

Partners In Courage, September 2015

You Will Not Be Shaken

By Wes Daughenbaugh

INTRODUCTION: On August 22, 2015 I was on an airplane on my way to Jackson, North Carolina when God impressed these words upon my spirit, “*You will not be shaken.*” This came as news to me and I knew it wasn’t a thought that originated with me. I’ve been checking the news regularly to see how bad things might be on any particular day. This statement came to me as a personal promise from God, as if God was saying, “Whatever the news is, you are not going to be shaken.” When I got to a place where I could use my computer I did a search on the word “shaken.” I found wonderful promises that have so encouraged and comforted me.

While I believe that what was impressed upon my spirit was a personal promise from God, I believe that God would say the very same thing to every sincere believer who is doing their best to love and serve God. What will shake the wicked and shake lukewarm Christians WILL NOT shake those who are truly devoted to Christ.

1. DEFILING THE HOLY THINGS OF GOD IS A FLASHPOINT OF DIVINE JUDGMENT.

The book of Daniel, Chapter 5, tells the story of King Belshazzar, the last king of Babylon. He gave a huge banquet for his nobles, wives and concubines—1,000 people in all. He gave an order to bring in the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken from the temple of God in Jerusalem, many years earlier. As they drank wine from these holy vessels they praised their idols, gods of metal, stone and wood.

This defilement of holy things brought an immediate response from God. A large hand appeared and wrote words on the wall. The king watched this in amazement. It was so scary that his knees were knocking together. In other words, he was badly shaken. He summoned every occult practitioner he relied on—enchanters, astrologers and diviners. He promised them great rewards if they could interpret the writing, but none of them could.

At this, the King was even more shaken. His face grew more pale and all of his guests were alarmed—shaken with him. That’s when the queen mother came in. **“There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in him. Call for Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means”** (Daniel 5:11,12).

When Daniel was brought in the King promised that he would be made the third highest ruler in the Kingdom—and that he’d be clothed in royal garments and have a gold chain placed around his neck—if he could interpret the writing.

Daniel was not shaken. He calmly said, “You may keep your gifts for yourself and give your rewards to someone else. Nevertheless, I will read the writing for the king and tell him what it means.”

Daniel reminded the king that his father, King Nebuchadnezzar had been humbled by God, driven insane, and had spent seven years living like an animal in the field. Then when he came to his senses, he humbled himself and **“acknowledged that the Most High God is sovereign over all the kingdoms on earth and sets over them anyone he wishes”** (Daniel 5:21). Then Daniel said, “But you, Belshazzar, his son, have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this. Instead, you have set yourself up against the Lord of heaven. You did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways. Therefore he sent the hand that wrote the inscription.

Mene: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end.

Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.

Parsin: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians” (Daniel 5:25-28).

That night king Belshazzar was killed and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom (v31).

**** Notice: First came the defilement of the holy things. Then came the great SHAKING where the ungodly were stricken with fear, grew pale, and literally shook. Then came the destruction of the nation and the loss of the empire.

2. THE GOVERNMENT OF AMERICA HAS DEFILED GOD’S HOLY THINGS.

1. Our Supreme Court redefined marriage. Marriage was a covenant between God and a man and a woman. Now it’s defined as a covenant between the government and two people—a woman and a woman, a man and a man, or a man and a woman. But God is not a part of the covenant. The US Government has taken God’s place.

Marriage was invented by God and represents the union between Christ and his church. What the Supreme Court has done is a defilement of something holy.

2. Our Congress and Senate have failed to defund Planned Parenthood so that our tax dollars are helping to fund not only abortion, but also the merchandizing of body parts of these murdered innocents. As of this writing, another attempt to defund this wicked organization is in the works. However, it will face a Presidential veto. It appears that the only way to achieve this would be to shut down the government by refusing to fund current spending until the President agrees to defund Planed Parenthood.

So as of now, our congress is guilty of defiling holy things—because Jesus said, “Such are the kingdom of God” when referring to little children. He said, **“Their angels always behold the face of my Father,”** (Matthew 18:10). How serious, it is then, to **FUND** both the murder and the merchandizing of their body parts?

3. Our President has negotiated with Iran, the largest State sponsor of terror. The agreement releases \$150 billion dollars to them and paves the way for them to develop both intercontinental ballistic missiles but also an arsenal of nuclear bombs. With 150 billion, they can buy the terrorists in Lebanon enough conventional rockets to overwhelm Israel’s “Iron Dome” missile shield. All through and after this negotiation, the highest leaders of Iran have continued to say that the destruction of Israel is their highest goal. Israel is “the apple of God’s eye.” Israel is God’s holy witness nation to the world.

