

Perfect PEACE in troubling times



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

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Summary: *Is it possible to be in deep peace even in the face of terrible health news, or financial collapse, or death of loved ones? Can we have peace in our hearts no matter what's going on? Find out what scripture teaches us. This teaching could be life-changing if applied. Enjoy.*

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Hi. How would you like to be able to have perfect peace of mind, or peace in your heart, *no matter what is happening to you*, around you and to the ones you love the most? Is that even possible?

It IS possible because that's what our Savior Jesus Christ and his apostles James and Paul all teach. Later in this teaching, I will share especially what Paul's exact tips are for peace regardless of what's happening to us and around us. It takes practice, but works, when we do what we're told. One good thing about trials is that they tend to drive us to our knees in prayer. A good thing.

This takes practice, lots of practice, and discipline in your mind, but I'll share what I've been learning about this. This teaching developed because **I** needed this, and I'm sharing what I've learned, and yes, it works when the points are practiced. When I don't practice what God's Word says, I can be a mess in stressful times.

So we all need to learn to have perfect peace in troubling times. In the very last days before Christ's return, it will be the worst time ever on this planet so it would be good to learn how to have peace in our hearts no matter what. Major financial firms are indicating they believe we're possibly coming into a great worldwide recession within months. We'll see. That could bring scary troubling times like the collapse of the dollar, financial meltdown, worldwide depression, inflation and much more.

In the meantime we all from time to time receive upsetting news about our health, or our marriages, our family situations, world events, more pain and suffering to go through – but we *can* have perfect peace even in these circumstances.

I'm not talking about world peace today but personal peace.

So hello everyone, I'm Philip Shields. Thank you for inviting Light on the Rock.org into your home. I hope you're checking out previous years of **sermons and blogs** as well, as we have hundreds now. Use 1-2 key words in the Search Bar and you'll be amazed how many topics we have. I will also be re-recording former audio-only sermons from 10 or more years ago, but this time as faster-moving videos.

Anyway, back to today's teaching/sermon.

It's EASY to have peace of mind and peace in your heart when everything is going well. You're healthy, have a great job you enjoy, a healthy family, a beautiful home, a great car, enjoy your church fellowship, and have enough money and income to do what you want. *If that's your story, then having peace is easier than if everything seems to be falling apart all around you.*

But peace is tested when you're told you have cancer, one of your children is seriously sick, or your wife wants a divorce, or you can't make your mortgage payment or you are going to be laid off from your job. Or you're in constant pain and you're not being healed. Now your peace will be tested.

We'll find that it's in the hard times of life when we can grow the most, get some depth in our character, and mature spiritually. *People who never seem to have had any hardships often seem more SHALLOW than people struggling with health, family and finances and other trials – and who might be struggling with **worry**.*

WORRY must be destroyed - or worry will destroy our peace

Our King and Savior has *commanded* us about worry, because worrying shows Him we don't trust God or Christ to do what's best in our lives. Worry is a lack of faith. And worrying does not change a single thing about the problem we're facing. In fact it just makes things worse: our health can suffer; we can have heart attacks or strokes or other worry-caused health issues.

Notice how many times Jesus mentions “worry” in this passage from the Sermon on the Mount and commands us NOT to worry.

Matthew 6:25-34

25 "Therefore I say to you, DO NOT WORRY about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? **27 Which of you, by worrying, can add one cubit to his stature?**

28 "So WHY do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; **29** and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. **30** Now if **God** so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

31 "Therefore **do not worry**, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. **For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.** [If you have lots of money, maybe it's easier not to worry about food and clothing]

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. **34** Therefore **do not worry** about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

Do you find yourself ever saying, “I’m so worried about...”? *IF so, you’re not experiencing the peace of mind from God that Paul and others describe.*

If we worry, we’re breaking Christ’s command not to worry. He also combines the concept of worrying with a lack of faith in that passage. We’ve lost faith in God to take care of us, his children, when we worry. To defeat worry, we must exercise the discipline to have faith and trust in God. No matter what.

Someone at peace is NOT constantly worried about issues of life. Worrying is a sign of a lack of faith. We must have faith in God, no matter what, to be at peace.

Where true peace of GOD comes from

Pure, godly peace is not something we can just conjure up. We have to, in fact, DIE to the self, die to ourselves, and come back to the new creation life of Christ living anew in us. We carry our cross, and then understand as Paul did, “I no longer live, but the life I live is Christ!” Let’s read it. Where is your old self still dominant in the way you live your life?

Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

*We won’t be able to work up godly peace by ourselves. **Godly PEACE is the 3rd listed fruit of God’s spirit.** True peace is from God!*

Galatians 5:22-24

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, PEACE, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

You see how the death of self is mentioned over and over and now our life is in Christ. **We don’t “fix” the old self; no.** We must get rid of the old self and replace the old life with Yeshua/Jesus living strongly in us – as we follow him.

When we invite Jesus/Yeshua into our lives, we find HIS peace nudging us, “for He himself IS our peace” (Ephesians 2:14).

There is no true, permanent peace without the complete presence of Christ in you and me, for “He himself is our peace”. This is so important to grasp. *The true peace of God comes by His Holy Spirit* and letting Jesus actually live in you moment by moment, and repent deeply when you don’t.

Vocalize words like this, frequently, “My king, my brother, my Savior, please come LIVE again, this time in me. I invite you into my heart.”
Yeshua, Jesus – in Isaiah 9:6 is called our PRINCE OF PEACE!

Isaiah 9:6

“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given;

And the government will be upon His shoulder.

And His name will be called Wonderful,

Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Are we focusing on the giant problems, fears and worries in front of us, or on our powerful Prince of Peace? David saw a giant Goliath – but he more clearly saw his all-powerful God, so Goliath was to be pitied. WE need to do the same with all our problems.

When faced with serious trials, we definitely can go in one of two directions: be stopped in our tracks by fear and worry or fear and trials can send us to our knees to seek our God and ask for his help. Those facing seriously hard times are almost always praying more than those without trials.

We can have peace in our heart as we look to, and trust God. We're not concentrating on giant problems in front of us, but on the Giant Killer! God!

Isaiah 26:3

**“YOU will keep him in perfect peace,
Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he TRUSTS in You.”**

Whatever trials you're facing now – or will face – do what Isa. 26:3 says. Stay focused on God, trust He loves you and knows what's happening in your life and will never leave or forsake you. So much of this is about FAITH.

When God hears us but doesn't give us the answer we hope for

One thing to remember though: God hears us, but doesn't always give us the answers we want. Why? He uses trials to test us, but also to build patience and godly character as Romans 5:3 and James 1:2-4 clearly teach. God is preparing us for all eternity. Spiritual growth most often comes after serious testing and trials – and we test our faith too.

Romans 5:3-4 NIV (bonus verse)

“Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

But never forget that God has promised to never leave us or forsake us (Heb 13:5b), and that nothing can separate us from the love of God (Rom 8:35-38).

Even Jesus cried out for help – *and was heard...* but what was the answer? Obviously, it was that he still had to be crucified and die for all of us sinners.

Hebrews 5:6-10

As He also says in another place:

"You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek";

7 who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, **with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was HEARED** because of His godly fear,

8 though He was a Son, **yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.**

9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek,"

But he OBEYED and was completed and perfected BY trusting even though even for HIM, it meant his death. *WE have to also trust God so deeply that even when he chooses NOT to heal our son, NOT to let you have the woman of your dreams to be your wife, or lets you continue in severe pain, our faith in him remains strong. We trust him **and love him.***

*He will never forsake us, even while in the storm. Sometimes you and I need the test, need the storm, need the witness to others. Remember **Daniel's 3 friends: one like the Son of God was seen with them in the fire (Daniel 3:19-30). God may not take the fire away, but he'll stay with us through fiery trials if we believe, trust, and thank him.***

Also read Daniel 3:16-18 where the three men admitted that God could deliver them or decide not to, but either way, they would not deny their God.

Sometimes what we pray for and hope for – isn't going to happen for us. *That's the simple facts of life. Knowing his love for us and that he's preparing us for eternity, praise him in your storms of life.*

John 14:27

"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."

Jesus said all this literally just hours before he would be illegally arrested, beaten to an inch of his life, and then crucified and left to die.

God's Prescription for PEACE

Jesus laid the foundation of peace. “Don’t LET yourself be afraid” (“Let not your heart be troubled.”) Paul and James pick up the mantle and tell us the formula on how to have the peace of GOD so strong that we can’t even describe it.

Let’s start first with James, then Paul. James explains that our trials are maturing us, perfecting us, completing us. The word “perfect” means all three.

