



Church of Christ

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Heart to Heart...

As our country is in a difficult time, we need to be careful we aren't carried away with the thoughts and ideas of people around us. Some get so involved in listening to every thing said in the media, it creates fears and uncertainties in our hearts. That's not good. We need to look to God and keep our attention on Him and His word to keep us from reacting from fears.

God is **always** in control of every affair on earth. It might not look like it, but that doesn't change the fact. He will accomplish what needs to be accomplished, even using man in his sinfulness. In Ezekiel 14, God explains His four judgments He uses upon the earth. The sword, famine, wild beasts and plagues (14:21). Jerusalem was going to get all four! Take some time and read the whole chapter. God uses these judgments against the unrighteousness of mankind. In Nahum 3, Nineveh was giving no regard to people and God had enough of their harming others. He uses war to destroy the city and the nation, to make a spectacle before the other kingdoms of the world (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.*" (Isa.10:1-2) The nation was the Jews, God's own people! God calls His people a godless nation (10:6). He uses the Assyrian nation as "*the rod of My anger.*" (10:5) Assyria is also an evil nation and God knows the intent of their heart is to destroy and cut off as many nations as it can. God uses the Assyrian's to punish (by war) Jerusalem and then, in turn, will destroy Assyria for their evil heart. God is in control of all mankind!

As Daniel was taken captive by the Babylonians, he interpreted King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Daniel explains that the King will be driven away from mankind until he "*recognizes that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.*" (Dan. 4:25) The king is instructed that he must recognize that it is Heaven that rules. (Dan. 4:26) God, the Almighty, rules mankind and we must not forget that! We say the words, but to really believe it is another thing. Isaiah speaks of God's judgments on mankind like this, "**For when the earth experiences Your judgments the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.**" (Isa. 26:9)

We are in Christ, God's children and can take refuge in the shelter of His love and grace, knowing He rules. Paul reminds the brethren at Rome, "**For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.**" (Rom. 13:1) He goes on to explain, "**For it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil.**" (Rom. 13:4) God uses authorities as "*His ministers*" and they do bear the sword to fulfill God's intended purpose. Remember, it's not our military might that is doing this, it's God!

Take courage, God is aware of His children. We can rest confidently in Him, knowing that we, because of the death of His Son for our well being, are safe no matter what! Be prayerful for our leaders and soldiers, but look to God for strength and comfort. There are no "what if's" with God. It's all under His complete control. Think about it!!!

Brent