**** You see that each branch of our Federal Government has done SOMETHING WORSE than drink wine from temple goblets while praising idols. If the King of Babylon provoked God’s anger, **HOW MUCH MORE** has our Federal Government provoked God’s anger.

3. ALARMING NEWS IS COMING.

It was alarming to the Babylonian king to hear that the days of his reign had been numbered and brought to an end. It was alarming to hear that God had weighed him in the balances and found him lacking. It was alarming that the interpretation given by Daniel said that his kingdom was now divided and given to his enemies. The alarming news—the handwriting on the wall—came right after the blasphemous act of defiling the holy temple vessels.

Today, Sept. 10, 2015 the Iran deal is virtually finalized. The fight to defund Planned Parenthood is not quite over. It would be nice if even one branch of our government could avoid provoking God. Right now it looks like those who oppose funding would have to defund the entire government first—something I don’t think they are willing to do.

So just how soon will ALARMING NEWS be coming to America? September 13 is the last day of the Shemitah year. That is a Sunday. If God continues using that day as a sign of judgment to our nation, then the stock market would crash on Friday, Sept. 11 or Monday, Sept. 14, or on both of these dates. God’s not locked into doing the same thing, however, but it bears watching. Also, Sept. 28 is the last of four blood moons, a Tetrad that included a solar eclipse.

**** Because of the deflation that is ravaging China and aging populations in developed countries, the entire world is heading into a spiral of DEFLATION. The banking system fights

INFLATION by raising interest rates. They fight deflation by lowering rates. However, rates are already at zero. This means the world banks are out of bullets when it comes to heading off a deflationary spiral towards worldwide financial depression.

Obadiah 1:15 The day is near when I, the LORD, will judge all godless nations. As you have done to Israel, so it will be done to you.

As America has strengthened the enemies of Israel to destroy them, God will strengthen the enemies of America to destroy it!

Ezekiel 21:7 “When they ask why are you groaning, tell them, ‘I groan because of the terrifying news I have heard. When it comes true, the boldest heart will melt with fear; all strength will disappear. Every spirit will faint; strong knees will become as weak as water. And the Sovereign LORD says: It is coming! It’s on its way!’”

4. TO BE SHAKEN IS A SERIOUS THING. IT IS A CURSE.

****** *God’s shaking will separate the pretenders from the righteous.* Amos 9:8-10 “Surely the eyes of the Sovereign LORD are on the sinful kingdom. I will destroy it from the face of the earth. Yet I will not totally destroy the descendants of Jacob,” declares the LORD. “For I will give the command, and I will shake the people of Israel among all the nations as grain is shaken in a sieve, and not a pebble will reach the ground. All the sinners among my people will die by the sword, all those who say, ‘Disaster will not overtake or meet us.’”**

The terrifying news stories that are coming to America will shake everyone who is only pretending to serve God. The wicked and all pretenders are going to BE SHAKEN.

****** Nehemiah 5:13 I also shook out the folds of my robe and said, “In this way may God shake out of their house and possessions anyone who does not keep this promise. So may such a person be shaken out and emptied!” PEOPLE WHO ARE SHAKEN SUFFER LOSS.**

Job 34:18-20 Is he not the One who says to kings, ‘You are worthless,’ and to nobles, ‘You are wicked,’ who shows no partiality to princes and does not favor the rich over the poor, for they are all the work of his hands? They die in an instant, in the middle of the night; the people are shaken and they pass away; the mighty are removed without human hand.

IF YOU ARE SHAKEN, IT MEANS GOD ISN’T WITH YOU. THOSE WHO ARE SHAKEN ARE SHAKEN BECAUSE GOD IS AGAINST THEM.

****** King Ahaz was a wicked king. He heard news that the two nations just north of him were teaming up to destroy his kingdom. Isaiah 7:22 Now the house of David was told, “Aram has allied itself with Ephraim”; so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind. People whose trust is NOT in the LORD will be shaken like the trees of the forest shake in a strong wind.**

5. GOD’S SURPRIZING PROMISE TO ME.

On a flight to Jackson, North Carolina these words were impressed upon my spirit, “YOU WILL NOT BE SHAKEN.” That didn’t come from me. In fact, it surprised me. I’ve been expecting disruptions of all kinds to hit our nation—a severe banking Crisis, economic collapse, social disorder, great natural disasters—and I’ve been wondering, “Will I have enough stored food? Will I be shaken financially if the churches all cancel my meetings? How can I be sure I’ve done enough to protect my family?” So when God impressed those words upon my spirit, it was like a great spiritual relief, a wonderful comforting promise that God was applying directly to me, as if giving me a compliment.

