

11 | PSALM 11

WHEN NATIONS CRUMBLE

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Announcements

1. Welcome visitors!
2. Two new Sunday school classes: Doctrine of the Holy Spirit in the Auditorium (with Jerry Soen) and the Attributes of God in the Youth Room downstairs (with Pastor Mike Tiberi).
3. PGM MINISTRY: Join Pastor Matt This evening, July 7 at 6:30pm at Pacific Garden Mission for a ministry outreach at the “old lighthouse”.
4. Annual meeting today after service
5. Sign up for VBS volunteer list today
6. Father-Son Campout at Waterfall Glen in Lemont, IL. Cost is \$5 per family. Please sign up today.

Introduction

Open your Bible if you will to Psalm 11. The title of our message is “When Nations Crumble.”

What are we to do when our society and culture around us become more and more like Sodom and Gomorrah? God told his people to flee Sodom and Gomorrah, but what does he tell us to do today? Are we to flee? Are we to run away from the darkest places in the earth?

We are in living through very dark days in our state of Illinois. The **legalization of child murder** up to 9 months in the womb has been signed into law by a lawless state congress and a lawless governor. Our state also just legalized the **recreational use of marijuana**. Now they want to further utilize and legalize full-fledged **casinos**. This is on the backdrop of our country **legalizing homosexual marriage**, which is not marriage at all in God’s eyes.

Should we leave? **Philippians 2:14-15** says that we are “blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life.” Jesus said we are the light of the world. He said we are to be “in the world but not of the world” (Jn 17:9).

Christ in us is the only **hope of glory** this world has (Col 1:27). We are tempted to run and isolate ourselves. We are torn because this world is so wicked. But Jesus tells us not to leave this world, but to reach it for Christ. We are not called to **isolation** but to **proclamation**.

C.T. Studd said it best, **“Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop, within a yard of hell.”**

We find the same idea from David. His nation is crumbling under the sinful, selfish reign of King Saul. He’s literally being hunted by the king of Israel. The nation has turned inward. What should David do? He’s been anointed the king of Israel by Samuel. But his nation has changed and turned against him. His counselors are telling him to turn tail and run, but David trusts in the Lord, just as we should in our time.

Scripture Reading

Let's stand and read Psalm 11:1-7,

11:1-7 | In the LORD I take refuge; how can you say to my soul, "Flee like a bird to your mountain, ²for behold, the wicked bend the bow; they have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart; ³if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" ⁴The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man. ⁵The LORD tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence. ⁶Let him rain coals on the wicked; fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup. ⁷For the LORD is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.

This is God's Word.

CONTEXT OF A CRUMBLING ISRAEL

The psalm begins: "In the Lord I take refuge". David, in a time of crisis, is trusting in the Lord. No matter what his eyes see, he trusts the Lord. What was happening in David's life? This is likely an early Psalm during King Saul's disastrous reign over Israel. Remember this is the people's king. David is God's king.

Here is this crazed king Saul, hunting down the true king. People are telling him to "flee like a bird to your mountain" (11:1), but David will have none of it. He seeks refuge in the LORD. He may have made his way to the Tabernacle there in Jerusalem. He glanced over there and he could see the pillar of cloud resting above the mercy seat shooting up into the sky. What a glorious comfort the presence of God is in times of deep and disturbing trouble.

David's counselors are concerned for their nation. Their fears are expressed in verse 3, "if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" What happens when the pillars of earthly society begin to crumble? What happens when kings and presidents and leaders go astray? What shall we do when our state and our nation become corrupt? Shall we flee?

I've heard several people, both in the church, in my neighborhood, and in my community say in the last several weeks that they want to leave Illinois. There is great consternation in our state lately. With **legalized murder of children in the womb** up to 9 months and **marriage being distorted** and redefined to be what it is not and **gender dysphoria** being defended as normal, what are we to do? Shall we run away? Shall we isolate ourselves? Jesus said we are to "Go into all the world and make disciples of all nations..." (Mt 28:18-20). We are to "preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mk 16:15). Those are our marching orders.

