

"I will not fail you or forsake you"

"No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. [JOSHUA 1:5] [NAS]

Who do you depend on when troubles come into your life?

I hope the one-word answer is "God."

Sometimes we think and even know that Jesus is the only way out, our last resort. So many people only call upon God and recognize Him for what and who He is when they are in trouble. When things are going good they fall away from God. They do not honor, respect or give Him credit for anything that is happening in their life. I find that so many people will come to me and probably to you to request prayer. They either want something that they think they should have or maybe they have a health condition or something is wrong with a loved one. You know that they have not been honoring God or living a so-called Christian Life. Not that I'm judging them, but the Bible says we will know them by their fruits.

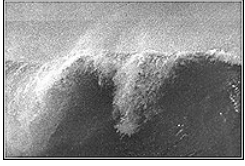


Of course you pray for these requests and people, but at the same time we should pray for their salvation and for their continued growth in Christ. He is not an as-needed God, He desires a full-time relationship. We are to serve Him in our good times and the bad times, our mountains as well as our valleys. When we are in the valley there is only one way to go, up. Up, to Jesus Christ. As in the parable of the Ten Virgins [Matthew 25:1-13] we are to be always ready, be prepared, if not what did Jesus say? *"But he answered, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.'* [MATTHEW 25:12] [NAS] Don't be left out. Live the holiness, the way God wants us to live, for Him and only Him.

~God never leaves us~

God never leaves us. We may leave Him, but He never leaves us, *"The LORD is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."* [DEUTERONOMY 31:8] [NAS]. He is always there, the same yesterday, today and forever [Hebrews 13:8].

If any day we need assurance from our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, it is today. It



seems and the statistics bear it out that natural disasters are increasing. In the past year or so we have had the tragic tsunamis in Southeast Asia, killing hundreds of thousands of people. After seeing the pictures on TV

can you imagine the deluge of rain and water when God with the flood wiped out the face of the earth except for the righteous Noah and his family? It's recorded in Genesis, *In the six*



hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened. The rain fell upon the earth for

forty days and forty nights. [GENESIS 7:11-12] [NAS] Imagine again, how the tsunamis took only a few minutes to destroy whole coastal areas and kill hundreds of thousands of people. Think of the great flood in Genesis; water burst open and the floodgates of the sky were opened and the rain fell for forty days and forty nights. The Southeast Asia tsunamis gave us only a glimpse of what a natural disaster can do and or God can do or allows.

God set in motion at creation the laws of nature. It was a law of order that God created. There were no disasters in the original creation; natural disasters are the natural consequences of sin. Thank God we are now waiting that glorious day that we will be taken out of our bondage in this sinful world. As Paul records in Romans; *21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.*

22 or we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. [ROMANS 8:21-22]

When natural disasters happen in your life, who are you going to call upon? The one and only answer is Jesus Christ.

~God's Protective Hand~

Not only do we have the natural disasters, but we have the threat of terrorist here in the



United States as well as around the world. Since September 11, 2001, (911) it seems we have had one disaster after another, especially here in the United States. With the bombing of the Twin Towers in New York we are all the

more aware of devastating disasters since the bombing hit so close to home.



Is God lifting His protecting hand from the United States? In the past, we have been seemingly immune to these large devastating disasters. But look at the last couple of years. Florida has gone through maybe nine hurricanes, New Orleans has been completely swiped out by hurricanes Katrina and Rita as well as most of the gulf coast area. What is causing these devastating events?



Alabama State Senator Hank Erwin says and I quote, “that the catastrophic storms that have recently hit the United States are part of a pattern evident since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. It is a pattern which shows that God has removed the umbrella of protection over America due to an increase in abortion, pornography, and prostitution. Senator Erwin continues: New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast have always been known for gambling, sin and wickedness. It is the kind of behavior that ultimately brings the judgment of God. America has been moving away from God. We all need to embrace godliness and churchgoing and good, godly living, and we can get divine protection from that point.”

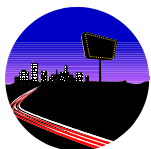
This is Senator Hank Erwin’s assessment of the disasters that are hitting the United States and he may be right.

