

Doubt! The Misery of the Double Mind

(preached 11/8/20)

ELECTION 2020

Please turn to *James 1*.

James 1:2-8 (ESV)

² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,

³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

MEME. A few days ago I was scrolling through Facebook and saw a meme that immediately got my attention. It showed a picture of a shovel and some dirt and said “don’t let doubt dig up a seed planted in faith.” I see lots of memes, including Christian ones that are both Scriptural and encouraging, but caused me to pause and take stock.

ABE & SARAH. We recently reviewed the story of Abraham and Sarah who, although receiving the plan and promise from God that they would birth Isaac, they took up a shovel and temporarily dug up that seed that they’d formerly planted in faith. Why? They doubted. Earthly circumstances seemed to defy the prophecy God had shared with them.

TRUE TEST! That’s when the real test comes, doesn’t it? When we feel like God has shared His plan with us and we believe! Yet as time passes, there’s no earthly evidence that it’s happening and perhaps even evidence to the contrary. He tells us we’ll be out of debt in the near future and suddenly the transmission goes, costing a 4 figure sum to repair or replace. He promises that if we start working on our own issues that our marriage will get better. We act on that promise and the division seems to get worse.

It’s during this time that we’re tempted toward doubt.

GREEK. The Greek translation of doubt is what I expected and is the word Jesus used on Peter when he began to sink after successfully walking on water: “to waver in opinion.”

HEBREW. The Hebrew translation of the word doubt is fascinating: “prey, tear in pieces, feed, ravaging.”

RAVENING WOLVES. Both words show what's going on inside of us when doubt rears its ugly head: not only are we wavering between 2 opinions, but we're allowing earthly evidence to prey upon, tear in pieces, and feed upon the faith that God has given us. Jesus used this description when talking about false prophets which He described as "ravening" wolves...in other words they're people or organizations who gaslight people. Who hand them shovels and convince them to dig up the seeds of truth, God's plan, and God's promises, that Jesus has planted within them.

END TIMES PROPHECY. I'm going to share a prophecy about the end times:

Daniel 7:15-22 (ESV)

¹⁵ "As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me.

¹⁶ I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things.

¹⁷ 'These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth.

¹⁸ But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.'

¹⁹ "Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet,

²⁰ and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions.

²¹ As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them,

²² until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.

"IT'S GOING TO BE OK." We can read these verses and conclude that although things will be tough for these Tribulation saints, everything turns out OK at the end. Verse 22 shows the Second Coming of Jesus Who arrives and makes everything OK.

GRUESOME DETAILS. Yet...are we aware that the Bible gives more details—some of which are gruesome and hard to read—about what happens in verse 21? The horn being described in said verse is the Antichrist and Daniel is shown more:

Daniel 8:23-25 (ESV)

²³ And at the latter end of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their limit, a king of bold face, one who understands riddles, shall arise.

²⁴ His power shall be great—but not by his own power; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints.

²⁵ By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and in his own mind he shall become great. Without warning he shall destroy many. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken—but by no human hand.

ANTICHRIST. The king being described is the Antichrist and verse 23 says transgression and sin reaches it's uppermost limit. It's the same situation Paul described in 2 Thessalonians 2 that the "Man of Lawlessness" won't appear until the restrainer is taken out of the way. Verses 24-25 show the power of the Antichrist comes from the Dragon and look what happens:

- He shall succeed in what he does.
- He causes fearful destruction.
- He destroys the saints.
- Deception grows and spreads under his rule.
- He fights with Jesus at Armageddon.

"TAKE A BREATH" Again I say: from our perspective in the here and now we could reassure whoever these "saints" are who will be alive during this time to take a breath, calm down, have some faith, and trust in God because everything will work together for good. ***Yet...when the time finally comes and these saints are being killed by the hundreds of thousands by the Antichrist, is it possible that doubt might appear?***

DOUBT HANDS US SHOVELS. Even if they've read these same verses and the ones in Revelation which promise that Jesus will save them from complete destruction, might their faith be "preyed upon" by the earthly evidence around them? Revelation goes on to say that the exact same saints being killed in this moment are resurrected from the dead and will sit on thrones of judgment over the people who killed them. Thus even though they've read and believed those verses, and faith that things will happened exactly as God said is planted within them, that the false prophet of worldly circumstances might hand them a shovel and inspire them to dig it up?

