

AND GOD SAYS . . .

Sponsored by the Melrose Alliance Church

With the increased hostility toward Christianity and our Judeo-Christian values, it is easy to get discouraged and frustrated. Christians and their values are being marginalized more and more in our society. Although the first amendment to the constitution supposedly guarantees our religious freedoms, increasingly court rulings are given and laws are passed that are directly contrary to it. It is also disconcerting to hear the many predictions of doom for the future. We begin to ask, “Where is God in all this?”

First, we need to be reminded that we are not alone. The children of Israel cried out for more than 40 years for deliverance from Egypt before God stepped in and did so. The prophet, Habakkuk, complained before God, “How long, O Lord, must I cry out for help, but you do not listen?” (Habakkuk 1:2). The Psalmist, after watching evil men prosper, lamented, “My feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked” (Psalms 73:2-3).

The truth is, God has not abandoned us as much as he has given us what we desired, allowing us to suffer the natural consequences that come as result. An example of this is when Israel asked for a king (1 Samuel 8).

But be assured of this, God has not abandoned us. The Psalmist describes Israel’s crossing of the Red Sea this way. “The waters saw you, O God, the waters saw you and writhed; the very depths were convulsed.” He then describes the fearsome lightning, the rolling thunder, downpour of rain, and the trembling of the earth as God moved in. Then he says, “Your way led through the sea... though your footprints were not seen” (Psalm 77:16-19).

The point is, that although we do not see God with our physical eyes, we can see his handiwork all around us through the eyes of faith and be encouraged. God is present and has not forsaken us even though we do not see “his footprints,” his physical manifestation or presence. God is still very much in control, believe it or not! And don’t forget, He promises, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5).

For comments, concerns or questions call 608-488-7733