

Faith and Funnies

A newsletter from Faithful Friends KY

April, Vol. 1-25



LAUGH A LITTLE

What do you call a fake noodle?

An impasta!

Why did the tomato turn red?

Because it saw the salad dressing!

Why was the math book sad?

It had too many problems!

April is a rainbow month
of sudden spring time showers.
Bright with golden daffodils,
and lots of pretty flowers.



This Month in History

April 2, 1792 - Congress established the first U.S. Mint at Philadelphia.

April 3, 1865 - The Confederate capital of Richmond surrendered to Union forces after the withdrawal of General Robert E. Lee's troops.

April 3, 1995 - Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor became the first woman to preside over the Court, sitting in for Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist who was out of town.

April 6, 1917 - Following a vote by Congress approving a declaration of war, the U.S. entered World War I in Europe.

April 9, 1866 - Despite a veto by President Andrew Johnson, the Civil Rights Bill of 1866 was passed by Congress granting blacks the rights and privileges of U.S. citizenship.

A few weeks ago, I was awakened by such loud banging outside that I thought it was a tornado blowing debris around. We were sleeping in the basement because severe weather been predicted. Thankfully, there was no tornado, but we had a hailstorm that caused widespread damage all across town. Some of the hail stones were as large as softballs!

Since then, I've been thinking about a story in the Old Testament. In Joshua 10, we read that the Israelites and the Gibeonites, led by Joshua, fight a series of battles against five other kings and people groups. During one of these battles, "the Lord hurled large hailstones down on them, and more of them died from the hail than were killed by the swords of the Israelites." (Joshua 10:11) What's fascinating about this is, though it doesn't say so explicitly, it's safe to assume the hailstones only struck the enemy and not the Israelites. "The Lord hurled large hailstones on them," them being the enemy.

I was able to see a few moments of the hailstorm after I emerged from my bedroom in our walk-out basement and looked out our french doors. Those hailstones were coming down hard and fast. It's not like there was one here, and another one way over there, as if they'd been gradually sprinkled down from the sky. There were so many of them, they covered the ground and piled up in some places until they melted. Now imagine a battlefield with people everywhere and intense fighting going on. For the hailstones to only hit select people means they came down with crazy perfect accuracy. It's almost unfathomable.

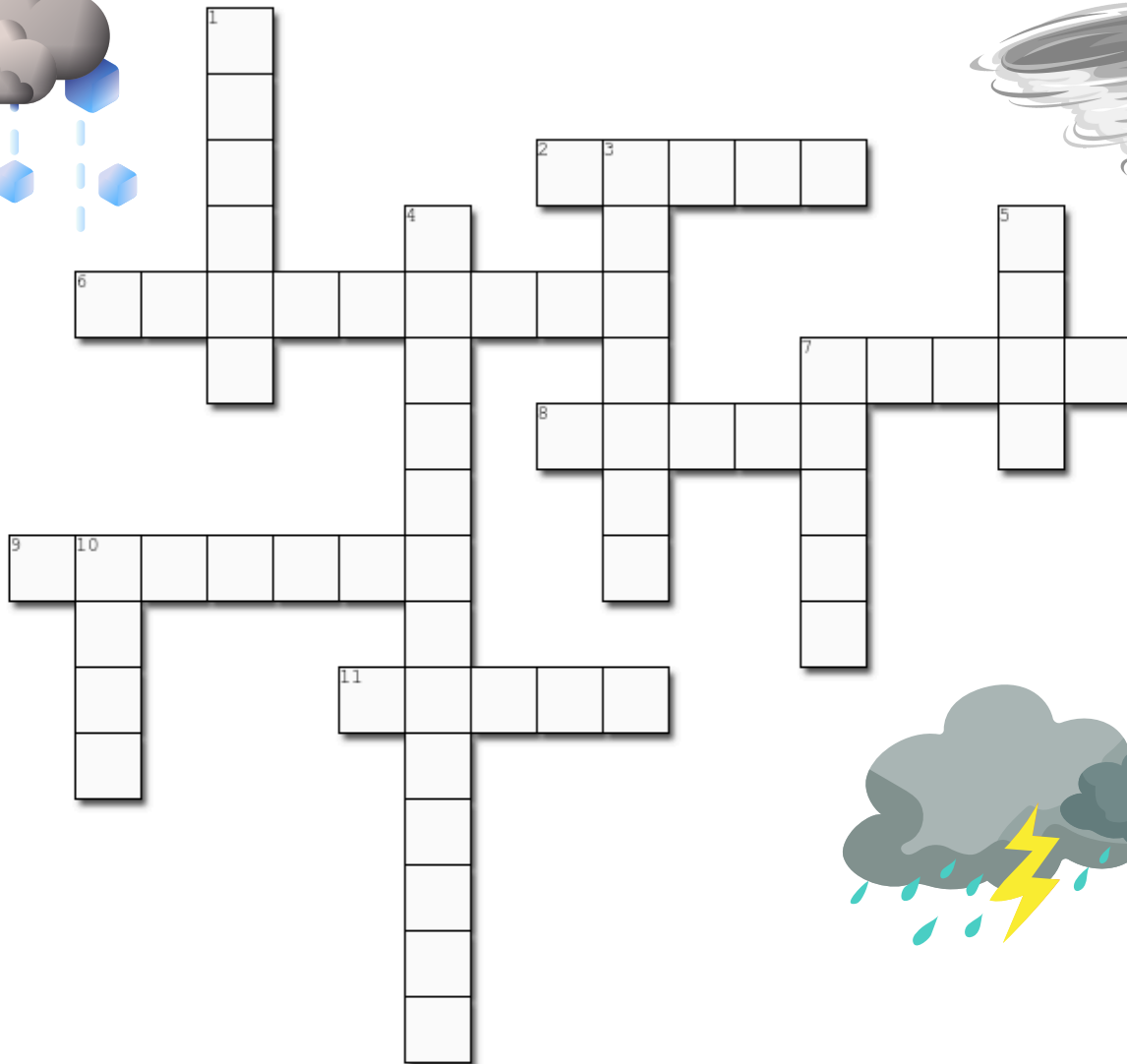
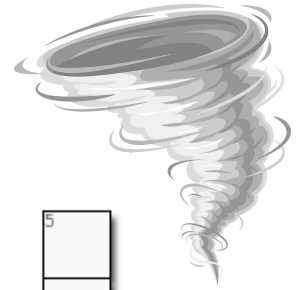
What's my point? God is powerful. God is precise. God does not miss. God does not make mistakes. God is in control. These are things that Christians "know," but an experience like that hailstorm really brings to life biblical accounts that demonstrate the attributes of God.

