

The promise is sure, *"the LORD will not abandon people."* Jesus comforted the disciples shortly before His death and assured them and us, *"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you"* (John 14:18 \*). We will not be abandoned by God with no one to care for us; nor will we be forgotten. Our Father does not work that way!



We believe that we are in the end times and are encouraged to be alert and self-controlled as the day of His appearing draws closer. We need, more than ever, to walk close to Him.

Jesus has promised to return to us and only our Father knows the exact day and hour of His appearing.

As Jesus told the disciples, *"...let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."* John 14:27b \*) He would have us believe the same truth. *"And now I have told you before it comes to pass, that when it comes to pass, you may believe"* (John 14:29).

It is very comforting to know that whatever tomorrow holds, Jesus will not leave us abandoned or as orphans. Thank God that, *"the LORD will not abandon His people."*

Comments by Harry Bain

\* (New American Standard Bible; i.e., NASB)

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## **God Will Not Forget Us**

*"For the LORD will not abandon His people..."* (Psalm 94:14 \*)

Sometimes we wonder what God is doing as we fill up with questions about certain events. The one sure thing we know is all coming events are in God's hands. Our desire today is to encourage our readers with the promises in the Word to sustain and comfort us in the days ahead.

A man sat quietly reflecting on the article he had just read regarding the second coming of Jesus Christ. He agreed with others who wondered why there is a lack of interest in the end-time events that will usher in our Savior's return to planet Earth. He was encouraged to know that, *"the LORD will not abandon His people."*

The man remembered reading, *"For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, 'Peace and safety!' then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with a child, and they shall not escape"* (1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 \*). He remembered the advice to, *"let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober"* (1 Thessalonians 5:6 \*).

Yes, the Bible tells of events that will shake the entire earth as the second coming of Jesus draws near; but, the same Bible assures us that God is in command and *“will not abandon His people.”*

As we read the newspapers and watch the evening news on the TV, we will see world events unfold that will upset us. We will need to be convinced that God is in command and desires that we draw closer to Him.



We need to *“encourage one another, and build up one another” (I Thessalonians 5:11\*)*. Why should we encourage one another? Because, *“God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him” (I Thessalonians 5:9-10 \*)*.

The good news is that God will not abandon people. *“For the LORD will not abandon His people, nor will He forsake His inheritance” (Psalms 94:14 \*)*. When we belong to God, no matter the situation, He has promised not to abandon or forsake us.

*“For the LORD loves justice and does not forsake His godly ones; they are preserved forever; but the descendants of the wicked will be cut off” (Psalms 37: 28 \*)*. Has God not promised, *“I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you”?* (Hebrews 13:5 \*)

As the man thought about God’s promise not to forsake us, his fingers turned to the place, in the middle of his Bible, where the Psalmist’s words were recorded: *“I have been young, and now I am old; yet, I have not seen the righteous forsaken, or his descendants begging bread” (Psalms 37:25 \*)*. The warmth in the man’s heart and silent nod testified to the truth of God’s Word.

*“O love the LORD, all you His godly ones! The LORD preserves the faithful, and fully recompenses the proud doer” (Psalms 31:23 \*)*. There it is again! The encouragement we all need as God’s plan unfolds before our very eyes, *“Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who hope in the LORD” (Psalms 31:24 \*)*.

King David was aware of God’s promise not to abandon His people when he wrote, *“For Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Sheol; neither will Thou allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay” (Psalms 16:10 \*)*. The verse was a prophecy concerning Jesus Christ.

Sometimes we may think that God has abandoned us or our nation and may feel that we are left alone to fend for ourselves.

Gideon thought the same thing--that God had abandoned him and the people--as he talked with the angel of God under an oak tree. He told the angel, *“O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why, then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has abandoned us” (Judges 6:13 \*)*

As with many who are called by God to lead the people, Gideon thought that he was not the man for the job. He remarked, *“Behold, my family is the least in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father’s house” (Judges 6:15\*)*. God had already made up His mind; Gideon was the one selected for the job of showing the people that they were not abandoned. God told Gideon, *“Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat Midian as one man” (Judges 6:16 \*)*.

The account goes on to tell us that, with an army of only 300 soldiers, Gideon defeated an enemy of over 100,000 men. Our God had not abandoned His people! He so subdued the enemy that, *“...the land was undisturbed for forty years in the days of Gideon.” (Judges 8:28 \*)*

