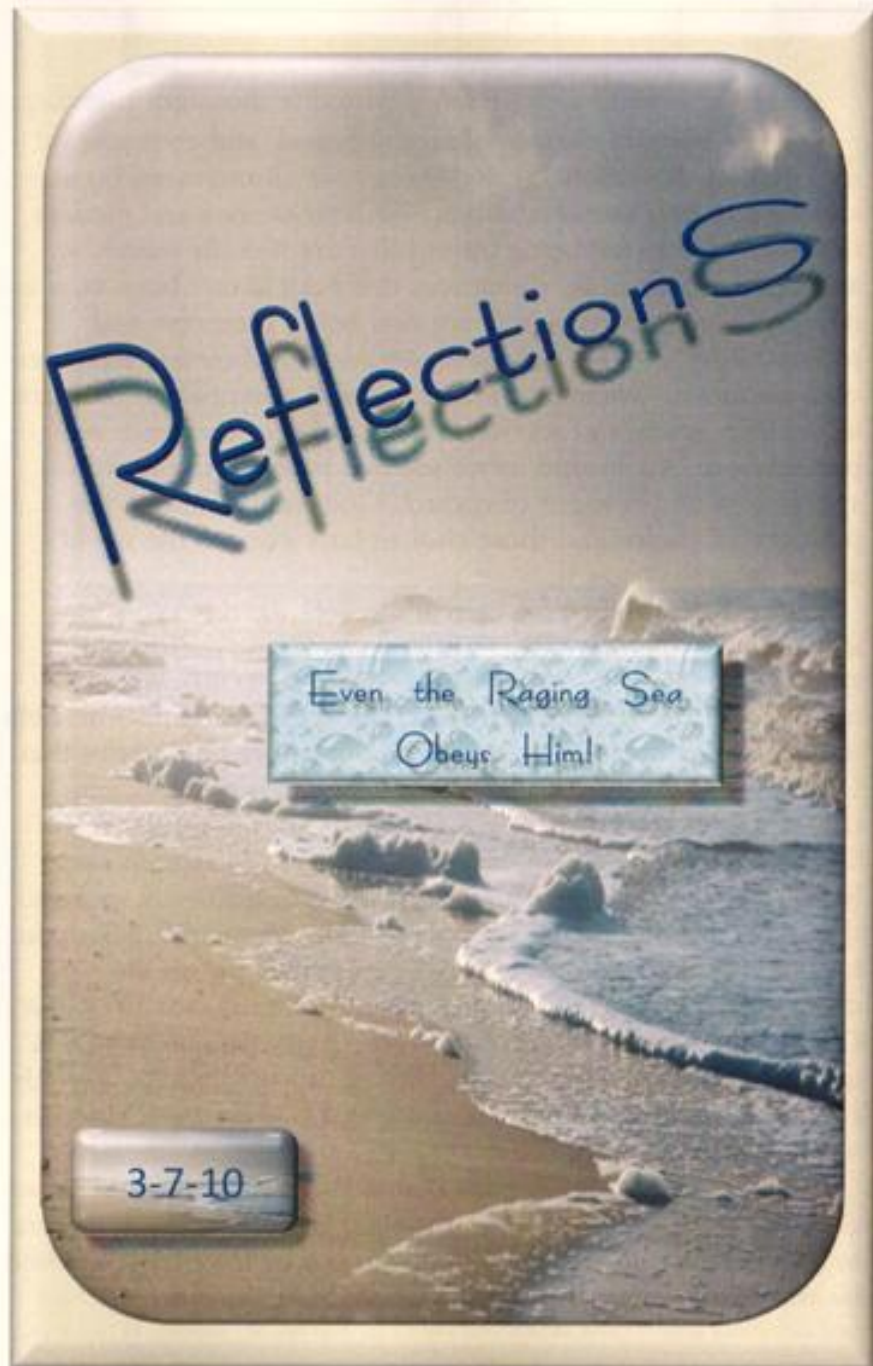


# Sermon Notes



Even the Raging Sea  
Obeys Him!

3-7-10



## Reflections

The news of today is filled with dire messages pointing to financial chaos, political upheaval, and even natural disasters, all on a global scale. These have all increased human suffering in one way or another. We hear of wars and rumors of wars and laws are being passed that are morally bankrupt and incomprehensible. Behaviors that have always been seen as immoral, and even criminal, are now being protected and promoted by law. We have seen decades of wholesale slaughter of the unborn. We even see an increased potential for our way of worship, study and service to the Lord, to experience real persecution. All around us we see that much of the world's system is completely out of control. God has given man the privilege of choice and those choices have created the world's situation as we know it.

Where do we turn for help and relief? David makes the same outcry when he says...I will lift up my eyes to the hills— From whence comes my help? <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 121:1-2 NKJ) David did not expect his help to come from the hills of Jerusalem, but rather he declares that God is his source of help, and that God will not slumber in times of need for His people. The disciples, out on the sea of Galilee in a violent storm, cried out for Jesus to awaken and help them and then were amazed when He effortlessly spoke to the storm and the raging seas obeyed His command. Jonah, in his failed attempt to escape God's commands for his life, discovered that God did control even the raging seas. Yes, our Creator does indeed control the entire Universe and all that is in it! God reminds Job in the midst of despair that He not only created all that is, but that He still controls everything, that He is Omnipotent God.

Jesus warned His disciples that as the age of His return was close, there would be chaotic events on the Earth. He told them to pay attention to these things but to not be fearful or deceived by any of the events that unfolded. He said...*"Take heed that no one deceives you. <sup>5</sup> For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the*

*Christ,' and will deceive many. <sup>6</sup> And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. <sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> All these are the beginning of sorrows.* (Matthew 24:4-8 NKJ) He concluded this powerful discourse with the wonderful hope and expectation of every Christian, that He would return in power and great glory.*

Let's try to apply some of these thoughts to our present life circumstances. When we see economies collapse, terrorist attacks, civil unrest, immorality running rampant, and when we see and hear of wars becoming commonplace, there are some important realities that we must not forget. First, we must remember that He has said to trust, obey, and rest in Him and to receive the peace that passes understanding. In the midst of chaos, we can see His hand at work and still be confident that we are His children and that our eternal life in Him has been secured. Secondly, we must also remember that He is the Creator and has complete authority and control of that which was created. Even the raging seas are in His hand and so are we. Finally we must always remember that He came to Earth, suffered through life, death on the Cross, and then took His life up again to establish for us reconciliation to the Father through His sacrifice. As a result, He has promised that we will have a home in heaven with Him eternally.

Will life continue to be fraught with difficulty even for the Christian? Yes it will. The rain falls on the just and the unjust. We are told to expect persecution. Will any of life's problems be able to separate us from God's love? Absolutely not! For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39 NKJ) Will my suffering be of value in my life, if I serve Him? Certainly! James points out in His letter that the testing of our faith produces maturity and completeness as we trust Him in our trials. Even the raging seas obey His command. How can we do less!

**Pastor Doug**