



## Does Delay Equal Disaster?

**Mark 5:35:** (NKJV) "While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?""

Most of us are not very patient, especially when we are facing a very difficult challenge. If we need help, well, we need help! And if it is a matter of life and death, then what possible reason could there be to delay? We will look into one of the dramatic events of Jesus' life that focuses on these very circumstances. We have Jesus, a dying child, her frantic father, a crowd and a woman who has been sick for years. We have delay and we have a seeming disaster as a result of that delay. So, what is the message here? Why did Jesus delay and what can we learn from it? Stay with us! The drama is about to unfold!

### Our Only Question for Consideration:

**What is the setting, what are the events, and what are the lessons?**

### **The Setting:**

Let's begin with a quick look at the two previous dramas in which Jesus was involved:

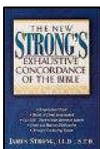
**Mark 4:35-41:** (NKJV) "<sup>35</sup>On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." <sup>36</sup>Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. <sup>37</sup>And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. <sup>38</sup>But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" <sup>39</sup>Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup>But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" <sup>41</sup>And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!""



Jesus is with professional fishermen, who know how to handle waves. This had to be bigger than anything they had experienced previously.

(Source: Bible notes from John A. Megisson) THERE AROSE A GREAT STORM OF WIND-- This must have been a remarkably severe storm. Some of the disciples were experienced fishermen, accustomed to the sudden squalls from which that sea is noted. For such courageous men as Peter, James and John to appeal to Jesus for super- human aid implies that the conditions were critical...

**"Peace, be still:"**



**Peace:** Strong's #4623 σιωπᾶω siopao see-o-pah'-o from siopē, silence, a hush, properly, muteness, involuntary stillness, or inability to speak

**Be Still:** Strong's #5392 φημί phimoo fee-mo'-o from phimos (a muzzle); 1) to close the mouth with a muzzle, 2a) to stop the mouth, make speechless, reduce to silence 2b) to become speechless 3) to be kept in check



Jesus commands and calms the storm that would have otherwise taken their lives.

When they come to the shore after this near death lesson of faith and awe, they are met by the following: (Combining Mark and Matthew for clarity)

Mark 5:1: (KJV) *"<sup>1</sup>And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. <sup>2</sup>And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs (two men) with an unclean spirit,"* Matthew 8:28-34: (KJV) *"...exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. <sup>29</sup>And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time? <sup>30</sup>And there was a good way off from them an herd of many swine feeding. <sup>31</sup>So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine. <sup>32</sup>And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters. <sup>33</sup>And they that kept them fled, and went their ways into the city, and told every thing, and what was befallen to the possessed of the devils. <sup>34</sup>And, behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought him that he would depart out of their coasts."*

Jesus again preserves life by commanding that over which no one else had power.

#### Observations on these two events:



- Jesus' faith is evidenced in his ability to sleep during the storm;
- Jesus' connection to the Father is evidenced by the calming of the storm;
- Jesus' position as God's Son is evidenced by the casting out of the legion of demons;
- Jesus' fearlessness is evidenced by his willingness to deal with whatever presented itself;
- In both cases there was no delay - as soon as the issue arose, Jesus acted.



## The Events:

Mark 5:21-43 (NKJV), Matthew 9:18-26 (NKJV), Luke 8:40-56 (NKJV)  
(with Jesus' words in Red)

For the sake of detail and simplicity we will combine the three accounts, with Mark 5:21-43 as a base. Here is the complete reading that the audio program discusses individually:

Luke 8:40: So it was, when Jesus returned, Mark 5:21: when (He) had crossed over again by boat to the other side, a great multitude gathered to Him; Luke 8:40: welcomed Him, for they were all waiting for Him Mark 5:21-23: by the sea. And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet and begged Him earnestly Luke 8:41-42: to come to his house (for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age) Mark 5:23: saying, "My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live." Matthew 9:19: So Jesus arose and followed him, and so did His disciples, Mark 5:24: and a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him Luke 8:42: as He went. Mark 5:25-27: Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she Matthew 9:20: suddenly Mark 5:27: came behind Him in the crowd Matthew 9:20: and touched the hem of His garment. Mark 5:28-30: For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well." Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd. Luke 8:45-46: And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?' But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me." Mark 5:32: And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. Luke 8:47: Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him Mark 5:33: the whole truth Luke 8:47: in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. Matthew 9:22: Jesus turned around Luke 8:48: And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace." Mark 5:35-38: "While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well." And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, Matthew 9:23: and saw the flute players Mark 5:38-39: and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly. When He came in, He said to them, "Make room, Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping." Mark 5:40: And they ridiculed Him Luke 8:53: knowing that she was dead. Mark 5:40: But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those who were with Him, and entered where the child was lying. Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, "Talitha, cumi," which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." Luke 8:55: Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat." Mark 5:42-43: And they were overcome with great amazement. But He commanded them strictly that no one should know Luke 8:56: what had happened Matthew 9:26: And the report of this went out into all that land.



