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**DO NOT FEAR THE STORM**

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This month we take our Scripture text from **Acts chapter 27**. In **verse 20** we read: *“And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest (or small storm) lay on us, all hope (faith or confidence) that we should be saved (delivered or protected) was then taken away.”*

Regrettably, America is about to enter a time filled with uncertainty, instability, and great perplexity. I do not say this in a spirit of hyperbole but rather with conviction and godly reverence. [Note: I have a DVD teaching series on the entirety of Acts 27, clearly demonstrating how the nominal church is woefully prepared for what’s coming.]

Highlighting a few points here concerning this chapter, the Bible clearly states the apostle Paul entered the ship as a prisoner. The apostle Paul gave a stern warning to the centurion, the master, and the owner of the ship before they ever set sail. Paul prophesied the voyage would be filled with hurt (injury) and severe damage, not only to the lading (cargo), but also to the ship and even every one’s life.

I find it amazing how, when men of God decree warnings through the Holy Spirit, most listeners refuse to take heed concerning God’s grace and foreknowledge or prognosis concerning the impending danger.

Many pulpитеers continue to decree this is a decade of destiny, filled with glory, and your best life now. If this is remotely our best life, then we are truly of all men most miserable. The apostle Paul said, *“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.”* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:19).

Simply put, Paul is declaring our lives in this present world to be full of misery.

We find profound words of a godly man who truly feared God in **Job 14:1-2**, *“Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.”* I’ll take the words of Job over the carnal, corrupt, and money hungry pulpитеers any day.

Needless to say, I was profusely disappointed with the outcome of our presidential election. However, I cannot waste time over the past and what God has allowed.

The truth is, we are deserving of the leadership we now have. The sad truth is many so-called Christians voted for the Biden-Harris ticket. These purported Christians cast their lot with Cain, Korah, and Balaam: therefore, without godly repentance, they will suffer the same fate as these three men. One cannot embrace the murder and shedding of innocent blood – called abortion – same-sex marriage, transgenderism, or gay sodomite ministers.

I know some will say my words are harsh; but they are only harsh toward sin and those so-called Christians who embrace that sin, like the pastor who is now a duly elected U.S. Senator from the state of Georgia.

Of course, many so-called Christians only desire a smooth, sin-coddling message; one without even mentioning sin, and certainly a message without any Holy Ghost conviction!

My walk with God will not allow, neither suffers me to preach, such a

cowardly, compromising message. It is clear, within God’s Word, there is a Heaven to gain and a Hell to shun. The way into the Kingdom of God is certainly straight and narrow and few there are who find it; not my words but Christ’s (**Matthew 7:13-14**).

Because of growing wickedness in America and the nominal church, we are about to enter a very similar hour to that which Paul described when neither sun nor stars appeared for many days. Similar texts are found in the book of Revelation. If you have eyes to see and ears to hear, this is truly an overview of the Great Tribulation. When the sun and stars fail to appear certainly describes an hour of darkness coming upon the earth.

Darkness was one of the plagues Elohim used prior to the Exodus from Egypt. *“And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt. And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days: They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days (they were afraid to move): but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings”* (**Exodus 10:21-23**). Elohim was that light in the lives of all Israel.

My reason for mentioning this passage is because dark days will soon consume this nation. Because there was neither sun nor stars for many days and the storm was not small, all hope that they should be saved on the vessel was taken away.

This storm in Acts chapter 27 is called *Euroclydon*: a storm of profound intensity coming from the southeastern parts of the sea. Paul described this storm as *typhonikos*, that is, typhonic; but translated as “tempestuous”, and suggesting a whirlwind or typhoon.

This is the kind of storm America will soon witness in the coming days. This storm will blow severely because of godless disobedience.

Paul spoke sternly to those aboard the vessel but they did not hearken to his words. Today, many refuse to listen and heed godly warnings. Therefore, those who do not take the admonishments seriously will also suffer great loss because of this ferocious storm. The coming days will get so dark and listless that any hope some should be saved from it will be taken away. But the good news is this: if we remain anchored in Christ Jesus, all hope is not lost.

Just as the apostle Paul decreed these words, likewise so do I, *“And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man’s life among you, but of the ship. For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me”* (Acts 27:22-25).

We are told to be of good cheer in the coming days because God is sailing alongside every blood-bought, born-again child of God. The lading, tackling, and entire ship were lost in the turbulent, churning, briny sea.

This is where angels will play a significant role in the lives of every believer in the time of the end. An angel came and stood by Paul in the dark, stormy hour declaring: *“Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath*

*given thee all them that sail with thee”* (Acts 27:24). Remember Paul went on the ship as a prisoner but in the end God made him Captain of the vessel, its crew, and passengers.

You may think at this present time you are the tail, at the back of the bus, but Jehovah says you will soon become the head. This is why it is so imperative every child of God remain steadfast and unmovable in this hour. You must never put your faith in men nor become enamored or fixated with prophecies, but rather your faith must be anchored in the Word of our Almighty God. Jesus declared, *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away”* (Matthew 24:35).

I want to remind each of us: any utterance given by mortal men will one day pass away in its entirety: but God’s Word will never perish, diminish, or pass away. I encourage you to be very careful that your faith remains attached to the Word of God and what Christ did while on the cross.

The cross is the fullness of the Gospel of Christ. Before the cross, men could not go to Heaven but only into paradise or Abraham’s bosom. Before the cross, no man received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Before the cross, no man could ever be resurrected at the second coming of Christ.

I want you to understand everything is based upon the cross and what Christ accomplished on the hill at Calvary.

As great as the baptism in the Holy Ghost is, Jesus says the Holy Ghost will testify of Him and His Lordship. In other words Christ and His efficacious work on the cross is everything to the believer.

I want to encourage you not to lose hope when dark days and times of isolation fall upon America. Please do not allow the devil to provoke you into doing something God’s Word forbids. Satan provoked David, *“And Satan stood up against*

*Israel, and provoked David to number Israel”* (1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 21:1). Because of that provocation, seventy thousand men lost their lives.

Don’t allow men or civil unrest to cause you to lose your soul in the coming days. Jesus said, *“In your patience* (or in your waiting) *possess ye your souls”* (Luke 21:19). We must remain steadfast in the coming days and not tire in our pilgrimage.

I want to encourage and assure you we are praying for you daily. We take the call of God, and the ministry in which He has placed us, very seriously. That is why we never ask for offerings or tithes. Either Jehovah can supply our needs or He cannot. We choose to believe He can supply every need according to His riches in glory through Christ Jesus!

Please keep praying for our nation and that Jehovah will mitigate the civil unrest and potential bloodshed in our streets.

Do mail or e-mail us your prayer request so we might lift you up before the King of glory.

We can now be found on *Rumble.com* and we are also checking into getting our own Internet servers in the event social media providers try to take down *The Voice of Evangelism*.

Last year I taught a series entitled, *The Coming Persecution*. The day of persecution is nigh each of us. I’m asking the Lord to help me bring you a timely word each week which represents *apples of gold in pitchers of silver*.

Please pray for revival meetings in 2021.

Thank you for your support and may the Lord God of Abraham forever order your steps in His most Holy Word.

Serving With You All,



Pastor / Evangelist David W. Lankford