~God of Love and Judgment~



God is a God of Love, but He’s also a God of judgment. God says in Exodus; “*who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished,.....*” [EXODUS 34:7] [NAS]

I visited Las Vegas several years ago for a convention. We flew into Las Vegas at night and the lights lit up the skies for miles, it was beautiful. But the city itself I called “sin city” and I couldn’t wait to get out of there. Gambling was everywhere. When you got off the airplane the gambling machines started in the airport. You didn’t have to go on into the city. You couldn’t walk to registration in your hotel or to a seminar meeting room without passing hundreds of gambling devices. When you turned on



the TV in your room, it automatically went to X-rated shows or they pointed you to the X-rated movies and shows and there were so many channels. It was hard to get a good clean show or movie. To be there was a temptation, just being there. But I didn't put the first quarter into any of those slot machines.

I had about the same experience in New Orleans when I was there several years ago for a school or convention, I don't remember which. The hotel was nice and a few blocks



from the famous Bourbon Street. We walked to the Bourbon Street spread several nights. The restaurants had some good tasty eating. But while walking the streets I have never seen so much drinking, in and outside the buildings.

Drunks were numerous in the city at night. The voodoo stores were on about every corner with their chicken parts and other voodoo paraphernalia that would possibly allow you to put a spell or curse on someone. Personally I don't believe this type of voodoo spiritual ritual. I visited a couple of the voodoo shops to see what they had, but I didn't stay long. This was a few weeks before the yearly Mardi gras. Even though the actual Mardi gras is probably for a



week, the festivals start weeks before the actual Mardi gras week. Therefore, the reason for some of the excessive drinking, partying, drunks and confusion. You have probably been there or have seen the pictures on TV.

~Joshua~

I would now like to take you in your Bibles to Joshua, chapter one. As you know Joshua was the successor to Moses. He had studied under him for 40 years and was one of two people that had wandered in the wilderness for the 40 years and was blessed enough by God to see the Promised Land. That tells you a little about his character and his service to God. God brought Joshua up for a time like this. It was in God's master plan.

Joshua is a good example of what can be accomplished and done when we obey and honor God in all and everything we do. I think it was Paul who said in Corinthians, "what ever you do, do for the glory of God." It appears to me that Joshua lived up to this verse.

Now turn to Joshua, chapter one, we will be reading verses 1 through 9. These verses are very simple elementary ways to live your life. Follow along in your Bibles or listen

carefully to the verses from God and see how you may apply this group of scriptures to your daily life.

~God's Charge to Joshua~

1 *Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' servant, saying,*

2 *"Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel.*

3 *"Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses.*

4 *"From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory.*

5 *"No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you.*

6 *"Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.*

7 *"Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go.*

8 *"This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.*

9 *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."*

Moses is dead, God told Joshua twice, once in verse 1 and then in verse 2, Moses is dead. Apparently he was trying to get Joshua's attention. Someone has to take charge and Joshua, it is you.

Joshua was a man of God. All that I read in the Old Testament as well as New Testament pointed to him as a very righteous man. After all he was the understudy or right-hand-man as we may say of the Prophet Moses. Moses was another man of God, so Joshua had a great teacher. Moses was so respected and revered by God that we refer to the first five books of the Bible as the “law of Moses.” The “law of Moses” is also quoted several times in the New Testament and of course it is quoted many times in the Old Testament. Knowing and doing the “law of Moses” was enough to get you to Heaven even in the Old Testament. You see, Grace is all through the Old Testament and in the “law of Moses.” It all started in the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible. The Torah, the law of Moses. Everything is built upon these five books of the Bible. Remember in Joshua’s time, these were the only scriptures they had.

Joshua was renamed by Moses, from Hoshea to Joshua. [Numbers 13:16] Just as a



matter of information, the name Hoshea means “salvation,” and the name Joshua means “The Lord Saves.” What’s in a name? “Jesus” is the Greek form of Hebrew for “Joshua.” Joshua was in addition to being a man of God, was also a very able military commander. Where Moses was a spiritual leader,

Joshua was a spiritual as well as a military leader.