Luke 8:40: **So it was, when Jesus returned,** Mark 5:21: *when (He) had crossed over again by boat to the other side, a great multitude gathered to Him; Luke 8:40: **welcomed Him, for they were all waiting for Him** Mark 5:21: *by the sea.**

Jesus' popularity and reputation are expanding. He went from one crowd to another.

Mark 5:22: "And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name."



### Who is Jairus?

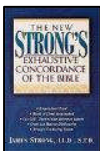
As a "ruler of the Synagogue," according to the custom of that time, he was a member of the local Sanhedrin, the court which tried certain classes of offenders. He would be a respected member of the community.

As a man of high station, no doubt he was acquainted with the noblemen of the same city whose son Jesus had healed.

John 4:46-53: (NKJV) <sup>46</sup>So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. <sup>47</sup>When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. <sup>48</sup>Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe." <sup>49</sup>The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!" <sup>50</sup>Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way. <sup>51</sup>And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, "Your son lives!" <sup>52</sup>Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." <sup>53</sup>So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives." And he himself believed, and his whole household."

Jairus' familiarity with this previous event would have been a thoroughly motivating factor for him to find Jesus, for his daughter was in the same state as the nobleman's son.

Mark 5:22-23: "...<sup>22</sup>And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet <sup>23</sup>and begged Him earnestly, Luke 8:41-42: **...to come to his house** <sup>42</sup>(for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age) Mark 5:23: saying, "My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live." (Matthew's account reads 'even now is dead')



### About the child's condition, from Mark 5:22:

**At the point of death:** Strongs #2192 εχω echo ekh'-o; to have, i.e. to hold

...literally, holding death, just now expiring, no time for delay.

### From Matthew 9:18:

**Even now:** Strongs #737 αρτι (ar'-tee); just now:

**Dead:** Strongs #5053 τελευταω (tel-yoo-tah'-o); to finish life, expire (demise):  
KJV - be dead, de cease, die.

Example: Luke 7:2: "And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to **die** <5053>."



So, the dire circumstances are obvious - For Jairus there was no other option but to find Jesus, as the life of this little girl was teetering on the edge - delay would mean disaster!

### Observations:

- This was his only daughter;
- She was only 12 years old (therefore called "little;" after age 13 should have been called a young woman according to Jewish tradition);
- She was literally beyond hope, "holding" death in her hands;
- Jairus reveals *great faith* in his laying out his vision of the miracle to come. He believed Jesus could do it.



Matthew 9:19: *So Jesus arose and followed him, and so did His disciples*, Mark 5:24: *and a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him* Luke 8:42: *as He went*.

The throngs were nothing new to Jesus:

Mark 3:7-9: (NKJV) *"<sup>7</sup>But Jesus withdrew with His disciples to the sea. And a great multitude from Galilee followed Him, and from Judea <sup>8</sup>and Jerusalem and Idumea and beyond the Jordan; and those from Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, when they heard how many things He was doing, came to Him. <sup>9</sup>So He told His disciples that a small boat should be kept ready for Him because of the multitude, lest they should crush Him."*

Luke 12:1: (NKJV) *"In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first of all, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy."*

Luke 19:1-4: (NKJV) *"<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. <sup>2</sup>Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. <sup>3</sup>And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. <sup>4</sup>So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way."*

So, Jesus is fighting through the crush of people - imagine Jairus - leading the way, half walking half running...

Mark 5:25-26: *"<sup>25</sup>Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, <sup>26</sup>and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse."*

### The issue of blood:

Leviticus 15:25: *"And if a woman has an issue of her blood many days out of the time of her separation, or if it run beyond the time of her separation; all the days of the issue of her uncleanness shall be as the days of her separation: she shall be unclean."*

- This was a chronic condition;
- All of her money had been spent on the search for a cure;
- She had sought second, third and fourth opinions, to no avail;
- According to the Law, she would have been in a constant state of uncleanness;





- Over the 12-year period the condition only worsened;
- She was seemingly at a point of no hope when Jesus came to town;
- There was little time, for who knows where Jesus would be off to next - so for this woman, delay would mean disaster!

