



## **DON'T BE AFRAID! GOD IS STILL ON HIS THRONE**

**A Message of Hope for God's  
people in troubled times!**



**E**very time we pick up a newspaper or turn on the television these days, all we read or see is "doom and gloom." It's time we heard some "Good News!"

**Make no mistake about it,** our country is definitely in deep trouble and there are some hard times ahead. But remember:

- No matter what Barrak Hussein Obama does;
- No matter what Nancy Pelosi does;
- No matter what Barney Frank does;
- No matter what Osama Bin Laden does;
- No matter what happens to Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac;
- No matter what the Homosexuals do;
- No matter what Satan does; **GOD IS STILL ON HIS THRONE!**

### **OLD HYMN**

God is still on the throne,  
And he will remember his own;  
Though trials may press us  
And burdens distress us,  
He never will leave us alone;

God is still on the throne,  
And he will remember his own;  
His promise is true,  
He will not forget you,  
God is still on the throne.

The Bible says that God holds His people in His hand and they are under His personal care. No matter what happens to America or to the world, God will take care of His people.

### **WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON IN THE WORLD TODAY?**

There is so much confusion and so much unrest that even many of God's people are getting nervous.

#### **Heart Failure**

The Bible predicted this. Jesus said that in the last days things will get so "scarey" that people will have heart attacks just worrying about the world situation. **(Luke 21:25-26)**

25 "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;  
26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken."

## Good News

Jesus also said to His people, that when they see those things begin to happen, they were to "Look up!"

### (Luke 21:28)

"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

This morning, If you are saved and "living right" I want to put your mind at ease. I want you to stop worrying! I want you to see the "Big Picture." I want you to know what's really going on behind the scenes.

### GOD IS AT WORK DOING TWO THINGS

This morning, I want you to see the "Big Picture." At this very moment, God is busy getting ready to do two things: Are you ready for this?

1. God is getting ready to kill sinners, judge sinners, and send them to hell.
2. God is going to deliver every single one of his people, through all of these trials and tribulations and escort them safely to heaven.

### BIBLICAL BASIS FOR THIS POSITION

Now, if this is not based on God's Word, then don't believe it. If I can't back this up with Scripture, don't believe a word I am saying. But at least listen to me with an open mind and then make up

your mind.

1. I will say again: God is at work at this very moment getting ready to kill sinners, judge them, and send them to hell.
2. At this very moment, He is holding every one of His people in the palm of His hand. We are safe, secure, pardoned, forgiven, and every one of us will be delivered. You can take that to the bank!

### EXAMPLES OF HOW GOD JUDGED SINNERS AND PROTECTED HIS PEOPLE

#### 2 PETER 2:4-9

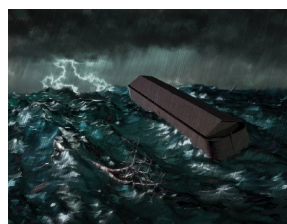
Now, listen carefully as I read this. I want you to notice there are two groups of people in each example Peter gives. There are the sinners whom God is judging and there are God's people whom God is delivering.

#### 1. The Angels That Sinned



4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

#### 2. Noah's Generation



5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood

upon the world of the ungodly;

### 3. Sodom and Gomorrah



6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly;



7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: 8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

### Two Classes of People

9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness (the immoral).

### WHAT'S GOING ON TODAY?

What's going on today? The world (and America) are "going to hell in a basket." Everywhere we turn we see sin and rebellion against God. And time is running out.

### (2 Peter 2:9)

"The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be

punished:"

(NLT) "So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while punishing the wicked right up until the day of judgment."

### TWO LINES OF PROMISES IN THE BIBLE

Some people don't realize that there are two lines of "promises" in the Bible. Usually we think of the promises of God being only to believers. There are promises to lost people as well.

### PROMISES TO LOST PEOPLE

#### 1. (Ezekiel 18:4)

"Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die."

#### 2. (Numbers 32:23)

". . . behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out . Be sure your sins will find you out."

#### 3. (Psalm 9:17)

"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God. "

#### 4. (Matthew 23:37)

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together , even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not."

### PROMISES TO GOD'S PEOPLE

#### 1. Israel delivered from Egypt

**(Exodus 19:4)**

“Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.”

**2. Supernatural Strength  
(Isa. 40:29-31)**

29 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: 31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

**3. Famine (Psalm 37:18-20)(LB)**

“Day by day God observes the good deeds done by godly men, and gives them eternal rewards. (19) He cares for them when times are hard; even in famine, they will have enough. But evil men shall perish. These enemies of God will wither and disappear like smoke.”

**3. Money & Debt  
(Psalm 37:21-22) (LB)**

“Evil men borrow and cannot pay it back. But the good man returns what he owes and some besides. Those blessed by God shall inherit the earth, but those cursed by Him shall die.”

**4. Troubles Not Terminal  
(Psalm 37:23-24)**

“The steps of a good man are directed by the Lord. He (God) delights in each step they take. (24) If they fall it is not fatal, for the Lord holds them with His hand.”