******** When I got to a place where I could do some study, I looked up the word “shaken” on a computerized Bible concordance. I found wonderfully encouraging promises to the righteous. I believe we need to MEMORIZE these verses to be mentally and spiritually prepared for the coming days.

Psalms 15: 1-5 LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain? The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth

from their heart; whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others; who despises a vile person but honors those who fear the LORD; who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind; who lends money to the poor without interest; who does not accept a bribe against the innocent. **Whoever does these things will never be shaken. (May God help each of us to be this kind of person.)**

Psalm 16:8 **I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.** (Looking to the Lord is the first step of worship. We look to the Lord, magnify the LORD, until our expectations flow from the LORD, we come under the LORD's dominion and serve him as a slave of righteousness, and then we become like the LORD. Worry has the same five steps except we look at a problem, magnify the problem, expect from the problem, serve the problem as a slave of fear, and become a problem.) If we are truly worshippers of God, we will NOT be shaken.

Psalm 21:7 **For the king trusts in the LORD; through the unfailing love of the Most High he will not be shaken.** (*We will not be shaken because the unfailing love God has for us will not be shaken!*)

Psalm 55:22 (ESV--English Standard Version) **Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.**

Psalm 55:22 (NIV) **Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.**

I like to put these two translations together to say HE WILL NEVER PERMIT THE RIGHTEOUS TO BE SHAKEN.

Psalm 62:1-2 **Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.**

Psalm 62:5-6 **Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.** (*I LIKE TO SAY, "HE IS MY SURVIVAL BUNKER. I DWELL IN HIM. I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN.*) That's a more modern way of saying "God is my rock, my fortress."

Psalm 112:1-10 **Praise the LORD. Blessed are those who fear the LORD, who find great delight in his commands. Their children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever. Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous. Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice. Surely the righteous will never be shaken; they will be remembered forever. They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the LORD. Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes. They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor, their righteousness endures forever, their horn will be lifted high in honor. The wicked will see and be vexed, they will gnash their teeth and waste away; the longings of the wicked will come to nothing.**

**** If we will fear the LORD, delight greatly in his commands, be gracious, compassionate, righteous, generous and just then we will not have to listen to the news to see if it will SHAKE us. We will know in advance that the news, however frightful, is meant to shake the WICKED. We will know in advance that it WILL NOT SHAKE US.

**** This is the kind of confidence the Apostle Paul had when he said, "**Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you,**" (Philippians 4:9). He knew he was living for God with all his heart. So although he faced many trials and persecutions, his confidence was not SHAKEN. He lived victorious over fear.

EVEN IN THE MOST SEVERE SHAKINGS, THE RIGHTEOUS WILL NOT BE SHAKEN. Here's a verse that makes that point.

Isaiah 54:10 Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

We will not be shaken because God’s love for us isn’t going to be shaken. His covenant of peace isn’t going to be shaken out of its place.

**** The whole environment around us may be shaken and removed—the landscape, the economy, even the nation itself but nothing is going to shake God’s unfailing love for us!

Paul wrote, **“What then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:31-39).**

Nothing can shake God’s love for us. Nothing can remove his covenant of peace. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. If someone takes away our meager earthly possessions through war, taxation, or theft—we are not shaken. We are joint heirs with Christ and we’re going to be given ALL THINGS!

Psalm 125:1-4 Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people both now and forevermore. The scepter of the wicked will not remain over the land allotted to the righteous, for then the righteous might use their hands to do evil. LORD, do good to those who are good, to those who are upright in heart.

The nation of America will be shaken, but we are citizens of the heavenly city, Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken. God surrounds us, now and forever.

6. DON’T GIVE GOD DISRUPTION

Here’s a little review from a previous sermon. I want to relate what God told me on Feb. 22, 2015 and then add some additional scriptures and Biblical stories.

On Feb. 22, 2015, when I was in Edenton, NC, God spoke to me, “I have one word for America—disruption. It’s a better word than destruction. I could give America destruction right now, but I’m giving people more time to repent. There will be disruption in food and energy and many other areas.

Prepare. (He meant physical preparations)

Use the times of disruption as joyful opportunities to win souls.

Don’t give ME disruption.”

Then three scriptures were beamed into me: Rev. 22:11, Heb. 13:15, and 1 Thes. 5:16-18.

Rev. 22:11 Let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy.

(This means that every day we should continue to do right and continue to avoid evil.)

Hebrews 13:15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.

When I first received this word, I concentrated on giving God continual praise and missed the first two words—THROUGH JESUS. It may seem hard to praise God continually when we are going through trials and we may think it just cannot be done. But it CAN be done THROUGH JESUS.

