actions that motivate us to be generous, kind, and helpful to others in order to purify our souls and be pleasing to God.