

## DISCERN XI - GUIDANCE II

<sup>23</sup> *When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, it turned off the road into a field. Balaam beat it to get it back on the road. ...* <sup>25</sup> *When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, it pressed close to the wall, crushing Balaam's foot against it. So he beat the donkey again. ...*

<sup>27</sup> *When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, it lay down under Balaam, and he was angry and beat it with his staff.*

Numbers 22:23,25,27

### Six circumstantial storms

I. Jonah storms - These are storms due to our own personal foolishness. (Jonah 1:1-3)

<sup>1</sup> *The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai:* <sup>2</sup> *“Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”* <sup>3</sup> *But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.*

\* Operative guidance word - Repent.

II. A disciple's storm - These are storms that come simply to develop character, maturity, and trust. (Mark 4:35-40)

<sup>35</sup> *That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.”* <sup>36</sup> *Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were*

*also other boats with him. <sup>37</sup> A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. <sup>38</sup> Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?” <sup>39</sup> He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. <sup>40</sup> He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”*

*\* Operative guidance word - Endure.*

III. Paul storms - Storms that open wider opportunities to greater ministry. (Acts 27:23-26)

*<sup>23</sup> Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me <sup>24</sup> and said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.’ <sup>25</sup> So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. <sup>26</sup> Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.”*

*\* Operative guidance word - Hold on.*

IV. Stephen storms - These are storms where something needs to die for a greater good to be achieved. (Acts 7:57,58)

*<sup>57</sup> At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, <sup>58</sup> dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.*

*\* Operative guidance word - Die well.*

V. Job storms - These are storms of mystery, never to be resolved on earth. (Deuteronomy 29:29)

<sup>29</sup> *The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.*

\* Operative guidance word - When you can't trace him, trust him. Do the next right thing.

VI. Christ storms - These are storms of persecution that come because you're doing the right thing. (Matthew 5:10-12)

<sup>10</sup> *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* <sup>11</sup> *“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.* <sup>12</sup> *Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

\* Operative guidance word - Rejoice.