

## 20250811 Lector Report

### Floods

We have seen a multitude of natural disasters in just the past 12 months. The storms that ravaged western North Carolina. The recent storms in the Texas high country, and the most significant flood on record, for which Noah prepared the Ark.

In each of these, most were caught off guard and paid a price beyond comprehension.

Loss of property.

Loss of memories.

Loss of livelihood.

Loss of life.

Each significant event held devastation and could cause a loss of faith, fostering a sense of hopelessness.

“We can make it to the road in a homemade boat.

That's the only thing we got left that'll float.

It's already over all the wheat and the oats.

Two feet high and rising.” – Johnny Cash, Five Feet High and Rising

These are the times when we see the physical devastation. But what about those situations that are unseen?

What about the times when Satan is not attacking our weaknesses, he already has those; they are the times when he subtly attacks our perceived strengths and creates doubt.

He desires it to break us and cause us to lose our faith.

God gives us hope and strength in the most challenging situations.

“Because of the devastation of the poor, because of the groaning of the needy, Now I will arise,” says the LORD; “I will put him in the safety for which he longs.” Psalm 12:5

We are often left to assess the loss from a human perspective, forgetting God’s plan and his perspective.

“Hey, look through the windowpane.

The bus is coming, it's going to take us to the train.

Looks like we'll be blessed with a little more rain

Four feet high and rising.” Verse 3 Five Feet High and Rising

The devastation does not stop when the storms subside. The long-lasting effects are just beginning.

So, do we throw up our hands, lower our heads, and accept defeat?

Those without God use the default logic.

Those who truly hold God in their heart keep their eye looking up, along with a strength of steel for a spine.

Isaiah 41:10 "Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will also help you, I will also uphold you with My righteous right hand."

In North Carolina, the Amish stepped in when the government was not engaged and began building homes and structures at their own expense.

In Texas, a multitude of volunteers descended upon the affected areas in numbers that created traffic jams. God works through those he chooses to be his face on earth.

Genesis 8:10-11, Noah waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. And behold, the dove returned to him in the evening with a freshly plucked olive leaf in her beak. So, Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth.

Hope was restored. The darkest of times now possesses the light.

In all events, God provided the help and the hope to restore our faith, or to strengthen the faith we possess.

Hebrews 6:19, We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain.

We have hope.

Why do we lose hope?

The events may change, but the desired outcome remains the same.

Is it your desire or the desire that God has for us?

Thank God this isn't a multiple-choice quiz.

Vivat Jesus