

Hating Peace

“Woe to me, that I sojourn in Meshech, that I dwell among the tents of Kedar! Too long have I had my dwelling among those who hate peace.”

Psalm 120:5-6.

There is a particular kind of weariness which comes from being apart from God. It is different from physical weariness, though not totally. Without God we cannot prosper, we do not know how to prosper, and prosperity itself is unrecognizable. We do not know how much we need God until we are drained by living in a world without Him.

As the psalmist observantly points out, there are people who hate peace. There are people who despise and reject it – or at least reject the way to have it, which is not much different. And to live in a world without peace is wearisome.

This kind of peace comes from a couple of places. One is outside influences. There were some who rejected peace through provocation, such as when Ben-hadad provoked Ahab to war or when Ahab coveted Naboth's vineyard. Due to outside influences, Ahab was provoked by Ben-hadad and Naboth was provoked by Ahab and there was no peace. To desire peace, then, is to desire to live a life unprovoked by things like violence and injustice.

This kind of peace also comes from inside influences. It is peace with oneself because of a lack of anxiety and a clear conscience. It is a peace which leads to contentment. To desire this kind of peace is to desire to be able to be alone with no distractions and to have nothing to fear.

There are those who hate both kinds of peace, because one cannot have one kind of peace without the other. There are those whose actions demonstrate they desire to provoke and to live in anxiety. There are those who hate peace and it is wearisome to live in such a world.

Both the peace from inside influences such as anxiety and the peace from outside influences such as injustice ultimately come from having a right relationship with God. Peace with God means peace with oneself and peace with others and it is foolish to think peace can come from anywhere else. We cannot have peace *from* anything until we first have peace *in* God. To live in a world in which peace is despised is wearisome because it is to live in a world without God. Let us not grow weary because, although we may live in a world which despises peace, as Christians we live in a world in which peace between God and man reigns and it is a peace which cannot be taken even by those who hate it.

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