James 1:2-4

“My brethren, count it all JOY when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But LET patience have its *perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*”

I recommend you watch/listen to my 2-part Perfection sermons: “God’s perfection for us”. The concepts in those 2 parts are essential to you being able to experience deep peace of mind and joy of your salvation.

James says rejoice. Why? Because we know we’re being matured and perfected by the hard times. “No pain, no gain”, we all say. There’s some truth in that. Read **Romans 5:3** also.

Paul now fills in the details on how and why we can have JOY in trials. Yes, we’re being matured, but it’s more. Here’s the secret to perfect peace of GOD.

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.”

Be anxious for nothing. We find those 4 words so hard to obey. We’re anxious and we do worry about a lot of things.

“IN EVERYTHING”. No matter what. Don’t be anxious but in everything tell God what’s happening. And here’s the formula: then THANK God IN that problem. IN that test. IN that worry, THANK him IN it.

As NIV puts – “by prayer and petition, **WITH THANKSGIVING**, present your requests to God.” This is the part few of us probably do: actually thanking God IN that migraine headache that won’t go away. Thanking God in the bad news – knowing He’s going to use it for your good (Romans 8:28).

That's the secret. IN your trial, present it to God, tell him what you think you need, **and then THANK Him IN it**. We're good at presenting our issues to God, but how good are we at *thanking* God **in** the problematic issues?

Let me add an important point about thanking (not in the video!): **thank God even before you see His answer!** Jesus thanked God for having already heard him, *before* resurrecting Lazarus (John 11:41-44). He thanked God for the food for the 5,000 *before* it was multiplied (John 6:10-12). EXPECT God is hearing you and so thank him.

Check out my sermon on thanking God before you get an answer. IN the Search Bar type in 2 key words "Praising Before"

Then Phil. 4:7 happens: the peace *of GOD* guards our minds through Christ Jesus. There you have it! We receive not just "peace" – *but the very peace of God himself*. Just like righteousness. Just like perfection. If you hear my sermons on those topics and this one, we receive God's peace, God's righteousness, and God's perfection.

But for some reason, too many of us want to be the ones producing all of these and that will fail.

We'll see shortly how Paul absolutely applied this himself!

But Paul gets even stronger. We give thanks not just IN it, but FOR the issues.

Ephesians 5:20

"Give thanks ALWAYS *FOR* all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

So let's see how this works: You've been told you have cancer. What to do? Tell God, who already knows it, but tell him. "Present your requests to God" but **do it with thanksgiving, *IN* it and FOR it.**

So when a test or trial comes up – don't just ask others to pray with you about it, but ... **THANK GOD IN that test and FOR that test.** That's the secret. Hard to always do, but it truly gives us the true peace of GOD.

BONUS scripture.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

"Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 *in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*"

Some of you will call me crazy for this. Tell Paul and James that then. You wonder how we could thank God FOR pain and suffering. But that's where the

blessings all happen. That shows God you absolutely trust him and whatever he wants to do in your life. And SO many scriptures tell us we must do this.

Again, WHY would we thank God in and for problems and trials?

That shows God **our faith is in him**. Sometimes Jesus seems asleep during a raging storm about to sink the boat. We want him to wake up, get up and give us peace all around. But when we thank him **for** and **IN** whatever storm is raging around us, it tells God our faith is strong! Otherwise, **Jesus sees lack of faith otherwise. Mark 4:35-41**. "How is it you have no faith!?" (v. 40)

This absolutely works but must be practiced. I'm still learning to do this consistently myself.

You've been told you have cancer. Present it to God, then thank Him IN the cancer and yes, FOR the cancer. Then you leave your concern to him. "Come to me all ye weary and heavily burdened and I will give you rest." (**Matthew 11:27-30**). Don't see the cancer. See God. And trust him.

It means we believe **1 Peter 5:7** – "casting all your care upon him for he cares about you".

It means we believe ALL things, ALL things, work together for good for those of us who are the called and love him (**Romans 8:28**)

When we **thank God in and for a sore trial**, *it means we trust he will* "NEVER LEAVE you nor forsake you" (**Hebrews 13:5**).

AGAIN, I think we all pray about concerns – but it's a prayer mixed with fear and worry – and seldom founded on and finished in thanksgiving - IN the problem and FOR the problem.

Even Job praised God when God allowed Satan to take away everything he had – his sons and daughter, his servants, his flocks and herds, his buildings, everything but his wife – what did Job do? He bowed down and worshiped – and **blessed God's name and actions.**

Job 1:20-21

Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; **and he fell to the ground and worshipped.** 21 And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there.

