

## Go forth without fear in the Strength of the Lord

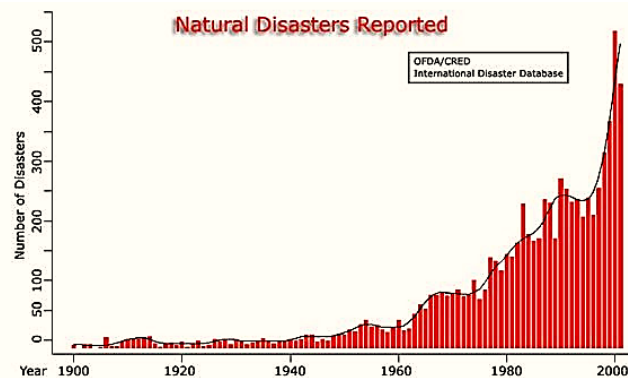
by Pat Chadwick



*I will go in the strength of the Lord God; I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only (Psalm 71:16).*

### As a New Year stretches before us, let us go forward into it without

**fear.** The past several years many things have happened in the world, which have increased our fear levels. Such things as: A scourge and desolating Sickness/Covid-19, failure of the bulwarks of society thus causing riots and increase in violence, an increase in natural disasters is also taking place. The terrible tornadoes just this past December are a good example. Thirty tornadoes sweeping through 6 states killing scores of people speak loudly to us of calamity. One tornado on the ground for over 200 miles was truly record breaking. All of these things tend to raise our anxiety and fear levels. We can see the increase in natural disasters in the graph below.



(The 2020 Ecological Threat Register (ETR) shows. Data captured between 1900 and 2019 showing an increase from 39 incidents in 1960 to 396 in 2019.)

What of wars and rumors of war. Even now Russia has amassed 92,000 troops on the Ukraine boarder, and China threatens to take over Taiwan. China, since October has sent over 150 war planes to fly over Taiwan and on December 10<sup>th</sup> threatened the United States with war if they attempt to defend Taiwan. We see prophecy being fulfilled almost daily all around us.

**Many scriptures and prophecy testify of the terrible troubles to come upon the earth in the Last Days.** Jesus himself said: *...And then his disciples asked him, saying, Master, tell us concerning thy coming? And he answered them, and said, In the generation in which the times of the Gentiles shall be fulfilled, there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations with perplexity, like the sea and the waves roaring. The earth also shall be troubled, and the waters of the great deep; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth. For the powers of heaven shall be shaken (Luke 21:24-26).*

**Jesus also said:** *Yea, wo be unto the Gentiles, except they repent, for it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Father, that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots, and I will cut off the cities of thy land and throw down all thy strongholds; And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thy hand, and thou shalt have no more soothsayers: Thy graven images I will also cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the works of thy hands; And I will pluck up thy groves out of the midst of thee; so will I destroy thy cities (3 Nephi 9: 101-104).*

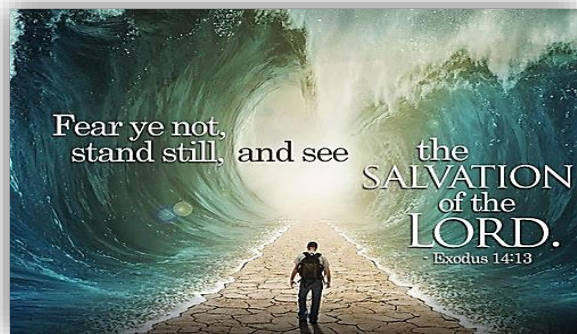
**The Doctrine & Covenants says:** *And in that day shall be heard of wars and rumors of wars, and the whole earth shall be in commotion, and men's hearts shall fail them, and they shall say that Christ delayeth his coming until the end of the earth...and in that generation shall the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled; and there shall be men standing in that generation that shall not pass, until they shall see an overflowing scourge, for a desolating sickness shall come over the land; but my disciples shall stand in holy places, and shall not be moved; but among the wicked, men shall lift up their voices and curse God, and die. And there shall be earthquakes, also, in divers places and many desolations; yet men will harden their hearts against me, and they will take up the sword one against another, and they will kill one another (Doctrine & Covenants 45:4a-f).*

