

AMAZING PEACE in our most troubling times



Aug 28, 2021

Philip Shields

www.LightontheRock.org

All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

KEY WORDS: *Peace, troubling times, persecution,*

Summary: Does God promise his children won't go through severe troubles in the last days and that He'll always protect all his children from harm? This lesson reminds us of what scripture actually says about that – and how in the most troubling of times, here are **5 ways** to having real peace in these troubling times, which will only get far worse up to the return of Yeshua, the Son of God. We CAN have peace in the coming spiritual storms.

*** **** * (I recommend watching the video WITH the notes – as these notes are close, but much more is said on the video).*

Are we in the very, very last days before our King and Savior Jesus Christ – whom I call Yeshua – returns to rule this earth? I'm no prophet, but I wouldn't be surprised if we're within 10 years. That's great news if it turns out to be true – to have the Son of God ruling the earth in a decade or so, God willing.

I sure hope we see Christ's return soon. But the flip side of that is that it would mean we're in the final years of "worst trouble ever" the world's ever seen – and it will be very troubling indeed (Matthew 24:21; Mark 13:19). I am hearing people talk about all the weather troubles as being proof of climate change. Let's not be blind to the fact that what **we're witnessing is the *beginning of God's punishments for our sins.*** He's shaking us all up. I call them national spankings (**Leviticus 26, Deut 28**). **God WILL use climate change, but HE will be the one affecting it** all as punishment on our nations. Scripture is clear that at times it is GOD himself who calls for a drought, to get our attention (Haggai 1:11; 2 Chronicles 7:13-14). Read **Revelation 16:8-9** about how the 4th "bowl plague" from God will make the sun dramatically hotter and will scorch those on the earth. **Look up my full sermon on it. Just type in "Climate change" into the Search bar.**

I sure hope so. But the flip side of that is that it would mean we're in the final years of "worst trouble ever" the world's ever seen – and it will be very troubling indeed (Matthew 24:21; Mark 13:19).

In spite of all the trouble going on around the world, in spite of your less than perfect health, in spite of any bad news in your life – **are YOU at peace in your heart? Or are you feeling anxious, worried, and troubled?**

We see the chaos in Afghanistan – which I believe was totally avoidable. We see Covid19 bouncing back. We see inflation beginning to take off. We're energy dependent on OPEC again. We're spending trillions and trillions we don't have. We see the borders wide open for terrorists to come in from abroad. We watch the chaos in our elections. We've just armed the Taliban with the best weaponry in the world. We understand the USA and Europe may well be victims of massive terrorist attacks – as it was before 9/11/2001.

ONE thing I must say: it's tempting to call the president and his top officials by very disrespectful names or make ungodly comments. We must remember this: **we're speaking evil of God himself when we speak evil of those HE has put there.** We'll read scripture that says that. I have spoken out against policy – but let's not call names, OK? We must remember that we're "pilgrims" on this earth, and we follow the Lamb – not Donkeys or Elephants (the parties).

Romans 13:1-2 ESV

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by GOD.

2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists **what God has appointed**, and those who resist will incur judgment."

One way to peace – an extra point – is do what Yeshua did, and Paul did, and Peter did: they did not as Christians disrespect their political leaders, as bad as they were. We don't see them castigating the leaders and their corruption – with the exception of John the baptizer and he paid with his head for that.

Peter said to "HONOR ALL, **honor** the king" **1 Peter 2:17**. The king at the time was NERO. **So please, children of God, knock off the insulting name calling some are doing against political leaders.** It's unbecoming of us who say God is our Father – who is the same One who put them there. We criticize GOD when we cross a line about our leaders. I'm no fan of our present administration, nor was I fully happy with the previous one. But we must honor their office.

So we know from prophecy and from the actions of our leaders that things will get a lot worse. Let's talk about having peace in these troubled times. I've had brothers and sisters in Christ call me to ask how on earth can we have peace with their dad dying of Covid19, their own health issues, the events around the world, the wild fires – (I discuss the smoke in Oregon from recent trip on the video), etc.

So welcome my brothers and sisters in the House of God, God's family – his household -- welcome to Light on the Rock. I'm Philip Shields, host and founder of this free website. Remember to check out the short reads, **the blogs**, and our Sermons are going to be a mix of video sermons, and some are just audio.

Please be sure to let us know if you experience any problems with the sermons or anything else, or if you have suggestions. Go to "Contact" on the Home screen.