Joshua is first mentioned in Exodus 17:8-13. You remember the story; Moses told Joshua to choose men and go out and fight Amalek. And as long as Moses held up his hands Joshua was winning the battle and if his hands dropped then Amalek was winning. Moses hands were very heavy so Aaron and Hur supported his hands so the battle would be won by Joshua and he was successful.

As Moses couldn’t keep his hands up, we cannot live the Christian life on our own energy or determination. It is more than just keeping the principles and precepts of God. It’s also having that personal faithful relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, as well as the power of the Holy Spirit in our life.

~The Israelities~



The Israelites came out of Egypt by only one way, by faith in God's grace. Now they were to cross the Jordan River at the time of seasonally high waters the same way, by faith in God's grace.

Thirty-nine years earlier, the Israelites had an opportunity to enter the Promised Land, but they failed to trust God to give them victory. As a result, God did not allow them to enter the land, but made them wander in the desert until the disobedient generation had all died off, except for two devoted servants.

~Joshua's Qualifications~

Joshua succeeded Moses as Israel's leader. You may ask what qualifications Joshua had to become the leader of a nation. First and foremost is Number One.

(1) He was appointed by God. (Numbers 27:18-23).

(2) He was one of only two living eyewitnesses to the Egyptian plagues and the exodus from Egypt. (Joshua 14:6-8)

(3) He was assistance to Moses' for 40 years. (Exodus 17:9)

(4) He was one of the 12 spies; but only he and Caleb said that the enemy was theirs with the help of God. The other ten did not trust God for victory over the enemy.

(Numbers 14:6-7)

~God and Joshua~

Joshua was simply the field general taking orders from his Commander-in-chief, God. (Joshua 5:14) It was a holy war of extermination of wicked God-rejecting people.

When God commissioned Joshua, he was told three times to be strong and courageous (see 1:6, 7, 9). Joshua was given the same kind of encouragement from the people.

Apparently, he took God's message to heart, and found the strength and courage he needed through his relationship with God to lead the Nation of Israel at a very critical time in their history. The next time you are afraid to do what you know is right; remember that strength and courage are readily available from God. Joshua trusted and relied on God in all his situations. I'll note some of them below.

What are some of the highlights of the Book of Joshua?

~**Crossing the Jordan River**~ – We hear a lot about Moses and the crossing of the



Red Sea, but the crossing of the Jordan River was just as miraculous. Joshua and the people of Israel crossed the Jordan River in the flood stage time of the year. It was completely flooded. But, upon the instructions of God, when the priests,

which were carrying the Ark of the Covenant dipped their feet in the edge of the water of the Jordan the Bible tells us that the waters “stood and rose up in one heap.” [Joshua 3:16]

Numerous theologians try to explain this miracle from God. Saying the water was damned up by some mud-slide upstream and that may be the case. But, all I know is what the Bible says,



the waters stood and rose up in one heap when the priest with the Ark of the Covenant dipped their feet in the water it dried up and when they reached the other side and the priests set their feet on dry land the Jordan waters returned to

flood stage levels. [Joshua 4:18] How God did it is up to Him and I personally don't need any proof to believe it, because the Bible said it. [Read Joshua Chapters 3 and 4 for full story]

~**The conquest of Jericho**~ *The LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the valiant warriors.* [JOSHUA 6:2] [NAS] How do you win a war? Most would think that would be by strength and might, fighting the enemy with a stronger army. But Joshua followed God's instructions. It certainly wouldn't make any sense to a great military leader as Joshua. But Joshua did as God told him to do. Get this, God told



Joshua to march around the city one time each day for six days. And on the seventh day he should march around the city seven times and then the priests should blow the trumpets. Then all the people should shout with a great shout and guess what happened when they followed God's instructions? The wall of the city of Jericho fell

down flat and the people went up into the city and they took the city, the Bible tells us.

[Joshua 6:20] [Read the story in Joshua Chapter 6]

Sometimes what the Lord tells us may not make any sense to us or anyone else, but we are to keep our hearing open for that quiet still voice of God. Then do as He commands.

