

Lord of the Rings: It's Raining

The storm [impacts all of us directly.](#)

📖 *Matthew 7:24–27 (NIV)* “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

The damage [depends on our choice of foundation.](#)

📖 *Matthew 7:24–27 (NIV)* “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

📖 *Matthew 19:4–6 (NIV)* “Haven’t you read,” He replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ ⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?’ ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

📖 *Isaiah 5:20 (NIV)* “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.”

The flood [in the street will not recede.](#)

📖 *2 Timothy 3:1–5 (NIV)* “But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.”

📖 *Romans 1:18–28 (NIV)* “The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. ²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵ They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. ²⁶ Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. ²⁸ Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, He gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.”

📖 *Psalms 69:1–3 (NIV)* “Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck. ² I sink in the miry depths, where there is no foothold. I have come into the deep waters; the floods engulf me. ³ I am worn out calling for help; my throat is parched. My eyes fail, looking for my God.”

📖 *Isaiah 43:1–2a (LB)* “But now the Lord who created you, O Israel, says: Don’t be afraid, for I have ransomed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. ² When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown!”

When you are up to your neck:

- **Rest** in God's plan. (“Don’t be afraid”)
- **Recognize** God's presence. (“...I will be with you”)
- **Rely** on God's protection. (“...you will not drown.”)

The loss [affords us an opportunity to rebuild.](#)

📖 *Matthew 7:24 (NIV)* “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

📖 *Proverbs 20:30 (GNB)* “Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.”

📖 *Romans 12:2 (NIV)* “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.”

📖 *James 1:22 (NIV)* “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

Digging Deeper: *How does the current culture and the erosion of the family make you feel? How can we as a church reach those that believe differently than we do without compromising Scripture? Do you care more about pleasing Christ than you do pleasing the culture? How does it make you feel to hear that God cares more about your holiness than your happiness? Does the judgement of Christ frighten you or excite you? It's not too late to rebuild your life, will you start that process today?*