



CHRIST ACROSS NATIONS

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EDITION

GOD IS IN CONTROL

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." – Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

This is certainly one of the most powerful passages not only in the New Testament, but also the entire Bible. And what Jesus told His disciples in these three verses not only pertains to the great commandment to "go and make disciples of all nations". No, Jesus emphasized that all authority in heaven and on earth belonged to Him. He is ruler and king over all. We can be confident that Christ in us is greater than he who is in this world. Because all authority is His. It is true that God wants to impact this world through us. Yet we should never forget that God is completely in control. And He has never not been in control. Therefore, it doesn't matter what happens in our lives or in this world, we can be confident and know that God is in control. If you are looking around you and ask: "Where is God?". I can assure you God knows what is going on and He is constantly at work even if it seems to us like He isn't. God doesn't ask us to question Him or for us to always understand. But He does ask us to believe and to have faith that He has everything under control. Indeed, He promised us that He will be with us "always, to the very end of the age".

GOD IS NEVER CAUGHT BY SURPRISE

"For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite." – Isaiah 57:15 (ESV)

God inhabits eternity, which means He is in the past, the present and the future (omnipresent). He is not limited to time, space and matter as we are. As a result, we can be confident that He knows what the future holds even if we don't. He knows what happened in your past, yet He will use your past to shape your glorious future. Things may be going on in your life at the moment that just doesn't make sense. You may be going through a difficult time of late. You are facing some really big hurdles and uncertainties. But God isn't caught off guard or by surprise, because He already has your future perfectly planned. Trust Him in your present, because He is ready to surprise you with what He has in place for your future.

I am sure that not many saw COVID-19 hitting us this hard. And I have yet to meet someone who wasn't caught by surprise as to how this year turned out. But God wasn't caught by surprise. Yet He is already in the future and is taking us into the wonderful blessing He has in store for us. It may be difficult for many at this stage but be encouraged that God has something better waiting for us.

GOD KNOWS BEST

“Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.”

– Proverbs 19:21 (ESV)

Isn't it true that we would all just love it if everything played out the way we planned? If everything just works out how we intend it to. However, if we are really honest with ourselves and we look back at our lives we will all have to admit that hadn't been for God, things would've turned out a complete mess. I for one am thankful for many unanswered prayers, because at that time it made complete sense praying for what I wanted and needed at that stage in my life. It is true that God delivered on my prayers and I am sure it's also the case for you, right? Yet, there are many times where we pray for something and we don't get what we want. And then question why God didn't come through for us. Why He didn't give us this or that. But I am thankful today that God steered my boat the way He did.

We need to come to a place where we are completely sold out to the will of God. To be surrendered to Him. To truly believe that God knows best. And that He has the best intentions for each and every one of us. Yes, we can continue to make plans, have big visions and desires for what we want to achieve in our lives. But ultimately, we need to rest in the fact that God's plans and purposes will stand. We are so quick sometimes to pray “Your kingdom come. Your will be done”. And then at the same time we want to keep the steering wheel and direct our own paths. We can be sure that God is in control. Yet being obedient and putting our faith in God will save us a lot of trouble and mistakes. Just ask the Israelites. What should have been a 11-day journey out of Egypt to the promised land, turned into a 40-year journey through the wilderness.

GOD TAKES YOU FROM PROCESS TO SUCCESS

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” – Romans 8:28 (ESV)

Not every trial and test is easy to go through. We all have gone through some difficult moments in our lives. We need to also understand that God never brings a storm in our lives. He doesn't bring bad things into our lives so we can learn from them and become better people. No. That is just life as it is. And certainly, the enemy has his hand in many of things that come our way. But we need to know that God is good, faithful, and just. He doesn't cause storms and trials in our lives. But God certainly uses every little thing that happens in our lives to shape us into a better version of ourselves. He uses everything to form us into everything He created us to be. And so, God will make all things work together for our good. He will take every process and moments of progress and turn it into success. He is the God that trades our mourning into laughter. That turns our sorrow into joy. That provides rest for every test. God is faithful and will never leave nor forsake us ever. And He is very much in control to take anything that happens in our lives, good or bad, and turn it into something that raises us to greater heights.

Be blessed in the mighty Name of Jesus



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