

**Be Not Afraid**

*“Be not afraid of the king of Babylon, of whom ye are afraid; be not afraid of him, saith the LORD: for I am with you to save you, and to deliver you from his hand”* (Jeremiah 42:11).

We all desire to live in peace; free from fear, while at the same time to live faithfully in God. Can these two desires coexist? According to Jesus, if we truly believe in Him troubles will find us, *“Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you...”* (John 15:20). Why must this be, one might ask? There is an eternal purpose to the fears and doubts that creep into our lives and that purpose is that we should repent and believe the gospel (Mark 1:15). This great purpose of God toward all mankind is illustrated in the many troubles that had often beset the Jews and the rest of Israel in the Old Testament, *“It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin”* (Jeremiah 36:3). God wants to forgive our sin and this sin must be forgiven according to His word. No true believer in Christ should expect a trouble-free life because we all sin (1 John 1:8).

Our text expresses that God would not shield the Jews from adversity, but that they should trust Him to get them through whatever beset them. The apostle Paul provides similar comfort in his day, *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it”* (1 Corinthians 10:13). That same promise is extended to us today; He will see us through any difficulty if we obey His word, *“I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye”* (Psalm 32:8). Afraid of Nebuchadnezzar, the Jews *“from the least even unto the greatest”* (Jeremiah 42:1) asked Jeremiah to pray for God’s guidance concerning their fears, *“That the LORD thy God may shew us the way wherein we may walk, and the thing that we may do”* (Jeremiah 42:3). They even vowed that whatever God instructed, that would they do, *“Whether it be good, or*

*whether it be evil, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God, to whom we send thee; that it may be well with us, when we obey the voice of the LORD our God”* (Jeremiah 42:6). Outwardly, they were very strong in faith, proudly pronouncing their great faith to God and to others, but very quickly pride overtook them when Jeremiah did not preach according to their liking, *“...and all the proud men, saying unto Jeremiah, Thou speakest falsely: the LORD our God hath not sent thee...”* (Jeremiah 43:2). In their desire to serve God they had deceived themselves about the way of salvation, which likely was gleaned from the teachings of others and from their own imaginations. Hence, they summarily dismissed God’s word and chose their own course, *“But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth...”* (Jeremiah 44:17). Although God was calling to them, they would not answer by humbling themselves to accept His word, *“They are not humbled even unto this day, neither have they feared, nor walked in my law, nor in my statutes, that I set before you and before your fathers”* (Jeremiah 44:10). These laws and statutes are found only in His living word, the Scripture, which the Jews of our text obviously did not hold in high esteem.

God wants our heart but it is clear from the foregoing that He will not force us nor has He predestined us to accept His offer of forgiveness which is through the blood of Christ. Simply, He desires us to turn to Him of our own free-will, *“Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering”* (Exodus 25:2). These offerings were those of sacrificial animals brought by a penitent soul *“... of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle...”* (Lev 1:3) so that *“... the priest shall make an atonement for him, and it (his confessed sin) shall be forgiven him”* (Lev 4:31). These offerings foreshadowed the Messiah to come.

Therefore, be not afraid, *“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you”* (1 Peter 5:6-7).

God’s Peace, Charles Korhonen

### Online Broadcasts

From our webpage: <http://www.tapiolachurch.org/> you will see the mixlr live audio – we will be 'on the air' during our church services.

### Winter Schedule

Sunday School/Adult Bible Studay 9:45am

Church at 11:00am

Bible Study at 7pm on Wednesday.

Sep 4	Ken Storm	Holy Communion
Sep 11	Roy Tapio	
Sep 18	Ken Storm	
Sep 22-24th	Special Services	7pm
Sep 25	Special Services	11am 2pm

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