



How to Have Strength in the Shadow of Death

Rev Yoman Man

The world has been in chaos recently, and the plague has lasted for a long time. The number of infections worldwide has exceeded 23 million, and the death toll has exceeded 800,000. Many have been shrouded in the shadow of death. Recently, many things have reminded us of the signs of the end. I am not sure whether today is the end of the world, but I can be sure that those signs are gradually being fulfilled.

The book of Revelation predicts that the world will not repeat the cycle, but go to an end. The events of the end of the world are recorded in Revelation 5:1-2, *“Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?’”* As soon as this book is opened, the end of the world begins, and God's plan has reached its final stage. God will end this sinful world and start a new heaven and new earth.

This scroll of the doomsday event is sealed by seven seals, and when the time of the **and the time arrives**, it will be opened by the “Lamb” - our Savior. There are four seals in the first part of the seven seals (Rev 6: 1-8). When these four seals are revealed, four knights will appear. These knights on four horses in white, red, black, and gray symbolize the first batch of disasters at the end of the world: battles among nations and civil wars among people; famines everywhere; coupled with large-scale attacks by plagues and wild animals; a quarter of the world's population suddenly died. After the fifth seal was unveiled (Rev 6:9-10), *“I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, ‘How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?’”*

These fearful omens sound really worrying. Threatened by the virus while sitting at home, there is also the danger of life as a witness to the Lord. In the face of these disasters approaching the end of the world, everyone will feel pessimistic about the prospects. In the midst of disasters, how can we **still be spirited as we face life each day?** Thank God, the book of Revelation **predicts** the great worship in heaven before the seven seals are opened. It turns out that before the catastrophe, this **great worship in heaven** is the source of our strength.

The fifth chapter of Revelation records: God sits on the great throne in the sky, the spirit body in the sky: *“the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders are around the throne, each holding a harp and a golden censer filled with the prayers of the saints, prostrate before the Lamb, sing a new song: ‘You were slain, and you bought people from all tribes, peoples, and nations with your own blood, and called them to God, and called them a nation, to be a priest to God, on earth In charge of the kingship.’”*

There are *“many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand of angels”* on the peripheral... *“in a loud voice they were saying: ‘Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!’”*

On the peripheral, *“every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: ‘To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!’”*

Just now I said that in the face of these catastrophes approaching the end of the world, everyone will be pessimistic. But under the influence of heaven's super greatness, majestic glory, and endless praise, we should no longer have fear.

In worship, we have the faith, knowing God is in control of all.

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PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Please remember the coronavirus pandemic and the worsening situation in South Africa in your prayer. Pray for Douglas and Whitney that they are able to adapt to the changes and challenges posed to their ministry. Ask the Lord to lead our steps so our actions are still within His will despite the epidemic.
2. Please continue to pray for the brothers and sisters in the Rustenburg church who are shop owners and ask the Holy Spirit to keep them safe from coronavirus.
3. Pray for the faith of the brothers and sisters be strengthened, and for them to continue in their online fellowships, Bible studies, and prayers in their walk with the Lord.
4. Please continue to pray for Rev. Wu's daughter Helen and son Clarence with their internship work in the hospitals and ask God to give them peace. Please also pray for eldest daughter Sharon for her next steps in schooling and serving. May her follow the Lord closely in all times.
5. Ask God to lead the spiritual growth of the brothers and sisters of the Pretoria Evangelical Chinese Christian Church, so they could be a church befitting God's will.
6. Ask God to lead the ministry of Alex and Nicole Ko in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, and for God to watch over them in their visitations and other works. Pray for the effective preparation and smooth execution of various online meetings.
7. Pray for Samuel and Isaaca while they learn how to pray at home. Ask God to provide wisdom to Nicole in teaching to her children.
8. Crimes in South Africa are still rampant! Please pray for the safety of the Chinese-owned shops.
9. Please pray for the worsening COVID-19 situation in Brazil and ask God to slow down the infection rate.
10. Please pray for the Brazilian Chinese community, as they are mostly small business owners and suffer greater impact in the pandemic.
11. Please pray for each Chinese church congregations in Brazil and ask God to keep them safe from coronavirus.
12. Ask God to help the church leaders to leverage the Internet power to minister their congregation online, so they can still maintain a close fellowship despite unable to see each other in person.
13. Pray for the Brazilian Christians to be steadfast in their faith and peace in the Lord while in the midst of these chaotic times.
14. Pray for CIM Canada's cross-cultural evangelical ministry in Ghana, Togo, and Ukraine. Ask God for wisdom and guidance on the timing for the STM team to go to work in the harvest field.
15. Pray for God to have CIM Canada receive more financial donation in 2020. Although much of their ministry has been suspended, but they still must bear the financial obligations to their working partners in supporting pioneering work in local churches and teachers in village schools.
16. Ask God to provide wisdom to CIM co-workers in performing their duties in the ministry entrusted by the Lord. Pray that God will move more brothers and sisters to join the service so God's kingdom would be more prosperous. Pray for God's abundant provision for all the financial needs of CIM.

In worship, we have the hope, knowing the life we live now is only temporary, we will be in heaven after we die.

In worship, we have the strength, knowing we have the strength from the resurrected lamb and not from death. We have the power of optimism and positiveness, and the power of being a witness to the Lord.

Each Sunday, as we come to our glorious and great God to praise and thank Him, we are then filled with hope to face the future and face death. Our faith would be reinforced for us to face dark days and tribulation ahead, and we would have strength to face persecution from being a follower of Jesus, as well as the challenges from witnessing for Jesus.

FINANCIAL REPORT

July 2020

	Income	Expense	Balance
General	\$6,188	\$6,801	-\$613
Missions	\$12,810	\$8,827	\$3,983
Total	\$18,998	\$15,628	\$3,370

To contribute to CIM ministries:

- 1) Make checks payable to "**CIM**" and mail to: P.O. Box 700185, San Jose, CA 95170-0185, USA
- 2) Donate online via credit card, go to: www.cimusa.org Click on "Give" and follow directions. Thank you!



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