

DAVID'S  
11<sup>TH</sup>  
PSALM

WHEN A NATION'S  
FOUNDATION  
CRUMBLES



**THE WORD OF THE LORD IS PURE  
AS  
SILVER TRIED IN A FURNACE OF EARTH  
PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES**

Psalm 12:6

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## David's 11<sup>th</sup> Psalm –WHEN A NATION'S FOUNDATION CRUMBLES

To the Chief Musician, A Psalm of David

### **Psalm 11:1-7 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup>IN THE LORD PUT I MY TRUST: HOW SAY YE TO MY SOUL, FLEE AS A BIRD TO YOUR MOUNTAIN?

<sup>2</sup>FOR, LO, THE WICKED BEND THEIR BOW, THEY MAKE READY THEIR ARROW UPON THE STRING, THAT THEY MAY PRIVILY SHOOT AT THE UPRIGHT IN HEART.

<sup>3</sup>**IF THE FOUNDATIONS BE DESTROYED, WHAT CAN THE RIGHTEOUS DO?**

<sup>4</sup>THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE, THE LORD'S THRONE IS IN HEAVEN: HIS EYES BEHOLD, HIS EYELIDS TRY, THE CHILDREN OF MEN.

<sup>5</sup>THE LORD TRIETH THE RIGHTEOUS: BUT THE WICKED AND HIM THAT LOVETH VIOLENCE HIS SOUL HATETH.

<sup>6</sup>UPON THE WICKED HE SHALL RAIN SNARES, FIRE AND BRIMSTONE, AND AN HORRIBLE TEMPEST: THIS SHALL BE THE PORTION OF THEIR CUP.

<sup>7</sup>FOR THE RIGHTEOUS LORD LOVETH RIGHTEOUSNESS; HIS COUNTENANCE DOTHS BEHOLD THE UPRIGHT.

### **Introduction**

God's Word is a stabilizer in our lives. Within the Bible we find comfort, strength, direction, and guidance for every situation in our life. If we do not live according to the Bible, we will not have the assurance of God's promises for His help during hard times. We are now experiencing the most difficult days we have ever faced in our country, the United States of America. We have lost our oneness, stability, strength, and care for one another. Our nation is suffering from uncertainty, uneasiness, conflict, and distrust. If ever we need to rely on God and His Word, today is the day. Such times should lead us to cry out to God, asking Him for the wisdom, courage, and obedience to do what is right.

**Now** (Ps.11:1) IN THE LORD PUT I MY TRUST: HOW SAY YE TO MY SOUL, FLEE AS A BIRD TO YOUR MOUNTAIN?

David was familiar with difficult situations, and through them all, he learned to trust the Lord. When he faced Goliath, his confidence was not in himself but in the faithfulness of his God. And when King Saul became jealous of David and tried on several occasions to kill him, David fled for his life, hiding out in the wilderness.

**Now** (Ps.11:2) FOR, LO, THE WICKED BEND THEIR BOW, THEY MAKE READY THEIR ARROW UPON THE STRING, THAT THEY MAY PRIVILY SHOOT AT THE UPRIGHT IN HEART.

David preferred to flee from all these negative situations, however this was impossible because he was surrounded by enemies and situations contrary to his beliefs. David's world was falling apart.

David assures himself and others that even though things are bad (Ps.12:8), God would preserve and secure David and God's own people (PS.12:5,7), and that God would certainly honor His promises to them (Ps.12:6). Perhaps this Psalm was intended for a future corrupt reign; and perhaps David, in spirit, foresaw that some successor ruling nations would bring about things as bad as described here, and that this Psalm would be of value for the use of the Church at that future time.

**Now** (Ps.11:3) **IF THE FOUNDATIONS BE DESTROYED, WHAT CAN THE RIGHTEOUS DO?**

When there is a general decay of honesty and goodness in the courts, government and country, that nation's foundation is in great danger. David complained to God about such a situation as he suffered by the treachery of his false (fake) friends and the disrespect exhibited toward godly values by so many people. David begs God to help, because there were many men that were not trust worthy.

When everything is crumbling beneath us, we must remember that God's Word is our true foundation. No matter what we face, Scripture assures us that we are the children of God, and He promises to see us through that unfortunate situation. This does not mean we will not experience suffering or disappointment, but the Lord walks with us every step of the way. His Word is our compass and guidebook for every hardship, heartache, and problem. As long as we follow His instructions, we will be able to face every situation.

David likened the foundation of a nation to that of a building. If a house is to last, it must be built on a strong foundation. Otherwise, it will begin to crumble, and the house will fall. In the same way, a nation whose foundation is weak cannot endure. Abraham Lincoln said that a house divided cannot stand. A strong national foundation consists of law and order, justice, truth, morality, decency, integrity, fairness, and trustworthiness. When these are abandoned, the foundation begins to crumble, and the nation is in danger of collapsing.

What is the foundation that the United States was built upon? To answer this question let us consider what George Washington said in 1789. On April 30<sup>th</sup> 1789, George Washington became the first President and America became a nation. Washington's inauguration took place on the balcony of the Senate Chamber at Federal Hall in New York City. Federal Hall, at that time the Capitol of the United States of America, was located at 26 Wall Street, New York, New York. Federal Hall was located in an area that is now referred to as "Ground Zero" since September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001.

