

"God's Purpose For The Shaking"

We can see the current mental and moral state of our nation, the rise of skepticism and atheism (scoffers), the demise of true religion, increased lawlessness, increased persecution of the followers of Christ, a rise in sexual deviance and a nation that is consumed by materialism. This shaking of God's righteousness will begin to crumble those people who walk in rejection of God's Righteousness. **"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. Whatever a man sows, he will reap in return. The one who sows to please his flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; but the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life...."** (Galatians 6:7) This truth is emerging today in a new and fresh way, more than at any time in my memory, as men are beginning again to see God's hand in history, God at work among men. As a result of the shaking of the confidence in men who were elected to office, and the resulting distrust of the democratic process, there is gradually coming into this nation once again a consciousness that righteousness and truth are important, and an acknowledgment that no nation can really stand unless it is based upon a people who obey God and stand for His justice and righteousness.

"We Are Receiving A Kingdom That Cannot Be Shaken."



Fear Not,
For I Am With You."

God is at work in our nation. Out of the shaking is coming a realization of the things which remain and which cannot be shaken because they are based upon the fiat of God, the decrees of the Creator. We are beginning to realize that these externals are not important; it is what we are in our hearts before God which matters. **So the**

sovereignty of God and the centrality of the cross remain unshaken. The fact emerges again and again that human life is never realized until it comes to the end of itself. We are once again understanding that there is no hope in man. That is what the cross says: **"No hope in man."** God is doing His work. That is what is emerging more and more in the shaking of our time -- that there is no hope in man, and there is no power in self, that dedication and discipline are not enough to find answers to the problems we face, that merely knowing the principles of life by which to act is inadequate, that the proper actions cannot be carried out except by a reliance upon the power of God at work within us to motivate us and empower us to do it. We cannot merely take a list of things which ought to be done and determine to do them. More and more the message of the cross is coming through to us: **"There is no power in self."** the cross says, **"There is no fear in love,"** (1 John 4:18). The answer to fear is to understand the love of God for us, and His availability to us. That is why Paul can exult as he does in Romans 8: **"If God be for us, who can be against us?"** (Romans 8:31).

"For The Thing Which I Greatly Feared Is Come Upon Me, And That Which I Was Afraid Of Is Come Unto Me." (Job 3:25)

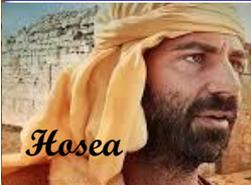


JOB

BELOVED, have you sensed the fear that is gripping our nation? Here are a few of those fears; What are the Russians going to do next? Is North Korea going to carry out their threat with nuclear bombs? What will happen with our economy? How am I going to pay for health

care? Who is going to win the election? What will happen if this one wins or that one wins? What about the growing threats of terrorist in our nation? These are just a few of the fears that are engrossing the hearts of many Americans today. But to tell you the truth this list is truly the least of our fears. The greatest fear our nation should have is a good healthy dose of the reverent fear of God. **"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."** (Proverbs 9:10) **"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."** (Proverbs 1:7) Our nation is looking for a president and leaders to solve our problems instead of God. Our nation is more fearful of what man is going to do rather than what He is doing. [Quotes About The Fear Of God:](#) **"Fear of man is the enemy of the fear of the Lord. The fear of man pushes us to perform for man's approval rather than according to God's directives."** Paul Chappell **"The remarkable thing about God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else."** Oswald Chambers **"It is only the fear of God that can deliver us from the fear of man."** - John Witherspoon

"The Rejection Of Him" Is God's Truth About True Fear



Hosea

"My People Are Destroyed For Lack Of Knowledge." (Hosea 4:6) What was it that Israel did not know, and why was that lack of knowledge so dangerous? The rest of verse 6 helps explain: **"Because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to Me. And**

since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children". It's important to note the structure of the verse: **"rejected knowledge"** is parallel to **"forgotten the law."** This fits the context of the opening verse of the chapter, which states that Israel failed to acknowledge the LORD as their God (Hosea 4:1). **The people did not simply lack knowledge; they actively rejected it.** Another parallel offers a deeper understanding of the passage. Because Israel had **"rejected"** knowledge (God's Law), God would **"reject"** them.

