

GOD'S NOT DEAD

Monday, March 12

Reading: Psalm 33

Psalm 33:8 *Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him. 9 For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. 10 The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. 11 But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.*

In the late 1800's, German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche popularized the idea that "God is dead." By this he meant that the Enlightenment and the rise of scientific knowledge had effectively "dispensed with the belief in or role of God in human affairs and the destiny of the world." This view was picked up in the 1950's and 60's and splashed all over the front page of Time magazine.¹ It is this idea that spurs on atheism and the evolution debate still today. It is a belief that makes scientists like Richard Dawkins proclaim, "...a supernatural creator almost certainly does not exist and that religious faith is a delusion."²

People believe in evolution because deep down they don't want a Creator to whom they are responsible. They also reject God because they want to run their lives and governments by their own rules and not the standards set forth by God. Psalm 33 reminds us of the foolishness of these notions. Two times it proclaims that God's creation and plans "stand firm" (33:9, 11). What does that mean for our world today?

In creation, we can see the loving hand of God (33:5). When we observe the beauty and complexity of the universe, how could anyone believe that it all occurred by chance! Only the guiding hand of a Creator who loves us could have made such wonder. Creation also shows us God's power (33:6-9). It only took a word for the Almighty to create all that is! It is no wonder the psalmist calls for all people to fear and reverence the Lord.

In regard to nations, God is not surprised by the plans of nations to ignore Him and His holy standards. Their efforts can never extinguish His eternal purposes from being achieved (33:10-11). Nations think they are getting away with their rejection of God. They believe God does not see them either because He does not exist or He doesn't care. Both are false. God sees and He cares. He "forms the hearts of all" to accomplish His will in the world (33:13-15). No nation, no matter how strong they think they are, can be truly blessed when they turn their back on the Lord (33:12, 16-17).

What does all this mean for you? The psalm opens and closes with some practical application for our lives. We are encouraged to live with joyful praise (33:1-3, 21), trust in the faithful character of God (33:4-5), and hope in His unfailing love (33:18-20). Our faith is not a delusion. It is as certain as the creation God made. It is founded on the sure plans and purposes of God. God is not dead! He is in firm control!

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/God_is_dead

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Dawkins