FALSE ASSUMPTIONS

I do believe some end-time believers will be supernaturally protected. I believe there will be a place of safety – **as Rev. 3:10-11; Rev 12 etc.** seem to indicate. Jesus said some will be counted worthy to escape the things to come (**Luke 21:36**). Others will have to be refined in the fire of trials and troubles – **Revelation 3:14-22**.

But too many are putting their faith in the Place of Safety, or a Secret Rapture, or that God somehow will keep them from all harm, all plagues, all trouble – instead of faith in GOD. I've given a sermon on Place of Safety myself, but don't put your faith and trust or hope in that – but in God. Here's the link to my sermon on place of safety in the last days:

<https://lightontherock.org/message/place-of-safety?highlight=WyJwbGFjZSI9m9mIiwic2FmZXR5IiwicGxhY2Ugb2YiLCJwbGFjZSBvZiBzYWZldHkiLCJvZiBzYWZldHkiXQ==>

And others believe no harm will come to any of us from a very literal reading of **Psalm 91:9-10**. I believe it's likely that this psalm was written and sung by Moses, and given to the Israelites ahead of time, to help them through the 10th plague and slaying of the first born.

In any case, it's too obvious that God's children do get sick, do get various illnesses, do die eventually from all kinds of causes. In fact, it's appointed for men once to die, and after that – the Judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

So it's a false assumption to assume because you love God, that he'll not let you go through serious trials, pain, emotional anguish, and death. Some of God's children are going to be seriously persecuted, martyred and even beheaded – and somehow, we must have peace knowing this!

- There's a warning to those who do all they can to save their own skin.

Luke 17:33

"Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it."

Here's what we should be mentally prepared for, instead:

Luke 9:23-24

"Then He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, **and take up his cross DAILY, and follow Me.**

24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it".

Where is a person carrying her own cross going? To be crucified. God in the form of Yeshua died for you. He wants to know we would be willing – if called upon by God – to die for him, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ, which is ... do you know what the "testimony of Jesus" is? **Rev. 19:10** – "for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Here are clear scriptures that many of the SAINTS are going to be put through a very rough time ahead:

Beheaded – **Rev. 20:4** – those who would not take the mark of the Beast.

Rev. 13, especially v 5-7 – how the coming Beast system (world dictatorship) “**will make war with the SAINTS and overcome them**” – **v. 7.**

It's fascinating that God describes the Gentile powers that have ruled the world – as BEASTS (or animals). Think of it!

Daniel 7:13 – about Christ coming in the clouds --- but then it backtracks to the time before that:

Daniel 7:21-22

"I was watching; and the same horn **was MAKING WAR against the SAINTS, and prevailing against them,**

22 until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom."

Are you getting the picture? Not ALL the saints will be protected. And they're certainly not going to be secretly rapture. Nor will all go to a place of safety.

Daniel 8:24b – about an end time fierce king

"....He shall destroy the mighty, and *also the holy people.*"

Daniel 12:7

"....and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished."

So you see why we need to know that rough times will get rougher, but there's a way of peace.

So do NOT be under the assumption that if you've accepted Christ, you are guaranteed safety, and no harm will come to you.

Don't forget:

- How God's own SON suffered mightily. How could we assume we won't?
- **ALL the apostles except John, died a horribly painful and terrifying death.** These included crucifixions, being beaten, being beheaded and more. So why should WE be any different.
- **Paul** said we must thru MUCH trouble/tribulation enter the kingdom of God. The narrow way of God is difficult, and FEW there be who find it.

Acts 14:21-22

And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "**We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.**"

Other translations: "endure many hardships" - NIV, NLT. LYSTRA was where he was stoned and left for dead some days earlier. Paul knew trouble. If any saint deserved protection, it was Paul.

Yeshua tells us – and all this on the eve of his crucifixion!!!

John 15:20

“Remember the word that I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you as well; if they kept My word, they will keep yours as well.”

So the point of all what I've just said is to know some will be protected, but many won't be. I also believe we will all go through SOME serious troubles in the beginning. God has to see that we have ultimate faith and trust in HIM, no matter what.

5 THINGS TO BE PRACTICING NOW TO HAVE PEACE

- 1. WE TRUST, TRUST, TRUST OUR GOD and Savior for we have come to know God and Yeshua so well – no matter what we go through. **TRUST, believe, wait on him in trust.****

DO NOT, I repeat, do NOT put your trust in a place of safety – but totally in God. KNOW him so well that you trust HIM – not teachings of protection, though some will be protected. If God wants you protected, he will. If he wants you to be refined in the fire, He will. But trust HIM. In this life we will have troubles. It's part of preparing us for perfection, as I explained in a recent sermon on becoming Perfect (a video version of that is coming too).

