

Trust in the Lord: Psalm 37 Genesis 6:1-8, 11:1-9

What is the slogan spoken and written after every natural disaster or terrorist massacre or deadly virus? BE STRONG.

Be Strong:

- *Boston Strong (Islamic terrorists-Marathon), 4/15/13, 3 dead, 16 lost legs*
- *San Bernardino Strong (Islamic terrorists), 12/2015, 14 dead, 22 injured*
- *Paris Strong (Islamic terrorists-Bataclan concert), 11/2015, 153 dead*
- *Nice France (Islamic terrorist with truck Bastille Day), 7/2016, 86 dead, 434 injured*
- *Orlando Strong (nightclub), 6/12/16, 49 dead*
- *Louisiana Strong (Hurricane Katrina & flood), 8/2005 & 8/2016*
- *Houston Strong (Hurricane Harvey), 8/2017*
- *Manchester Strong (arena), 5/22/17, 23 dead, 119 injured*
- *Las Vegas Strong (concert-motive unknown), 10/2017, 58 dead, 413 wounded*
- *London Bridge attack, 7 dead, 48 injured, "Stand up, stay strong and tell the killers they will never win." One day before the 6/4 One Love Manchester benefit concert.*
- Now with Coronavirus it's "American Strong": "Stay Strong America #COVID-19" or "We Will Survive #COVID-19" over an American flag. You can get T-shirts and facemasks that say "America Strong."
- How about "Repent America"? Repent of your fake news, abortions and corruption of marriage.
- Babel Strong: Genesis 11:1-9. The original "strong" was Babel Strong!

Babel Strong: God judged mankind and caused a cataclysmic worldwide flood that killed all animals (dinosaurs) and the demonized people except Noah and his family (6:1-8). Many years after the flood the people built a city with a great tower. Scripture indicates their pride three ways: 1) They build a tower reaching up into heaven; 2) They did it to make a name for themselves; 3) They resisted being scattered over the face of the earth which was God's creation command (Genesis 1:27-28).

6:4: *Then they said, "Come, let's build ourselves a city with a tower that has its top reaching up into heaven, so that we can make a name for ourselves and not be scattered all over the earth."*

They were probably ruled over by a dictator who hated God. I can imagine the dictator and people of Babel created a slogan and posted it on the tower: *Babel Strong*. They said, "Whatever judgment God punishes us with we can take it. Another flood? We can take it. We have a tower now. We are Babel Strong!"

This "strong" is really an arrogant fist in God's face. It's an assertion of human pride. What God requires is repentance. All the tragedies we experience - terrorists and viruses and economic losses - are an opportunity for us to repent of our sin. Instead of a Hollywood benefit concert to raise money for the corrupt W.H.O. they should have repented of their sin and prayed for mercy.

This "strong" is the opposite of Jesus' first beatitude "Blessed are the poor in spirit for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs." Jesus didn't say, "Blessed are the proud in spirit, the strong in spirit." Asserting a proud spirit will send you to hell because human pride isn't permitted in the Kingdom of Heaven.

The opposite of the world's "Strong" is "Be strong in the Lord."

Ephesians 6:10-13: *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.* We are strong in the Lord when we put on the whole armor of God.

Proverbs 3:5-8:

Trust in Adonai with all your heart;
do not rely on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him;
then he will level your paths.
Don't be conceited about your own wisdom;
but fear Adonai, and turn from evil.
This will bring health to your body
and give strength to your bones.

Be strong (= TRUST) in the Lord. Not strong in your pride and rebellion. Being strong in the Lord is a rejection of arrogant self-strength.

The Great Wall (2017 movie): Some stories about The Great Wall are legendary.

Tovar & William are mercenaries who go to China looking for black powder. They arrive as the Chinese are fighting the Tao Tei.

Strategist Wang is the reasonable one. He says, “20 centuries ago there was an emperor whose greed brought deep suffering to China. The heavens sent a meteor that struck Gouwu Mountain turning it green and releasing the Tao Tei. They rise every 60 years to scourge the north of China. They come to remind us of what happens when greed is unchecked.” (*This is the CCP today!*)

Tovar: What god made these creatures?

William: No god we know of. (*They were created by the greed of men. There’s evil in the world, but God didn’t create it.*)

Commander Lin Mae (Jing Tian) of the Nameless Order tries to teach William (Matt Damon) the lesson of trust by jumping off the wall on a bungee cable. William wants to know if the men operating the cable know what they’re doing. Lin says, “*Xinren*” (2 falling tones). The English subtitle is “Trust.” She says, “In this army we trust in each other. At all times, in all ways.” William resists and says, “I’m not jumping. I’m here today because I trust no one.”

Lin says, “A person must learn to trust before he can be trusted.”

Greed is selfishness and the opposite of *xinren* (to trust, to have confidence or faith in, to rely on). Other Chinese soldiers also prove their *xinren* and sacrifice their lives to defeat the Tao Tai.

Movie Lessons: 1) Trust is a reciprocal relationship. “I trust you and you trust me.” 2) The answer to the destructive power of human greed is *xinren*.

Now it is the greed of the CCP that has brought deep suffering to China. (Coronavirus is like the Tao Tei!) Too bad the CCP doesn’t know this ancient Chinese truth. The CCP has destroyed the truth and beauty of Chinese culture and now persecutes Christ’s church.

The Chinese word in the Bible for trust is not *xinren*. There are different words for trust with different nuances of meaning. One is *xinlai* (=to have confidence in, faith in, rely on) *xinkao* (=TRUST). Trust in God = *xiangxin shangdi*. In Psalm 37:3 it is KAO (falling tone). God is the only Person worthy of TOTAL trust. Trust in God will never be disappointed because He is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient.