**5. Will Not Go Hungry  
(Psalm 37:25-26) (LB)**

“I have been young and now I am old. And in all my years I have never seen the Lord forsake a man who loves Him; nor have I seen the children of the godly go hungry.

(26) Instead, the godly are able to be generous with their gifts and loans to others and their children are a blessing.”

**6. Held in God’s Hand  
(John 10:27-30) (KJV)**

(27) My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: (28) And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. (29) My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. (30) I and my Father are one.

**7. (Matt. 28:20) (KJV)**

“ . . . and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

**8. (Hebrews 13:4-5)**

“ 4 Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whore-mongers and adulterers God will judge. 5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

**EXAMPLES OF HOW GOD WATCHED  
OVER HIS PEOPLE DURING  
HARD TIMES**

## **1. Israelites in Egypt**

The Israelites had been slaves in Egypt for more than 400 years. When the time came for God to deliver them from bondage, God sent a series of plagues upon the Egyptians. But during those times of judgment, the plagues did not fall upon God's people.

**The plague of darkness.** When God sent darkness on all of the Egyptians, the sun was still shining in the Land of Goshen.

**The Plague on the Cattle.** When God sent the plague that killed the Egyptian's cattle, the cattle of God's people were unharmed.

**The Passover.** When God sent the angel over the land of Egypt looking for blood on the doors of the homes, God killed the first-born children in every home where there was no blood.

No Israelis died because they had obeyed God and had brushed the blood of the Passover lambs on their doors.

### **Pastor's Favorite Verse**

My favorite verse concerning this was the fact that when the Israelites were moving out, God would not even let an Egyptian dog bark at them.

### **(Exodus 11:4-7)**

4 And Moses said, Thus saith the LORD, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt: 5 And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and

all the firstborn of beasts. 6 And there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it any more. 7 But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between **the Egyptians and Israel.**"

## **TWO THINGS TRIALS DO FOR GOD'S PEOPLE**

### **Israel in Egypt**

A good example of how God uses hard times to "toughen" His people is to read the story of the Israelites in Egypt. The children of Israel were slaves of the Egyptians for more than four hundred years. But people often overlook two important things God did in their lives through their troubles.

### **1. Trials made them Tough**

The 450 years of bondage in Egypt got God's people in shape. When the time came for the Israelites to leave Egypt, the Bible says there was not one weak or feeble person in the entire congregation. Even the old people were strong. There were no sissies or weaklings. They were all strong and tough enough to cross the desert and win battles against larger nations.

Trials do not harm God's people. Trials only burn the "crud" out of our lives and make us "tough." Trials build muscle. Trials build stamina. Trials toughen us up so we can "finish well."

That's why God's Word says: "Be not

weary in well-doing, for in due season, we will reap if we faint not." To faint means to "quit."

## 2. Trials made them Wealthy



The Jews labored as slaves in Egypt for more than four-hundred years and they received nothing for their labor.

When they left Egypt, however, they were extremely wealthy. God arranged for them to receive wages for all of those years, plus interest. Notice how God worked everything out according to His plan.

### (Exodus 12:35-36) (LB)

"And the people did as Moses said and asked the Egyptians for silver, gold, jewelry, and clothing. And the Lord gave the Israelis favor with the Egyptians, so they gave them whatever they wanted. And the Egyptians were practically stripped of everything they owned."

## ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF HOW GOD CAREFULLY TAKES CARE OF THE SMALLEST DETAILS

### Babylonian Captivity

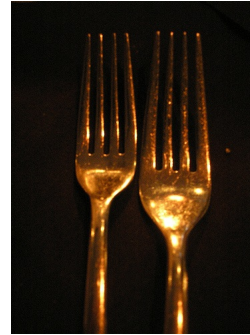
You recall how God chastised the Jewish people by sending them into captivity in Babylon (Iraq) for seventy years.

### Sacred Vessels Taken

When God sent the Babylonians to Israel to judge His people, they not only carried the people away as slaves, they

destroyed the temple of God and carried all of the sacred vessels to Babylon with them.

## Sacred Vessels Returned



Seventy years later, when God used Cyrus (Iran) to send the people back home, he sent with them, every cup, every bowl, every spoon that the Babylonians had carried away 70 years before. Those

sacred vessels, like those people, belonged to God and He had cared for them even during the years of their chastisement.

## CONCLUSION

There are only two kinds of people here today: Saved and lost.

God has promises to both of you. He has promised to punish one group and care for the other.

Which group are you in today? Are you being prepared for death, judgment, and hell? Or are you being held in God's hand and expect to be delivered safely home?

---

This message was preached by Pastor Gene Keith on Sunday Morning, February 22, 2009. You may contact Gene at (352) 332-1493. (352) 332-9731 or by Email: [gk122532@bellsouth.net](mailto:gk122532@bellsouth.net) Please visit our church website at [cbcgainesville.net](http://cbcgainesville.net)

---