

Wild year 2020. What Believers should do now in God's Shakings, part 2 of 2.



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

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Summary: *the year 2020 was wild. What happens next? What does God want us to be doing and thinking next? How should you and other believers handle and process everything that's happening and has happened? Can we be following anyone other than God himself? Can we be deceived in our expectations? What lessons can we learn from the last few months especially? I hope you listen carefully to the many concepts here.*

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Hello everyone, this is Philip Shields, and this is part 2 of the sermon I started last time – **why was 2020 so wild** and how God obviously was shaking the whole world. I'll address next time what to expect in God's shakings, viewed from **Jeremiah 18 and other chapters**, telling us what God himself says are his options, as far as God's shakings going on – and what He might do, according to his own words.

Today I want to address **what WE, his children, need be doing** and thinking and acting in these perilous times. – no matter who is in the White House or head of *your* country and especially if God's shakings continue!

- I want to also discuss **some critical missteps and mistakes** some of us have made in the past months especially. What can we learn from that? Were some of us deceived into wrong conclusions? Did we find ourselves looking to what people were doing rather than what God was doing?

Why 2020: Last time I mentioned “why the year 2020”? I believe God knows **we call good vision “20-20 eyesight”** and wants us to SEE what a mess we have made of his planet – and to SEE and understand that it is He, GOD, who is shaking things up – all over the world. Hurricanes, riots, protests, typhoons, contested elections, bush fires/wild fires.

(Opening prayer – acknowledging we need our Father. Please pour out your spirit. May we hear what you want us to hear from you. We want to please your heart, father and may our lives be extensions to others of your amazing love and grace, especially in these troubled time...(and more on audio).

It's been rough! Probably going to get rougher! Paul was inspired to tell us that the whole world – even all creation – the people, the wildlife, the trees and grasses even, the creatures in the seas – are all groaning for ... let's read it...this one from the CJB version:

Romans 8:22-23 CJB

We know that until now, *the whole creation has been groaning* as with the pains of childbirth; 23 and not only it, but *we ourselves*, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, *groan inwardly as we continue waiting eagerly* to be made sons – that is, to have our whole bodies redeemed and set free.

So much is happening – **but I guarantee you, much more is happening that we don't see**, both in the political sphere and in **the angelic/demonic arena**. But we sense it, *don't we?* What plans are being devised in the Capitol, in the White House, in the CIA/FBI or Mi6? Or the Vatican, or the Kremlin...? And there was a very foul “spirit” flowing in the country and the world last year.

Be encouraged. God has never lost a battle or any part of any battle, ever!

Greetings friends and family of the House of God. I'm Philip Shields, founder and host of Light on the Rock, where we focus on relationships –mostly between us and God/Christ and secondly to deeply LOVE *everyone else* alive, the people Yeshua **described as “our neighbor”**. More on that later. I might ask Scott, my webmaster, to say a few things about using our website, which is FREE to you.

Be aware:

- on our home page you can pick from hundreds of AUDIO sermons or Video sermons.
- With the video sermons, you can click on the button that says **VIDEO** – and get to enjoy all the scriptures on the screen, pictures, photos, graphics.
- If you click on the arrow above (show) – all you'll get is the **AUDIO** of the sermon.
- Use **the Search Bar** ... just put in 1-2 words and you'll likely find all kinds of sermons and blogs on that topic. And yes, don't forget the blogs.

(Those of you who just read notes: this is but a shortcut, but you'll miss quite a bit that is said in the video/audio that we just don't have time to transcribe word for word. So the notes/transcript is only approximate. I'd print out all the notes and then listen to the audio with the notes).

The shaking from God that we experienced was WORLDWIDE.

God is shaking the whole world. WHY? Because he loves everyone and wants us all to wake up and see HIM. He's trying to get everybody's attention!

God's shaking is supposed to let us keep just the eternal values in us – like holy and His very own righteous character, like who matters in our lives, what truly matters... and nothing but total trust in our great God and Savior.