If you start thinking what Christ has done for you and has promised to do, you CAN give God the Sacrifice of Praise at any time. “Jesus, thank you for dying for me. Thank you for redeeming me with your blood. Thank you for making me a joint heir together with you. Thank you for being my High Priest and interceding for me at the right hand of the Father. Thank you that you’ve promised to give me a resurrected body just like your resurrected body. Thank you for writing my name in the Lamb’s Book of Life.”

You see, THROUGH JESUS it isn’t hard to give God a sacrifice of praise at any time. Dear Jesus, you said, “Ask anything in my name and I will do it that the Son may bring glory to the Father.” Thank you for answering my prayers so that God is glorified.

THROUGH JESUS we can say, “Thank you for making lemon-aid out of my lemons. Thank you for mixing grace with my mistakes and failures and bringing good even from the dumbest things I’ve ever done. Thank you for forgiving my sins!”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

These verses give us the “how to” steps of dwelling in God, of abiding in the shadow of the Almighty. If we will just not give God disruption, we will be kept and helped through all the disruptions that are coming because of Divine judgment on our nation.

If we will keep on doing good, keep on avoid evil, continually give God praise, continually rejoice, pray without ceasing and give thanks in all situations—WE WILL NEVER BE SHAKEN. God’s presence in our lives will be very real and constant.

**** Here’s another scripture that goes well with those three: Amos 5:24, “**But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!**” That was God’s advice to His own when he was threatening to destroy ancient Israel. He said to them what he’s saying to us—DON’T GIVE ME DISRUPTION. Let your just, fair and right living ROLL ON LIKE A RIVER. A river doesn’t take a break from flowing. It’s constant. This is why, every day, we want to do some righteous deed, some unselfish good thing for others. (A good deed might be to pray for someone.)

**** LET’S GO BACK TO DANIEL. All his life he lived to honor God, from his youth to old age. He prayed three times a day, in spite of his heavy administrative workload. So when Babylon was falling, and the King’s knees were knocking together—and his fellow revelers were all shaking in fear—Daniel was calm, completely UNSHAKEN. That night the Medes and the Persians killed the king of Babylon—but spared Daniel who had just been proclaimed the “third highest ruler in the kingdom.”

**** When the new king, King Darius was tricked into making a bad law that forbid the worship of any god but the king himself, Daniel was NOT SHAKEN. He just continued to pray three times a day. He refused to let his worship, his prayers and his thanksgiving be DISRUPTED. For this he was thrown into a den of hungry lions.

Notice what the king of Persia said as Daniel was thrown into the lions’ den, “**May your God, who you SERVE CONTINUALLY, rescue you.**” Then the king fasted all night. Normally, we all fast at night and break-fast with breakfast. Kings, however, like to party all night. But not this night. He didn’t sleep, or enjoy food or entertainment. The next morning the king cried out, “**Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you SERVE CONTINUALLY been able to rescue you from the lions?** (Daniel 6:16,20)

**** You know the story: God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths. But when the King of Persia threw Daniel’s enemies into the pit with the lions, the lions pounced upon them and broke their bones before they reached the bottom of the den. And there were quite a few people thrown in. It sounds like 122 men had banded together against Daniel. If they and their families were through in, that would make several hundred people. Perhaps all of them didn’t go as a group. But whatever group had gone to accuse the king, those men and their families died in the lions’ den.

7. LET US DEVOTE OURSELVES TO DOING GOD’S BUSINESS AND DWELLING IN GOD.

I've read Proverbs 1:23-33 hundreds of times. But the ending promise means more to me now.

Proverbs 1:23-33 (ESV) **If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you. But since you refuse to listen when I call and no one pays attention when I stretch out my hand, since you disregard all my advice and do not accept my rebuke, I in turn will laugh when disaster strikes you; I will mock when calamity overtakes you—when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and trouble overwhelm you. Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me, since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the LORD. Since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes. ‘For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.’** (In other words, whoever listens to God will NOT BE SHAKEN.)

**** Remember, *waywardness wanders* off from the LORD. *Complacency stands still* when the LORD moves on. Both create a gap between the person and the LORD.