As the kingdoms of this world crumble around us, we are called to build Christ's kingdom, expanding his rule and reign one soul at a time.

PERILIOUS TIMES HAVE COME

Yet it's true. Perilous times have come. The Bible says that in the last days perilous times will come. What King David went through with Saul, we will go through with the earth's society. The world's culture and society are given a title, an animalistic apocalyptic

metaphor in the book of Revelation: the Beast. The world's culture will eventually manifest a hostility to true believers. Christians will face persecution. Jesus said, "If the world hated me, it will hate you also." If they crucified Christ, they will crucify you.

There is a growing hostility toward Christians in our society. Get ready for it. The social media companies (Google, YouTube, Twitter, Facebook) are already banning and scrubbing Christian thought from their platforms. They are beginning to look at a sound Christian theological worldview as hate speech. What should we do?

We should not fear. We should not flee. We should not conform to the world. We are to live transformed lives by renewing our minds constantly with Scripture (Rom 12:1-2).

The people of God have always been hated by the world. Should we flee? Should we escape. Should we all move to another state that is less hostile toward Christians? Listen, it's fine to move where ever God puts you, but don't let fear ever be your motivation. We are overcomers.

We are called to live as lights in this world. We are called to shine and be the light of the world as Jesus lights us up.

Main Point

David gives us the solution to perilous times. What should we do when our nation crumbles? Very simply this: **Trust in the God whose kingdom will never crumble.** We are told in 2 Timothy 3 that perilous times will come.

2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5 | But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ²For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

How do we trust in God and promote his kingdom in a godless society, state, or nation? The truth of the matter is, we are now living in a society that is sliding towards Sodom. We are mimicking Gomorrah, the Old Testament cities that God destroyed because their wickedness was so great. I would venture to say that though we still have the remnants of our Judeo-Christian ethic in general society, that foundation is quickly eroding. So we ask with David in Psalm 11:3,

11:3 | ...if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?

I believe we need to trust in a kingdom that can never be shaken. If the foundations are destroyed, what should the righteous do? We should do three things: shine for Jesus, stand for God, and stare into the face of Jesus. Shine, Stand, Stare.

Let me remind you again of the story of Psalm 11. While we don't know for sure when this was written, it is subscribed as a Psalm of David. It's likely early in his life, during the time when the kingdom of Israel was beginning to imitate the nations around them. They wanted a king like the nations, but God wanted to give them a king after his own heart. David was literally being hunted by a crazed King Saul. The foundations of society in Israel were beginning to be torn apart.

Remember Saul at one time gets so desperate, near the end of his life, that he seeks a medium, the witch of Endor. He seeks to talk with the Prophet Samuel. He's practicing necromancy: communication with the dead.

King Saul despised God's holy order. Priests were to perform sacrifices, but Saul took that mantle upon himself. So leadership in Israel is corrupt. The culture is being corrupted. David is given some advice from his counselors that he immediately rejects, because David trusts in a God who is bigger than his enemies.

What should we do as our nation crumbles?

1. SHINE FOR JESUS (11:1-3).

David describes a scene in his life that is picturesque of the righteous in every age. The "wicked bend the bow" and take aim at Christians today. We have a choice: take refuge in Christ or run. I like David's choice in his day. While David's friends want him to sulk and sit, David shines for the Lord! Listen to him:

11:1-3 | In the LORD I take refuge; how can you say to my soul, "Flee like a bird to your mountain, ²for behold, the wicked bend the bow; they have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart; ³if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

Turn to your neighbor and say, "In the Lord I take refuge." Amen! What other refuge is bigger than our God? Who or what is more powerful than our great God?

David feared God more than man, more than circumstances, more than anything. Remember **Proverbs 9:10**, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (NASB). More than once King Saul threw a javelin at David in a fit of demonic hate.¹ But David didn't fear Saul. He feared God. We can't fear man or trust in man. The Prophet Jeremiah told us long ago (ch 17:5ff)...

"Thus says the Lord:

"Cursed is the man who trusts in man
and makes flesh his strength,
whose heart turns away from the Lord.

