

November 6, 2016

SHAKEN (PRAYER)

Acts 4:1-31

What has shaken our nation? Acts 4:1-12

- The **circumstances** in which we live (past and present). Acts 4:1-3; Matt. 26:56, 69-75
- The **uncertainty** of our lives (in the future). Acts 5:17-18; 7:57-60; 8:1-3; 9:1-2; 12:1-4; 16:22-40; 2 Cor. 11:23-28; 1 Pet. 4:12

Who needs to be shaken? Acts 4:31

- The community of **faith**. Acts 4:31; 1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Pet. 4:17; Rev. 2:4, 14-15, 20-23; 3:4, 15-17; Acts 2:37-47
- The **families** in which we are a part of. Eph. 5:18-6:4; Deut. 6:1-14; Ex. 20:1-17; Matt. 6:33
- Our **nation**. 1 Sam. 8:3-22; Judg. 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25

Who do we turn to? (God.) Acts 4:24-28

- God who is **sovereign** (in control). Acts 4:24; Rom. 8:38-39; Is. 43:10-13; 44:6-8; 45:5-6, 14, 18, 21; 46:9-11; Gen. 1:1; John 1:15
- God who is the **creator**. Acts 4:24; Gen. 1:1-2; John 1:1-5; Col. 1:16-17; 1 Cor. 8:6; Heb. 1:2-3
- God whose purpose and **plan** is perfect. Acts 4:24-28; 2:23; Gal. 4:4; Is. 7:14; 9:6; Jer. 29:10-11; Matt. 20:28

What are we to do as believers? Acts 4:24-31

- Stand **together**. Acts 4:24, 31; 2:44-47; John 17:15-23; 1 Cor. 12:12, 14, 18-20
- Stand with confidence and **boldness** to share the Word. Acts 4:29; 5:28-32; 7:54-60; Heb. 4:14-16; 7:19
- Stand and kneel before God in prayer and shaken by the **power** of God. Acts 4:31; 12:1-17; 16:22-34; Ex. 14:13-31; Josh. 3, 10; Dan. 3, 6

American presidents have frequently cited the Bible...

Consider these quotes from our past commanders-in-chief:

"It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."
George Washington

"The first and almost the only book deserving of universal attention is the Bible. I speak as a man of the world and I say to you, 'Search the Scriptures.'" John Quincy Adams

"That Book, sir, is the rock on which our Republic rests." Andrew Jackson

"I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book. But for it we could not know right from wrong." Abraham Lincoln

"Inside the Bible's pages lie all the answers to all of the problems man has ever known ...It is my firm belief that the enduring values presented in its pages have a great meaning for each of us and for our nation. The Bible can touch our hearts, order our minds, and refresh our souls."
Ronald Reagan

In 1863 President Lincoln designated April 30th as a day of national humiliation, fasting, and prayer.

"It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, who owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by a history that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord. The awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be but a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has grown, but we have forgotten God."