

University Heights Church  
of Christ  
445 Columbia Ave.,  
Lexington, KY 40508  
(859) 255-6257  
www.uheightschurch.com

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Sunday**

Bible Study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM

**Wednesday**

Bible Study: 7:30 PM (This is  
immediately followed by a  
short worship period)

**First Friday of Each Month**

Singing: 7:30 PM

**LEADERSHIP**

**Elders**

Garry Banks

David Collins

John Thompson

**Evangelist**

Adam Litmer

**Deacons**

Troy Antle

Richard Brundige

Matt Thompson

Adam Litmer

Bill Morelan

Jim Parsons

Pat Seabolt

Adam Daniels

Jamie Powell

**Adam's Office Hours**

Tuesday-Friday (8:30-4:00)

*thoughts of man, that they are but a breath.* The powerful and the oppressors, bent on self-aggrandizement, do so at their eternal peril, neither understanding that they are merely God's tools for disciplining whom He wills nor that they will not escape their own just condemnation. <sup>23</sup> *He will bring back on them their iniquity and wipe them out for their wickedness; the Lord our God will wipe them out.*

And so, the psalmist is comforted in his time of distress and oppression. <sup>14</sup> *For the Lord will not forsake his people; he will not abandon his heritage;* <sup>15</sup> *for justice will return to the righteous, and all the upright in heart will follow it....* <sup>17</sup> *If the Lord had not been my help, my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence.* <sup>18</sup> *When I thought, "My foot slips," your steadfast love, O Lord, held me up.* <sup>19</sup> *When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.* <sup>20</sup> *Can wicked rulers be allied with you, those who frame injustice by statute?* <sup>21</sup> *They band together against the life of the righteous and condemn the innocent to death.* <sup>22</sup> *But the Lord has become my stronghold, and my God the rock of my refuge.* May we, too, seek peace of mind and comfort from God through prayer and through His Word.

**IN NEED OF PRAYERS**

Richard Brundige, David Seabolt, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Jake Spivey, Robert Brundige, Susie Burton, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett's mother and stepfather, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Burnice Richardson, Ruth Poynter, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, Tony Tyree, Andrew Westphal, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland, John Blessing, Alleen Terrell, the McDonald family

# University Heights Messenger

Volume 8--Number 33

August 7, 2016

**Ruling The Kingdoms Of Men**

David Collins

Although I have strong conservative political feelings, I don't write much about politics. Even so, I offer the following observations for your consideration.

First, I found her to be belligerent and totally repulsive – ungodly in every aspect. She considered herself above the law. There's no doubt in my mind she would destroy anyone who stood between her and her throne. When opposed she would not hesitate to try and deceive and accuse those who oppose her as being unfair; even treasonous. There may be nothing she would not do to rule.

On the other hand, I found him to be loud and offensive – prideful, even vulgar. He's rich, arrogant and boastful; he indulges in the pleasures of life; and even shows contempt for the godly; at times, blasphemous and defiant, unwilling to be restrained. He was a loose cannon.

And to make matters worse, there were others far wiser and worthier at hand able and willing to serve.

In spite of all those things, the belligerent and the arrogant managed to rise to positions of power over others who were far worthier. The godly recognize from Daniel 4 that the Lord God Most High rules in the kingdoms of men, and gives them to whomever He chooses. We often pray for God to intercede in the affairs of our nation, and bring the best candidate to power. But, do we truly mean that? Or, do we only mean it if our preferred candidate is chosen? But, what if one other than our favorite candidate is selected?

If the process had allowed, and we could have voted, would we have chosen Nebuchadnezzar over Daniel (one of the most godly men found in the Bible – ref Ezek. 14:14, 20)? There's little doubt which one godly people would have chosen. One was prideful and arrogant, boastful and avenging. We recall

from Daniel 3 that he sentenced three godly men to their deaths because they refused to compromise their religious beliefs and bow down and worship his crafted image. The other demonstrated a high level of righteousness, wisdom, and governance (Dan. 2:48). Yet, for His own reasons, God chose Nebuchadnezzar to carry out His plan for His chosen people in spite of all of his shortcomings.

