

Perspective: God's or Ours?

"He makes the (storm) clouds His chariot" Psalm 104:3. When we, from our human perspective, view the current events, we tend to look at them in terms of what they may do to our hopes and dreams and react accordingly. We rush to God, asking Him to change the circumstance. Our concern for ourselves takes priority over the purposes of God in a given situation. Somehow, we fail to remember the words of God in Isaiah chapter 55 verse 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts higher than your thoughts."

As we view the political situation in our country today we can gain God's perspective by looking at a similar situation in the book of Daniel. In chapter one, verse one we read "In the third year of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it." This verse reads like the headlines in today's newspaper or the lead story on the six o'clock news. The event is viewed from man's perspective and God is not seen as a relevant factor.

However, in the second verse the perspective changes: "And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand" (the king of Babylon carried them into captivity). Now, we can begin to see that God allows unrighteous leaders to rule for His purposes. God's purposes are two-fold: He will have His truth witnessed to and His sovereignty demonstrated.

In the midst of an evil nation, ruled by an evil king we can watch Daniel and his three friends, Shadrack, Meshack, and Abendego demonstrate how God's truth is witnessed to and sovereignty demonstrated. When deliverance came from the fiery furnace the king declares in chapter three verse 29 "...there is no other God who can deliver in this way!"

Later, under the leadership of yet another king (Darius) we see Daniel, who because of his obedience to his God, delivered from the mouth of the lions.

The record of the book of Daniel gives us a divine perspective on the limitless opportunities presented to us in the midst of circumstances that SEEM the greatest threat to the cause of God. May we, in these difficult days, be able to see in the storm clouds the chariots of God and be willing to be a witness to the truth, no matter what it costs.