



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – May 16, 2010

Heart to Heart...

We can get carried away easily, if we aren't careful, into the thinking of others. Some get so involved in listening to things in the media, it creates uncertainties and fears. Others get caught up in finding out about evil and what is going on in the lives of others and that is not good either. We need to look to God and keep our attention on Him and His word while keeping evil news and fears far away from our hearts.

God is always in control of all situations. He is aware of each detail and practices of those around us. God will accomplish what He needs to accomplish and can use man's sinfulness to do His work. Read Ezekiel 14 carefully. God reveals His four judgments He uses on this earth: the sword, famine, wild beasts and plagues. In this context, Jerusalem, the city where God's name dwelt during Old Testament times, was going to get all four! God uses these judgments against unrighteousness, even among His own people.

In Nahum 3, Nineveh was known for harming people. God uses the sword (war) to destroy the city and the nation, to make it a spectacle before the other kingdoms of the world (Nahum 3:4-7).

Isaiah speaks of a nation who *"enacts evil statues, record unjust decisions, deprive the needy of justice, rob the poor of their rights and plunder the widows and orphans."* (Isaiah 10:1-2) That sounds a lot like our nation today. This was God's own people and God calls His people a godless nation (Isaiah 10:6). God uses the Assyrian nation as *"the rod of My anger."* (Isaiah 10:5) Assyria was an evil, ungodly nation and God knows it but God uses the Assyrian's to punish with the sword (war) Jerusalem with this godless nation. In the end, God destroyed the Assyrian's for their evil intent. What do we learn? God is in control of all mankind. He rules from heaven!

Daniel was taken captive by the Babylonians and while in captivity interpreted King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The king would be driven away from mankind until he recognized that it is heaven who rules over the realm of mankind and that God bestows on it whom He wishes (Daniel 4:25-26).

As God's children, Paul instructs us to take refuge in the shelter of His love and grace knowing He rules. All authority is from God (Romans 13:1). All those in authority that exist on earth are ministers of God (Romans 13:2-4). They bear the sword to fulfill His intended purpose.

Take courage, God is aware. We can rest confidently in Him knowing that we are safe no matter what. Be prayerful for our leaders in this nation. Stop listening to all the evil reports and uprisings. It is all under His complete control. Think about it!!!

Brent