And, in spite of her wickedness, Athaliah ruled over Judah (God's chosen people) for six years, as the nation followed a path of self destruction, prior to the godly taking strength and putting one more deserving in her place as ruler over Judah, at which point she cried, "Treason! Treason!" (2 Chr. 22:10 - 23:13). We recall that some of Judah's most righteous kings would afterward rule when Hezekiah and later Josiah came to power.

We view life, and make decisions from limited perspective, as we see the world around us through the blinders of mortal life. God is not limited by any of the dimensions which restrict our insight. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are God's ways higher than man's ways, and God's thoughts than man's thoughts. (Isa. 55:9)

God continues to rule in the kingdoms of men – even in 2016. Whoever is elected as the next President of the United States of America, let's not forget that the Lord God Almighty still rules over the kingdoms of men from heaven. We are but sojourners, just traveling through a pilgrim land. Let's not lose our focus. Let's not bite and devour one another, lest we be consumed by one another (Gal. 5:15). Eventually, even Nebuchadnezzar praised, extolled, and honored the King of heaven, declaring "all of His works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down." (Dan. 4:37) Press on toward the real goal! Jesus Christ died that we might live – not in the USA – but in Heaven!

### **An Ancient Psalm Speaks to the Present**

John Thompson

A crisis is defined as a turning point: a time of intense difficulty, trouble, or danger requiring momentous decisions which will have historic consequences. In medicine, a crisis is the turning point of a disease. The patient has been running a very high fever. Will the fever break and the patient live, or will the fever persist and end in death? I believe this election year is the crisis time for our nation. Will governmental corruption, political correctness, and the rampant assaults upon individual freedoms do us in, or will the fever break and we become, once again,

"the land of the free and the home of the brave?" How concerned or anxious or frightened should Christians be?

Perhaps many Christians are too concerned about the current turning point facing the United States and are possibly in danger of forgetting the critically important fact that God, not politicians, remains in control of His universe. It behooves us to realize that we are not the only ones who have lived in oppressive times, many of them in times much more oppressive than ours. Long ago, a psalmist was inspired to cry out to God to avenge those who oppressed the righteous. In the midst of his entreaty the psalmist turned from addressing God to speaking directly to the oppressors, calling them fools for concluding that God was unaware of the actions of mankind. The psalmist then declares that God is totally aware of both the actions of the godly and the ungodly. He will neither forsake the faithful nor fail to punish the wicked.

Obviously the psalmist received great comfort from his conviction that God would not forsake His people, and so should we. The psalm speaks just as much to us today as we watch our nation decline spiritually and morally, becoming more and more ungodly, and more and more intolerant of the godly. <sup>3</sup>*O Lord, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked exult; <sup>4</sup>They pour out their arrogant words; all the evildoers boast. <sup>5</sup>They crush your people, O Lord, and afflict your heritage. <sup>6</sup>They kill the widow and the sojourner, and murder the fatherless.* In all ages throughout history, people in positions of power have become corrupted and abused it. They have exulted in their ability to have their way, to prey upon the vulnerable. They gain wealth and boast about it; they lie and boast of their ability to get away with their crimes. Their arrogance is as a force field going before them, clearing a path through the meek and humble whose uprightness is a constant reminder of everything they are not. And all the while they conclude, <sup>7</sup>*"The Lord does not see; the God of Jacob does not perceive."*

But the ungodly ones in power could not be more wrong. Their conclusions about God are without consideration, arising in minds that are senseless, dull, and foolish in the extreme. <sup>8</sup>*Understand, O dullest of the people! Fools, when will you be wise? <sup>9</sup>He who planted the ear, does he not hear?*

*He who formed the eye, does he not see? <sup>10</sup>He who disciplines the nations, does he not rebuke? He who teaches man knowledge—<sup>11</sup>the Lord—knows the*