⁶He is like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see any good come.
He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

⁸He is like a tree planted by water,
that sends out its roots by the stream,
and does not fear when heat comes,
for its leaves remain green,
and is not anxious in the year of drought,
for it does not cease to bear fruit" (Jer 17:5-8).

¹ John Phillips, *Exploring Psalms 1-88: An Expository Commentary*, vol. 1, The John Phillips Commentary Series (Kregel Publications; WORDsearch Corp., 2009), Ps 11.

Look how fear works.

FEAR WORKS BY MAKING PEOPLE BIGGER THAN GOD

Let me just say that God is bigger than any person or thing you are afraid of. There were powerful people in the life of David that wanted to destroy him. On numerous occasions, David has been hunted by King Saul and the armies of Israel.

When nations crumble, wicked people prop themselves up with words. That's why David's counselors are growing in fear. Wicked people are putting forth arguments that tear down society as we know it. The solution that David's friends propose is to "flee" into isolation. Cut yourself off from society. "Flee like a bird to your mountain." Look at what the wicked are doing. "Behold, the wicked bend the bow; they have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart" (11:2).

But David will have nothing of it. He says

11:1 | In the LORD I take refuge; how can you say to my soul, "Flee like a bird to your mountain..."

How can you say to my soul to fear anyone other than God? David learned early on in life that God is big and people are small. When he looked at Goliath, that giant looked so small to David compared to David's big God. David got to know a big God early on in life. There were three stages in David's early life: the country, the court, and the cave. He drew near to God and was prepared to be king during his early life. He learned to fear God and not man.

Three Stages of David's Early Life

In the *country*, in the field as a shepherd boy, David learned how to *worship*; how to *love God*; the country made him into a *saint*. He learned how to trust and celebrate God.

In the *court* David learned *wisdom*; how to *limit self*; the court made him into a *sage*. Again and again in this period "he behaved himself wisely," "he behaved himself more wisely," "he behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul"—so much so that Saul feared David as much for his prudence as for his popularity.

In the *cave* David learned *warfare*; how to lead men, to be a *soldier*.²

How to Conquer Fear's Distortions

The **arrows** that David's friends speak of are mere words and arguments. That's how Satan works. He works with words. He's the accuser of the brethren. The wicked have planned an ambush, to secretly shoot from the shadows and catch David unaware (11:2). They have sophisticated words and arguments that are meant to shoot him right in his heart and undo his faith. Listen to David's friends consult David to run in panic!

11:2-3 | ...for behold, the wicked bend the bow; they have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart; ³if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

² Illustration idea from John Phillips, *Exploring Psalms 1–88: An Expository Commentary*, vol. 1, The John Phillips Commentary Series (Kregel Publications; WORDsearch Corp., 2009), Ps 11.

The words of people are meant to intimidate you. How did David overcome this? He refused to trust in the words of people, and he trusted in God's Word. The words of people can make you feel so small and helpless, but we who are in Christ are immortal until God is finished with us.

Yazmin's Undignified Adventure

I've told you many times of my wonderful dog Yazmin. When I was a kid, I had a Norwegian Elkhound named Yazmin. Yazmin was a strong and somewhat large animal. She was so gentle around us kids, but if there was ever any threat, she was willing to be our protector. Apparently, that included birds.

Yazmin's first self-imposed task every morning was to race around our yard and clear every bird from the area. She would charge at them, yelping, and off they'd go, making for the branches of the trees, their refuge.

It was like that most mornings—except one. As usual, she launched herself from the front yard with a preliminary yelp to announce that she was on the way. Around the house she came, expecting to experience her usual morning ecstasy of seeing birds fly off in every direction—expecting to return wagging her tail in triumph. But the impossible happened.³ A bird came at her and pecked her. That had never happened before. So instead of acting like the strong dog she was, I hate to say it, but she ran!

Now I had to tell her not to be afraid of those birds. I had to remind her she is a dog, and as a dog she was much bigger and stronger than those birds. She never ran from a bird again!