So, when we read these types of prophecies, how do we handle the fear that can, at times, come into our hearts? Recently I taught several classes on the

end times and the foretold calamities that are coming upon the earth. To teach it, I had to immerse myself in the prophetic warnings of the last days. As I contemplated all I had learned and taught, fear came into my heart. I wondered how we would be able to endure the many harsh trials that were headed directly to us, in this day and time. It was a Wednesday, the day after my last class, that this fear came upon me and that evening at prayer service as I continued to consider these things, a sweet Spirit rested upon me, giving me a deep assurance that I need not fear. God was in control and full of power, authority, and also great love and compassion. He would be with all who love Him, serve Him and call upon His name. We would not stand alone in this great battle which is before us. He would strengthen us and protect us.

I then prayed and asked God if these thoughts were truly from Him would He give me a second witness. A member of the priesthood then stood and expressed similar thoughts about the last days and how we need not fear, for God would be with us. He quoted from Doctrine & Covenants 135, which I quote later, but it is all about the power and protection of God.

Then, Ed Story was in charge and at the end of the service he read a beautiful statement all about God's love, compassion, authority and power. The reading just verified what the Holy Spirit had placed in my mind that we need not fear anything, even death itself, for God was with us and we could totally trust in Him. So it was that a third witness was given. **So it is that I can testify to you that No Matter what comes, we need Not Fear!!**



**The Troubles & Calamities Are Real but So is Our God.** Jesus himself said: *In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world (John 16:33).*

**Jesus reminds us to not be troubled:** *And now, when I the Lord had spoken these words unto my disciples, they were troubled; and I said unto them, Be not troubled, for when all these things shall come to pass, ye may know that*

*the promises which have been made unto you shall be fulfilled (Doctrine & Covenants 45:5a-b).*

**God gives us this promise:** *The promise has been given that no power shall stay the hand of God in the accomplishment of his purposes among his people; and as the church shall move forward in its great work, the fulfillment of prophecy may cause the Saints to tremble at the exhibition of divine power, yet they shall rejoice in the protection of his grace (Doctrine & Covenants 135:3a-b).*

Will we stand as the Israelites did in Moses' day and see God deliver us? I don't know, but I do know we need not fear for God is always with us. He tells us not to be fearful. This is where our faith and trust come into play. Will we trust in Him and believe on His words? Remember His words are truth and He keeps all His promises. *I will love thee, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will call upon the Lord, for he is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from mine enemies (Psalms 18:1-3).*

## Digging Deeper

Given in a sermon by Arthur Oakman,  
Nov. 1957 Norwalk, Connecticut, New York District Conference

I had a peculiar experience in 1954. It was at Conference. I will relate it here for whatever good it might do you. It was at that Conference that I had the responsibility, along with [Apostle] Percy Farrow, of directing the priesthood prayer meetings on Sunday morning and every morning of the week. On the last morning of that series, I was made to know that the time would come that it would be necessary for the Almighty to sanctify the atmosphere above Zion for the distance of 15,000 furlongs. **And I knew too that He had the power in His hands, by miraculous means, if necessary, to preserve every hair of every head that it was His will to preserve. Ladies and gentlemen, the only safe place there is, is "the secret place of the Most High," as the Psalm says. If God preserves you, you are preserved, and if He does not, you are not preserved.**

The forces of destruction will be let loose, and the inhabitants of the earth be made to mourn; and the Church people will mourn too. Days of sorrow and weeping will come upon us. And we shall be made to feel the nature of the wrath that comes upon people of wickedness.

President Frederick M. Smith said in one of his last revelations, *"The promise has been given that no power shall stay the hand of God in the accomplishment of his purposes among his people; and as the church shall move forward in its great work, the fulfillment of prophecy may cause the Saints to tremble at the exhibition of divine power, yet they shall rejoice in the protection of his grace (Doctrine & Covenants 135:3a-b)."*

When those days come, it is the will of God that His people do not fear. It is the will of God that His people look up and seek His grace, that in the midst of such conditions their testimony might be forthcoming to a perplexed and smitten people, and that their testimony may restore to them some measure of faith and hope--perfectly persuaded--that when these days of sorrow and destruction come upon the people of this country, brief as they may be yet terrible, that there will be created an opportunity by reason of this judgment that will open the ears of men, and unstop their ears and open their hearts to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. A brighter and more prosperous day will be seen and experienced by the people of this Church than they have ever experienced before. Blessed and holy is he or she who, through these days of comparative peace and prosperity, shall develop their talent--whether they be young or whether they be old--and shall spend their energies and make sacrificial efforts, that they may be equipped to minister solace and comfort and reconstruction to people who are around them. That is the calling of our Church.