Hebrews 12:26-28 CJB

26 Even then, his voice shook the earth; but now, he has made this promise: **“One more time I will shake not only the earth, but heaven too!”**

27 And this phrase, “one more time,” makes clear that the things shaken are removed, since they are created things, **so that the things not shaken may remain**”.

God wants what is eternal inside us, that can't be shaken, is all that remains. Rough times make us pray and shakes out the fluff in our lives. He wants us to retain only true values – experiences, growing in love, who mean the most to us, what things are important, and which are not. God's shakings do all that.

What do we all do next?

1. **Make your #1 priority in life, every day from now on, to seek after God and God will let you find him. Pray as never before.** NOTHING is more important right now. (Discussed formal prayer and preparing our heart beforehand, and spontaneous prayer)

This includes a commitment to RETURN to our God, walk in his narrower path to life, make real changes from the sins that plague each of us. Lukewarmness, not preparing our hearts before we come before him in formal prayer, sexual sins of our hearts and minds – or any porn, taking his name in vain, gossiping, or the casual lying so many do. (“tell him I'm not home...” – when people call for you, for example). How we casually break his holy sabbath.

What are your areas where you need to return to God fervently? 1 John 3:21-23 says we have confidence before God when we pray because we do obey.

1 John 3:21-23

“Beloved, **if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence** toward God. 22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. 23 And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.”

God and pleasing his heart has to become our ultimate joy.

2. **OBEY your Master's commands to ... LOVE every single human being, whom he defined as your “neighbor”.**

To love Yeshua is to obey him (John 14:15). Love your neighbor as yourself is not a platitude or mere suggestion; it's our King's command. We have to love those of the political party we don't like. The boss we don't like.

Matthew 5:43-46

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'
44 **But I say to you, LOVE your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,**

45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love

those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?"

We're not even considered to be real children of our heavenly Father if we don't love everyone (v.45-45).

These are His COMMANDS for us. These aren't suggestions. Our Lord can be tough. Yep – LOVE Nancy Pelosi, Schumer, Biden and Kamala Harris. Love Donald Trump. Love Hillary Clinton, Mike Pence, your awful neighbor next door, your cantankerous boss – **love them all.** Duterte in the Philippines; Lukashenko in Belarus – love them, all your enemies.

The 2nd great command is to love our neighbor as ourselves. Yeshua defined "neighbor" in the **story of the Good Samaritan (read Luke 10:26-37** to refresh yourself.) But "who is our "neighbor", someone asked Yeshua. A certain businessman was attacked by thieves and left on the road.

A temple priest and Levite had more important work to do and left him there. But a Samaritan – this untouchable, despised class of people called "the Samaritans" – did stop, put him in an inn, paid for his care and though the wounded man may himself have despised Samaritans before this, the despised Samaritan took care of his wounds.

Yeshua was making the point: Even people you despise are your neighbors. You have to love even them. We have to love everyone. Luke 10:36-37).

Yes, even those who are the untouchables, those you and I might despise, or ones who are deplorable to you and me. You on the Left hearing this, you have to LOVE me, you have to love Trump. You who are conservatives, we have to love Biden, Brennan, Clapper, Hillary.... Oh, I know this is so tough.

"Neighbor" is *everyone*. Including, Yeshua had said earlier – our enemies! But are you and I going to be obedient to our Master on this or not?

Especially with Passover coming up when GOD himself so loved everyone in the world, including all of you in Ghana, Kenya, Nicaragua, Honduras, Belarus, the Philippines – and yes, in America, Australia and Britain and France and Germany – all -- he loved us all so that He opened the door to forgiveness and eternal life in his own son's death -- for all humans, those acceptable to most, and those who are not.

He wants US showing the same love and even honor – for all!

1 Peter 2:17

"HONOR ALL. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king."

