

Daniel Perrin – L9: In the Psalms–Part 2 – Monday, May 26: Hope Amid Turmoil

1. This is a lesson of Contrast: Hope — Turmoil
 - a. You need the right hope to turmoil ratio in your life — so we don't focus on one exclusively
2. Jesus promised that, EVEN IF things seem to be going fine NOW, THERE WILL BE turmoil that will increase in the world — AS His Coming Draws Near, NOT decrease.
 - a. Read Luke 21, Mark 13, **Matthew 24**, especially **verses 8–9**
 - – *For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of sorrows.*
 - We could add to that list hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, riots, injustice, terrorism, financial collapse, political upheaval, government control, violence.
 - These examples of turmoil could carry away everything we have in a single hour.
 - b. On the other hand, we are also told in **Revelation 7** that there are 4 angels (that's all it takes) who are holding BACK the onslaught of turmoil that is possible
 - So if you think the whole world is coming apart, just think of what it COULD be like, but God has thus far mercifully shielded us from the imploding forces of selfishness.
3. So, How CAN we have Hope, REAL Hope **AMID** (right in the middle of) turmoil?
 - a. It doesn't come from stocking up on supplies and having an impregnable fortress
 - That's what the builders of the Tower of Babel attempted
 - b. We have to know the big picture — Bible Prophecy paints this for us — Judgment
 - This world is NOT all there is.
 - We know that God rules over all.
 - **Psalms 22:28** – *For the kingdom is the LORD's, and He rules over the nations.*
 - We know that True HOPE doesn't mean everything will be EASY
 - A Time of Trouble comes to an end – a glorious end for God's saints
 - c. IN FACT, God allows turmoil in our life, because it tests our faith / STRENGTHENS our faith.
 - That's what it did to Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, right — on the plain of Dura in Daniel 3?
 - **1 Peter 1:6–7** – *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,*
 - This helps us to TRUST Jesus — THE KEY TO HOPE — NOT just words: "I TRUST JESUS!"
 - We can look back and say, "He didn't leave me THEN! — EVEN when life was hard."
 - WHICH MEANS, God allows us to EXPERIENCE opportunities to step out in faith
 - Resting ourselves on His Promises Even when it's hard.
 - Obedience to God NOW when it stretches our faith, STRENGTHENS our ability to trust Jesus WHEN turmoil arises.
 - **Psalms 63:7** – *Because You HAVE BEEN my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.*
 - **1 Samuel 17:37** – *Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear. He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."*
 - **2 Timothy 4:17–18** – *But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!*

- d. We have to put our trust in the Prophetic Messages God has given us — like an ANCHOR in the midst of a storm
 - In the time of King Zedekiah, Jeremiah gave Israel — the OPPORTUNITY to have Hope
 - The nation was in turmoil as the city was surrounded by an destroying enemy ordained by God
 - Jeremiah gave this hopeful message in **Jeremiah 38:2** — *“Thus says the LORD: ‘He who remains in this city shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence; but he who goes over to the Chaldeans shall live; his life shall be as a prize to him,’”*
 - In other words, surrender to God’s discipline at the hand of the nation of Babylon.
 - They disregarded God’s messenger, and went with their own wisdom by resisting Babylon.
 - Jeremiah told the remnant that was left that they should NOT flee to Egypt
 - **Jeremiah 42:15–16** — ... *‘If you wholly set your faces to enter Egypt, and go to dwell there, **16** then it shall be that the sword which you feared shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt; [and the famine ...] and there you shall die.*
 - They didn’t trust God’s messenger —rejected the Hope God offered
 - e. The HOPE God sent wasn’t just ease and comfort
 - HOPE involves obedience to confronting messages that are in line with everything God had already revealed.
4. HERE’S the Parallel For Today if we want Hope Amid Turmoil
- a. God HAS SENT messages of HOPE through an end-time messenger.
 - b. If you are familiar with Ellen White who lived from 1827 to 1915, you may already know I’m referring to the things God instructed her to write.
 - c. If that name is new to you, take the book “The Great Controversy” and read it through, call the 3ABN Pastoral Department and ask about what she wrote.
 - AND the validation God placed on what she wrote.
 - d. What she wrote isn’t a new Bible —
 - AND what she wrote *isn’t different* from what the Bible teaches
 - BUT ... Because of our sin and selfishness, even with the Bible in our hands, we can overlook how it applies to us.
 - SO, WHAT SHE WROTE shines a bright light on God’s Word, bringing to the surface an understanding of the full weight of God’s Word — that has been there all along.
 - e. But God has given a message of hope in her writings that can be like Jeremiah’s.
 - The message of hope doesn’t just say, “You’re going to be fine.”
 - It shines a light on the parts of Scripture that we have been reluctant to obey
 - The message of hope OFTEN REBUKES SIN and INSTRUCTS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS
 - Unfortunately, our natural inclination is to REJECT the message of rebuke
 - AND reject the messenger
 - f. But I just want to encourage you with my experience:
 - Those messages have been precious to me.
 - I read the Bible every day — and something from one of the books or articles of Ellen White as well.
 - I am encouraged with Hope that God wants me to understand His Word and His Character and His Power

We have to talk faith / think faith / TO OURSELVES and TO OTHERS

- **Psalm 23**