So, as we look forward into the future then, let us not be afraid, but let us be conscious of the fact that these things of which I have spoken must surely come; for as the Book of Mormon says, "For the kingdom of the devil must shake, and they which belong to it must needs be stirred up unto repentance (2 Nephi 12:23)." A terrible thing to contemplate! But it is in the hands of God. And if we will offer ourselves more perfectly than ever before for the ministry of salvation and peace. I am sure the good Lord will bless us and keep us; availing to bring peace and release and freedom, for I am sure He will do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. But I am equally sure that He will not do for us that we can do for ourselves. *"Men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness; for the power is in them wherein they are agents unto themselves (Doctrine & Covenants 58:6d)."*

*"A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee (Psalm 91:7). He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty (Psalm 91:1)."*  
We are in the hands of God to do with us as seemeth Him good. Let our souls

then rest content, and let us in every place bear our testimony now of those things which are to come. And when the day of desolation shall come, we shall be able to stretch forth a helping hand and preach the saving word, which I am sure it is our duty and our high privilege to do.

I am sure that God has nothing but good for us, and in spite of the shadows and clouds which gather around us with speed, and gather toward the storm. Let us be assured that after the storm and the earth is cleansed once more, and the air is sweet and nature is revived, so will it be, and a more glorious opportunity to spread abroad the ministry of Jesus will be vouchsafed to this people. I am sure of these things. I know God is, and that His Son Jesus Christ is the Lord of Creation, and I know that all that we may achieve under Him will be achieved as we recognize Him and give Him the place of rightful Lordship in our lives. May God bless each one of you all the time and in every place, is my prayer.

## Action Page

Psalm 149:6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth,  
and a two-edged sword in their hand;



There is great power in praise. When we praise God, it increases our understanding of who He is and causes our faith to grow. Praise helps us keep our eyes on Jesus which increases our faith; thus we are strengthened. Faith and Fear cannot dwell in the same place. Praise is a spiritual warfare weapon. It is a two-edged sword in our hands, it fights off fear, depression, anger, anxiety, etc. Praise removes those negative emotions that drag us down and incapacitates us and replaces them with



those that uplift us, such things as Hope, Courage, Joy, Love, and Peace. Praise brings us into the presence of God.

- Praising God is like dropping the Atomic bomb on Satan.



In Psalms chapter 17, which our scripture reference comes from for this month, it also speaks of praising God. David understood this principle. David says, *“Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honor all the day (Psalms 71:8).”* Do we praise God all the day long as we go about our activities? Do we praise Him in the storms of life? How well do we know how to praise God? We can praise Him in the storms of life for He has promised, *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28).”*

Remember Praise eliminates Fear, so we need to learn this skill, so we can walk unafraid as we go through the days ahead. **Let us also offer up the sacrifice of Praise.** *By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to his name (Hebrews 13:15).* **What do we sacrifice and give up = fear, anger, discouragement, disappointment, anxiety, etc.**



- This month let's Hone our Spiritual Warfare Skill so we can Fight Fear.
- Let's Work on Praising God Daily.
- Let's Daily Walk in an Attitude of Praise and Thanksgiving.



- Praise Him!
1. **Praise God for His attributes = look for and learn His attributes = loving, kind, powerful, holy, unchanging, truthful, sovereign...**
  2. **Praise Him for who He is = Names of God tell us who He is = look for and learn His names.**
  3. **Praise him for his mighty works = Study the great deeds He has done.**
  4. **Praise and thank Him for what He has done for you personally = Keep a list of Blessings, Praise Him as you walk through your day for the little and big blessings.**



*\*We are happy to announce that starting in February, Elder Bill Jones will be taking over the Bulletin Inserts.*