

Wednesday, 1st July 2020



THE CANDLESTICK

Thine eyes shall see the King in His beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off (*Is. 33:17*)

There's a land that is fairer than day,
And by faith we can see it afar;
For the Father waits over the way
To prepare us a dwelling-place there.

There are many disappointed people this year whose travel plans are being frustrated by the coronavirus epidemic. Some of us have already had to change our plans, and it looks as if we might have to change them again. ... Amidst all the uncertainty, one fundamental truth remains the same ... *our God does not change* for He is the same yesterday, and today, and for ever (Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8). ... Even though "all may change", we are confident *Jesus, - God, - never changes*, "Glory to His name!"

How comforting in these days when we cannot forecast into tomorrow, never mind next week or next month ... how comforting to know we serve the unchanging God Who keeps His promises to His people.

He is not a politician seeking people's favour. He is not like a President or a Prime Minister who tries to balance various political agendas ... but *He is God*. He is answerable to none. His character is perfection. His plans and purposes, - no matter how incredible, - will all be accomplished. None of them can be hindered or interfered with for His being knows no change. He cannot *become* more powerful, and neither can He lose His power. His 'unchangeableness', - the doctrinal term is His *immutability*, - is untouchable and unfathomable!

He can never cease to be holy, righteous, good ... and His wisdom and knowledge can neither be increased or decreased. He sees into every corner and every little compartment. He knows what the nations are doing and planning, and He also knows every intricate detail of every individual who has ever lived! *He is incomparable* for He Himself said, I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me (Is. 45:5) ... That means Allah is a fake and a counterfeit for he is not God, but a pretence. Buddha and Buddhism is false because they claim godhood, but they are nothing but lies and deceit. ... There is no God but One, as King Hezekiah prayed, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth (II Kings 19:15). It's the same as King David declared, O LORD, there is

none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee (I Chron. 17:20). Even among the dark days when the children of Israel returned from Babylon to Jerusalem, Nehemiah stood upon the firm foundation, Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee (Neh. 9:6).

At this very moment, our loved ones who have died in Christ are alive in Him as they stand with the countless multitude around God's throne in Heaven ... What a sight! But the number of the Redeemed have not all yet been gathered in for God continues to work out His purposes on this earth. In His will, He sometimes leads His people 'beside the still waters', where He tenderly strengthens us to face the times ahead. He 'restoreth my soul' when I look around and see nothing but chaos ... There is 'the valley of the shadow of death' and there are the 'enemies' seeking mischief against me, however, *Surely* goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever (Ps. 23:6). ... They can try their best while doing their worst but we have the confidence, The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me? (Ps. 118:6)

It is a fact, wrote Paul, that in the last days perilous times shall come (II Tim. 3:1) ... and, therefore, we ought not to be surprised at what is going on around us today, ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof ... Through the eyes of the Holy Spirit, Paul was looking ahead to our present day. He added, **II Tim. 4:4** the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ⁴ And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. ... And then he anticipated the day he would enter into the immediate presence of God, the time of my departure is at hand ... Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing (II Tim. 4:6,8). ... He was looking forward to seeing, - with his own eyes, - "the King in His beauty" in "the land that is very far off".

The person outside of Christ has nothing better to look forward to than this world ... and *what a mess it is in!* And it won't get better any time soon, not until the Lord Jesus Christ returns, as Zechariah prophesied, when the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one (Zech. 14:9).

To our bountiful Father above,
We will offer our tribute of praise,
For the glorious gift of His love,
And the blessings that hallow our days.