

Serving God When the Trumpets Sound
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Introduction: Men are quick to forget that they are frail and need the protection of God.

A. Only when we see our frailty will we be able to gain true wisdom to live.

(Psa 90:10-12)

1. In 2001 I was scheduled to hold a meeting the Sunday after the world trade center attacks. Tension and fears were very high.
 2. For the Bible class, Curtis Flatt spoke in my place and recalled his generation's reaction to Pearl Harbor in 1941. He then spoke on the providence of God.
 3. Every generation has one or more of these events that brings the confident expectations of the masses to a sudden and frightening halt.
- B. In these occasions a mature faith in God can become so powerful and attractive to others. We have God with us! **(Rom 8:31-37)**
1. This is a product of walking with God over time!
 2. We have had time to think about death and what follows! **(Rom 8:18)**
 3. What do we need to know for "such a time as this?"

I. Remember that God rules among the nations

A. God has shown us time and again that He brings nations up and also takes them down. **(Rev 2:26-27)**

1. He gives nations opportunity to repent by warning them.
2. There comes a time where a nation reaches the point of no return. **(Gen 15:16)**

B. The book of Revelation gives a detailed account of God's warnings to the nation of Rome and His eventual destruction of that nation.

1. The book of Revelation was written primarily for the struggle of that generation. **(Rev 1:1)**
2. God used "trumpets" that is calamities of various kinds to humble men so they might repent and seek God. **(Rev 8:6-10)**
3. Consider the effects of a sudden catastrophe. We see the world anew!

"Even while numbness sets in, something else happens. A mental "window" opens for a period of time that shocks us into an appreciation of our existence in a more poignant way than our everyday awareness allows for. We become more sensitized to the simple beauty of our being alive and the importance of those who matter to us. Suddenly the important things in our lives jump forward in bold relief. The window tends not to stay open for too long, as we slowly drift back into our common mentality."

4. These trumpets affected everything that was important to the worldly man. The misery was so great that many wanted to die. **(Rev 9:5-6)**
5. Sadly most failed to repent when the trumpets sounded in Rome. **(Rev 9:20-21)**
 - a. Most today will not respond with repentance.
 - b. Foolish men never learn. **(Prov 27:22)**

II. We will have a great opportunity to show what faith in God looks like

A. Consider how the apostle Paul reacted in terrifying circumstances.

1. Paul gave loving, sound advice and was ignored. **(Acts 27:10-11)**

2. A lengthy, terrifying storm ensued and men gave up all hope. Their priorities changed and the things once considered very important were cast overboard! They stopped eating! **(Acts 27:18-20)**
 3. Up to this point Paul was in the background and was ignored or even looked down upon. If they had been paying attention, they would have seen something!
 4. Paul now steps up and tells them about the God they did not know and showed the confidence and peace that faith in the true God brings! **(Acts 27:21-25)**
 5. That moment of terror caused them to listen to a message they would not have given consideration of before!
- B. Daniel and Belshazzar show the contrast of the prepared and the unprepared!
1. It is a truly sad day when men experience this kind of terror! **(Daniel 5:5-9)**
 2. God allows the wicked to continue for a time. There will be a day of reckoning that will be filled with terror. **(Mt 8:12; 13:41-43)**
 3. While this pitiful, miserable event was brought on by God, He had done all that could be done to prevent it. God gets no joy out of it! **(Ezk 18:23)**
 4. Why did God do the many things He did with Nebuchadnezzar? Like his father before, now thoughts are turned to know what the living God wants.
 5. Daniel stands like a rock showing a complete confidence in God. **(Daniel 5:18-23)**
 6. It never pays to “willingly forget.” Daniel could not help Belshazzar.

III. We have many doors of opportunity now placed before us

- A. We have a great opportunity to strengthen our personal faith!
1. How would we have reacted to being beaten and our lives threatened? **(Acts 4:29)**
 2. Each of us ought to ask ourselves a very personal question: “Do I have such a faith in God as to confidently face my own death?”
 3. Let this time be one to be honest and to bring true repentance. Let’s stop “playing at religion and church.” **(2 Cor 5:20-6:2)**
- B. Many now will be willing to openly talk about God and the bible!
1. Thursday night I made a passing comment to someone at the gas pump – many discussions ensued with several people!
 2. Would we know what to say in such an occasion? We can speak of our assurance and what God has done for us!
 3. Maybe this will move us to sharpen our ability to share our faith.
- C. We will have other opportunities to serve those in real need.
1. What can we do for those who are sick?
 2. What can we do for those who lose Jobs?
 3. Can we better communicate with one another to cooperate in these opportunities?
 4. Above all, we want all to go to heaven! The gospel comes first! **(Rom 1:15-16)**

Conclusion: Will we by faith take the doors God now places before us?