That's how we should be. Child of God, you are no one to go and hide in fear from anything or anyone. You are God's precious son or daughter. The foundations of this nation are crumbling. Don't crumble with it. Take a stand. Don't shutter with fear. Nothing is bigger than our God. Don't be afraid to wisely voice your opinion. Speak the truth in love. As the foundations of society crumble, remember the foundations of God's kingdom cannot crumble! Stand strong. If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything. Stand unashamedly for Christ. Don't let the fear of what people might think of you lead you to compromise. David didn't make this mistake. You don't make it either.

Application

We as Christians shine the brightest in the darkness. **1 John 1:5**, says it well, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." If you are light, why are you running away from the darkness. There are many reasons to move from Illinois, but the darkness is not one of them. **We are called to make disciples, not make ourselves comfortable.**

Many will say, you need to leave this state because of the darkness. I disagree. We are called to go into dark places and shine the light. We are in a dark place; I agree with that. But the darkness is always greatest before the dawn. If darkness comes, we don't flee as Christians. We shine the light! We believe in the power of the literal bodily resurrection of Christ. All hell cannot stop the power of the resurrection from saving people and transforming society.

³ Ibid. Phillips.

FEAR WORKS BY MAKING CIRCUMSTANCES BIGGER THAN GOD

It's not just people that seem big with sinful fear takes over our heart. It's circumstances. All David's friends can see is the society crumbling around them. So they panic and ask questions like someone who doesn't know the Almighty true and living God. Listen to them.

11:3 | ...if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

The foundations of society in Israel were being destroyed (11:3). We can say the same today that our formerly Judeo-Christian culture is on the verge of collapse—so **what shall the righteous do?**⁴

We trust in a God and in a kingdom that is far more powerful than anything in this world. Don't fear **man**. They can do nothing to you without God's permission.

Don't fear **circumstances**. It's God who is guiding you dear child of God. What shall the righteous do? Trust in the God who rules a Kingdom that cannot be shaken.

Understanding the Kingdom that Cannot be Shaken

The writer of Hebrews in Hebrews 12:26 quotes Haggai 2:6, "Yet once more I will shake heaven and earth." There's coming a time when all the nations of the world will crumble. But listen to the conclusion of Hebrews 12:27, "This phrase, 'Yet once more,' indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that **the things that cannot be shaken may remain.**"²⁸ Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire" (Heb 12:27-29).

Listen, the kingdoms of this earth will all fall and fail. The brightest and best of societies will one day crumble. But the Kingdom of God will always remain.

Proclaiming the Kingdom that Cannot be Shaken

We dare not put our trust in earthly nations or politics. We vote our conscience. We as Christians should run for office if we can and make a difference. But the greatest difference we can make is sharing the true Kingdom, the everlasting Kingdom of Jesus Christ with people.

If the foundations of our earthly society be destroyed, what shall the righteous do? We shall preach the Kingdom of Jesus that can never be destroyed.

2. STAND FOR JESUS (11:4-6).

As we see our nation crumbling, the wise pundits of the earth are telling us to get rid of our moorings. They distort and destroy traditional marriage, trying to redefine it. They tell us we need to accept gender dysphoria as normal. They tell us that living in sexually deviant ways is a human right that should be protected. They are trying to conform our minds to their thinking. They were doing the same thing to David in his day. As believers, made righteous by the person and work of Jesus Christ, we feel vulnerable and

⁴ Stephen J. Lennox, *Psalms: A Bible Commentary in the Wesleyan Tradition* (Indianapolis, IN: Wesleyan Publishing House, 1999), 53.

unprotected in a hostile world. What did David do? He looked to the Lord for protection. It is the all wise God that will protect us as we stand in the unshakable truths of his Kingdom. Listen to David:

11:4-6 | The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man. ⁵The LORD tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence. ⁶Let him rain coals on the wicked; fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup.

God is the wise judge. He's the wonderful counselor. There is no friend or counselor you will ever find that is wiser than God. No one has ever been or ever will be his counselor. He knows all and is all loving. What a wise God we have.

WE STAND IN GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

We should trust in the LORD and rest in his sovereign direction of our lives, completely. That's what David did.