SURROUNDS JERUSALEM. God gives the terrifying details of this war beyond what we've read here. After the Dragon chases one group of saints into the wilderness and they escape him, he's flips out and goes to Jerusalem to attack the saints walled up within the city. He surrounds Jerusalem with a massive army and....

Zechariah 14:1-2 (NKJV)

¹ Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst.

² For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

BEAST IS WINNING.... These 2 tough verses show us the Antichrist successfully breaches the walls and begins killing the saints within along with committing other abominable acts. ***What will be the only thing to fight back against the ravening wolf of doubt that's trying to devour the people?***

The prophetic promise of God planted as seeds of faith within their hearts.

MORE THAN WORDS. These prophetic promises are more than mere words. Jesus is the Word! When God shares His plan through the Scriptures they're more than black and white, but are living and active. They're guaranteed by Jesus Himself because He didn't just speak them, He is them.

GOOD SHEPHERD. Jesus once called Himself the Good Shepherd and went on to qualify what a Good Shepherd does in a time of trouble:

John 10:11-14 (NKJV)

¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

¹² But a hireling, *he who* is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them.

¹³ The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.

¹⁴ I am the good shepherd; and I know My *sheep*, and am known by My own.

WOLF THE PREYS. In the beginning of this message I read to you the Hebrew definition of doubt: a wolf that sees us as prey, attacks us, tears us to pieces, and eats us. ***What will be the only recourse of the end times saints who are being torn to pieces by the armies of the Antichrist?***

They must stand on the Word of God.

STAND ON JESUS! Jesus IS the Word and even though their earthly circumstances will be that of death, destruction, and defeat they'll need to remember God's plan. They'll need to stand upon what God prophesied would happen and their faith can actually GROW and become stronger even when the Dragon himself is knocking down their doors.

**WHEN THEY TRUST IN GOD'S AGENDA, THE GOOD SHEPHERD PLACES
HIMSELF BETWEEN THEM AND THE WOLF.**

"But Scott, you just read that the saints lose the war and their lives! How is Jesus standing between them and the wolf?"

Doubt is the wolf. Can you imagine being one of those Tribulation saints during this horrific event? Imagine maintaining your peace even as soldiers point their guns for the kill shot. Picture the internal hope that remains steadfast even as your life ends. The wolf tried to attack but it never got to you...the Good Shepherd stepped in.

FOUNDATION IS CHRIST. *How could a person seeing certain death descending on them possibly maintain their faith?* Because their foundation is in what Christ says will happen next...let's continue reading in Zechariah 14:

Zechariah 14:3-9 (ESV)

³ Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle.

⁴ On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward.

⁵ And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

⁶ On that day there shall be no light, cold, or frost.

⁷ And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light.

⁸ On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter.

⁹ And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one.

JESUS RETURNS. As the armies of the Antichrist are satiating their wicked bloodlust, Jesus descends from heaven mounted up on a white horse with an army of human saints and warrior angels, numbering in the hundreds of millions, right behind them who utterly destroy the evil army down to the last man.

SAINTS INVIGORATED. ALSO: joining this army will be the saints in Jerusalem who survived the Antichrist's attack. Their bodies are supernaturally empowered, according to chapter 12, where even the weakest and most feeble among them become stronger than King David at his prime.

KINGDOM COME. Right after this massive battle, Jesus establishes His Kingdom and everyone comes to worship Him. All these saints are raised from the dead and seated on thrones of authority in which they judge the nations alongside Jesus.

Doubt is a hungry predator that wants us to believe we only have a hireling watching over us, and not the Shepherd Himself.

DOUBT IS A FALSE PROPHET GIVING US EARTHLY DATA, REPORTS, CIRCUMSTANCES, AND EVENTS AND TRYING TO CONVINCE US THAT THESE THINGS ARE TRUTH...THAT THEY ARE THE "WORD." They're handing us a shovel and trying to convince us to dig up what God has told us is true, and plant a different word that isn't Jesus. It's trying to get us to replace Christ with Anti-Christ.

BELIEVED THEN...? Have you received a piece of God's plan that you formerly believed in but you've been trying to fight off doubts? Have earthly circumstances bitten at and torn your faith to pieces? Preyed upon you?

Let today be the day that you're reinvigorated with God's promise. Let the Good Shepherd stand between you and the wolf trying to attack and scatter you.

2 Peter 1:16-21 (ESV)

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

¹⁷ For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,"

¹⁸ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,

²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.

²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

SING B-I-B-L-E