



GRACE

HAPPENINGS

A WORD FROM PASTOR STEVE:

Ken Ham of Answers in Genesis wrote this article prior to the 2016 election and it continues to be pertinent in this election year.

I deliberately wrote this piece before the US national elections because I wanted to write down my thoughts before the outcome was known. Regardless of who is president, some very important truths need to be understood as we build our thinking on God's Word.

No matter the president, there are many areas of life where nothing should really change for us as Christians. Let me explain why:

God is sovereign and in total control of everything. One of my friends often says to me, "God has yet to make His first mistake!" And of course, God never does.

Also, "He brings the princes to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth useless" (Isaiah 40:23).

No matter how powerful a leader is, God can bring their plans to nothing! Human beings may think they're in charge, but remember what Jesus said to Pilate: "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above" (John 19:11).

Even as we vote, we cannot divorce human responsibility from God's sovereignty—it is God (not the media and others) who ultimately controls who becomes the leader of a nation: And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings. (Daniel 2:21)

God even uses pagan rulers to accomplish His purposes. For instance, consider the Persian King Cyrus. God called him His "anointed":

Thus says the Lord to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held—to subdue nations before him and loose the

armor of kings, to open before him the double doors, so that the gates will not be shut: "I will go before you and make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and cut the bars of iron" (Isaiah 45:1–2).

The prophet Habakkuk was dismayed at pagan kings being used by God to judge his own people. "For the wicked surround the righteous; therefore perverse judgment proceeds" (Habakkuk 1:4). And how did God answer the prophet?

Look among the nations and watch—be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days which you would not believe, though it were told you. For indeed I am raising up the Chaldeans, a bitter and hasty nation (Habakkuk 1:5–6).

So regardless of the outcome of the election, even if we are dismayed or discouraged like Habakkuk, we have to recognize that God is in control. But does that mean we should not be doing anything then?

Faithfully Serving Christ

As an example, I often use the parable of the Ten Minas. A nobleman (representing Jesus) left for another country to become king, and he entrusted resources to servants (representing followers of Jesus). They were told to "do business till I come" (Luke 19:13).

The lesson for us from this parable is that we must be faithful to serve our King Jesus, until He returns.

And how do we faithfully serve Him? Well, here are three of my favorite verses to remind me to be about the business of serving the King every day:

Preach the saving gospel: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

Building Together

SEPTEMBER 2020

"and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near."

Hebrews 10:24-25

Teach apologetics: “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:15).

Be actively involved in spiritual warfare: “Contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3).

And regardless of who is president, while the Lord gives us open doors, we will do whatever we can to advance the business of the King—to stand uncompromisingly and unashamedly on the Word of God and proclaim the saving gospel!

Sadly, many of our church leaders have compromised God’s Word, beginning in Genesis. This compromise is one of the major contributing reasons for why much of the church is not impacting the culture as it should for the King.

Now, we’ll probably have to deal with challenges and battles along the way. While the Israelites were given the Promised Land, they still faced battles at Jericho, Ai, and other places.

We will have persecution—yes, we will have battles with enemies raised up against us. But while God gives us breath, let’s work as hard as we can, with the resources the Lord has entrusted to us, to diligently do the work of the King.

Consider what we read in 1 Peter:

Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. (1 Peter 4:12–16)

And never forget: whether it be the president of the United States, the head of the United Nations, a Supreme Court justice, a member of Congress, or any other person on earth, we should be reminded of 1 Peter 4:5:

They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

Yes, God will have the final say!

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

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Sunday: 9:00 Contemporary Worship
9:30 Kids’ Sunday School via Facebook
10:45 Traditional Worship
(also live via Facebook)
6:30 Evening Worship Service /
Against the Flow Youth
Wednesday: 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer for Adults
(also live via Facebook)
Against the Flow Youth

Rev. Steve Warner

Pastor

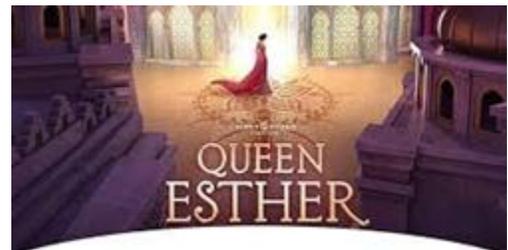


THE TIME TO **GIVE BLOOD** IS NOW **Blood Drive**

Wednesday, September 2
2:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Call Garry Gladfelter or
sign up at www.redcrossblood.org
Temperature checks will be taken
Walk-ins accepted only if slot available

SIGHT & SOUND’S PRODUCTION OF “QUEEN ESTHER” COMING TO GBC



Friday, September 4 @ 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 5 @ 2:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 6 @ 2:30 p.m.

