

# A GATHERING STORM

<sup>24</sup> “Four things on earth are small, yet they are extremely wise: <sup>25</sup> Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer; <sup>26</sup> hyraxes are creatures of little power, yet they make their home in the crags; <sup>27</sup> locusts have no king, yet they advance together in ranks; <sup>28</sup> a lizard can be caught with the hand, yet it is found in kings’ palaces.”

Proverbs 30:24-28

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar--when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene-- <sup>2</sup> during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

Luke 3:1-2

<sup>20</sup> “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one-- <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me--so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

John 17:20-23

I. The Locust is a clean animal but his appearance is against him.  
(Leviticus 11:22)

<sup>22</sup> Of these you may eat any kind of locust, katydid, cricket or grasshopper.

A. Not everything in your life will look right but it’s clean.

B. Get ready to see a collection of weirdos assembling

C. God’s ways always seem counterintuitive

II. Locusts are unstoppable when they swarm.

A. A locust can eat its weight in plants every day.

B. A swarm of locusts can stretch over 400 square miles in size with billions of hungry locusts.

- C. A swarm can eat 400,000,000 pounds of plants each day.
  - D. They can travel long distances; nothing is out of reach of the swarm.
  - E. They can leap 200 times the length of their bodies.
- III. Locusts are worthless alone, but unstoppable in a swarm.
- IV. The locust is always misunderstood. It is his legs, not his wings, that contain his strength.
- A. Locusts don't fly; they leap.
  - B. The source of their power is usually misjudged.
  - C. They are unpredictable in their leaping.
- V. They know when to leap into the wind.
- A. When they leap, they are at the mercy of the wind, and are carried as blind instruments of providence.
  - B. They do not fly at night.
  - C. When they jump into the wind, they surrender all power of navigation.
  - D. They do not fear fire or water
  - E. They can smell the wind.
  - F. They are trendsetters not copycats.
  - G. Locusts fight but not with one another.
  - H. They never give up.
  - I. The enemy cannot see in the presence of the dark swarm