John 16:33

“I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take courage; I have overcome the world!”

We have to **practice** anything we want to become strong at. This includes learning to trust. Trust in God comes easier the more we come to really know Him. I'm calling on all of us to have much, much more prayer. First thing every day – pray. Last thing every day – pray. Several times during the day, make frequent contact as we praise, thank, beseech, speak to – and LISTEN TO – our Father in heaven and Yeshua.

KNOW he loves you, KNOW he has your back, KNOW he wants what's best for you, KNOW he has a DREAM for you, a brilliant DESTINY for you, but it's not about this life except in as much as this life is building in us the qualities of love and character and faith that makes us just like our Father – which will happen (1 John 3:2).

Just hours before being brutally scourged, beaten, humiliated, spat on and finally crucified on a tree or stake, here's what our Savior said and focused on:

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.”

Accept his peace. Don't LET yourself fall down the precipice of being troubled and afraid.

SO THE KEY is to be IN Christ, TRUST him, AND HAVE PEACE IN HIM, not on anything else.



How much do you talk to Jesus? You should be! HE's your peace. He's our LIFE. Let that sink in.

Ask Father and Yeshua to SPEAK to you and give you the discerning ability to hear his voice. "MY Sheep HEAR my voice, and I know them, and they follow me and I give them eternal life." John 10:27

Our father loves us much more than we can appreciate. But no matter what he sends, for our good, trust him.

HERE are some very positive reminders he wants us to remember as we TRUST him while going through rough times:

- **Whatever he makes us go through will end up for good. TRUST him. It all ENDS UP OK. Really believe and KNOW this. What a father!**

Romans 8:28 – "ALL things work together for good for those who love God and are the called, according to his purpose."

We have to come to really believe and know this.

What happens IN us, during trials, is far more important than what's happening TO us.

- **He'll never allow us to be tempted, tested or tried beyond what he knows are our limits. KNOW this.**

My caution: for OUR good, he does test our limits probably too often for our liking. I never thought I could endure the death of any of my children. We lost our first son.

And then 2 miscarriages after that.... But we're stronger now than ever. In fact it helps us help others going thru the same thing (**2 Cor. 1:3-4**).
The Greek in 1 Cor. 10:13 is the same word used for tests, testing, trials.

1 COR. 10:13 Good News Translation

"Every **test** that you have experienced is the kind that normally comes to people. But God keeps his promise, **and he will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm**; at the time you are put to the test, he will give you the strength to endure it, and so provide you with a way out."

God helps us see a way out so we can escape it. THIS is our father!

- **In the story of Daniel's 3 friends** and the testing of being burned alive – what happened? The One we know as Yeshua was SEEN, as a 4th person, in the fire with them. Read **Daniel 3:10-27** on your own.

So sometimes God allows us to be in severe pain, testing and even death – but... BUT God's ALWAYS in the trial with us. In fact he promises us to never leave us. I'm going to read this in the Amplified Version because the Greek is so strong that here's how Amplified put it:

Hebrews 13:5 Amplified

"Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He has said, **"I WILL NEVER [under any circumstances] DESERT YOU [nor give you up nor leave you without support, nor will I in any degree leave you helpless], NOR WILL I FORSAKE or LET YOU DOWN or RELAX MY HOLD on you, [assuredly not]!"**

God forbid but if you and I find ourselves in the Great Tribulation – we must remember to stand firm in faith in him more than ever before! That's where our peace will come from, start from: TRUST and FAITH, no matter what.

Be building your relationship with Father. Know that you know God. Know that he really knows you, and that you love his way and run back to him in repentance when you fail. **Pray, pray, pray. Spend more time in prayer and God's word, by FAR**, than you do in watching movies, Facebook, Instagram, or watching the depressing news!

If you focus on God, especially in hard times, your TRUST will grow. That requires a close relationship and controlling your focus and your thoughts.

Isaiah 26:3-4

"You will keep him in perfect peace.
Whose mind is **stayed on YOU**, [and how could you do that?]
BECAUSE he trusts in You.
4 **TRUST** IN YHVH forever,
For in Yah, YHVH (the LORD), is everlasting strength."

Remember God knows everything about us. Even if it looks like he's doing nothing, he is moving! WE decide to "calm my soul" – **Psalms 131:2**.

When we have perfect love for God, perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18).

