

Weather Prognosticators?

by Wayne Goff

Ok, I need to let off a little steam here about last week's weather forecast, but there's a spiritual lesson coming as well. Last weekend we were absolutely assured by the area's weathermen that we were going to have a major ice storm. **No doubt about it, batten down the hatches, hide the women and the children, here she comes!** All of Kansas City heeded the warning — schools sent children home early on Friday, grocery stores were deluged with shoppers stocking up their pantries, drivers stayed off the roads on Saturday and Sunday, the Kansas City Chiefs' playoff game was postponed until 7:30 Sunday night, and most churches cancelled, delayed, or postponed their services. So what happened?

The weathermen laid an egg, a real dud. Oh, we **did** have some slick roads late Thursday night, some of the outlying areas had a bit of ice, but nothing like they forecasted! A grocery checker who waited on me Friday afternoon complained that the weathermen had **missed the forecast four times already**, and that didn't even include the supposed worst days of Saturday and Sunday! So it wasn't just me who noticed it. The reality in our part of the city was that we could have had all services at the regularly scheduled times. Perhaps some could not have gotten out, but believe me, the storm just didn't materialize like they said it would. **Ouch!!!!**

Okay, let me back up a bit. I do appreciate weathermen. They love studying weather, nature and its various cycles and changes. They do their very best to **forecast** the weather. Generally speaking, they do a pretty fair job of getting the weather right. And they are especially valuable during the Spring when they can forewarn everyone of thunderstorms, hail, floods and tornadoes. But for all their expertise, modern satellites, and electronic surveillance, they are just mortal men and women. They are not gods, nor should we view them as such. I think sometimes we think they are infallible when, in reality, they miss many forecasts.

Now here is the *spiritual* lesson. Weathermen are prognosticators, forecasters — **not inspired prophets!** They are making an educated guess at the weather. The definition for "forecaster" is "a person who predicts or estimates a future event or trend." **Emphasize** the words "predicts" and "estimates." It seems to me that the last couple of years in Kansas City, the **bigger** the forecast, the **greater likelihood** of missing it!

There have been weathermen for centuries. Jesus spoke of them in Luke 12:54-55 — *"Then He also said to the multitudes, 'Whenever you see a cloud rising out of the west, immediately you say, "A shower is coming"; and so it is. And when you see the south wind blow, you say, "There will be hot weather"; and there is.'" Ironically, Jesus expected the average observer to be his own weatherman!*

Inspired prophets were different. They could never afford to be wrong! False prophets mimicked true prophets, and some died as a result! Observe God's Word in Deuteronomy 18:18-22 —

"I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him. But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'" And if you say in your heart, "How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?" — when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him."

God and His true prophets never miss a prophecy! You can take His Word to the bank!

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