Judgement Follows Rejecting And Forgetting God's Word



As a result of God "rejecting" and "forgetting" Israel, they would be destroyed. Hosea's message is in line with Moses' warning to the nation that God would remove His blessing from a disobedient people (Deuteronomy 28).

Hosea 4:1-2 emphasize that Israel's lack of knowledge was not mere ignorance, but **active sin against God**: "There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land; there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed." The people were only ignorant of the Law because they actively ignored it. Fast forward Jesus now reveals the hearts of the people as He walks among them. "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them." —Matthew 13:15

There Is No Such Thing As "Blind" Faith

Its one thing to know your Bible, but its an other thing to KNOW the God of the Bible. In the Bible, faith and knowledge are never in contradiction. Knowledge always comes before faith, and where there is no knowledge there can be no faith. **Without knowledge, it is impossible to have faith.** There is no such thing as "Blind" faith. Genuine faith is built on facts presented to the mind, "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. **But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in His Name.**" (John 20:30, 31). Perhaps no other component of the Christian life is more important than faith. We cannot purchase it, sell it or give it to our friends. So what is faith and what role does faith play in the Christian life? The dictionary defines faith as "belief in, devotion to, or trust in somebody or something, especially without logical proof." It also defines faith as "belief in and devotion to God." The Bible has much more to say about faith and how important it is. In fact, it is so important that, without faith, we have no place with God, and it is impossible to please Him (Hebrews 11:6). **According to the Bible, faith is belief in the one, true God without actually seeing Him.**

Where Does Faith Come From?

Faith is not something we conjure up on our own, nor is it something we are born with, nor is faith a result of diligence in study or pursuit of the spiritual. Ephesians 2:8-9 makes it clear that **faith is a gift from God**, not because we deserve it, have earned it, or are worthy to have it. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast."

It is not from ourselves; it is from God. It is not obtained by our power or our free will. Faith is simply given to us by God, along with His grace and mercy, according to His holy plan and purpose, and because of that, He gets all the glory.

Why Have Faith?

God designed a way to distinguish between those who belong to Him and those who don't, and it is called "Faith". Very simply, we need faith to please God. God tells us that it pleases Him that we believe in Him even though we cannot see Him. A key part of Hebrews 11:6 tells us that "He rewards those who earnestly seek Him." This is not to say that we have faith in God just to get something from Him. However, God loves to bless those who are obedient and faithful.

A Women Of Faith



We see a perfect example of this in Luke 7:50. Jesus is engaged in dialog with a sinful woman when He gives us a glimpse of why faith is so rewarding. "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." The woman believed in

Jesus Christ by faith, and He rewarded her for it. Finally, faith is what sustains us to the end, knowing that by faith we will be in heaven with God for all eternity. "Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls." (1 Peter 1:8-9). Faith is the assurance that God's promises will never fail, even if sometimes we do not experience their fulfillment in our mortal existence. Hebrews 11 underscores the fact that we trust God to fulfill His promises for the future (the unseen) based on what He has already fulfilled in the past. **Thus, our faith is not blind, but based squarely on God's proven faithfulness.**

Everything That Can Be Shaken Will Be Shaken



Thousands of years ago, through the Hebrew Prophet Haggai, God told us what He was going to do — that He was going to shake us. "For thus says the Lord of hosts, 'Once more in a little while, I Am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea

also and the dry land. I will shake all the nations.... I Am going to shake the heavens and the earth. I will overthrow the thrones of kingdoms and destroy the power of the kingdoms of the nations.'" (Haggai 2:6-7, 21-22) That's what Bible prophecy is – an intercept from the mind of the all-knowing, all-seeing God of the universe....a weather report from the future....a storm warning from the future — not so that we will be afraid, but so that we will be awake and ready and faithful and walking close to Jesus when the storms come.