So #1 – we ABSOLUTELY TRUST our God and Savior NO Matter what, because we’ve come to KNOW and love our God – so we get peace out of this.

2. **We must constantly take the LONG VIEW, way past any trial we’re going through now or will go through in future -- into the life after the resurrection to eternal life. Look to the time AFTER you’re changed to spirit and gathered up by angels into the clouds to meet Yeshua as his first-fruits bride.**

This is one way how Yeshua managed the crucifixion trial.

Hebrews 12:1-2

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the JOY that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

v. 2 NLT says “for the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross...”

WE must get good at this too in difficult times. Yeshua’s example is SO good, and this point is SO vital.

Paul taught “the long view” – looking way *past* this life -- that NOTHING rough we’ll ever go through can compare with what God has in mind for us – when it’s all said and done, in the resurrection:

Romans 8:16-18

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs — **heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, IF indeed we SUFFER with Him, that we may also be GLORIFIED together.**

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

He goes on to say in **Rom 8:35-39** that *nothing* can separate us from the love of God which is in Jesus Christ our Lord. NOTHING. **See beyond the turmoil. If you’re stuck in mental anxiety and turmoil – you’re not practicing steps 1 – 2.**

For example of looking for the joy set before us: Look to the First Resurrection. Think of hearing the 7th trump/shofar of God. Then watching those who died in Christ ahead of us being raised from the dead and rising as spirit, immortal beings who will never see corruption, raised to Everlasting life (Dan 12:2), who will shine like the sun in its brilliance (Dan 12:3).

Yes, and ponder how and why Hebrews 11:35 calls our resurrection, “the BETTER resurrection”. Then you’ll be taken to Yeshua – and then zoomed up to Heaven to get married to Christ, the Lamb of God (Revelation 19). We’ll get to see the Sea of Glass, get to meet Father in person, witness millions of holy angels coming and going -- all this before coming back to earth to reign with Christ for a thousand years (Rev. 20:4-5) as royalty, as priests of God, teaching his way....

Like Jesus – see what lies before us. That will help us go through rough times, or even martyrdom.

3. **We learn to praise and THANK God IN all things and FOR all things – no matter how painful, how trying, how difficult (Phil. 4:6-7; Ephesians 5:20), and then we experience PEACE.**

I hope you’re practicing this now. I gave a whole sermon on this point and recommend you watch/hear it. Here’s the sermon link.

<https://lightontherock.org/message/thankful-all-the-time-in-and-for-all-things?highlight=WyJpbiIsIidpbiIsImZyciIsIidmb3IiLCJ0aGFua2Z1bCIIsImFsbCIIsInRoYW5ncyIsInRoYW5rZnVsIGFsbCIIsImFsbCB0aGluZ3MiXQ==>

I’ve been practicing this. It’s really amazing how much less worry, how much more peace, I have. Thank God IN all things and FOR all things (**Ephesians 5:20**). For everything, for God knows about it and he’s got a purpose in it.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 NIV

“Do not be anxious about **anything**, but **in EVERY** situation, by prayer and petition, **with thanksgiving**, present your requests to God.

And the PEACE OF GOD, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”.

This is the same Paul writing to Philippi – where he’d been beaten, jailed, in stocks and chains with Silas. Read it yourself in **Acts 16:24-35**. I’ve spoken on it several times. Paul was beaten up by a mob, probably had cracked ribs, maybe a cracked skull, bruising, black eyes... How much joy and peace would YOU have? And then we read this after his beating by rods and chained in jail:

Acts 16:25-26

“But at midnight **Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God**, and the prisoners were listening to them.

26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains were loosed.”

4. **WE’RE LEARNING – what happens to us physically or in this life – DOES NOT MATTER to us as much anymore** (EXCEPT IN how God is using these to perfect us.)

I love the story of **Esther**. She realized God could do anything he wanted – though everything looked bleak. She and her ladies in waiting fasted and prayed for 3 days, after which she'd go see the emperor – which was against the law unless you were bidden.

Her famous statement in **Esther 4:15-16** – “Ok then, I go see the king” --, **“and if I die, I die.”**

We just do the right thing. God's got this. Our lives don't matter so much in this life. If we die, we die. Esther's actions kept the Jewish race – and the lineage to Yeshua – alive. God used HER to stop Satan's attempt to prevent the Messiah from coming – as all Jews would have been annihilated.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego – same thing. (**Recount story** on video – you can read it in Daniel 3).

Daniel 3:16-18

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If that is the case, **our God whom we serve is able to deliver us** from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.

