Hope In The Midst Of Chaos – Part 3 -

In part 1 and 2 of this sermon series Hope in the Midst of Chaos I talked about what happens when a nation decides to push God out of every part of their national life, when they push Him out of there schools and out of there sports teams and out of there courts and out of there public conversation. When a nation chooses to no longer acknowledge God or give Him the praise and thanksgiving He deserves that nations is playing with fire. They are setting themselves up for judgment and what Romans chapter one describes as God giving them over to a depraved mind, to unholy passions and to the lusts of their hearts. And the scary part is how quickly it happens. America and much of the Western World were playing with fire for so long but then suddenly we are in the middle of an inferno, and we are saying to ourselves how did we get here, how did this happen so fast?

And the problem of coming under the judgment of God and being given over to a depraved mind is that we as a nation lose the ability to think logically and with discernment. Which means everything around us; the economy, the judicial system, our schools, big business, tech giants, politicians begin to do things that make no logical sense. They start to do things that inflicts personal harm on the country, on our families and even on themselves. And because things don’t make sense it creates an uncertainty and confusion that overwhelms us and the confusion and uncertainty always gives way to fear.

In fact, let me show you what I mean in the book of Isaiah. Because Isaiah talks about the judgment of God by prophesying about what God calls the Cup of Trembling.

***Isaiah 51:1-2 - NKJV - “Listen to Me, you who [***[***a***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+51&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-18675a)***]follow after righteousness, You who seek the Lord: Look to the rock from which you were hewn, And to the hole of the pit from which you were dug. 2Look to Abraham your father, and to Sarah who bore you; For I called him alone, and blessed him and increased him.”***

Now although Isaiah is speaking this prophecy directly to Israel notice how he begins; he says this prophecy is not just for Israel, but it is for anyone who follows after righteousness, anyone who seeks the Lord; anyone who is not just physically but spiritually a part of the lineage of Abraham and Sarah which we all are in Christ.

***Isaiah 51:17 – NKJV - Awake, awake! Stand up, O Jerusalem, You who have drunk at the hand of the Lord the cup of His fury; you have drunk the dregs of the cup of trembling, and drained it out.***

God through Isaiah speaks to the remanent of His people and commands them to wake up. God says wake yourself; in other wards stir yourself up and get out of the place you are in right now. God was saying that to the remanent in Israel back in Isaiah’s day but through this prophecy he is saying it to us again.

Now what are we supposed to wake up from? Well verse 17 goes on and tells us, we need to wake up from drinking from the cup of trembling.

See with God’s judgments that was coming on the nations during Israel’s time God had prepared a cup. In fact, look at what Psalm 75 says in verse 8.

***Psalm 75:8 – NKJV - For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup, And the wine is red; It is fully mixed, and He pours it out; Surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth drain and drink down.***

This scripture is telling us that when God brings judgment on a nation or a people like Romans chapter one when he gives them over to a debased mind that God always prepares a cup that is mixed with wine; mixed with different types of intoxication that He makes the wicked drink from.

And there are four elements, four fears, four intoxications that are mixed in the cup of trembling that we are all feeling right now throughout the western world.

Four great fears that Isaiah’s generation had to drink that are spoken about in Isaiah 51; that we are drinking now under God’s judgment.

***Fear Number 1 – A daily personal fear of losing everything.*** A fear of survival because of the chaos and the conditions of the world around them.

***Isaiah 51:13-14 – NKJV - And you forget the Lord your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth; You have feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, when he has prepared to destroy. And where is the fury of the oppressor? 14The captive exile hastens, that he may be loosed, that he should not die in the pit, and that his bread should not fail (the fear of starvation).***

Isaiah is writing this when the Israelites were living in captivity in Babylon and there were rumors that the Persians were going to rise up and start a war with Babylonians; that they were going to come and capture Babylon. And the Israelites were trigged by all these rumors, they began to think back in the past when Babylon took them captive and how they lost their homes and their land, there savings.

And we are living in a day where we are feeling the same tension and eeriness that Israel was feeling. There is something in the air and everyone knows it that something is coming. We all know there is going to be a crash. And there is this anxiety and this tormenting fear that we are dealing with every day as the news seems to go from bad to worse and it is this fear that keeps asking the question am I going to survive this? Am I going to lose my home and everything I have worked so hard for?