The Lord gave, and YHVH has taken away;

Blessed be the name of YHVH."

By the way, “worship” has to do with bowing down in praise.

Worship does not refer to singing. It points to “bowed down” – often to the very ground. I have a sermon on what “worship” means. Use the Search Bar.

Write down this song– **“I BLESS YOUR NAME”, by Selah.** Please click the links below, even now, and listen as you lift up your hands in praise.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gaVZonD1pcc> by Selah. I love it!

So God is involved some way, somehow in ALL that happens to us.

Even when SIN is involved, God can turn even that around as he did **Joseph**, who told his brothers, “you meant it for evil but God used it for good” so I could save hundreds of thousands of people alive (**Genesis 50:17-20**).

Even **the David/Bathsheba and Uriah sin**; though David had severe consequences for it, God used even *that* union to bring about the line of – the MESSIAH.

So when I have sinned, and though there will be consequences, I ask forgiveness and then praise and THANK God how he will be able to even use sin to his glory if I believe. I’m not crazy. Yes, that’s what I said, and proven by Joseph and the David-Uriah-Bathsheba story.

And even **Paul** acknowledged he had killed believers before his conversion – but God turned all that for good, and turned Paul himself, around to His glory.

Paul called himself the worst of sinners, LEAST of all the saints, the chief sinner, unworthy to be an apostle. But look at what God did with Paul! (1 Tim. 1:13-15; Ephesians 3:8; 1 Cor. 15:9).

Have you been a terrible sinner before? God can use even all that for good, if we trust him and thank him for his presence in our lives.

When we let our old self die and now let the very life of the Son of God now be our new creation life, wondrous things happen. Trust the scriptures on this. Thank him in and for ALL things. Praise you, our Lord and Master!

Did Paul live what he preached of how to find perfect peace?

What I find so interesting is that Paul, in Acts 16, last half of the chapter, goes to Philippi, talks to a group of women praying by the river and preaches to them, and some are baptized. Then a demon-possessed

woman follows him around – and eventually Paul cast out the demon, and destroys the income she brought her owner by all her fortune telling.

That man accuses Paul falsely of lots of trash, so Paul and Silas end up being stripped of their clothing and then are viciously beaten with rods, then thrown into the inner jail – in stocks and chains, bruised bodies, cut bodies, maybe some broken bones and broken ribs – as they're locked up in chains and stocks and can't even move.

Could you thank God after that beating and jailing, -- and FOR that beating and jailing? Paul and Silas did, though it took them almost to midnight before they started. But the agony they must have been in. This is the same Paul who wrote the believers in Philippi to present their case before God with thanksgiving!

Acts 16:25-34 – NEW LIVING Translation

Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening.

26 **Suddenly**, there **was a massive earthquake**, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off!

27 The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself. 28 But Paul shouted to him, "Stop! Don't kill yourself! We are all here!"

For time's sake let me summarize! The jailer runs down, asks how he can be saved, Paul teaches him about believing in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved. The jailer washed their wounds and everyone in the household was baptized.

So when Paul wrote to the Philippian believers, this Jailer no doubt was there, in the audience, and could ATTEST to Paul's praying and praising while in stocks, with bleeding stripes on his back.

*You'd think you wouldn't have much to praise and pray about when in so much pain. But **AS SOON AS they began to pray and praise, God delivered them** and a whole household of the Philippian jailer got saved!*

I will tell you: when you sincerely praise and thank God in and for your trials, the chances that God will resolve your issues or heal you – go sky high. At midnight, in their pain, that's what we find Paul and Silas doing. Amazing.

Write down this song– “**I BLESS YOUR NAME**”, by **Selah**. Please click the links below, even now, and listen as you lift up your hands in praise.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gaVZonD1pcc> by Selah. I love it!

*If some midnight hour, you find yourself all alone, abandoned, in a prison, like Paul and Silas, but this is a prison of your mind, and you're in pain, crying and nowhere to turn – well, turn to Messiah and our Father, sing out and praise, and bless His name, no matter what. And **THANK** him **IN** – and also **FOR** -- all things.*

Even if we don't get the answer we hoped for, give thanks and praise anyway. You'll grow in your ability to do this effectively with practice.

