

# God and the War in Ukraine

Two weeks ago Russia invaded Ukraine starting the first war with a US ally and Russia since the fall of the Soviet Union. Many people are anxious about this conflict because the Russian president, who has proven to be untrustworthy and irrational, runs a military with enough nuclear weapons to destroy the planet. In addition to that, the likelihood is very high that this conflict will spill over beyond Russia and Ukraine, causing a third world war. Many people are understandably anxious about what is going on in eastern Europe and how that will affect us here at home. Maybe you are like me, with Covid and everything else going on, you are tired of living through historical events.

Maybe you don't have time to worry about problems going over there because you have plenty of problems going in your life right now. Your friendships, boyfriends, girlfriends, family, school, and or home life give you enough reason to be anxious and stressed out that you don't have time care about problems going on in a different continent. Regardless, God and His word have a lot say when you feel worried and anxious about things that are happening around you. Tonight we are going to talk about 6 realities God and His word can remind us of when the world around us seems to be falling apart.

## The Reality of our Broken World

This is something you don't need to be taught, you know it by experience. Sin has affected every person and everything around you. Sinfulness is the foundational reason for every problem you have every faced.

### Romans 5:12

*Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man (Adam), and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.*

- Sin and death affect every person and everything.
- The world is broken because it is full of people who are broken by sin.

## The Reality of our Sovereign God

God is not surprised when bad things happen. God is on His throne and in control of all things that happen.

### Psalms 2:1-4

*1 Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying, 3 "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.*

- God laughs when the nations rage and plot evil, because He is still in control despite what kings and leaders may think.

### Isaiah 45:5-7

*5 I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, 6 that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. 7 I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the Lord, who does all these things.*

- God has power over all things.
- Covid, war, drama, relationship/family problems, nothing is beyond his control

### Romans 8:28

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

- For Christians, God works all things, both good a bad, for our good and His purpose.
- He is able to do this because He is ultimately in control of everything.

## The Reality of the Power of Prayer

When we face trouble in life God is the one we should turn to. He has all the power and control. He is the one who is able to help and save us.

### Psalm 46:1; 8-11

*1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

*8 Come, behold the works of the Lord, how he has brought desolations on the earth. 9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. 10 "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" 11 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

- Through prayer God
  - Protects in the time of trouble
  - Give us strength to endure attacks from our enemies
  - Make wars cease - (NAMB prayer guide for Ukraine)

### Philippians 4:6-7

*6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

- Ultimately prayer changes us.
- Truly give God our concerns leads to an internal peace that surpasses understanding.

## The Reality that Christ will return

The fact that Jesus will return is one of the clearest and most repeated points in the New Testament.

### Matthew 25:31-34

*31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*

- When Jesus returns He will judge each person according to if they believed in Jesus or not.
- Those that did believe (the Sheep) will inherit eternal life.
- Those that did not believe (the goats) will be cast into eternal fire.

### Mark 13:3-4; 7-8

*3 And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, 4 "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?"*

*7 And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. 8 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.*

- The sign that Jesus' return can be seen on the news today.
- These things should at the very least remind us that Jesus is going to return.

## The Reality of Hope in Christ Alone

The fact that Jesus will return highlights this important fact of the gospel, Jesus is the only way to be saved.

### Acts 4:12

*And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

- Jesus is the only way to be saved.
- Those who do believe in him will not be saved.

### John 16:33

*33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."*

- The world is broken and it is going to have an affect on you.
- Jesus is sovereign over the world and everything in it.
- Because of these things we have hope in Christ despite the bad things that will happen.

## The Reality of our Urgent Mission

Because the world is broken and Jesus is the only hope we have Christians should be reminded that the time is now to live for God and to proclaim the gospel to those that do not believe.

### John 3:36

*Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*

- The truth is those that do not believe in Jesus have no hope for anything better. Despite all the bad stuff that is happening, this is the best it is going to get.
- For some this should be warning to not take for granted the offer of salvation offered to you.
- For other this should remind us of the people around you that you care about and do not believe in Jesus.

### 2 Peter 3:9-10

*9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.*

- Jesus is going to return.
- His desire is that everyone should come to faith in Him
- His delay motivated by giving people the opportunity to believe in and share the gospel.

### 2 Peter 3:11-13

*11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

- The world is broken and everyone is affected by it.
- God is in control even in the world seems out of control, that is why He is the only source of hope.
- Christ is going to return, the offer of salvation will not last forever. Current events in the world remind us of this fact.
- If you believe these things to be true, they should motivate you to live a life that honors God and puts His way first in your life.
- Time is short, Hell is real, and eternity is long.

# Discussion Questions

- In what ways have you see or experienced the brokenness of the world?
- Why is it hard to believe that God is in control when we see/feel the brokenness of the world?
- Why is it important to be reminded that God is always in control, despite current circumstances?
- How does God's sovereignty give us hope in times of trouble?
- What are the potential blessing we experience through prayer?
- Why is it important to seek God through prayer in times of trouble?
- How does the brokenness of the world remind us of Jesus' return?
- In your words, what will the end result be when Jesus returns?
- What are some ways people try to seek salvation and security apart from Jesus?
- Why do you think God has made Jesus the only to salvation?
- How does Jesus alone give us hope in times of trouble?
- How would you describe the urgent mission Christians have? Why is the mission urgent?
- In your own words, why has Jesus not yet returned?
- How should the mission Christians have affect the way Christians live?
- Think about yourself and/or other Christians you know, do you/they live as though they really believe in the mission God has given?
- In your own words, how should Christians respond when bad things happen? How should that be different than the way non-Christians respond?