



## Beyond the Glare and Flare

All together now: exhale!

The vote is in. The decision has been made. And whether you are pleased or dismayed with the results, you have to be relieved, at least for a moment, that all the hype is almost behind us. Of course with the endless campaigning and public posturing that defines modern politics, this is at best only a short reprieve.

If you are pleased with the voice of the voters, be cautious. Great expectations are not always realized. Elected officials have regularly disappointed their followers, and we have just elected a flawed human being.

If you are unhappy with the election, be cautious. Vitriolic reactions are as dangerous as the stupor of euphoria others may choose to display. Remember, we might have elected the other flawed human being, and undoubtedly you would have had to face some significant disappointments along the way as well.

We all need to be cautious. If in any degree we assess the potential for our well-being by the measure of any elected official, we seriously need to check our stunted sense of reality at the door, and reverently take our place before the only One in whom we can really place our trust.

One thing is certain. Nothing that has happened has taken God by surprise. Human beings are allowed to make choices, but as noted in a previous issue of The Flame, Daniel 2:21 gives us true hope:

*[God] controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other king (NLT).*

No one who comes to power does so beyond the all-knowing eye of God.

First Timothy 2:1-4 notes that regardless of who that may be, we are charged with a solemn responsibility:

*I urge you... to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. <sup>2</sup> Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup> This is good and pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.*

We know, of course, that some choose to rule in defiance of God's authority. How are we to pray for them? Paul's instructions stand. The one who rules is allowed to rule by God. Even the Nebuchadnezzars become tools in the hands of a Sovereign God to move history toward His redemptive purpose.

## Taking Our Next Step Together

Father, forgive us for losing sight of your sovereign authority. Grant us vision that sees beyond the glare and flare, the flash and dash of partisan pandering and the agendas of division. Let the panorama of our journeys be filled with the profound awareness of your providence and Lordship.

***Under God's control  
nothing is ever out of control.***