

I happened to be reading Isaiah 21:1-12 this morning. Its message seems appropriate for our times. It contains an oracle to both Babylon and to Judah (Jerusalem) - to the ungodly and to those who claim to be godly. Both were guilty of the same Babylonian "principle" of self-sufficiency. The "spirit" of Babel fosters a deception of independence - "let us build for ourselves..." (Gen 11:4ff). "We will find a self-made way out of the next crisis and deliver ourselves!"

Isaiah declares a "windstorm" (21:1) - a tempest, a whirlwind, a crisis is coming to expose such delusions. It will cause much groaning and pain. Terrible discomfort will be experienced. Some will go on eating, drinking, and making merry as if there were no danger (21:5). But the rest of us need to "pay very close attention." (21:7) The "gods" of Babylon will be exposed as frauds and lie "shattered on the ground." (21:9) So why would we - God's people - hitch our wagon to lying spirits? to gods that cannot "god"? to professed deliverers that are pathetically doomed?

Many are asking, "How long will this night last?" (21:11) Until it has done the work our Sovereign, Loving, Redeeming God intends! The "night" of terror and the "darkness" of calamity have a mission - "I will give you the treasures of darkness... so that you may know Me" (Is 45:3-7)! What "treasures" can come out of this? "Inquire, inquire of God," Isaiah says. "Come and return to Him as your sufficiency and count on Him to be your supply," Isaiah declares, (Is 21:12) "and you will find out."

Perhaps one of God's "treasures" will be seeing all the "no-gods" smashed to pieces. (Is 21:9) (Yet, will we go right back to believing that the stock market, the sports teams, the travel industry, the "blue" or "red" politicians are our deliverers?) Maybe another "treasure" will be the re-ordering of our priorities so that they align with what has actual value in God's sight. (Or, will we revert back quickly to being busy "being busy" due to our moral laziness?)

Yes, God's people will be "afflicted" with everyone else in these "tempests". (21:10) We may not know for how long, but we do know what to do in such times - in every tempest - humbly turn to Him in faith, repenting of whatever did not come from Him in the first place, consenting to "what (we) have heard from the Lord of Hosts." (21:10) Self-preservation, self-acquisition, self-reliance - the spirit of Babel—have never been a path to peace, a route to abundant life. They've always been and always will be "dead ends"... until they "will not be found any longer." (Rev 18:21) In the meantime, we are God's "children of the threshing floor." (21:10) Threshing has a meaningful, productive purpose in mind - separating the wheat from the chaff, the grain from the husk. Spiritually speaking, separating the godly objectives from the ungodly, the Christ-like pursuits from the unChrist-like.

The windstorms, the darkness, the threshings may get our attention, but they do not change us. It is the "One Who makes the winds His messengers" (Ps 104:4), "the Light of Life" (Jo 1:4), the Heavenly Thresher (Is 27:12-13), Who transforms everyone that comes to and listens to Him. What are you hearing? What will be made different in you once the storm has passed?

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## *Praise Reports & Prayer Requests*

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Please inform us of any changes to your address



# Greetings

There is no calendar this month. Each of our conferences, meetings, etc through June have been cancelled or rescheduled. The ones for the fall may or may not happen. We will "inquire" of the Lord (see other side!) and plan accordingly.









Please make every effort to "redeem the times" (Eph 5:16). Buy up any extra or "down" time to listen to our Father, intercede for one another, and encourage fellow brothers and sisters with the Truth of the Gospel - "proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, UNHINDERED!"

Paul spent months and years either in prison or under "house arrest"... and he is still preaching to us today! Write letters, start that book (if only for your family to read long after you are gone!), email, text, tweet, call - "consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds" - and come out on the other side ready to "run your course with joy"!

Let every thought (positive or negative), every feeling (up or down) serve as an "escort", an "agent" of God inviting us to pour our soulish reactions to all this into His infinite love... . "Whenever I am \_\_\_\_\_ (afraid, sad, lonely; peaceful, joyful, at rest), I will trust (get lost in, rely upon, abide in and abandon to) You!"

Then these "momentary afflictions... will produce for us an eternal weight of glory." (II Cor 4:16) May it be so for each of us! In His deathless love, Steve

## Praise & Prayer

-  Eyes to see the false gods embedded in our culture
  -  Prioritize anew to the glory of God
-  Waiting upon the Lord ala Isaiah 40:31
  -  Wisdom to invest in what God values
    -  Our daily bread
    -  Our ultimate and eternal security
    -  The family of God that encourages us
    -  Opportunities to fill in the gaps for others

## P. S.

This could be our last printed newsletter for awhile, depending upon how "essential" we are deemed to be. If you do actually receive this, you may want to look for future newsletters on [stevepettitmessages.com](http://stevepettitmessages.com)