11:4a | The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven;

This is like David quoting Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." The Temple of God here is not the Temple Solomon built because that Temple didn't exist yet. This is God's throne in heaven. His throne does not mean that God can only be in that one place at that one time. God is not limited by time and space. The idea of God's throne is symbolic of authority and sovereignty. God has sovereign control over my life whether I like it or not. He is God, and I am not.

As our nation crumbles, we need to rest in the wisdom of God who is sovereign and wise enough to direct our steps. God's wisdom extends to the infinity, and "in him we live and move and have our being." As Christ "upholds all things by the Word of his power" (Col 1), he does so for a purpose. David understands that purpose. God is directing David's life. This is personal.

It's not enough to simply believe that God is sovereign. You need to entrust your entire life, all your thoughts, words, and deeds to Jesus Christ, to his throne, his holy Temple. That means you need to recognize his divine authority over your life. Have you done that? Then you are not wise.

Dear Christian, you don't need to flee when our nation crumbles. Shine as a light and shine that wisdom to all who will hear. Christ is on his throne. Humble yourself before him. That's wisdom.

WE STAND IN GOD'S SCRUTINY

God is so wise, that he not only directs our paths, he tests our hearts and minds and actions. We as Christians are called to a life of holiness. God knows the difference between the righteous and the wicked. It's more than theology. It's not just what you "believe" but what you "be", if you know what I mean. It's not about knowing but being. Listen to David:

11:4b-5 | ...his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man. ⁵The LORD tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.

God is the judge of all the earth. What is “in” or “cool” or “current” in our culture should not affect the child of God. Our eyes should be on the Lord. He is the judge. God looks upon your heart. God knows who his true children are. God tests the righteous.

Revival or Ruin

It is so easy to judge by the appearances of the moment. Often it looks as though God has abdicated His throne, He is so strangely silent. Evil men and seducers wax worse and worse. But God is in His Heaven, that is where He sits and He has no end of options for dealing with wicked men.

Take for instance two alternatives which could be in God’s mind for dealing with the situation today. The first option could be **revival**. There is nothing like an old-fashioned, Holy Ghost revival for cleaning up a corrupt society. The devil has never learned how to cope with revival for the simple reason he is no match for the Holy Ghost! One really good, soul-saving life-transforming, earth-shaking revival could put righteousness, morality, integrity, and faith back into every phase of human life and society.

In the eighteenth century, for instance, especially following the French and American revolutions, there was such a decline in vital Christianity that many concluded that Christianity’s influence was about finished. But then in the nineteenth century came four great revivals which made an enormous impact upon society throughout Europe and the English-speaking world. Christianity again became a force to be reckoned with in human affairs. Enlightened legislation was enacted by governments, the world was invaded by missionaries and evangelists, social and family life were purged. It could happen again in the late twentieth century, should the Lord so decree.

Another option God has could be **ruin**. God could just as easily come again for His Bride, the Church and bring those who reject Christ to ultimate ruin.⁵ I’m thankful for the patience of God, and that he’s not willing that any should perish.

He is calling the righteous to be faithful and stand and shine as lights. He is calling the wicked to turn to him before it is too late.

God’s Eyelids

God is not dead, He is not blind, He is very much alive and alert. The reference to God’s “eyelids” is interesting. When we want to look at something very narrowly we narrow our eyelids, half closing our eyes. Far from being indifferent to what was happening to David, the Lord narrowed His eyes, taking a sharp look at it. He was using the situation at Saul’s court—just as He uses the situation in today’s world—to try both the sinner and the saint. God puts men in the crucible in order to make them reveal themselves either as dross or silver.⁶

WE STAND IN GOD’S SEVERITY

God may be mocked on social media and kicked out of the discussions in the public square as outdated. His name, his Word, and his prayers have already been banished from our courts and public schools. God may be silent, but he is very much alive. He is patient. But there will be a day when God says: enough. Listen to David’s prayer.

⁵ John Phillips, Ps 11:4a.

⁶ Ibid.

11:6 | Let him rain coals on the wicked; fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup.