Let these words sink in. Honor ALL. HONOR everyone. Even the king they had – who at that time was Nero, who was a vicious, crazy, pervert- -but Peter says - "yes, honor even him." He doesn't even say honor the "office" – but the king himself. Don't try to wiggle out of this. Honor all. Love ALL people.

I bring this up because I'm seeing too many people too willing to be grossly unkind in their remarks for people of the other party. Family of God: THAT conduct is NOT of God. That is NOT being obedient to Messiah, the Son of God.

Colossians 4:6

"Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one."

Speak of all people with grace. I preach to myself here too. I've been just as guilty of not always doing this – as many of you. Speech seasoned with salt means our talk is tasteful. Our talk edifies – it never tears down.

Ephesians 4:29 CJB

"Let no harmful language come from your mouth, only good words that are helpful in meeting the need, words that will benefit those who hear them."

Are you hearing me? We have to seek God, seek to let HIS presence grow in us so we look more and more like the One who sends rain on the just and the unjust. We have to love everyone just like He did. Everyone. Neighbor = everyone. Our goal is never to say any unkind words, we never flip the finger, we never lose it with a flurry of dirty words. Oh, we all – me too – have so much to repent of, overcome and look and be more like Christ.

We can disapprove of others' conduct, what they stand for, what they say—yes we can. And we SHOULD speak up with a clear statement of disapproval, so everyone knows what you feel is right and wrong – but we don't call anyone bad names.

So you in the Philippines, in Malawi, Ghana, Uganda, in Israel, Belarus, the USA – if you're upset with your elections recently, honor your new "king". Honor ALL. Pray for your leaders, yes, even those we don't like.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, **prayers**, intercessions, and **giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority**, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence."

Pray for the leaders of your country no matter what political party they belong to. We're different from everyone else.

How will we ever be able to do all these? By seeing other humans we currently can't stand – as our brothers and sisters in the family of God someday. They just don't know it yet. So no matter how they treat us, or imprison us, or even kill us, they just don't know who we are or who they will be yet.

Let's follow our Lord's example – while being painfully executed and spat on said, "Father forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing." (**Luke 23:34**).

Can we be like that?

3. Be calm, let's have peace in the storms of our lives. We face and overcome fear. Our hearts are at peace, not troubled in these times of uncertainty, covid19, wars, persecutions, attacks, etc.

Yeshua was so amazing. He had undoubtedly seen many crucifixions, knowing that would be him one day. With just hours left before he would be scourged, beaten and crucified, he says this to his despondent disciples:

John 14:1, 27

"LET NOT your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me." And v.27—"PEACE I leave with you, MY peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. **Let not your heart be troubled, *neither let it be afraid.*"**

You're told you are Covid19 positive. Let not your heart be troubled. . . especially if you're young and healthy otherwise. [Note: there's a lot being said on the video that isn't making it into the notes.]

My stress levels skyrocketed at times as I watched what was happening in my beloved America – what's seems so unjust, so unfair, so evil, and the prophesied calling evil "good," etc. But we must not be rattled.

ALL of us have times of fear. Even Paul did. Even David did, yes, the guy who slew Goliath!

Psalms 56:3, 11

"Whenever I am afraid, I will trust you."

"In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

So fear is only human. We all succumb to it from time to time, but we must use God, and focusing on Him, to wrench ourselves free of its grasp. Don't fret over even the new leaders you may have if you don't like them. **Romans 13:1-2** says GOD is the one who sets leaders in place. We often don't like God's choices, but beware... don't fight God and his decisions.

Isaiah 41:13

"I am the LORD your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, "Do not fear, I will help you."

2 Timothy 1:7

"For God has NOT given us a spirit of FEAR, but of power and of love and a sound mind."

Story of the **man in 20's** very fearful. Covid stress, what's happening in the news, makes him cry. I had to have him stand firm and read over and over again scriptures like **Isaiah 41:10-13, Philippians 4:6-7, Isaiah 26:2-4.**

Super tough times are coming.

