BY JOHN BRADSHAW



FAITH WHEN IT MATTERS

LIVING BY FAITH IN EARTH'S LAST DAYS

IT IS WRITTEN®



Published by It Is Written
P.O. Box 6, Chattanooga, TN 37401

Copyright © 2024 by It Is Written. All rights reserved.
Edited by Vanessa Boeser and Sarah Young.
Cover design by Nestor Rasi.
Layout by Jennifer Sarria.

Additional copies of this book and a
host of other spiritual resources are available
from It Is Written. For more information call
toll free 1-888-664-5573 or visit

itiswritten.shop

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture is taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Printed in the United States of America

ISBN 978-1-63569-524-3

FAITH WHEN IT MATTERS

LIVING BY FAITH IN EARTH'S LAST DAYS

Five minutes was all it took.

On the morning of September 8, 1923, 14 US Navy ships, traveling south from San Francisco Bay to San Diego Bay to participate in training exercises, were facing a tight deadline. The ships—all less than five years old—were formed in a column which cut through the water at a relatively brisk speed, even as they approached treacherous waters.

For hundreds of years, a series of rocky outcroppings known as the Devil's Jaw have been a recognized navigational hazard. Located on California's Pacific coast at what today is Vandenberg Space Force Base, near Lompoc, it has been feared by mariners since the sixteenth century. The commodore of the US Navy squadron, Captain Edward H. Watson, who was on board the USS Delphy, believed he was leading the vessels into the Santa Barbara Channel, but with fog having settled low over the area, Captain Watson's error had deadly results. The flotilla steamed directly into the jagged rocks of the Devil's Jaw.

In less than five minutes, seven naval destroyers ran aground, unable to avoid the peril that lay in

wait. In total, 23 sailors would die in what was the largest peacetime loss of US Navy ships. A painful lesson was learned. It matters who you follow.

Who to follow is a question that looms large as we approach the end of time. The book of Revelation speaks of a people in earth's last days who "follow the Lamb wherever He goes" (Revelation 14:4). At the same time, "all the world marveled and followed the beast" (Revelation 13:3). The great conflict of earth's last days centers, simply put, around who people choose to follow.

In Scripture, the God of heaven calls the human family to follow Him. To Abraham, once called Abram, God said, "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you" (Genesis 12:1). He did so, "not knowing where he was going" (Hebrews 11:8). The children of Israel followed the leading of God out of Egypt, through the Red Sea and, eventually, into the Promised Land. As they walked beside the Sea of Galilee, Peter and Andrew were extended an invitation by Jesus. "Follow Me," He said, "and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). It was one thing for Peter and Andrew to follow

Jesus, whom they could see, or for Israel to follow a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, which they could see. But how does one follow a God who does not visibly appear?

Hebrews 11:1 says that "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." In fact, the Bible states that "without faith it is impossible to please [God]" (Hebrews 11:6). Faith is so powerful a thing, that without it, a person cannot inherit the kingdom of God.

So what *is* faith? Faith is so important that an entire chapter of the Bible is dedicated to people of great faith. And while Hebrews 11 references individuals such as Noah, Abraham, and Isaac, the people brought into focus in the "faith chapter" were far from perfect. Noah became inebriated. Abraham surrendered his wife to another man. Sarah lied to God. Isaac, remarkably, followed in his father's footsteps and told the same lie as did Abraham. Rahab was immoral. Moses was a murderer. David was an immoral murderer. And yet each of these people are listed in the Hall of Faith found in the book of Hebrews. Whatever faith is, it is within the reach even of the incomplete and

inadequate. Revelation 14:12 speaks about those who will be saved at last when it says, "Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12).

What Is Faith?

By reviewing the experience of one of the great figures of history, the Bible reveals how followers of Jesus may have faith in the end of time. Told by God that God would make of him "a great nation" (Genesis 12:2), Abraham obediently left his homeland, "not knowing where he was going" (Hebrews 11:8). Years later, still childless, Abraham—still known at the time as Abram—appealed to God, saying, "Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless?" (Genesis 15:2). With Abraham believing his servant would one day become his heir, God spoke and said, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir" (Genesis 15:4), assuring Abraham that his descendants would one day be as numerous as the stars in the night sky.