This prayer for divine retribution upon the wicked is not a vindictive, personal thing but a conscious realization that **God and sin cannot continually coexist**. God must punish sin or He must cease to be holy.

In the Old Testament the outstanding example of God's wrath being outpoured was the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. The judgment of the flood was more extensive, but the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah in the flaming fire was more intensive. Moreover, it is the Old Testament type of the judgment to come—judgment by fire. David could clearly see that sins which corrupt the very foundations of society simply cannot be ignored by God. And since He has pledged Himself never again to drown the world in water, the next time He acts in summary judgment it will be in flaming fire.⁷

The Gospel: Our Only Hope

This leads us to the Gospel: There is a payday someday. God must punish sin. But did you know, he already has punished sin? A sinner may be justified by putting his or her faith in death of Christ on the cross. He lived the perfect life we could not live. He died the sacrificial and brutal death we all deserve. “He became sin for us who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor 5:21).

Remember the friends of David's panicked question: If the foundations of society are destroyed, what shall the righteous do? What is David's answer: Take refuge in the Lord – trust in him who is bigger and wiser, and also safer than everything!

3. GAZE INTO JESUS' FACE (11:7).

There was a 7.2 magnitude earthquake in California on Friday night. On the news in California, the anchors' desks were trembling. They even had to prematurely end an NBA Summer League game.

There is another kind of earthquake happening in our society. The foundations and morals of our culture are shaking. They are crumbling. What shall we do?

We are never to flee in fear, but to flee to the Lord, and to “behold his face”. That was David's hope. He says:

11:7 | For the LORD is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.

WHO ARE THE RIGHTEOUS WHO GAZE?

Again, when David is talking about the “righteous” people, he's not talking about self-righteousness or perfect people. He's talking about born again people who have had their hearts “circumcised” by the Spirit who gives them the desire to walk in the Word, the Torah, the Law. Ultimately, righteous people take refuge and satisfaction in seeing the face of God: knowing the presence of God.

The Bible tells us in the New Testament, that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God. Only the righteous enter. What does that mean? It means if you are born

⁷ Ibid. Phillips, Ps 11:6.

again, you have a consistent pattern of holiness due to the Spirit of grace in your life. Those who do not love holiness do not know the Lord. They may be convicted of sin, but they have no love for holiness and are not converted. So who are the righteous? The righteous are those who have a new heart and are satisfied in Jesus. But we ask another question...

WHY DO THE RIGHTEOUS GAZE?

Why do the righteous gaze into the face of the Lord? The righteous find safety and rest in the face or presence of God. Their hearts have been changed by the magnificence and majesty of God. This worldview is expressed by David: he says, “the upright shall behold his face.” If you love seeing the face of the Lord now, be assured you will see his face for all eternity. If he speaks to you now, he will speak to you for all eternity. We are eternally safe if we are born again. The mark of the truly born again is that we love to fellowship with God. Abraham was called the friend of God, and Jesus says, we who are born of the Spirit are friends of God as well! He has not called us merely servants, but “friends”. I’m glad to be a servant of Jesus, but I’m also his friend. Do you love to “behold his face”?

Whatever happens, the righteous, born again person is safe in the end. His final and everlasting reward will be to gaze upon the lovely face of the Lord in glory. Present circumstances may be dark but the future is magnificent. We shall see His face! It is the crowning bliss of glory.⁸

Conclusion

What shall the righteous, born again, Spirit filled Christian do if the foundations of society are destroyed? Shall we escape away from all the unrighteousness? No! We should **shine**. We should **stand**. We should **stare**.

Psalm 16:11, “In your presence is fullness of joy, at your right hand there are pleasures forevermore.”

The Moon’s Reflection

Have you ever looked up in the sky and appreciated the moon? Why is the moon so beautiful? Because it’s reflecting the rays of the sun. We would never see the sun’s reflection at night if it were not for the moon.

That’s what we are in this dark culture. As the foundations of our culture are being destroyed, we are to shine the light of Jesus into our culture. Jesus is the sun, and you are the moon. Are you reflecting Jesus to our culture or just running away?

⁸ Ibid., Ps 11:7.