We're being prepared for our role of someday bringing peace to others – while WE are in the prisons, in the community – by the calm we display as Christ grows in us. We need to be

growing in this so we can help ANCHOR people into Yeshua when times get really rough, as I'll explain in the next sermon.

ONE way to be calm is to say “thank you, God” for anything happening. He's there. Thank him for the fact we know he's there. The thanksgiving settles us. Worrying is not of God or something we should ever keep in our hearts.

Philippians 4:6-7

“Be anxious for *nothing*, but **IN everything** by prayer and supplication, **with thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the **peace of GOD**, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

So we thank God IN and FOR everything. **I love the story of Daniel 6:10** when Daniel heard he couldn't pray without becoming lion dinner, he knelt down and prayed and gave thanks!

Something happens when we thank God for all things. It's called 'PEACE'. Now you're looking at God. That's how we get peace – to thank God IN the test, FOR the test.

We are to express gratitude literally FOR and IN everything we're going through (**Ephesians 5:20**—“*for*” all things) When we let God know our concerns with *thanksgiving*, God's peace flows over and in us.

When my son died, I finally got on my knees beside my bed and said, ‘I'm supposed to thank you for this, Abba. DO you know how I'm feeling? (“YES” was God's clear answer)’ So as hard as it was, I started to say, “I don't understand this, but Father, thank you.”

Have I always been able to do that? No. More often our prayers seem to be “*Father, father, where are you? Why aren't you intervening? Where are you?*” That's better than no acknowledgement, but the better way is to say “Thank you, Father. Though I don't understand your plan yet, thank you. I look to you. I trust you, love you and I am no longer afraid. I love you. *Even in all of this storm I'm going through, I have PEACE in you.*”

*Even the stress you're going through because of letting your heart insist that we must have one man or the other. That's looking to man, instead of to God.
[This sermon is being given before January 20 inauguration.]*

4. So let's all please quit relying on what rumors say Trump is going to do, or what Biden will do – and same in all your other countries! Instead, look for what GOD is doing.

You might be upset in your own country about your election results. Remember **Romans 13:1-2** – GOD selects the leaders. Have peace in that.

He says he's still on his throne. UNSEEN by us, but he's doing his plan. God has never lost and has never even started to lose at any point in a battle.

Review of Isaiah 6 – King Uzziah of Judah had just died. He was a mostly righteous king ruling during the strong years of Judah. **Isaiah was upset. NOW what?**

What did God do? He showed Isaiah that YHVH was still on his throne, still very aware of what's going on. And God is the one who puts leaders in and takes leaders out. GOD is that one. So we have to rejoice in HIM, even if we don't like...GOD'S pick. The lesson of Isaiah 6 – quit panicking! God's in charge. God's aware of it all. God's got this!

Isaiah 6:1-2

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw YHVH sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

Story – one time when my children were little, we were driving at night and I must have missed a turn and muttered, “Oh dear, where are we?” – pre-GPS days. One of my daughters blurted out – maybe 7 or 8 yrs old – “Oh no, are we lost? What are we going to do?” And Carole, my wife looked back at them and said calmly, “Girls, relax. Dad's got this. We'll be fine” – and they soon fell asleep.

Our Father's got whatever mess you see. God's got this. Relax.

Well, in the MESS that much of the world is in – and it's not just USA elections folks – it's the Philippines. Honduras is suffering from the storms. There are election issues in Uganda, Belarus, Israel, and on and on. God's shaking us all up – but do YOU see God on his throne? Quit looking to man.

OK, how about you? Do YOU see YHVH with all this Covid19, our election mess, the riots? Do you? FASTING would be a great idea. I've mentioned in other sermons the fasting especially of Daniel 9 and Nehemiah 1. Read those chapters. They fasted for the NATION – but first for their own sins. WE must return to God first in repentance and re-commitment, revival, rekindling of our first love as Nehemiah (Neh 1) and Daniel did (Daniel 9). They both prayed their own repentance first. Let's read part of Nehemiah's prayer in Nehemiah 1.