After being sworn in with his right hand on the Holy Bible, early in his inaugural address to the joint session of the two Houses of Congress, our first President **dedicated a new nation to Almighty God:**

"Such being the impressions under which I have, in obedience to the public summons, repaired to the present station, it would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official act my fervent supplications to that **Almighty Being**

**who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States a Government instituted by themselves for these essential purposes, and may enable every instrument employed in its administration to execute with success the functions allotted to His charge.** In tendering this homage to the **Great Author of every public and private good**, I assure myself that it expresses your sentiments not less than my own, nor those of my fellow-citizens at large less than either. **No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than those of the United States."**

After the inauguration, President Washington and members of Congress walked down the street to St. Paul's Chapel. There they prayed for two hours, asking a blessing for their new nation, America. America was blessed with abundance. Prayer was a common practice in colonial American schools, which were often merely offshoots of a local Protestant church. Along with Bible study, this tradition continued after the United States' independence and school prayer flourished through 1962. The Pledge of Allegiance was modified in 1954 by Congress with a bill introduced in Congress by Oliver P. Bolton to include "under God." (*American Bar Association: sponsor of the House resolution to insert the words "under God" per Oliver Bolton of Ohio, Representative of the United States in the Congress*).

President Washington outlined the major characteristic of a firm foundation for the United States of America – keep God in first place as He is in total control of our nation and our lives. If we trust God, the result will be a continuation of a strong national foundation consisting of law and order, justice, the rule of law, truth, morality, decency, integrity, fairness, remembering our past, and trustworthiness. When any one of these are threatened our nation is threatened. Unfortunately, trusting God and all the characteristics above of a Godly nation are now under siege.

How should we respond if the foundations of our great country are destroyed?

- Turn to God. Like David, we can choose to say, "In the Lord I take refuge" (v.1). This means we place our confidence in God and become attentive to His voice. He has given us unshakeable, absolute truth in His Word. When we place our trust in what He has said, we will receive stability and direction for our lives.
- Instead of trying to run away from our difficulties, we should run to God. He is all-powerful and knows all our struggles and needs. There is no stronger or safer refuge than almighty God. He loves us and intends for us to stand strong, firm, and true in the midst of hardship, suffering, and loss, knowing that He is trustworthy. The foundations of our physical world may crumble,

and we could lose every possession we own, but even then the Lord is sufficient to carry us through.

**Now** (Ps.11:4) THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE, THE LORD'S THRONE IS IN HEAVEN:

Nothing is beyond His control, and He is ready to hear our concerns and requests when we come to Him in prayer. Whatever our needs may be, He has provided assurances and promises in His Word.

(Ps.11:4) HIS EYES BEHOLD, HIS EYELIDS TRY, THE CHILDREN OF MEN.

His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.

**Now** (Ps.11:5) THE LORD TRIETH THE RIGHTEOUS: BUT THE WICKED AND HIM THAT LOVETH VIOLENCE HIS SOUL HATETH.

The Lord tests both the righteous and the wicked. From His divine perspective, He sees and knows everything, and He uses our trials to test us. We have no reason to fear evil because we are secure in our relationship with the Lord.

**Now** (Ps.11:6) UPON THE WICKED HE SHALL RAIN SNARES, FIRE AND BRIMSTONE, AND AN HORRIBLE TEMPEST: THIS SHALL BE THE PORTION OF THEIR CUP.

He hates violence, and promises that one day He will punish the wicked.

**Now** (Ps.11:7) FOR THE RIGHTEOUS LORD LOVETH RIGHTEOUSNESS; HIS COUNTENANCE DOTHS BEHOLD THE UPRIGHT.

God responds to us when we turn to Him. The Lord places us under His divine protection. When we are in a right relationship with Him and walking in obedience and submission, He determines the limits of our trials and suffering. This does not mean He will remove all pain and trouble from our lives, but He guards us through these situations. And even if we lose our lives, He promises that we will immediately be in His presence (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor.5:8).

No matter what our circumstances may be, we can believe God. It may seem as if He's inactive, but He's not. When situations get worse in our country (and they will), He is not sitting in heaven wringing His hands. The Lord rejoices in the opportunity to intervene and show Himself strong for His children and for the world to see. Instead of running away, we should learn to wait upon the Lord and seek His direction as we love and praise Him for all that He is doing for us. God is in total control.

When the foundations around us crumble, it's time to look within ourselves, asking the Lord to reveal any sin in our lives. Then we must confess it and repent by making a determined choice to turn away from that sin and to the Lord. If we do not deal with our sins, they will hinder our prayers. Only after our lives have been cleansed will He be able to use us in whatever way He chooses.

People who do not know Christ become frightened when the foundations around them crumble and circumstances become difficult. They look for ways to

protect themselves, but we can encourage them to look to the Lord, who is the only true source of security. He will show Himself strong to those who are willing to trust Him. As believers, we have a responsibility to share the teachings of God's Word.

The difficult times we face are larger than our own issues; our entire country is in trouble. The situation has now exponentially escalated to the point where man can no longer turn it around. The solution is not found in voting new candidates into office, but in pleading with God to send a revival. According to history, revivals always begin with just a few people who humbly seek the Lord. If we will sincerely turn away from sin and to God, a handful of individuals could become a crowd joining together to cry out to the Lord for our country. As our society abandons its former foundation, we must intercede for our nation and ask God to revive His Church.

References:

*God's Plan for the World Unveiled*, Zeman/Brown. 2019.

Charles Stanley's Sermons during June 2019.

King James Bible.

RJZ June 30<sup>th</sup> 2019