***Fear Number 2 – The fear of losing their children to the Babylon culture.***

***Isaiah 51:20 – NLT - For your children have fainted and lie in the streets, helpless as antelopes caught in a net. The Lord has poured out his fury; God has rebuked them.***

The children were becoming senseless to God; their hearts were becoming more and more hard to God’s word and The Holy Spirit because of the Babylon system they were living in.

Does that not describe one of the major fears of the church today? If I send my kid to public school or to college, if they keep watching these movies and keep engaging in all the social media it is only a matter of time before they lose their faith. But what can I do this is how the world interacts and if I deprive them of these things how will they function in life?

***Fear Number 3 – The fear of war.***

***Isaiah 51:19 – NLT- These two calamities have fallen on you: desolation and destruction, famine and war. And who is left to sympathize with you? Who is left to comfort you?[***[***e***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2051&version=NLT#fen-NLT-18669e)***]***

The fear of war. We are living in a time where the possibility of World War 3 is becoming more real than ever before. Our top Generals and even our President have said things that show how serious they are taking the Russian invasion in Ukraine and Russia’s relationship with China. And we all feel this fear that this could be it. Are we going to see another World War in our lifetime, are we going to see nuclear war in our lifetime?

***Fear Number 4 – There was no more leadership.***

***Isaiah 51:18 – NKJV - There is no one to guide her among all the sons she has brought forth; Nor is there any who takes her by the hand among all the sons she has brought up.***

There were no guides or leaders to unify and settle the hearts of the people. No one had any real solutions or knew what to do. There leaders were blind and were like children they were not able to put aside their own agendas and selfishness to do what was right and best for everyone.

Now this all sounds pretty terrible, doesn’t it? How many in this room can honestly say Pastor Michael those are exactly the 4 fears I deal with on an ongoing basis? I have been drinking from God’s cup of trembling. But look with me at one more verse.

***Isaiah 51:21-22 – NKJV - Therefore please hear this, you afflicted, and drunk but not with wine. 22Thus says your Lord, the Lord and your God, who pleads the cause of His people: “See, I have taken out of your hand the cup of trembling, the dregs of the cup of My fury; you shall no longer drink it.***

Now listen to what God is saying. God is saying that He has made provision, He has made a way for His church to never have to drink from the cup of trembling again. Even during judgment God has provided a way where His people no longer has to live in fear. But how? What is the provision?

Well right this down; ***God delivers us from the cup of trembling by preparing another cup for us to drink.***

***Luke 20:20 – NKJV - 20Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.***

The cup of the New Covenant. What is that?

***Hebrews 8:1-6 -  NKJV - Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, 2a Minister of the [***[***a***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%208&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30095a)***]sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.***

***3For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore, it is necessary that this One also have something to offer. 4For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; 5who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, “See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.” 6But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.***

A few things we need to highlight in this passage of scripture; **A better covenant, established on better promises, we have such a high priest, every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices.**

A better covenant established on better promises what does that mean? Well in the Old Testament God made a legally binding agreement, a covenant with His people; God swore to give them **His presence, His power, His protection and His provision** if and only if His people gave to Him **perfect, personal, perpetual obedience.**

Every day that His people gave Him perfect, personal, perpetual obedience they knew that God was legally obligated by the high courts of heaven to provide for them, to protect their family, to minister to their hearts with His manifest presence and to tear down enemy strongholds and attacks by His power. But the problem is God’s people kept breaking their side of the covenant, they kept disobeying God, so God was no longer obligated to give them His presence, power, protection or provision.

But God longed to be in a covenant relationship with His creation. He wanted to have a relationship with man where man was completely at rest knowing that God would be His provider and protector and power and peace.

So God turned to His son before the creation of time and said; We are gonging to create man and we will establish a covenant relationship with them; where they will trust us for every one of their needs and we will be God to them and they will be our people but man is going to sin and break our covenant relationship and because we will no longer be legally obligated to take care of them they are going to be filled with fear and anxiety, they are going to be constantly drinking from the cup of trembling.