Nehemiah 1:4-6

So it was, when I heard these words [of the Jerusalem walls all still broken down and not much happening], **that I sat down and wept**, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

Have YOU and I prayed and wept over the walls of God's protections taken down from around our country? (**Story of hearing my Mom pray** and heard her weeping...for our country and her own sins she said. Details in the audio/video) I'll include in the notes more about Nehemiah...

5 And I said: "I pray, Lord God [YHVH Elohim] of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments, 6 please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father's house and I have sinned.

Let's let our fasting produce changes in our lives. WE must put away our Laodicean sins and lukewarmness in how we keep the sabbath, what thoughts we allow, what evils we watch (even porn by some), improve the way our marriages are, our lack of involvement in

proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and Yeshua to all we can... Yeshua said he wants us SO DOING when he returns, not just sitting around.

5. Remember God's TIMING is often way too late for OUR hopes and expectations. TRUST him.

Story of Lazarus. Yeshua came to heal him four days after he was begged to come – and Lazarus had already died. Humanly, it was too late to heal him now. His sisters Mary and Martha were initially upset at him for delaying. But Yeshua told Martha that if she believed Yeshua was the life, that Lazarus would rise and live again. (**John 11:20-27**).

It was too late for man, but not for God. He resurrected the dead man. (A thought: God didn't reveal to Paul and John etc that there was to be another 2,000 years yet before Christ returned, as they both expected it in their day. Timing.)

God tells us when to wait and when to move. We don't always just wait. At least be praying and fasting.

The Red Sea story—where God almost seemed too late to be able to intervene. Moses said to *wait*.

Exodus 14:13-14

And Moses said to the people, "**Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of YHVH**, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. 14 YHVH will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."

Sermons have been preached on standing still, waiting, do nothing but watch... But watch what GOD says.

Exodus 14:15

And YHVH said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? **Tell the children of Israel to go forward.**"

All these stories, about how when it seemed things were too late to do anything, GOD demonstrates his specialty: moving decisively when it looks too late.

- **Daniel in the lion's den (Daniel 6)** when God *seemed* a bit late, but He wasn't. I love **Daniel 6:10** when Daniel prayed about the new law and gave thanks!
- **Daniel's 3 friends** – as the fires were heating up and they were thrown in – too late, right? Their famous quote – “Our God is able to save us, but even if he doesn't...” (**Daniel 3:8-19**) God definitely waited til it was “too late”. It became an occasion for testimony.

So don't panic – even when it appears too late.

The lessons from the whole story of ESTHER

In the book of Esther, everything – as far as Jews were concerned, seemed so unfair. This guy **Haman** the Agagite, a close aide to the King, somehow had gotten the emperor to issue an irrevocable decree that on a certain day people should go out and kill all the Jews and

the killers would get to keep the Jews' goods. But nobody knew that Esther, the king's gorgeous wife, was also a Jew and would have also been executed. Haman didn't know about her either.

(Haman might have been a descendant of Agag the Amalekite king whom God had marked to die, along with all Amalekites, but King Saul – a Benjamin-tribe member -- did not obey the order. Agag initially survived as did others) Mordecai was from Benjamin.

So Esther invited her husband the king along with Haman to a most special intimate dinner. But during dinner, she exposed Haman's plot to kill her and all her people. (Esther 7). Short story – Haman, who had built a seven story high gallows for Mordecai, ended up being hanged on his own gallows.

But before that, Mordecai had to alert his cousin Esther about the new law to kill all the Jews. Someday you may have to remember this story to recognize future purges that could happen to believers, for example. Mordecai told Esther she had to step up and speak out for her people, or God would choose someone else.

God is not bound to use the people we think he has to use, nor is He bound by the timing we impose on him.

The story of Esther is a huge story for all of us. She was personally selected from the masses of women to be chosen as the most beautiful for the king. She was groomed, bathed, perfumed, trained for her purpose as bride to the king, or so she thought.