**** What a contrast between those who PRAY WITHOUT CEASING and those who only pray after disaster and calamity have arrived! God listens to those who listen to him! Zechariah 7:13 **“When I called, they did not listen; so when they called, I would not listen,” says the LORD Almighty.”**

**** Our nation, as a whole, is living out the same kind of defiant attitude that will not listen to God's words of correction. Therefore, calamity, disaster, distress and trouble will become OVERWHELMING. But even in the context of such times of judgment, THE RIGHTEOUS WILL NOT BE SHAKEN. **“WHOEVER LISTENS TO ME WILL LIVE IN SAFETY AND BE AT EASE, WITHOUT FEAR OF HARD.”**

**** IT IS A GOOD THING TO BE INVOLVED HELPING WIDOWS, THE FATHERLESS CHILDREN, AND THE POOR OF THE WORLD.

Psalms 82:1-5 **God presides in the great assembly; he renders judgment among the “gods”; “How long will you defend the unjust and show partiality to the wicked? Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.**

“The ‘gods’ know nothing, they understand nothing. They walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

**** IF GOD IS GOING TO SHAKE THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH, THEN IT WOULD BE SMART AND WISE TO BE OBEYING HIM WHEN THESE THINGS HAPPEN. No matter what is coming—our spiritual duty is to DEFEND THE WEAK AND THE FATHERLESS; UPHOLD THE CAUSE OF THE POOR AND THE OPPRESSED. OUR JOB IS TO RESCUE THE WEAK AND NEEDY AND DELIVER THEM FROM THE HAND OF THE WICKED.

**** We should let justice roll on like a river, righteous like a NEVER-ENDING STREAM. In other words, keep on helping widows, orphans, native pastors and telling the whole world the gospel of salvation in Christ. Keep doing all the good you can AND INCREASE IT!

Here is another portion of scripture that calls us to literally “live in the fire of the Holy Spirit.” Isaiah 33:14-16 **The sinners in Zion are terrified; trembling grips the godless: “Who of us can dwell with everlasting burning?” Those who walk righteously and speak what is right, who reject gain from extortion and keep their hands from accepting bribes, who stop their ears against plots of murder and shut their eyes against contemplating evil—they are the ones who will dwell on the heights, whose refuge will be the mountain fortress. *Their bread will be supplied, and water will not fail them.***

The “mountain fortress” this verse is speaking of is God himself. Remember, in the context of events that cause the sinners to be terrified and shaken the righteous will dwell in God. God makes a bold

promise, **“Their bread will be supplied, and water will not fail them.”** He makes this promise because he is able to fulfill it.

CLOSING: I’ve been thinking about something Jesus said. He said, **“The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again,”** (John 10:17). We’re so used to hearing people talk about God’s “unconditional love.” It is true that God loved us while we were yet sinners—when there was no logical *reason* to love us. He just did. *But Jesus gave God a reason to love him.* The Father certainly loved Jesus with as much love as he loves sinners with. But Jesus loved the Father back—and gave the Father a REASON to love him. Jesus was fully obedient to do the will of God even though it meant very painful emotional and physical suffering and the loss of his earthly life. He laid down his life willingly; it was not taken from him. And he took it up again to justify us and then to ever live to intercede for us.

In my prayers I say something like this, “Thank you, Lord, that you love me with an unreasonable love—love that really doesn’t need a reason. I’d like to love you back. I’d like to so honor, serve and obey you that you would have a REASON to love me.”

Here’s a faithful saying, “Acceptance is the kind of love that is for everyone, but Approving Love is reserved for the obedient.”

Remember what the angel said to Daniel? **“At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou are *greatly beloved*; therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision”** (Daniel 9:23). In another angelic visitation the powerful angel said to him, **“O Daniel, a man *greatly beloved*, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright; for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling”** (Daniel 10:11).

Daniel’s “trembling” was because his flesh was in the presence of such great anointing and spiritual power. He wasn’t shaking in fear of God’s judgment. But what I want you to see is that TWICE the angel referred to him as **“greatly beloved.”** God doesn’t say that to everyone. It’s rare. This is Approving Love. Daniel was giving God NO DISRUPTION in his prayer life, in his righteousness, in his practice of justice, and in this thankfulness. He was giving God a REASON to love him because he served God “continually” as the King of Persia said about him.

You can be sure that God loves you even if your spiritual maturity is less than Jesus and less than Daniel’s. But in your heart, isn’t it a nice thought to think about giving back to God some kind of loyalty, devotion, and friendship that DELIGHTS HIS HEART? I’d like God to be able to say about me, “I just LOVE that guy!”

If you don’t have enough food stored, or enough survival gear, or enough silver, or a tornado shelter, or a gun with enough ammunition—and who does—WHY DON’T YOU JUST FOCUS ON DELIGHTING GOD’S HEART? The kingdom may fall around you, as Babylon fell around Daniel. The laws of the empire may all go against you, and the Lion’s Den may become your motel room. BUT YOU WILL NOT BE SHAKEN.

I LOVE YOU.

GOD BLESS YOU.