

CLOUDS



Clouds come in an endless variety of shapes and sizes. Even though they make all look different, clouds really belong to a limited number of types and each type brings a different type of weather.

Clouds may look light and fluffy but in reality, they are very heavy. Clouds are made up of water, ice and solid particles such as dust. When you think about how much rain or hail falls during a storm and

how much water and ice weighs, clouds are really amazing.

Clouds give us a wide variety of weather. They can cool down summer's heat, trap moisture and make it uncomfortable, give life-giving rain or bring destructive floods and lightning.

What can we learn from God's creation of clouds?

When we think about how heavy clouds really are and how gracefully they move through the air, we are reminded of God's awesome power. God can carry clouds in His hand and move them wherever He wants. We learn from Job 37:11-12, "He (God) loads the clouds with moisture...At his direction they swirl around over the face of the whole earth to do whatever he commands them."

Just as God guides the clouds where He wants them to go, He guides us. We read in Exodus 13:21 how God guided the Israelites in the desert, "By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way." We may not see God in a

pillar of cloud but He still guides us with His love and His word - the Bible.

Clouds give us information of what we can expect from the weather. The type of clouds and the other things going on in the atmosphere tell us what kind of weather is coming. God's word, the Bible, tells us what to expect from God in the future. Jesus tells us in Matthew 26:64, "In the future you will see the Son of Man (Jesus) sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One (God the Father) and coming on the clouds of heaven." The Bible tells us in Revelation 1:7, "Look, he is coming with the clouds and every eye will see him." Jesus will return one day to take all who believe in Him to heaven. Just as clouds tell us what to expect from the weather, the Bible tells us what to expect from God.

Clouds and the rain they bring give us the water all living things need. God gives us everything we need because He loves us and He reminds us of His love all throughout the Bible. God's word gives us spiritual and eternal life just as the rain gives us life-giving water to drink. We learn from Job 36:27-28,

"He (God) draws up the drops of water which distill as rain to the streams; the clouds pour down their moisture and abundant showers fall on mankind." We learn from Job 38:37-38, "Who has the wisdom to count the clouds? Who can tip over the water jars of the heavens when the dust becomes hard and the clods of the earth stick together?" Only God can do this.

Clouds also teach us a lesson about sin. When clouds fill the sky and it becomes gloomy and dark, it is like how sin comes between us and God. When we see the sun's rays breaking through the clouds, we are happy again. This is a picture of God's salvation. Our sins put us in a dark and terrible place but God the Father sent His Son Jesus to break through our sins and bring us into the light of God's glory. In Isaiah 44:22 we learn, "I (God) have swept away your offenses (sins) like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me for I have redeemed (saved) you." It is dangerous to think that God does not see us when we sin. We learn an important lesson in Job 22:13-14, "You say, 'What does God

know? Does he judge through such darkness? Thick clouds veil him so he does not see us as he goes about in the vaulted heavens.' Will you keep to the old path that evil men have trod?"

We have seen how clouds teach us about God's love but they also teach us about God's anger. When terrible storms strike we can learn of God's awesome power and anger. In Job 37:6-7 we learn, "He (God) says to the rain shower, 'Be a mighty downpour,' so that all men he has made may know his work." We learn from Job 37:13, "He (God) brings the clouds to punish men or to water his earth and show his love."

We can learn a lot from looking at clouds!