But she was called for a higher purpose: to save the Jewish people alive! Had Satan been successful in wiping all Jews off the face of the map, there would have been no Joseph and Mary and ability to give birth to Yeshua, who had to be of the tribe of Judah. That's what Satan was focusing on. Satan didn't want a Savior born.

So Mordecai learns about all this (Esther 4) and let's Esther know of the new ruling to wipe them all out. She hadn't even heard of it.

Esther 4:1-3

When Mordecai learned all that had happened, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes and went out into the midst of the city. He cried out with a loud and bitter cry. 2 He went as far as the front of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. 3 And in every province where the king's command and decree arrived, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

So Mordecai lets Esther know. Someday this will OUR story too. We too will have to show up, step up and speak up that we belong to the Lion of Judah, Jesus Christ the son of God! Without apology.

(Story of Columbine young student Emily Wyant in April 1999 who did not deny being a Christian or believing in God and so Dylan Klebold shot her)

We must not deny Christ when our time comes.

The point is: YOU and I are Esther. We weren't called and chosen to be the wife of a pagan emperor. NO, our calling is much higher than that. We have been handpicked by God himself and called to be the wife of the Son of God, the King of kings. We will likely have to stand up and confess we are a Christian.

So Mordecai urges Esther to DO something. But Esther explained that one could not just appear before the king unless bidden by him first –and if you just showed up, it was death, unless he extended the golden scepter to you.

Esther: “Cousin Mordecai, I could DIE if I do what you say”, Esther explains.

Someday, even in America, it will be dangerous to confess you are a Christian. It's already death or torture in many other countries. This is a worldwide shaking and persecution for Yeshua and the kingdom is coming to America.

Esther 4:13-14

And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. 14 **For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews** from another place, but you and your father's house will perish.

Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

You believers in Christ: who knows whether you were born in your country – “for such a time as this.” And it's going to get rougher and rougher, folks.

I need a whole sermon on this: we have NOT been called to just sit back and watch what happens. We have work to do. The fields are ripe for harvest. Our lives need to be witnessing to Yeshua and the Kingdom of God. We're called to disciple others. There's work to do, folks!

Yes, you and I could be jailed for speaking up – especially as a Christian and who lives by and speaks the name of Yeshua! But if you are afraid to do that or refuse to confess Jesus Christ, He will be ashamed of you and me too! **Luke 9:26.** They will be coming after Christians sooner or later. But when they do, show up, stand up, and speak up.

God wants you to be getting ready for being used by God to witness. We need to be discipling people now too. That's our job – not just ministers' job.

We will have to confess him with our mouths and believe in our hearts that he's been raised from the dead, if we wish to be considered a true follower (**Romans 10:9-10**). Yeshua said if we can't confess him before men, neither will he confess us before God the father!

Luke 12:8-9

"Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God".

The early Christians would put some of us to shame. Read their story in **Acts 8:1-4**. After Stephen's martyrdom, the priests and Pharisees attacked the early believers viciously and they were forced to flee the city.

Acts 8:1-4

Now Saul was consenting to his death.

At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and ***they were all scattered*** throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial and made great lamentation over him.

3 **As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.**

4 **Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.**

So they planted the seed of the story of Yeshua. And it bore great fruit. **So plant seeds to neighbors, friends, family** – seeds of God's word, of Yeshua, of the Kingdom and our wonderful Father and in time, it will bear fruit even if years go by and we see nothing.

Isaiah 55:10

"So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;
It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please,
And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

When Paul was stoned in Lystra (southern Turkey) and left for dead. Where was God during the stoning? **He let it happen** – as a witness – of what His children will do in faith.

Acts 14:19-20

Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, **they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.**

20 However, when the disciples gathered around him, **he rose up and went back into the city.** And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

Would you have gone right back into the town that tried to kill you? That's the example of those who came before us! I'm not there yet. But that's the example. WE are being groomed and prepared right now for the toughest times of our lives. **Show up, stand up, speak up** – happily and confidently unafraid for our God and our King.