~Conquest of Ai~

"You shall do to Ai and its king just as you did to Jericho and its king; you shall take only its spoil and its cattle as plunder for yourselves. Set an ambush for the city behind it."
[JOSHUA 8:2] [NAS]

The Lord told Joshua that he would destroy Ai as he destroyed Jericho. It would be a total victory for Joshua and the Lord. To have the victory at Ai, Joshua followed the Lord's directions again on how to take the city.

As I was reading Joshua, I thought about how much death and how much blood is in



the book of Joshua. Joshua destroyed all the inhabitants of cities that he entered. In chapter 8, verse 22; it says *"they slew them until no one was left.* In verse 25 it says *"all that fell that day 12,000, all the people of Ai.* And then in verse 26; *For Joshua did not withdraw his hand with which he stretched out the javelin until he had utterly destroyed all the inhabitants of Ai.* [JOSHUA 8:26] [NAS] But, you know this is the way it will be in the judgment. God will destroy all the wicked. Yes, He is a God of Love but there is coming a day of judgment. Let's look in Matthew chapter 13, verses 48-49; *"So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous,* [MATTHEW 13:49] [NAS] *and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.* [MATTHEW 13:50] [NAS] I believe Joshua was a type of judgment for the wickedness in the new Promised Land, the land of Canaan, just as Jesus will be judging us when He returns that glorious day. We just need to be ready.

[See Joshua chapter 7 and 8 for the full story of the Conquest at Ai. Use map on back to help you see the area in Joshua's time]

~The Sun Stood Still~

So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, Until the nation avenged themselves of their enemies. Is it not written in the book of Jashar? And the sun stopped in the middle of the sky and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. [JOSHUA 10:13] [NAS]

Can you image that, “to ask the Lord to stop the sun and moon.”? And He does it. But of course, the Lord said in Joshua 10:8; *The LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I*



have given them into your hands; not one of them shall stand before you." [JOSHUA 10:8] [NAS] Joshua was promised a victory at Gibeon. I guess how the Lord would do it was immaterial. I just know His promises and Words are truths. This is an example of things that can be done when you are God’s chosen and you are in the perfect will of God as Joshua was.

We need to think about that! Are we in the perfect will of God? Joshua never failed or had never forsaken God, just as God never failed or forsaken him.

[See Joshua chapter 10:12-15 for additional information on the Sun standing still]

~Joshua's Death and Burial~

It came about after these things that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being one hundred and ten years old. [JOSHUA 24:29] [NAS]

Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders who survived Joshua, and had known all the deeds of the LORD which He had done for Israel. [JOSHUA 24:31] [NAS]

The message today is of course from Joshua, and that is, “God will not fail or forsake you,” “He is always there for you.” No matter how tough you may think life is, you just need to reach out for Jesus. And then you are to be strong and courageous as Joshua was. Do the right thing. Put your trust in Jesus Christ.

I would like to leave you with a poem I came across a couple of weeks ago. As we know God is the great master planner and He has a plan for each one of us.



I have gotten information for this article from a number of different sources; internet, Bibles, dictionaries, and study materials from several different authors, etc. I do not take credit for these writings since there are many sources. In many cases, I did not keep up with this information in order to give proper credit. My comments and rewriting of the sources are in this article. I therefore cannot take full credit for this study. The full credit would have to go to Jesus Christ, the creator of all things. This is my own opinions based on my understanding of Scripture as the Word of God.

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In Everything Give Thanks



Things don't just happen to children of God:
They're part of a wonderful plan.
The troubles, reverses, the sorrows, the rod
Are strokes of the Great Sculptor's hand?
When some dread accident strikes you a blow
And you worry and fret and demand,
Why try so hard the mystery to know?
It's not just an accident; it's planned.
Have you been dropped from a place of power?
Do you wonder and reprimand?
Don't rebel, but look to Him in that hour.
Persecution, tribulation comes down like a storm;
Friends disappoint and withstand;
At last all alone, bewildered, forlorn,
You look, and He says, "This is planned."



Author Unknown

Seven Nations of Ancient Canaan in Joshua's time

