

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed December 4, 1935

THE BIBLE REVISED

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman
Authority on Meteorology

It is still true, as of old, that "the wind bloweth where it listeth," but it is no longer true that we know neither its source nor its route of travel. A frigid blast sweeps down from the Arctic wastes; a tropical hurricane swirls up from the doldrums toward our southern shores. Both bring vicissitudes of weather that affect human welfare, and both are kept under observation from point to point along their paths. After they have spent their force their histories are set forth in circumstantial records.

No longer is the weatherman content to scan his local skies, oblivious to what the weather is doing a hundred or a thousand miles away; ignorant, as our wisest ancestors were, of the fact that atmospheric events are understandable only when viewed "synoptically" over a large area of the earth's surface. Once his outlook was parochial; today it is international--almost world-wide. The huge human machinery that has made it so is one of the startling products of modern civilization.

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