Many of our *amazing brothers and sisters around the world already face torture, beatings, imprisonment and death because -- because they profess Jesus Christ. Hallelujah. Thank you, brothers and sisters, for encouraging us.*

We have to follow **our Master's example** who did not shirk from drinking the cup his father had given him--- to painfully die for us all. Are we willing to **die for him?**

Back to Esther's story. Mordecai had said she couldn't be silent! We don't know what God will do and when He will act. But he will, in His time.

Esther 4:15-16

Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai: 16 "Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, **and fast for me**; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. **My maids and I will fast likewise.**

And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!"

So what happened? (**Recite the story of Esther 7.** Watch video for full story). Go back and read Esther 4, 7, 8 on your own if you haven't for a while. God, who is never even mentioned in the book of Esther, is unseen, but active. The palace officials did not know Esther was a Jew! But she SPOKE UP, did her job, and God saved the Jews because of her and Mordecai!

My point is that to human eyes it all seemed way too late already for God to do anything, but it wasn't.

There will be many more times in the years ahead when we wonder where God is. Or what He's going to do, and when. **God's grooming us now to learn to trust, trust, trust in him!** *No matter what is happening around us and to us. A good re-read of Psalm 91 would be good for us all.*

We can't predict what God's going to do – or when. But it does often entail waiting and making us wonder when he's going to act. But when he does, he moves!

Isaiah 60:22b New Century Version

"...I am the LORD. When it's time, I will make things happen quickly."

So remember: God's got this. We don't need to remain in fear, though we often start there. I speak to everyone around the world on this.

Isaiah 41:10

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

So God wants us to totally trust him. Wait for him when we should wait -- and move when we should move. God knows you personally, by name **and has you engraved you on the palms of his hands (Isa 49:16)**. ALL of you who are his... he knows every single thing about you over there in Uganda, or Kenya, or the Philippines or in China and Korea and Honduras... he knows you.

I hope this has been helpful. We now have to live an unafraid life. We have to focus on GOD, not on Trump or Biden, or anyone in your country, not on the military – but solely 100% on God. God does not need to use the military or Trump or Biden to get his will done. God is who God is – the Almighty.

- **What happens in America and in your country – is up to GOD**, not Trump, not Netanyahu in Israel, not Duterte in the Philippines and all the crazy stuff happening there with Smartmatic machines, much like the USA. It's not up to any man, but God. So focus on getting so close to Him that he hears you! Quit even

concluding God “has to” use certain people. He does not. He can raise up stones if need be, to do his bidding, as he says (**Luke 19:39-40**).

- We Christians must **now LIVE the life we’ve been called to—to live our love for God and leading other people to God and Christ.** Trust he knows what he’s doing and ***when*** he decides to act for us. Sometimes he may test us sorely – as he did 11 of the 12 apostles – who remained faithful, even unto death.
- We won’t let ourselves be afraid. We won’t look for human solutions.
- Thank God for the hard times and all the shakings! WHY? Because all the fluff is being shaken out of us so only what is eternal remains. And remember **NOTHING** can shake us from the love of God or loving God.

God is trying to help us fully realize man’s governments just don’t cut it! We need God’s government now. Yours in Israel or Uganda don’t work, and ours doesn’t work in America either. COME, kingdom of God, come.

Next time I will discuss “will the shakings get worse and worse – or ease up?” God tells us His clear answer. We don’t have to guess. A lot of His answer depends on what WE do. You’ll see.

But if we don’t do what He says WE must do –then God says his “hammer” is about to land on the whole world, and hard. BE sure to hear the next sermon.

Closing prayer of spirit protection and comfort and love for God.

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If this teaching has fed you and helped you, please let others know about our free website. We rely on word of mouth. Thank you and may our loving Father and our Savior bless you and watch over you and teach you by the Holy Spirit and the Word.