

Our world is being shaken to its very foundations. Instead of offering great thoughts about God, the meaning of reality, and the gospel, there are evangelical churches that are offering only little therapeutic nostrums that are sweet but mostly worthless. (David Wells)

if the FOUNDATIONS are destroyed - what do the righteous do? Some key points from Proverbs 29

- when the wicked increase, transgression increases; but the righteous will see their fall (Proverbs 29:16)
- When a wicked man rules, people groan (Proverbs 29:2b)
- By transgression an evil man is ensnared, but the righteous sings and rejoices (Proverbs 29:6)
- If a ruler pays attention to falsehood, all his ministers become wicked (Proverbs 29:12)
- Do you see a man hasty in his words? there is more hope for a fool than for him. (Proverbs 29:20)
- A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor (Proverbs 29:23)
- Many seek the ruler's favor, but justice for man comes from the LORD (Proverbs 29:26)
- An unjust man is abominable to the righteous, and he who is upright in the way is abominable to the wicked (Proverbs 29:27)

THESIS — 4 SIMPLE AXIOMS for you when the foundations of civilization are shaking. the very *order* of a society (social/civil order) crumbles & DECAYS.

I. IRUN TO GOD! (1)

The Kind of Refuge You Need:

1. **STRONG** - the Lord is mighty (Ps 24.8)
2. **AVAILABLE** - draw near & he'll draw near to you! (James 4.8)
3. **PROTECTIVE** - the LORD protects you from all evil (Ps 121)
4. **UNFAILING** - God will not fail or forsake you (Josh 1.5)

II. THEY SHOOT AT ME! (2-3)

What do the wicked do?

1. They **HATE** - the wicked bend the bow at the upright (2b)
2. They **PLOT** - they wish to rid the earth of the godly
3. They **LURK** - in the darkness/unexpected time (2c)
4. They **DESTROY** - anarchists; destroy all order, divine design.

Sinning Times are the Saints' Praying times! (William Gurnall)

III. GOD RAINS FIRE ON THEM! (4-6)

God is **Sovereign** —

God is **Judge** —

God is **Executioner** —

The Truth of Scripture teaches that this is divine wrath, fully poured, infinitely meted out, justly & fairly dispensed, passionately, fully, totally, everlastingly, and unceasingly upon every individual wicked man.

Hell is the ever-dying death, the darkest darkness, the deepest abyss, the isolated loneliness, the painful torment, the drinking of the never-ending cup of hot-wrath. It is the punishment that never ends.

God is **Righteous** —

Awake! awake! O sinner, arise and take your flight. There is but one door that you may flee by, and that is the narrow door of conversion and the new birth. Unless you sincerely turn from all your sins, and come to Jesus Christ, and take Him for the Lord your righteousness, and walk in Him in holiness and newness of life; as the Lord lives, it is not more certain that you are now out of hell, than that you shall without fail be in it but a few days or nights from now! Oh set your heart to think of your case. Does not your everlasting misery or welfare deserve a little consideration? Look again over the miseries of the unconverted. If the Lord has not spoken by me, regard me not; but if it is the very word of God that all this misery lies upon you, what a state you are in! Is it for one that has his senses to live in such a condition, and not to make all possible haste to prevent his utter ruin? (Joseph Alleine, *An Alarm to the Unconverted*)

There is no other remedy — you must either turn or burn! (Joseph Alleine)

IV. I'LL BEHOLD GOD'S FACE! (7)

Psalm 11 — "What To Do When Foundations of Civilization Are Destroyed"

This is what theologians call "The Beatific Vision" — the sight that makes happy. Ponder: The infinite God will never be done showing us the immeasurable riches of his grace, or the full vista of himself, coming to us in love, not wrath.

Who - the upright

What - behold God's face

When - they *shall*

1. See the Triune God individually
2. See the glory of Christ fully
3. See the brilliance of God truly
4. See the invisible God personally

[In heaven] We will see only and all that is adorable and affectionate, beautiful and bright, brilliant and bountiful, delightful and delicious, delectable and dazzling, elegant and exciting, fascinating and fruitful, glorious and grand, gracious and good, happy and holy, healthy and whole, joyful and jubilant, lovely and luscious, majestic and marvelous, opulent and overwhelming, radiant and resplendent, splendid and sublime, sweet and savoring, tender and tasteful, euphoric and unified! Why will it be all these things? Because we will be looking at God (see Matthew 5:8; John 17:24; Hebrews 12:14; Revelation 22:4). This beatific vision will be utterly transparent. Now we "see through a glass darkly" (1 Corinthians 13), obscured and blurry. But God will one day unveil himself in all his resplendent brilliance, glory, and clarity for us to behold. (John Piper)

ONLY A HOLY GOD

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?
 Who else could make every king bow down?
 Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?
 Only a Holy God

What other beauty demands such praises?
 What other splendor outshines the sun?
 What other majesty rules with justice?
 Only a Holy God

Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out, sing holy
Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God

What other glory consumes like fire?
 What other power can raise the dead?
 What other name remains undefeated?
 Only a Holy God

Who else could rescue me from my failing?
 Who else would offer His only Son?
 Who else invites me to call Him Father?
 Only a Holy God

PSALM 11: THE PSALTER*Tune: Jesus Shall Reign*

I take my refuge in the LORD;
 how is it then you say to me,
 "Escape and fly, fly like a bird;
 for refuge to your mountain flee.

"Behold, the wicked bend their bows,
 and on the string they set their dart;
 from shadows dark they aim and shoot
 at those who are upright in heart.

"If sure foundations are destroyed
 and all around is great decay,
 whatever can the righteous do,
 surrounded by such disarray?"

The LORD is in his holy place;
 the LORD in heaven makes his throne.

His eyes observe the human race,
 and in his sight each one is known.

The LORD examines all the just,
 the righteous ones he proves and tests,
 but those who treasure wickedness,
 who love the wrong, his soul detests.

On wicked men the LORD will rain
 his fiery coals and sulfur hot.
 A scorching wind on them will blow;
 such punishment will be their lot.

For God the LORD is righteous still,
 in righteous ways he takes delight;
 and they alone will see his face
 who are in heart and deeds upright.