



The Tri-Cities Edifier

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Psalm 47

Craig Thomas

The Psalmist here praises the Lord as ruler over all the nations as he writes (vv. 2-3):

“For the Lord Most High is awesome; He is a great King over all the earth. He will subdue the peoples under us, And the nations under our feet.”

In the ebb and flow of history, most fail to recognize that ultimately the Lord is in charge. He ordains the existence of civil governments (Rom. 13:1-7) and rules over them. Why do nations have the leaders they have?

“This decision is by the decree of the watchers, And the sentence by the word of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.” (Daniel 4:17)

Several years ago, just before a national election, I was discussing the election with a fellow gospel preacher and a man who I greatly admire for his godliness and wisdom. He made a statement that has stuck with me over the years. He said, “A nation gets the leaders it deserves.” He went on to explain that the primary overruling principle by which God judges governments is found in

Proverbs 14:34:

“Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people.”

Our nation seems to be descending into anarchy. Every day I pray that we as a nation will repent of our national sins. I have no illusion that every citizen in the country will stand for what is godly and righteous. I just pray that a solid core of American citizens will reject the sins of abortion, homosexual “marriage,” rampant divorce, looting, hateful speech, substance abuse, etc., etc.

In Genesis 18 Abraham interceded on behalf of Sodom. God was going to judge and destroy the city for its wickedness. Abraham bargained with God that if only ten righteous people could be found in the city that He would spare the city. As Paul Harvey used to say, “We know the rest of the story.” In the very next chapter the destruction of Sodom is recorded. The conclusion is inescapable: the Lord did not find ten righteous people. That leads me to my point. What can you and I do to save America? It is simple: (1) personally live righteously according to God’s ways, (2) persuade others to do the same, (3) and pray:

“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Tim. 2:1-4)

Our nation appears to be on the “eve of destruction.” I believe at this very moment “*the King of all the earth*” is searching the hearts of men to see if America is worth sparing. Let us dedicate ourselves to serving Him. In doing so WE may also save our nation.

Our Morning Star

By Bob Pulliam

Getting up at three-o'clock in the morning to drive a truck across Southeast Arizona wasn't as bad as I thought it might be. But it wasn't the getting up that I needed to be concerned about. As the light from my headlights showed me the way, I felt quite comfortable pulling two tons behind my fully loaded truck. But several hours down the pitch black interstate, found me losing sight of what lay before me. No, I wasn't dosing, but my headlights seemed to be. As they flashed off and on before me, I noticed the bright morning star up ahead, and thought about the comfort it has given countless peoples through the ages as they longed for the dawn of a new day. I counted myself in that number, wishing for a reliable source of light to substitute for my flickering headlights.

In our age of easy light, we take for granted the herald of the glorious sun. The morning star (or day star) rises in the east to announce the coming of the sun. In a time when many dangers lurked at night, the morning star was a great comfort, and assurance.

Jesus spoke of Himself as the "Bright and Morning Star" in Revelation 22:16. And truly, our only hope of a brighter, secure day rests in Him. True safety and bliss will be realized in the eternal day of our Father's presence beyond the grave. Jesus is the herald of that great day, having revealed to us the Father (Jn 1:18; 8:19). He is the only means of our realizing that bright day (Acts 4:12). Life, while at times being spoken of as day (e.g. Jn 9:4), can also be described as night, where we long for the dawning of eternity.

At times, the dangers of this night can be frightening. At other times, the darkness would seem to cloak our dark desires and allow us freedom to sin. The things of this world, upon which we would rely (riches, friends, power, etc...), are all flickering lights that cannot last. When the dawn of eternity arrives, these will pass away. But at all times, there is the "Bright and Morning Star", heralding a coming day. That day will be reserved for those who have prepared themselves for the dawn by fixing their eyes on that Morning Star (Heb 12:1). And that day will endure for all eternity.

Needless to say, my headlights held out, and I made it safely. But I still found relief in the light of day, when I could turn off those flickering headlights, and relax with confidence that I could now see my way.

What flickering hope do you rely upon in this life? What may have drawn your attention away from the Morning Star, and attracted you away from the hope of eternity? Your only choices: eternal night, and eternal day... Which would you prefer?

Our Gospel Meeting

We were challenged last week to *Do Hard Things*

Let's not let the lessons become a part of our past but let's work at our individual efforts to

- * Suffer
- * Forgive
- * Be Thankful
- * Serve
- * Reach My Prodigal
- * Own My Sin
- * Teach the Lost
- * Face the End

Stacy