



## WEEKLY DEVOTIONALS FROM PASTOR LYLE WAHL

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### *What in the world is going on?*

Have you been watching the news? Can you escape it? Have you tuned it out, turned it off?

One report tells us, “If you’ve been thinking it seems like there are more wars raging in the world these days, it turns out you’re right and the data proves it.” It goes on to say that the number of direct conflicts between individual states in 2025 was the highest number of such conflicts since one research group began collecting data in 1946. We are well aware of the war centering on Iran. Historians point out the middle east has been in a state of conflict since the fall of the Ottoman Empire after World War I. *What’s going on?*



In addition to those conflicts, there is a constant flow of natural and humanitarian disasters on top of violence. We just celebrated Canada Day. Surveys are showing us that two-thirds of Canadians are concerned about crime, and over 80% say they feel unsafe walking alone after dark in their own neighbourhoods. *What’s going on?*

One survey a few months ago found that 55% of people in Canada thought the country was on the wrong track. *What’s going on?*

Then there are the unexpected and unexplained things that crash into us. How do you explain the deaths of the two young children in the Greenwoods’ extended family in an ATV accident? *What’s going on?*

Theories and explanations from *experts* and average people like ourselves swamp us. Let’s take a brief look at what God has to say in His Word, specifically, where is God in all of this?

The Psalm writer sings, shouts,

“The LORD reigns, the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned above the cherubim, the earth quakes! The LORD is great in Zion, and He is exalted above all the peoples. May they praise Your great and awesome name; holy is He.”

Psalm 99:1-3

As mighty as some nations are, and as terrible as wars and disasters are, we know from Scripture that “The LORD reigns” (Psalm 88:1; 93:1; 96:10, etc.), that He is exalted over all peoples and nations (Psalm 113:4). While God allows evil He does not cause it. 1 John chapter 1 verse 5, “God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.” So, as king David testified, “The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; whom should I dread?” (Psalm 27:1)

Another Psalm writer was moved by God to join the chorus,

“God is our refuge and strength, a very ready help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth shakes and the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains quake at its swelling pride” (Psalm 46:1-3).

Yes, we are concerned about what is going on. Yes, we go on our knees to God in prayer about it. But we do not have to fear. If God is for us, who is against us? Who will separate us from the love of Christ? No created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:31, 35, 39).

While we cannot understand what is going on and why when we are in the throws of disasters, we need to remember that God is good. He is good to us. His plans for us are good. We need to remember, as it has been said, Christ did not come to make our lives easy, but to make us strong.

Remember the old song, “Many things about tomorrow I don’t seem to understand, but I know who holds tomorrow, and I know who holds my hand.”

Remember and live by what Jesus told us. Before he ascended back to heaven He said, “I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). He also said, “Peace I leave you, My peace I give you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, nor fearful” (John 14:27).

*Pastor Lyle*