Mark 5:27: *When she heard about Jesus, she* Matthew 9:20: *suddenly* Mark 5:27: *came behind Him in the crowd* Matthew 9:20: *and touched the hem of His garment.* Mark 5:28: *For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."*

Another example of great faith!

- She must have fought her way through the crowd;
- She managed to reach out to the hem of his garment only;
- Her faith was strong enough to need just a touch.

**There was a special significance to the hem of garments:**

Numbers 15:37-41: (NKJV) "<sup>37</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>38</sup>"Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners. <sup>39</sup>And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the LORD and do them, and that you may not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined, <sup>40</sup>and that you may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy for your God. <sup>41</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the LORD your God.""

The hem was designed as a remembrance of Godliness.

**The method of this miracle became common:**

Mark 6:53-56: (NKJV) "<sup>53</sup>When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret and anchored there. <sup>54</sup>And when they came out of the boat, immediately the people recognized Him, <sup>55</sup>ran through that whole surrounding region, and began to carry about on beds those who were sick to wherever they heard He was. <sup>56</sup>Wherever He entered, into villages, cities, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched Him were made well."

Mark 5:29-30: "<sup>29</sup>Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. <sup>30</sup>And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd."

Jesus stopped. He FELT the healing. Amidst the rush to the home of Jairus, where a child lay dying, this woman, fixed within her own impossible condition brings all progress to a halt.

**Here we have the exultation of being healed:**

Psalms 30:1-2: (NKJV) "<sup>1</sup>I will extol You, O LORD, for You have lifted me up, and have not let my foes rejoice over me. <sup>2</sup>O LORD my God, I cried out to You, and You healed me."

Here we also have the trepidation of being revealed because Jesus stopped and turned around.



Luke 8:45-46: *"<sup>45</sup>And Jesus said, 'Who touched Me?' When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, 'Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?''"*  
*<sup>46</sup>But Jesus said, 'Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me.'" Mark 5:32:*  
*And He looked around to see her who had done this thing."*

Why would Jesus ask? Wouldn't he know not only who, but why as well? We know the answer is yes, because we can see from other Scriptures:

Mark 2:5-8: (NKJV) *"<sup>5</sup>When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven you.'" <sup>6</sup>And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, <sup>7</sup>"Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" <sup>8</sup>But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?"*

What do we have?

- A delay - a child lay dying, yet Jesus stops.
- A miracle - an old condition instantly healed.
- A piercing question of accountability - "Who touched me?"
- A firmness - even though everyone was crowding Jesus, he summoned the one who "touched" him, for there was a lesson to be taught.

Luke 8:47: *"Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him Mark 5:33: the whole truth Luke 8:47: in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. Matthew 9:22: Jesus turned around Luke 8:48: And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace."*

This was the confession of the fearful yet faithful woman - trembling, bowing, telling all before all. It reminds us of several Psalms:

Psalms 38:8-11: (NKJV) *"<sup>8</sup>I am feeble and severely broken; I groan because of the turmoil of my heart. <sup>9</sup>Lord, all my desire is before You; And my sighing is not hidden from You. <sup>10</sup>My heart pants, my strength fails me; As for the light of my eyes, it also has gone from me. <sup>11</sup>My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague, and my relatives stand afar off."*

Psalms 66:16-20: (NKJV) *"<sup>16</sup>Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will declare what He has done for my soul. <sup>17</sup>I cried to Him with my mouth, and He was extolled with my tongue. <sup>18</sup>If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear. <sup>19</sup>But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer. <sup>20</sup>Blessed be God, who has not turned away my prayer, nor His mercy from me!"*

There is graciousness and thankfulness for the great gifts. What a great reward for a great faith!

But wait! Look at how much time this has taken! Wasn't there a matter of a dying child that Jesus was on his way to attend to? What would Jairus have been thinking all this time? There is no mention that he was impatient with Jesus.

Mark 5:35: *"While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?'"*



Here is one of those defining moments in life. You stand between rage and despair. The delay that this woman has imposed upon Jesus has cost your daughter her life. For that instant between hearing the news and hearing Jesus give an answer, you are crushed. Disaster has struck and hope is lost.

