



Berean Christian Fellowship

DEVOTIONAL 6.0

November 14
2013

Be Not Dismayed

The Memory Verse for this week is from Isaiah 41: **“Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:10 NASB).**

Isaiah is calling Believers to recognize that God is there for them in their troubles. He tells them not to turn to idols because only God can save them. We may well scoff today at the idols of the ancient world; but, in a crisis, we so often turn to television, the internet, and politicians for answers, rather than to God. How is that different?

Isaiah tells us to turn to God when we are dismayed and anxious. How often in life we are anxious! How often we are distressed with the realities that confront us! There are, after all, so many things to make us worried, and they seem to grow every day! What is on your mind? Is it the economy, job security, home mortgages, injustice, sickness, personal failure, natural disaster, war, death? It seems we always have something on our minds that could make us worried and it grows worse as man turns his back on God, globally.

Yet, Jesus gives Believers peace in the midst of worries: *“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. You heard that I said to you, ‘I go away, and I will come to you’”* (John 14:27-28). Why does He say we shouldn’t be afraid? **Because He will come to us.** He will come to us in strength! While the fulfillment of this ultimately is the rapture and resurrection, it is also a reference to the Holy

Spirit upholding us **now** until the time we are called away to Jesus. He is our peace and strength in the midst of anxiety and fear, reminding us that we will be with Him, where He is, for eternity.

We must remember this, because as the world reaches its finish in these End Times, anxiety around us will only grow. The things the world faces right now are nothing compared to what is coming upon it.

In these End Times, we will see *“signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken”* (Luke 21:25-26).

Are we supposed to share that anxiety while men around us are fainting from fear? *“When these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near”* (Luke 21:28). We are supposed to be doing the exact opposite of what the world is doing. As they become more and more dismayed, we are supposed to be encouraged. Why? Because at the climax of all the things that are coming upon the world, everyone will *“see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD with power and great glory”* (Luke 21:27). Jesus is coming for us! Our redemption is coming, in the resurrection and rapture.

We can already see terrible things beginning to take place around us, and we must understand that while we are in the physical anguish of spiritual childbirth now (John 16:21), it will be turned to joy at the coming of the Lord: *“Therefore you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you”* (John 16:22). Even so, Lord Jesus, Amen.