The other thing that I remembered about that story in Joshua, the thing that I think is so profound, is that God delivered His people even though they should never have been in that battle in the first place. Prior to these battles, a neighboring people group called the Gibeonites had deceived Joshua and the Israelites into establishing a treaty, or a covenant, with them. They knew that God was with Israel and had enabled them to achieve great victories against enemies who were stronger and mightier than they were (like Jericho). They knew that Israel had a command from God to destroy the people of Canaan. So, the Gibeonites (who were people of Canaan) decided it would be wise to form an alliance with Israel for their protection. The problem with this, however, was that the Israelites were supposed to be driving out the pagan inhabitants of the land, not getting friendly with them. They were certainly not supposed to enter into covenants with them. Israel's covenant was with God. He was their King, their provider, their protector. However, when the Gibeonites arrived and made themselves appear to be travelers from a far away land, and therefore not people from Canaan, Joshua and the other leaders fell for their ruse and, most importantly, "did not ask counsel from the Lord." (Joshua 9:15)

So when the other neighboring people groups heard of this, they took action and decided to attack Gibeon. Because of the covenant that Joshua and the leaders made with Gibeon, they were now obligated to fight on their behalf. And yet, the Lord was still on their side! He did not abandon them. God did not say, "Sorry, but you messed up. You're on your own. Figure it out." He came to the aid of the Israelites, and by extension, the Gibeonites. God is faithful to us even when we are not faithful to Him. Nearly every time a covenant is mentioned in the Bible, God says, "You will be my people, and I will be your God." And just like with the Gibeonites, if we are in covenant with God, He comes to our defense when our common enemy, Satan, is on the attack. We fight the enemy together. God never leaves us. He never abandons us.

A Stormy Puzzle

Complete the crossword puzzle below with words related to hailstorms.



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

gust thunder tornado meteorologist radar barometer front storm flash hail severe cloud

Across

- 2. A disturbance in the atmosphere, often involving heavy rain and wind
- 6. An instrument used to measure atmospheric pressure
- 7. A sudden, brief burst of light, like lightning during a hailstorm
- 8. A tool used to track weather patterns, including hailstorms
- 9. the sound that lightning makes
- 11. A mass of condensed water vapor in the sky, where hail often forms

Down

- 1. A term used to describe intense weather conditions like a hailstorm
- 3. a violent, rotating column of air
- 4. A scientist who studies weather and storms
- 5. a sudden, strong burst of wind
- 7. The boundary between two air masses, often a cause of severe weather
- 10. ice pellets that fall during a storm