

Tornado Rally in DC¹

Nahum 1:2-3 (ESV)

**² The LORD is a jealous and avenging God;
the LORD is avenging and wrathful;
the LORD takes vengeance on his adversaries
and keeps wrath for his enemies.**

**³ The LORD is slow to anger and great in power,
and the LORD will by no means clear the guilty.
His way is in whirlwind and storm,
and the clouds are the dust of his feet.**

On August 24, 1814, a force of 4,500 British soldiers marched toward Washington, D.C. As a result, panicked citizens fled the City. Dolley Madison and the White House staff are credited with saving the famous Gilbert Smart portrait of George Washington by cutting it out of its frame. Mrs. Madison was leaving the city in her carriage as British Admiral George Cockburn and his troops entered.

Admiral Cockburn went into the White House, ate dinner, and then set it on fire. He had British soldiers sit in the Congressmen's chairs and hold a mock Congress. When he asked who was in favor of burning the Capitol, they yelled, "Aye," and proceeded to set fire to the Capitol and other buildings.

Suddenly, dark clouds rolled in, wind and thunder grew into what witnesses said was a "frightening roar," and lightning began striking. A tornado touched down sending debris flying, blowing off roofs, knocking down chimneys and walls onto British troops. Two cannons were even lifted off the ground and dropped yards away.

The book, *Washington Weather*, recorded British Admiral George Cockburn exclaiming to a lady:

"Great God, Madam! Is this the kind of storm to which you are accustomed in this infernal country?!"

To which she replied:

"No, Sir, this is a special interposition of Providence to drive our enemies from our city."

A British historian wrote:

"More British soldiers were killed by this stroke of nature than from all the firearms the American troops had mustered in the feeble defense of their city."

As British forces fled, torrential rains fell for two hours, extinguishing the fires in the Capital. They painstakingly marched back to their ships on roads covered with downed trees only to find two ships blown ashore and others with damaged riggings.

On September 1, 1814, Madison wrote:

¹ For more information see: Susie Federer, *Miracles in American History: 32 Amazing Stories of Answered Prayer*, (Virginia Beach, VA: Amerisearch, Inc., 2016), pp. 93-97.

The enemy by a sudden incursion has succeeded in invading the capitol of the nation... During their possession . . . though for a single day only, they wantonly destroyed the public edifices... An occasion which appeals so forcibly to the... patriotic devotion of the American people, none will forget. Independence ... is now to be maintained... with the strength and resources which... Heaven has blessed.

These are the kind of stories that triggered my interest in “**God-N-America**.” When I read accounts of what clearly seems to be the hand of God in the history of America, it moves me to appreciate the goodness of God and to desire His interventions today. I believe that God did work through imperfect people in an imperfect nation because they chose to fully depend on Him. This is seen in the prayers of early Americans, prayers that we do not hear about today.

At the onset of the War of 1812, President James Madison proclaimed a Day of Prayer, July 9, 1812. Then, on November 16, 1814, Madison announced a National Day of Public Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer to Almighty God. When was the last time you heard a political leader on any level call for such a day, let alone the President?

Our Forefathers, for the most part, were people of faith. They displayed their faith in their prayers before God. Would to God we would “**Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first**” (**Revelation 2:5**, ESV).

Too many Americans are playing a deadly game with God. Some think they can get away with their crimes. How many of our political figures have sold us out? They ultimately won't get away with it. Coveting, lying, stealing are some of the “top ten” God is concerned about. His justice will come. It always has. God is the whirlwind we will reap if we are not vigilant, prayerful, and faithful.

Keep the Light of Vigilance Burning!