

In the Midst of Chaos

Script - Phil. 4:6-7

Intro - Gen. 1:1; Psm. 33:6, 9 Although there are different theories and many that have speculated on the subject of creation and since none of us were there, we don't know for sure what took place and how it came about. Christians accept by faith the Biblical record that God created by his word, but there are different opinions even among Christians as to exactly what happened and how creation was accomplished. Many great thinkers and scientist have stated that as they study the universe and the laws of nature, they see the hand of designer. A Creator. Some examples of creation.

1. The birth of a star. The chaos that precedes it's beginning. It ends with being a thing of beauty but it is chaotic and messy in its beginnings.
2. A beautiful home being built. Change is always difficult. The sawdust of construction and the mess and then something beautiful emerges. Many like to escape the mess and noise but love the end result. Avoiding the chaos and change is normal. So, it is in our lives.
3. We have just gone through several things that have caused change and chaos in our lives and it is normal to want to get back to the norm that we enjoyed prior to the interruptions that we have been experiencing. And still are experiencing in many cases. The pandemic and the election. Both have caused upheaval and chaos in our lives and we are not out of the woods on either front. There are many unknowns still to be figured out on both fronts. Both are uncomfortable and have caused division and pain.

A. Dan. 2

1. There was a change of leadership that was foretold (Dan. 2:31-45; Isa. 42:9; 46:10).
2. The predicted change of leadership caused a lot of stress (Dan. 3).
 - a. For the king... as he absolutely rejected the idea that a change was coming, so he built a statue made of gold from head to toe (Dan. 3).
 - b. For the three Hebrew boys that were captives in his kingdom. It led to two different death decrees and to the testing of their faith.

B. What can we learn?

1. God can accurately predict the future (Isa. 42:9; 46:10; Dan. 2) and part of that prediction is at the end of the dream where a rock smashes the feet of the statue and God sets up his kingdom. This of course represents the 2nd coming of Jesus. Jesus 2nd coming is a part of God's foretelling of coming change.
2. We may not like the outcome that is predicted by God, and that will cause some stress and upheaval that some of us may not like (i.e. Neb would not accept the predicted change to come).
3. Although God's accurate prediction of the future events in Dan. 2 brought about two death decrees, God's faithful followers were safe because of two very important details;
 - a. Firstly, in Dan. 2, when the 1st death decree, against the wise men of Babylon had already started to be carried out, Daniel and his friends prayed to God for answers to their problems and it was because of their prayer connection to God that they were spared from the first death decree.
 - b. Secondly, in Daniel 3 they were faithful to their God and personal convictions and they passed safely through the fiery furnace experience. This fiery furnace experience was a direct result of the leader of the kingdom rejecting the changes that God predicted would happen.

C. What can we do now?

1. Take comfort in the fact that God is the only one that can accurately predict the future. If there is a change in leadership in America that you either applaud or don't like, know that your future and wellbeing will not be determined by a certain political party that happens to be in power for the moment. Any changes that take place in the leadership of America today, whether or not you like it, are ones that did not surprise our God but will lead to the certain and predicted end of the vision which is the 2nd coming of Jesus. Isa. 42:9; 46:10)
2. Instead of stressing about current political changes taking place, focus on the things that helped Daniel and his friends to be able to survive the turmoil. A intimate prayer life where you plead for deliverance to come from God. (Ps. 61:1-2)
3. Know that in the midst of the chaos that is currently happening God will not forsake you any more than he did his faithful servants that stood up for him and went through the fiery furnace. (Heb. 12:1-2 says he is the Author and finisher of our faith. (See also Dan. 3; Heb. 13:5; Mt. 28:20. Rev. 7:13-14; Psm. 91).
4. Focus on the certainty that you and your children's future is secure in the hands of a powerful God that can not only predict the future with accuracy but has the power to deliver what has been committed to Him (2 Tim. 1:12; Phil. 4:6-7; 2 Cor. 4:17-18).