But God the Father and the son and The Holy Spirit agreed that Jesus would come to Earth and become a man and The Father and the Son would enter into a covenant relationship with each other where God would finally be in covenant with mankind. Jesus would come to Earth and give to the Father perfect personal perpetual obedience and every day as Jesus gave His Father perfect, personal, perpetual obedience the Father gave His son His power and His protection and His presence and His provision. Jesus walked in this covenant relationship with His Father for 33 years. He never worried about what to eat or where he would stay at night, He never worried about demonic attacks or spiritual warfare, He never worried about people trying to throw Him of the brow of a hill, He never worried about not sensing God’s presence; why? Because of the agreement that He made with His Father; because of the covenant. He knew that every day He gave His Father perfect personal perpetual obedience The Father would be legally obligated by the covenant to give Him His presence, power, protection and provision.

But before Jesus gave His final act of obedience that He and His Father agreed to, which would be dying on the cross for the sins of humanity Jesus prays to the Father in John chapter 17 and asks for one more condition to be added to the covenant. And this was the condition; that anyone who believes in Him the Father had to agree and be legally bound to give them His power, protection, provision and presence.

Now watch this; Jesus is making a new covenant with better promises on our behalf before He dies. Why is this covenant better, why are the promises better? Because the covenant was made between The Father and Jesus, which means all of the condition are being met by them, we get to come into the covenant through our union with Christ. Which means God the Father is legally obligated to give us His presence, and power and protection and provision whether we are having a good week or a bad week. Whether we read our bible for hours and pray and fast and resist ever temptation or whether we had a rough week and we failed in our spiritual disciplines. God is still obligated because He made the covenant with Jesus, and we come into it through our union with Him. See God is obligated because of Jesus perfect, personal, perpetual obedience not because of our perfect, personal, perpetual obedience. Does that make sense?

Okay but here is the question **how do we know for sure that God agreed to Jesus’ condition of giving us His power, protection, provision and presence?**

Well Hebrew says that Jesus is our High Priest, and He offered the Father both gifts and sacrifices.

Now watch this; back in the old covenant there was a day called the day of atonement. It happened once a year and the High Priest would take the blood of a bull and enter the Holy of Holies which was the room in the tabernacle where the Ark of The Covenant stayed. No one could go into that room where God’s presence dwelt accept once a year by the High Priest and only with blood. Now some Jewish legends and stories say that they would tie a rope around the ankle or the waist of The High Priest when he entered the Holy of Holies because if God didn’t accept the blood sacrifice, if for some reason the bull’s blood was unacceptable to God the High Priest would be struck dead by the Lord. And because no one could go in and get his body because they would die in the presence of God without some type of blood atonement the other priest held on to the end of the rope and if they heard his body fall to the ground and they didn’t feel any more movement they would pull the high priest’s carcass out. Now most Jewish historians say that this is old folk lore, and no one ever tied a rope to The High Priest but the fact that everyone watched the tabernacle to see if the high priest would come back out alive is 100 % true.

See during the day of atonement everyone stopped working and they all gathered at the gate of the tabernacle, and they watched as the High Priest took the blood into the Holy of Holies they watched, and they watched, and they watched until the high priest came back out. And when they saw the high priest come back out and the fact that he was still alive they knew that God had accepted the sacrifice for their sins and that God would be legally obligated to give them His power and presence and protection and provision one more year. When the high priest came out it broke the fear and the anxiety that was all over the people. It took away the cup of trembling.

Now watch this. Jesus who is our high priest died on the cross and cried out it is finished, in otherwards he fulfilled every term and condition the Father had asked Him to do in the new covenant. He did it all. It was finished and His blood was spilled but then after He died, He was put into a tomb. And as Jesus was in that tomb every single angel and cherubim and seraphim and demon and principality in the heavenly realms, were sitting on the edge of eternity watching and waiting watching and waiting just like the Israelites during the day of atonement. They were watching to see if Jesus would come back out of the tomb. Because if Jesus came out of that tomb like the high priest coming back out of the holy of holies alive that meant that the covenant was accepted and established, and it was unchanging. Now if Jesus stayed in that tomb, it means that his blood and His perfect personal perpetual obedience was not accepted by the Father. The terms and the conditions of the New Covenant were not binding. But guess what He came out. Which means every person who is in Christ has God’s legally binding contractual agreement that He will give us His presence and power and protection and provision and keep us until he brings us home to heaven. And God can never stop doing this because He is bound to do it because of Jesus perfect, personal, perpetual obedience. Even if America becomes an ash heap God will still give us His protection, power, provision, and presence; He will never take it away because He will never deny His son and the covenant that He made with Him.

Communion -