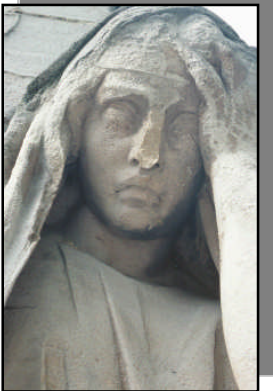
Mark 5:36-37: <sup>36</sup>"As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, **"Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well."** <sup>37</sup>And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James."

The defining moment continues - Jesus now immediately gives hope where there was none. Now some of the lessons of delay begin to come into focus.

**The challenge of faith is always a major test. Here is another account of a healing that took great faith:**

Mark 9:20-27: (NKJV) <sup>20</sup>Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup>So He asked his father, **"How long has this been happening to him?"** And he said, "From childhood. <sup>22</sup>And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to him, **"If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."** <sup>24</sup>Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" <sup>25</sup>When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, **"Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!"** <sup>26</sup>Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." <sup>27</sup>But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose."

Mark 5:36-38: <sup>38</sup>Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, Matthew 9:23: **and saw the flute players** Mark 5:36-38-39: and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly. <sup>39</sup>When He came in, He said to them, **"Make room, Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping."** Mark 5:40: <sup>40</sup>And they ridiculed Him Luke 8:53: **knowing that she was dead.** Mark 5:40: But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those who were with Him, and entered where the child was lying."



Jesus' response to the intense mourning was seemingly completely out of place. The delay caused by the woman with the issue of blood had unleashed a disaster and a flood of emotion. Yet, the Master calms them all (like he did with the sea!) and ushers them all out of the house except the parents and three disciples. Now, the work of the Kingdom could be done.

Mark 5:41: "Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, **"Talitha, cumi,"** which is translated, **"Little girl, I say to you, arise."** Luke 8:55: **Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat."**

Delay in the hands of Jesus was an opportunity for greater blessing. This did not end in disaster; rather it ended in a jubilation and life!

Mark 5:42-43: <sup>42</sup>...And they were overcome with great amazement. <sup>43</sup>But He commanded them strictly that no one should know Luke 8:56: **what had happened** Matthew 9:26: **And the report of this went out into all that land."**





Ilya Repin. *Raising of Jairus' Daughter*. 1871. Oil on canvas.  
 The Russian Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia

### The Lessons:

Does delay equal disaster? How do we measure disaster? Trial and tribulation may seem to go on too long, yet their purpose is the growth that leads to eternity. We need to view our lives with a long-range perspective.

Hebrews 12:9-13: (NKJV) *"<sup>9</sup>Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup>For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. <sup>11</sup>Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. <sup>12</sup>Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, <sup>13</sup>and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed."*

The easy way is actually the hard way, and the hard way is easy because it is how we learn.

Does delay equal disaster? Not in God's hands. Are we looking at the immediate time frame or the bigger picture?

Daniel 12:1: (NKJV) *"At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book."*

Habakkuk 2:2-3: *"<sup>2</sup>Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. <sup>3</sup>For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry."*



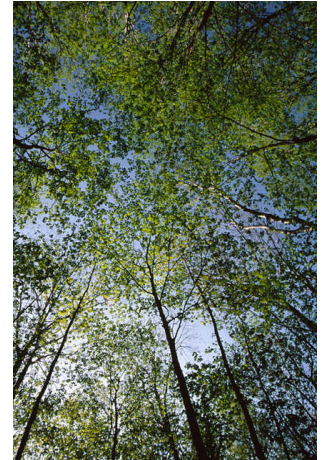
**Matthew 24:4-8: (NKJV)** *"<sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered and said to them: 'Take heed that no one deceives you. <sup>5</sup>For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. <sup>6</sup>And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. <sup>7</sup>For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup>All these are the beginning of sorrows.'"*

How could God allow such things? It is a disaster that is temporary to teach us a much bigger lesson.

**Zephaniah 3:8-9: (NRSV)** *"<sup>8</sup>Therefore wait for me, says the LORD, for the day when I arise as a witness. For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them my indignation, all the heat of my anger; for in the fire of my passion all the earth shall be consumed. <sup>9</sup>At that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call on the name of the LORD and serve him with one accord."*

Something miraculous and wonderful happens in light of the disaster.

**Isaiah 55:6-13: (NKJV)** *"<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. <sup>7</sup>Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup>"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. <sup>9</sup>"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. <sup>10</sup>"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup>"For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. <sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."*



Prophecy shows us a wonderful ending after difficulty. God only has happy endings, and His timing in our lives is always perfect if we have the faith to see.

*So does Delay Equal Disaster?  
For Jonathan and Rick (and Vicki) and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*