Jewish Bible: 37 (0) By David:

(1) Don't be upset by evildoers

or envious of those who do wrong,

2 for soon they will wither like grass

and fade like the green in the fields.

3 **Trust in Adonai**, and do good;

settle in the land, and feed on faithfulness.

4 Then you will **delight yourself in Adonai**,

and he will give you your heart's desire.

5 **Commit your way to Adonai**;

trust in him, and he will act.

6 He will make your vindication shine forth like light,

the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.

7 **Be still before Adonai**;

wait patiently till he comes.

Don't be upset by those whose way

succeeds because of their wicked plans.

8 Stop being angry, put aside rage,

and don't be upset — it leads to evil.

9 For evildoers will be cut off,

but those **hoping in Adonai** will inherit the land.

10 Soon the wicked will be no more;

you will look for his place, and he won't be there.

11 But the meek will inherit the land

and delight themselves in abundant peace.

Read Psalm 37

Verbs directed to God: Trust, Delight, Commit, Wait (be still), Hope.

The opposite - what NOT to do: Fret (37:1, 7, 8), Envy.

- Trust (KAO) in the Lord means do not fret or envy the success of people's evil schemes.
- Trust in the Lord means continue to do good even when you are unjustly attacked.
- Trust in the Lord means committing everything we do to the Lord. This "commitment" is like a batter following through on his swing. No checked swing. When a batter sees a pitch and swings there's a point of no return. He must swing all the way through. When you commit your life to the LORD it cannot be half-hearted; it must be total, no turning back.

- Trust in the Lord means waiting patiently for him to act and defend your innocence and the justice of your cause. Being still and waiting for God to act is really hard. When people bear false witness against you and slander you with fake news patiently wait for God to act on your behalf. Verse 8: If you love justice as God does (37:28), then it's easy to get angry, rage, get upset, and yield to the temptation to use evil methods to make things right.
- President Trump knows all about this! Every time he does a Coronavirus briefing with the press they ask the same questions over and over again trying to trap him in his words. He is more patient than I would be!

If you stand for God's truth in a rebellious and corrupt culture then you must trust in God. Dr. Rev. Scott Lively knows what it means to trust in the LORD in all these ways of Psalm 37.

Trust in the Lord and do good.

Rev. Scott Lively trusts in the Lord.

Scott Lively advocates for a Biblical worldview He is a prominent leader in the now global pro-family movement. He also does mission work around the world. He is president of *Defend the Family International* and *Scott Lively Ministries* (formerly *Abiding Truth Ministries*).

Before Scott had a ministry, he was on a path of destruction. His father went insane and was committed to a mental hospital. Scott became a homeless alcoholic and drug addict for 16 years.

“On February 1, 1986 I surrendered my life to Jesus Christ on my knees by myself in an alcohol treatment facility in Portland, Oregon. In an instant I was completely healed and delivered from my bondage and I felt the rush of the Holy Spirit through me. It was a miracle which completely removed my desire for alcohol and drugs – something I had been unable to do for myself over several years of a desperate futile struggle to find some way to freedom. I have never since had the slightest desire to go back.” Scott became very active fighting the evils in our society - abortion and the aggressive LGBTQ agenda - with the love of Christ and the truth of God's word.

Uganda had the highest AIDS rate in Africa, but became the lowest after implementing sexual abstinence and pro-family policies. Uganda then became a target for wicked people. Lively was invited to speak to the Ugandan parliament several times between 2009-2012 about pro-family values and about the LGBTQ history and agenda. Lively was sued in 2012

by the Center for Constitutional Rights (666 Broadway NYC) on behalf of a Ugandan group called Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG). He was blamed for the “kill the gays” legislation of Uganda.

The lawsuit charged that Lively, by his preaching in Uganda, had “initiated, instigated and directed” the persecution of gay people in that country, leading to people being subject to imprisonment, physical injury and death. He was charged with “crimes against humanity.”

After Judge Ponsor (a hard-core liberal) refused to dismiss the case in 2013. “The process is the punishment.” Thousands of hours later, including 100 hours of depositions, and 40,000 pages of documents, SMUG failed to produce a shred of evidence of any conspiracy or persecution by Lively. (If Lively was convicted of the charges he would then have had to pay millions in legal fees.) Rather, the evidence showed that Lively, in a country where homosexuality has been illegal for decades, urged treatment of LGBTQ people with respect and dignity, and the liberalization of Uganda’s laws against homosexuality, even as he spoke in favor of biblical sexual morality and against the LGBTQ political agenda.

6/6/2017: SMUG vs. Lively Dismissed - no conviction of “crimes against humanity” after 5 years of legal intimidation.

Lively said, “Do not be afraid to stand for righteousness.”

When we stand for God’s truth in a rebellious and corrupt culture we will be persecuted. That’s how Satan intimidates Christians who preach biblical truth to a corrupt culture. We must learn from Psalm 37 to trust in the LORD and wait for his vindication.

We struggle with trusting God to supply our needs, give us guidance and wisdom, and vindicate the justice of our stand for biblical values. So we must be strong in the LORD in this spiritual warfare.

Ephesians 6:10-13: Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

This Coronavirus fits into the reality of “we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces of evil.” God is using the virus to shake the nations of the earth and effect geopolitical changes and reveal His

Kingdom that cannot be shaken. Jesus Christ is using it, but so is Satan. Satan is politicizing it and using it to accomplish his evil purposes. Pray for a cure and vaccine. Support health care workers. Get the economy working again and the unemployed back to work. "The cure cannot be worse than the disease." But don't yield to human pride. Satan piggybacks on human pride. Satan will not accomplish his purpose in the end. Jesus Christ will always win! TRUST in Him. Be strong in Him. Rely on Him. Have confidence in His word.