OUR FIRST SON David

More in the video.) One night I heard my wife screaming – I was on the phone - but running to our bedroom, there was our son, dark blue all over – for he had died. That was 40 years ago. *My wife took his now hardened body to the hospital* in the ambulance while I stayed back with the other 2 children we had. I got down beside the bed, and said,

“Father, now I have to practice what I preach. **THANK** you for David. Thank you for the time you gave us with him. Thank you... for taking him, Father, for I know **ALL THINGS** work together for good and you must have your reasons, Father. So **IN** this test and **FOR** this test, thank you, dear Abba, my wonderful father.”

At the gravesite, the grave digger commended us for the peace he felt was in us. And yet I just wanted to jump into the grave with my son. But yes, there was peace even in this horrific moment. I admit, back 40 years ago, I was just beginning to really understand this and I had some peace, but still struggled with our beloved son's passing. His name, David, means “beloved.” I was still learning this concept, but there was some peace. Some pain is still there, but I accept it now in peace.

Another time, About 15 years later, my doctor's office called me and ordered me to get into their office – STAT – right now. Short story: she said I had liver and pancreatic cancer. And the follow-up tests afterwards were all the same story: I had little time to live. Just a few months. At first I didn't even tell my wife. But what I finally **DID** do, was start to praise and thank God for the 45 years or so I had been given and that I trusted him. **SO I thanked him** **FOR** the cancer. (Much more detail in the video)

Short story: about a month later, **one of the new MD specialists** came in to see me as I waited in the patient room in the hospital. He was holding a lot of paperwork in his right hand and just a few sheets in his left hand. (STORY in the video of this sermon)

“Who’ve you been seeing? Where’ve you been going? What have you been doing?”, the doctor demanded.

I told him I had gone to see a different doctor. To “Dr. Jesus”. And now my pancreatic and liver cancer was totally healed. The doctor was also a believer and we praised God’s name and Jesus our Healer together.

I’m NOT perfect in practicing this. I’m not. But when I do, I have tremendous peace and many times get a wonderful answer. When I don’t, life is hellish.

King Jehoshaphat’s test and HOW he PRAISED in the storm

King Jehoshaphat was king of Judah. They were being attacked by countless soldiers of Moab, Ammon and Mt. Seir. A very scary time. See song “I praise you in this storm”.

I’ll put the beginning of the story in these notes (not in video)

2 Chronicles 20:1-12

It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat. 2 Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, **"A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea,** from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar" (which is En Gedi).

3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek YHVH, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. 4 So Judah gathered together to ask help from the Lord; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek YHVH (the LORD).

5 Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of YHVH, before the new court, 6 and said: "O Lord God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You? 7 Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever? 8 And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying,

9 'If disaster comes upon us — sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine — we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.' 10 And now, here are the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir — whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them — 11 here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit.

12 O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You."

He's doing everything right. Focusing on his living God, setting a day of fasting, and look what happens in verses 13-19 on your own and described in my video. So God promises He will fight for them but they have to trust him, leave the relative safety of the walls of Jerusalem and go face their fears. Will HE sing praise to God Most High IN and FOR this severe trial?

2 Chronicles 20:20-23

So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: **Believe** in YHVH your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper."

(NOW NOTICE)

21 And when he had consulted with the people, **he appointed those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying:**

"Praise the Lord, For His mercy endures forever."

22 Now WHEN THEY BEGAN TO SING AND TO PRAISE, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated. 23 For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

It took three full days for the Jews collect the spoils of this army -- their gold, silver and garments and more. Praise be to God. **Notice when God got involved: "WHEN they began to sing and to praise..."**

Now in YOUR pain, sing out and praise God FOR and IN your pain.

Let's read one more from the apostle Paul:

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

8 Concerning this thing **I pleaded with the Lord three times** that it might depart from me.

9 And He said to me, "**MY** grace is sufficient for you, **for MY strength is made perfect in weakness.**" Therefore most gladly I will rather **BOAST** in my infirmities, **that the power of Christ may rest upon me.**

10 **Therefore I take PLEASURE in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.**"

VERSE 10 in the NIV

"That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

The lesson constantly is – look to God. Trust in him, regardless of what He is making you go through and will even more so – in the coming years.

Isaiah 26:3

"You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he TRUSTS in You."

And now add the points Paul gives us. No matter what – thank God IN it (**Phil 4:6-7**). Thank God and Bless him FOR the hard times. (**Ephesians 5:20**). Then the great peace from and of GOD himself, that is beyond understanding, shall come upon you and me.

We praise you great God. We love you our Savior and brother and King Jesus.

Closing prayer.