

WHEN KINGDOMS CRUMBLE WHERE IS YOUR HOPE?

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The nations are in chaos, and their kingdoms crumble! God's voice thunders, and the earth melts! The Lord of Heaven's Armies is here among us; the God of Israel is our fortress.
(Psalms 46:6-7, NLT)

Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again, my Saviour and my God! Now I am deeply discouraged, but I will remember you even from distant Mount Hermon, the source of the Jordan, from the land of Mount Mizar. I hear the tumult of the raging seas as your waves and surging tides sweep over me. But each day the Lord pours his unfailing love upon me, and through each night I sing his songs, praying to God who gives me life.
(Psalms 42:5-8, NLT)

Don't be afraid!" Elisha told him. "For there are more on our side than on theirs!" Then Elisha prayed, "O Lord, open his eyes and let him see!" The Lord opened the young man's eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.
(2 Kings 6:16-17, NLT)

For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.
(2 Timothy 1:7, NLT)

The presence of chaos and confusion around us and disappointments and difficulties in our own lives should not surprise us. (Psalm 23:4, Matthew 24:6-14, Matthew 5:45) Jesus Himself predicted this.

Our Response

We need to develop good spiritual 'eyesight' and focus on maturing as a Christian (Mark 8:23-26). It is dangerous to be a partially sighted Christian.

Practical Points to Help Us

Know and focus on God's long term plan and strategy 'walking the land' (Genesis 13:15-17) - always our relationship with Him.

Know our enemy, especially the devil's 'mind games'. He will always try and get us to focus on our pasts and/or fear the future.

'Know who we are, not who we were'. Dr Martin Lloyd Jones (Jeremiah 31:34, Romans 8:15, Isaiah 46:4)

Talk Bible truth to ourselves (Psalm 42:5-8). It is very dangerous to focus on our feelings and our circumstances. The one person we should never listen to is ourselves! Or at least let God in on the conversation.

Jesus is coming again, in triumph, power and glory surrounded by myriads of angels (Matthew 24:30-31, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). Eternity is the big 'long term plan'. Will you and I be ready?

Whatever is happening around us and to us there is always a '... but God'. (Genesis 50:20).

You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.
(Genesis 50:20, NLT)

In conclusion

In times of chaos and confusion, God is still in total control. He is and remains our refuge and strength. As Christians we still need to take steps to realise the practical truth of this in our everyday life so we are prepared for the 'when I walk through the valley of shadow and death'. This involves putting in the time and discipline to become spiritually mature in the essential context of our local church and the indwelling Holy Spirit.