

*Serving God When the Trumpets Sound*  
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**Introduction:** Men are quick to forget that they are frail and need the protection of God.

A. Only when we see our frailty will we be able to gain true wisdom to live.

**(Psa 90:10-12)**

1. We do not need to be smart and powerful or look to those who are, to find both meaning and protection in this life.

2. One of the sad spectacles in life is that of the proud fool who is unprepared for calamity. **(Lk 12:19-20)**

B. God is merciful and allows suffering to come in order that we may think straight!

1. Israel refused to acknowledge God during its time of suffering. **(Amos 4:6-13)**

2. There is no more fearful a thought than that of meeting a living God unprepared!

3. For those who do respond God will receive, provide for and protect.

**(Joel 2:12-13)**

4. What should we do in times of physical, financial and spiritual distress?

***I. Remember that God rules among the nations***

A. God has shown us time and again that He brings nations up and also takes them down. **(Rev 2:26-27)**

1. He gives nations opportunity to repent by warning them.

2. There comes a time where a nation reaches the point of no return. **(Gen 15:16)**

B. The book of Revelation gives a detailed account of God's warnings to the nation of Rome and His eventual destruction of that nation.

1. The book of Revelation was written primarily for the struggle of that generation. **(Rev 1:1)**

2. God used "trumpets" that is calamities of various kinds to humble men so they might repent and seek God. **(Rev 8:6-10)**

3. Consider the affects of a sudden catastrophe. We see the world anew!

"Even while numbness sets in, something else happens. A mental "window" opens for a period of time that shocks us into an appreciation of our existence in a more poignant way than our everyday awareness allows for. We become more sensitized to the simple beauty of our being alive and the importance of those who matter to us. Suddenly the important things in our lives jump forward in bold relief. The window tends not to stay open for too long, as we slowly drift back into our common mentality."

4. These trumpets affected everything that was important to the worldly man. The misery was so great that many wanted to die. **(Rev 9:5-6)**

5. Sadly most failed to repent when the trumpets sounded in Rome. **(Rev 9:20-21)**

a. Most today will not respond with repentance.

b. Foolish men never learn. **(Prov 27:22)**

***II. Remember that God hears and answers prayers***

A. Habakkuk had doubts about the wickedness around him. **(Hab 1:1-4)**

1. Did God see Judah's wickedness? Indifference? Why does God not act?
2. Be careful when you seek such answers. God had a plan.
- B. God's answer was not what Habakkuk wanted to hear. **(Hab 1:5-11)**
  1. It is important to know that God knows what he is doing.
  2. The Babylonians were very evil.
- C. Habakkuk now has a greater problem.
  1. Have you ever had a problem that started out bad and then grew worse?
  2. How could God use such a wicked people? **(Hab 1:12-13)**
  3. The destruction would be great! Nothing much would be left. **(Hab 1:14-17)**
  4. "How could God allow this to happen?"

### ***III. Remember that God's judgments will come to pass***

- A. Habakkuk to his credit knew when to be quiet and listen. **(Hab 2:1)**
  1. You cannot learn when you complain all the time.
  2. You cannot learn when you close your ears in anger.
- B. God simply repeated what He said. You can count on it! **(Hab 2:2-3)**
  1. God is not like us and is swayed by emotion.
  2. When we act on principle we will see a great consistency.
  3. When things do not go "our way" is when we show our faith.
- C. God did see the sins of Judah. **(Hab 2:4-5)**
  1. He knew their pride. Only "the just shall live by faith", this is the key to the book.
  2. The righteous would also suffer in such a judgment. But they will be faithful.
  3. God now gives five woes towards Judah. **(Hab 2:6-19)**
  4. It is almost comical to think that we could ever think that we know something that God does not know! I am sure Habakkuk learned much he never knew.
- D. What we need to do is shut our mouths and listen! **(Hab 2:20)**

### ***IV. Remember that the just shall live by faith***

- A. While Habakkuk has a time of struggle, he has resolved that and give God the praise. **(Hab 3:1-2)**
  1. We too must not sit on the sidelines fuming very long.
  2. We cannot fight God. God knows best.
- B. God was doing the very best for His people. **(Hab 3:13)**
  1. All of history stands because of what God wants for His people.
  2. When we give up our faith we pervert the purpose for the whole universe.
- C. While Habakkuk has resolved his doubts, he knows difficult times are ahead.
  1. What if you knew this country would fall? What if a bloody war is coming?
  2. There is a good deal of grief for Habakkuk. **(Hab 3:16-17)**
  3. Still there is a joy that no circumstances could remove. **(Hab 3:18-19)**

***Conclusion:*** Are you ready to "live by faith" when the world crumbles around you?