18 BUT IF NOT, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

That's our example. We will stay true to God no matter what. We must grow to that point – that if we die, we die. If God does not stop something as he did for Daniel in the lions' den but let's us be terribly tested, then so be it.

This physical life, our physical THINGS – cars, homes, jewelry, TV's, bank accounts – are just that: things that don't matter much.

How upset do you get when you get the first scratch on your new car?
How about our bodies? In the end, what happens doesn't matter that much...
Except to remember we are temples of the Holy Spirit.

This is why Yeshua said if someone needs to borrow something you have, share it – and don't expect it back! (Luke 6:34-35)

- How upset do you get when you loan something to a friend, and it comes back damaged? We have to grow in this.
 - Loaned my beautiful 270 rifle years ago to someone, and it came back badly scratched, and he didn't clean the bore either.
 - Loaned a stepped ladder – new condition – to someone who needed it, and it came back terribly paint-marked.

Today, we must say – “So what? It's just a physical thing that will someday all be eradicated and burned up anyway. It's the spiritual that God is concerned with.”

So what happens to our bodies – it's all OK. God's got this.
So even painful torture or death is perfectly OK ... if God's allowing it, that's OK.

I'm not trying to be or sound cavalier or out of touch. I just know, the more I practice this, the more peace there is. This is a real point: the physical just doesn't matter that much.

5. We've DECIDED: I won't LET myself worry, BE AFRAID OR FEAR what man can do to me.

This has to include when we're in severe pain, someday being tortured or being martyrs for Christ – and day-to-day living, even when we're told we have stage 4 cancer. We say – "I trust God, I will obey Yeshua and not let myself be afraid."

Frankly it comes back to the first point. Totally trust God. Totally. Then receive his Peace. Don't let yourself be afraid.

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."

Hey, Yeshua died a terribly excruciatingly painful death for me and for you. We surely MUST decide - NOW – that if God decides He wants you or me or our children or friends to literally die for HIM, then so be it. Hallelujah. We have to conclude that now, so when the time comes, it's automatic, "muscle memory".

Paul even said that he glories in persecutions and in troubles for Christ's sake. GLORIES in it, knowing God is working out a wonderful product in the resurrection. He glories knowing he's being PERFECTED by his troubles. He glories in Christ, knowing "For when I am weak, I am strong" 2 Cor. 12:9-10.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

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".

Look at Paul's approach near the end of his life. He's in chains, soon to die ... and he says... "so what? Whatever happens, happens, and God's in charge. Whether I live or die, it's all good. God's got this. If I die, my next moment of awareness will be with Christ anyway".

Philippians 1:23-24

"For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. 24 Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you."

If we're killed or beheaded or die in illness – our next moment is the resurrection, hearing the loud, long blaring shofar of the angel and we're ALIVE again – with your angel personally taking you up carefully to meet your Lord and fiancé Yeshua, of Nazareth, the Son of God.

We've got to come to have that attitude – whether we live or die from not being healed, or of old age, or from the Great Tribulation: our next moment is with Christ. So why fear what man can do to us or what could happen to us?

Yeshua commanded us – “do not WORRY!” (**Matthew 6:34**). Are we going to obey him? It comes down to controlling our thoughts and be RENEWED in our MIND and casting down strongholds in our minds that the Enemy has built – and then bringing every thought into captivity! (**Romans 12:1; 2 Corinthians 10:3-4**).

When we feel, think or express worry – we tell everyone – especially God – that we don't trust him or think he's working all things out for good. So we have to focus on peace and God's will and be busy doing God's work instead of being stopped by worry!

We can refuse to worry – but pray and praise instead – if we practice all the other points.

- 1- **Totally trust God** based on your relationship with Him and his promises
- 2- **Look beyond today to the JOY set before us** as Yeshua did Heb 12:1-2
- 3- **We're learning to thank and praise God IN and FOR anything** and everything that happens to us, showing we trust God. 2 Cor. 12:9-10
- 4- We're learning that **physical things – including our lives – just don't matter much**. Examples: Esther and the 3 friends of Daniel.
- 5- Decide you just won't let yourself worry or be upset – but have peace. As Yeshua said, “LET NOT your heart be troubled, neither LET IT be afraid” John 14:27

Let's end with this scripture again:

Isaiah 26:3-4

“You will keep him in perfect peace,

Whose mind is **stayed on YOU**,

Because he trusts in You.

4 **TRUST** IN Yehovah forever,

For in Yah, YHVH (the LORD), is everlasting strength.”

Closing prayer.