



Issue 52 – September 28, 2016

The Naz Prayer Ministry



A Season of Change

I don't know if you've noticed, but a major portion of the population seems to have developed a diminished sense of history. More than 30 years ago, the New York Times discussed the problem of apathy toward history. In the report the author noted that college students didn't even recognize the name Daniel Webster and could not identify many of the most iconic figures in American history. Nor did they have any idea why the U.S. constitution was important. I would hate to see what that author's finding would reveal today.

A huge percentage of us have a near total disregard for history. Our culture blinds us by our captivity to "NOW!" Whatever does not serve to provide convenience, comfort, or in some way have a direct bearing on our pursuit of pleasure is simply not assigned any value beyond curiosity at best.

With that kind of backdrop, when those of us who are Christians hear the assertion that "God is the God of history," we too easily fail to grasp the true impact of that claim. Under the spell of the social trend to dim the lights and discount the value of the past, we lack the ability to recognize history as the arena in which God accomplishes His redemptive purposes. As a result we are increasing unaware that our sense of the present we value so precious is wispy and anemic. If we cannot grasp His hand in history, we cannot fully understand His role in the flow of the present tense.

In Daniel 2:21, we discover that in the course of this world's history, God moves people into leadership and moves others out just as certain as He controls the seasons. Daniel's words calls us to acknowledge that the seasons of history are put in place by Him for His own purposes.

We need to realize that God has used Nebuchadnezzars to move the course of "His" story toward His own redemptive designs. At other times He may allow the blessing of life-giving rain to fall on the just and the unjust alike as evidence of His grace (Matthew 5:45). Likewise, society is full of evil and the moral ash does not cover only the reprobates. The fall out of social decay is a reality for righteous and unrighteous alike.

It is apparent at this juncture in history that Christians are experiencing a season of persecution. While the Church has felt the blow from Caesars' hand before, even with a casual awareness of what is happening in our world, we are confronted with the reality that all over the world, men and women are being tortured and martyred for their faith. Here in our country, we are being singled out, labeled as hate mongers and bigots. And in the light of the endemic nature of political correctness and the rampant distortion of truth and justice in the court system, we are closer than we may want to admit to being labeled as "enemies of the State."

How then are we to react? Some in the pews of U.S. churches choose to remain oblivious except for momentary head shaking when their personal tranquility and life of ease is disturbed by the nightly news. Others evidence a growing fear, a heightened anxiety that "our way of life" is about to be lost. If the tone on social media is any indication, the Christian community is full of voices that sound eerily like the clamoring crowd from the rest of the population.

If we spew only the epitaphs of anger that others do, and if we can only call for the meagerness of political solutions, then we have no message that evidences that we belong to a Kingdom in which all is measured beyond time and space.

Take Your Next Step

Embrace the comfort that beyond the moment and whatever it holds, beyond the threshold of threats that may come with the changing social landscape, even beyond what may seem unthinkable today, the God who directs the seasons of history is at work moving the hands of time to the cadence of eternity.