

Saturday, August 12, 2017 - Day 223 – Isaiah 22-24, Psalm 33, I Timothy 2

Isaiah's apocalyptic imagery and visions seem oddly current with the world view espoused by certain politicians and "gloom-and-doom" advocates and prophets. It calls up images of a world in chaos, militaristic images of death and destruction, dried up, withered, polluted. A world where human leadership has failed; where the military provides the only solution; where the destruction of the people seems to be the inevitable conclusion. Yet along with these images of despair, there is a glimmer of hope. A fleeting image that, perhaps, the people can turn away from the impending disaster and can, once again, turn to the Lord. A vision where merchandise and wages will be dedicated to the Lord; where profits will not be stored or hoarded; and abundant food and fine clothing is available for those who live in the presence of the Lord.

The imagery of Psalm 33 runs counter to the apocalyptic imagery seen in Isaiah, and, instead, builds on the theme of praising the Lord as creator and the lord of history. It builds on the image and view that all needs will be met by those who love the Lord, those who live in the presence of the Lord. Kings are not saved by their armies; warriors are not delivered by their strength. It is only through dedication and trust in the Lord can we be made safe.

In the Timothy passage, the role of Jesus as a mediator between God and humankind is explored and we are instructed to pray for everyone, including kings and others in high positions, even if they are bad. The author exhorts us to pray for all so that we can lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and dignity. I fear, however, that the author misses the mark completely on the role of women and their voices, which surely must not be silent. These antiquated and chauvinistic views must be resisted and overturned through prayer.

By Warren Wanlund