

# America Under Attack

(September 11, 2001)

In light of the horrendous events that have befallen us this past week, many are left sorrowing, angry, confused and fearful. The way the events unfolded that fateful morning, it was as though the attacks would never end. The pain, suffering and destruction were tremendous. Just as one unbelievable sight was assimilated, a new horror was unleashed, and then another. Then there were fears of more hijacked planes in the sky, where would they fall? Some among us have lost loved ones to these senseless attacks and as a result are depressed and bitter. The nature of such unbelievable things happening here in the US leaves many with a sense that things will never be the same again. Even now, many are afraid and looking anxiously with anxiety toward the next act of violence. Because of this terrorism, some who would love to perpetuate this atmosphere by making prank bomb threats. Others are busy concocting scams, taking advantage of an opportunity to deceive those grieving. Our minds are not allowed to rest, for the media is constantly keeping us up to date with special reports that seem to never end.

There is talk of war and retaliation among our leaders. Vows have been made to stamp out all terrorism and all those who would sympathize with them. Most certainly there will be a military answer to this horrible disregard for innocent lives. But when and what will happen, we can only wonder. Some in other countries feel the same pain we feel because they themselves live daily with the threat of terrorism. Others, with only hate for the US, dance with joy in the streets at the news that this is our darkest hour.

Everyone realized one thing on that Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> morning; it was that they were totally helpless to do anything about the events as they unfolded. All most of us could do was watch with shock and terror the news as if it were a Hollywood action flick. All the time, knowing that what we were witnessing was real, and unlike the movies, thousands of innocent people slipped into eternity that morning. Many turned to God. Prayer seemed to be the one word on everyone's lips. Our leaders told us to pray, the media solicited prayers and it seemed that everyone looked to God for answers. I immediately began to pray and ask for God's mercy for it is our responsibility to pray.

As Christians, we need to know that we are living in the devil's world. This world is his evil system and it is certainly not our home. Why is this world such a mess? It is a reflection on its ruler -- Satan. Christians are not of this world; we are commanded not to love the world. We should never put our hope or trust in this world. We are here by the grace of God and He can remove us anytime He sees fit. We must never forget that we are on the battlefield for our Lord. "No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier" (2 Tim 2:4). Some would still ask, why would God allow such terrible suffering and death? Such is the price for freedom. God's creation of free will was possibly His crowning act of creation. We are true free moral agents created with a will, which is able to say "no" to God. Our free will is limited and will never make us sovereign, for that belongs only to God. Of course, it is God's will that we recognize Him for who and what He is, and say

“yes” and choose to love and obey Him. God has a world in mind in the future where righteousness will flourish and only justice will prevail. This present world is NOT that world and is certainly not our home (Col 3:1-3; Phil 3:20).

While we live in the world, we must not forget that we have a mission. As ambassadors, we must keep our focus in the midst of chaos and confusion, gross evil and wickedness. We are to stand as shining lights in this dark and perverse time, holding forth the Word of life. We are commissioned to preach the gospel and to grow up in the Lord. We are not to sorrow as those who have no hope, but we are to weep and mourn with those afflicted. We are not to fear death for Christ our Lord owns the keys of death. Even though this is the case, many find themselves, fearful, overcome with worry and doubt for their safety and their future. We need to hear a word from the Lord for some of us feel that He is very distant from us. It is in times like these that we need to seek the comfort of the Lord. We need to allow His infallible word to comfort our fears with promises that cannot fail.

“Remember your word to your servant, for you have given me hope.  
My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life.” Ps 119:49-50

We need to not only read the promises, but we must mix them with faith, trust and a dependence that clings to them as a child clinging to his parent’s legs. As you read the following verses, know that these things are given to us in order that we may have full assurance. In order that we may have courage and a steadfastness that even terrorists cannot shake. Empty words from politicians cannot satisfy our souls, but God has given us something that gives us peace that passes all understanding. Our Lord warned us that there would be tribulation in this world, but we are to be encouraged, for He has overcome the world. We have the privilege of overcoming in His strength by faith.

**Ps 46:1-11**

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
  - 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
  - 3 though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. Selah
  - 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.
  - 5 God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.
  - 6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
  - 7 The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah
  - 8 Come and see the works of the LORD, the desolations he has brought on the earth.
  - 9 He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the shields with fire.
  - 10 "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."
  - 11 The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah
- (NIV)

**Ps 91:1-7**

1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.  
2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."  
3 Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.  
4 He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.  
5 You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,  
6 nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.  
7 A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

**Lam 3:21-26**

21 Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:  
22 Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.  
23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.  
24 I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."  
25 The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him;  
26 it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

**Ps 37:5-7**

5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this:  
6 He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.  
7 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

**Ps 37:39**

39 The salvation of the righteous comes from the LORD; he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

**Ps 56:3-4**

3 When I am afraid, I will trust in you.  
4 In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?

**Ps 42:11**

11 Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

**Phil 4:6-8**

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-- think about such things.

**Isa 12:1-2**

1 In that day you will say: "I will praise you, O LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me.

2 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation."

**Matt 6:25-34**

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?

26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

27 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.

29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Pastor Douglas E. Presley  
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