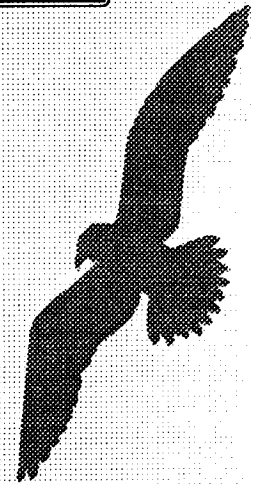


*"They shall  
mount up. . .*

# ON EAGLES' WINGS

*. . . with wings  
as eagles."*

*Isaiah 40:31*



## AERY NUGGETS

"There shall be showers of blessing:"  
This is the promise of love;  
There shall be seasons refreshing,  
Sent from the Saviour above.

"There shall be showers of blessing"  
Precious reviving again;  
Over the hills and the valleys,  
Sound of abundance of rain.

"There shall be showers of blessing:"  
Send them upon us, O Lord;  
Grant to us now a refreshing,  
Come, and now honor Thy Word.

"There shall be showers of blessing:"  
Oh, that today they might fall,  
Now as to God we're confessing,  
Now, as on Jesus we call!

— Daniel W. Whittle

Dear Friend,

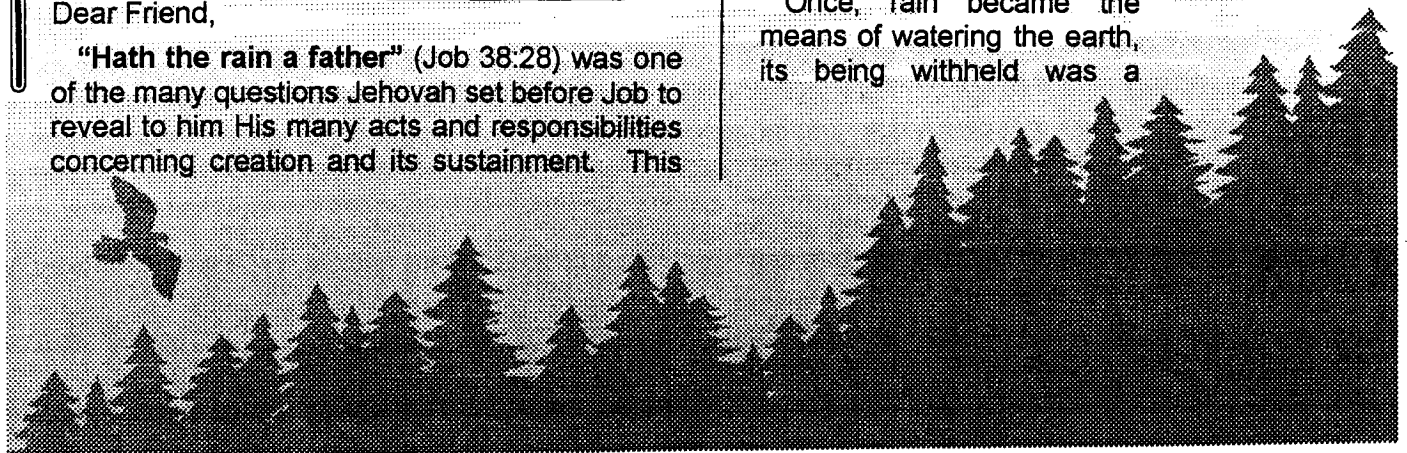
"Hath the rain a father" (Job 38:28) was one of the many questions Jehovah set before Job to reveal to him His many acts and responsibilities concerning creation and its sustainment. This

pertinent question regarding watering the earth seems to allude to the question of whether there is One who directs the falling rain, and its effects on the earth or its inhabitants. What do you say?

Turning to Genesis 2:5,6 we find these words, "for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth . . . But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground." From this we learn that God's initial means of watering the growing vegetation was by a gentle mist, for rain was still to be a display of His handiwork and power in the future.

Whether this condition continued till the flood we are not told, but the first mention of falling rain was when God told Noah, "For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth" (Gen. 7:4). Again, "The rain from heaven was restrained" (Gen. 8:2). Thus we see that the first mentioned use of rain was to bring judgment upon the earth, but it was allowed and controlled by the mighty hand of God for His purposes.

Once, rain became the means of watering the earth, its being withheld was a



means God used in getting the attention of wayward kings and peoples such as King Ahab and those who followed in the worship of Baal. In this notable example we read, "Elias (Elijah) was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not upon the earth by the space of three years and six months" (James 5:17).

Following the contest between the priests of Baal, and Elijah to see whose God would answer by fire on the representative sacrifice offered, and the converted idolaters response, "The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God" (1Kings 18:39), we see the Lord working in an alternate way. "And he (Elias) prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit" (James 5:18).

Are we to learn something from the increasing severity of the storms, torrential rains and other disturbances of the earth in this present day, or are we to just consider them as rampages of nature? While I don't believe them to be acts of judgment, yet they are the voice of God, giving warning to, "Flee from the wrath to come" (Luke 3:7).

Along with the warning, "Because there is wrath, beware lest he take thee away with his stroke: (Job 36:18), Elihu explained to Job God's purposes behind rain. "He causeth it to come, whether for correction, or for his land, or for mercy" (Job 37:13).

Our Lord took this a step further when instructing His own to pray for and do good to their enemies and those who despitefully used them, "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust (Matt.5:45). Shouldn't the impartiality with which God dispenses two of life's needs in grace and mercy, draw out the heart of man to Himself?

If you are one who has been hit by the ravages of the storms I would surely extend my sympathy to you in your distress and set before you these words, "For the Lord will not cast off forever: but though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men" (Lam. 3:31-33).

How easy it is when touched by a storm calamity to question, "Why did this happen to me? or, "What is God seeking to teach me?" These are good questions if asked sincerely and not with a complaining spirit. Nothing happens to the believer by chance, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called

according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). Do we stand on this promise? The one who was used to give us these words for our encouragement could attest to their reality through a multitude of trials, which the Lord brought him through.

Reflecting on God's reluctance to bring affliction upon the children of men, and knowing that, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son" (John 3:16), how can we help but feel His sorrow when having to send any form or intensity of judgment or chastening upon those whom His hands have created.

One special rain showing God's willingness to bless took place six days a week for forty years, as the children of Israel journeyed through the wilderness. "Then said the Lord unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out: and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law or no" (Ex 16:4).

Paul, the apostle, in seeking to turn the idolaters in Lystra to the living God, referred to His acts of creation, adding, "Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness" (Acts 14:16,17), So rain can be an evidence of His providing care.

May these thoughts serve to bring out that the rain does have a Father, Who is in complete control, and, "Who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will" (Eph. 1:11).

*Showers of blessing.*

*Showers of blessing we need:*

*Mercy drops round us are falling.*

*But for the showers we plead.*

Sincerely, your rainy day friend,

*Leslie L Winters*

For address correction or free new name addition,  
write to: