

## LET'S HOLD FAST OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH



(Hebrews 4:14)

**Faith is a beautiful endowment to men.** It is a spiritual gift enabling actions pleasing to our Lord YAHSHUA. In fact, the Bible says that without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11: 6a). This gift is given to those who believe that YAHSHUA is the Son of God. It takes us places where we experience God and His presence in the midst of tribulation and hardship. There is nothing impossible to achieve when our faith is focused on the promises of God. “Though the earth should change and though the mountains be shaken into the midst of the seas, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling and tumult” (Psalm. 46:2-3), faith sustains and uplifts above all circumstances. However, the human tendency is to be fearful in hard times. YAHSHUA often dealt with the disciples for their lack of faith, for even when He was physically with them, they would fear the unknown. We are no different than they were. When the test of our faith arrives, we often fail, and like them, we become overwhelmed even when the Word of God says, Let be and be still and know that I am God (Psa. 46:10a).

**The absence of faith gives fear a foothold.** One certain day when in the boat with His disciples, YAHSHUA fell asleep when a storm of great proportion came. He had had a very busy day teaching and healing the throng. When evening had come, He said to the disciples, Let us go over to the other side. And leaving the throng, they took Him with them... and a furious storm of wind arose, and the waves kept beating into the boat, so that it was already becoming filled. But He was in the stern asleep on the cushion; and they awoke Him and said to Him, Master, do You not care that we are perishing? He arose and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, Hush now! Be still! And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. He said to them, Why are you so timid and fearful? How is it that you have no faith? And they were filled with great awe and feared exceedingly and said one to another, Who then is this, that even wind and sea obey Him? (Mark 4: 38-41). They feared because they did not know the One Who was there with them. "Who is this?" They asked, after the calm at His command. That was not the only time when YAHSHUA calmed a storm. He even walked on the water during a storm. But at that time the disciples thinking Him to be a ghost, they shrieked with fear, until He assured them: Do not fear, it is I! That's what faithless life will do for us. It will confuse the matters, for lack of recognizing the truth; it will blind the eyes for refusing to see; it will harden the heart for refusing to believe. To Thomas, one of His disciples who did not believe in His resurrection, YAHSHUA warned: Do not be faithless and incredulous, but believe! (John 20: 27b)

**Faith is our covering shield of defense.** All the flaming missiles of the wicked one will be quenched when we use it, as Paul instructed us. We are now living in the evil days long warned us. We face storm after storm of great spiritual dimensions. The soul of men is corrupted to the point of losing all faculty of reasoning. We are "in the days of Noah and in the days of Lot." YAHSHUA expressively warned us of these days and taught us how to overcome them. He said, Keep awake then and watch at all times, praying that you may have the full strength and ability and be accounted worthy to escape all these things that will take place and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man (Luke 21:36). These days, although evil, they are leading us to the consummation of time when Scriptures will be fulfilled in the world and in us: "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye." It will happen that fast. In a measure of time we cannot imagine. Why then should we be struck with fear, as if we had no hope? These evil days will soon pass; they should not be the cause for our dismay and fear, but of rejoicing that God is controlling every

situation to bring about our encounter with His Son in the clouds, so we can be with Him forever.

Let's hold fast our confession of faith in YAHSHUA, our High priest, Who ascended and passed through the heavens. For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to understand and sympathize and have a shared feeling with our weaknesses and infirmities and liability to the assaults of temptation, But One Who has been in every respect as we are, yet without sinning. Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy (Heb. 4:14-16). Let's go often to the Garden of Gethsemane to be reminded of the spiritual pains He endured before He went through His physical and emotional trials and the ordeal He suffered on the cross. Isaiah, about 740 B.C., prophesized about the Messiah's suffering by saying: I gave My back to the smiters and My cheeks to those who plucked off the hair; I hid not My face from shame and spitting (Isaiah 50:6). The writers of the books of Matthews chapter 26:67; 27:30 and John 19:1 confirm the fulfillment of this prophecy in the life of our Savior, YAHSHUA, our High Priest forever.

Just before His trials, He comforted His disciples with these words: Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me (John14:1). In the world you will have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer! For I have overcome the world (John 16:33). Political unrests are nothing but the fulfillment of Scriptures. It has to happen for this world to become one world order under the direction of the antichrist. The Word of God describes him as the son of doom, who opposes and exalts himself so proudly and insolently against and over all that is called God or that is worshiped, taking his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming that he himself is God. He is called the lawless one; he is through the activity and working of Satan (II Thess. 2:3-4,9). This world is readying itself to receive him in conformity with what he is. It has to become lawless, corrupted in every moral and spiritual aspect. When the Holy Spirit is taken away, then he will take over and nothing will be able to stop him until his time is completed.

While we are in this world, faith in God is the only thing that connects us to the Father. It opens the heavenly doors and blesses us with peace and joy amidst our tribulations. There will always be comfort available for the believer who stays connected with God. No panic or fear will ever overtake his mind, because he is

securely protected under God's shadow, trusting Him. There is no victory for a believer outside of faith, for "faith is the victory that conquers the world." Three things a Christian must do to be victorious in these difficult times: Rejoice in hope; persevere in tribulation; and be in constant prayer (Rom. 12: 12).

Tribulation of these end times is about a step closer to God's fulfilling promises. There will be no hope without faith, neither will there be prayer. Faith in the Word of God gives us hope and strength to persevere, knowing that faithful is He Who calls you,(us) and He also will bring it to pass (I Thess. 5:24). Do you remember the prophetic words Paul wrote to Timothy related to these end times? This is what he said: But understand this that in the last days will come perilous times of great stress and trouble. For people will be lovers of self and self-centered, lovers of money and aroused by an inordinate desire for wealth, proud and arrogant and contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profane, without natural affection, relentless; slanders, intemperate and loose in morals and conduct, uncontrolled and fierce, hatters of good. They will be treacherous, rash, inflated with self-conceit, lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements more than and rather than lovers of God (II Tim. 3: 1-4). And the list goes on.

"As it was in the days of Noah and Lot" so will be in the time of the Son of Man (Luke 17:26-30). Our response and reaction to all that is happening today in this world should be one of rejoicing, for our redemption is very near! To be ready even the more, as we hear and perceive the spiritual and moral decay of the world. Let's not fall short of our faith and hope in God, while we wait for the coming of His Son, not to have Him find us faithless, as He asked the question, However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth? (Luke 18:8b).

He is coming for those who are prepared and holding onto faith to the very end. Are you one of them?