

Isaiah 9:16-21

“For the leaders of this people cause them to err, And those who are led by them are destroyed. Therefore the Lord will have no joy in their young men, Nor have mercy on their fatherless and widows; For everyone is a hypocrite and an evildoer, And every mouth speaks folly. For all this His anger is not turned away, But His hand is stretched out still. For wickedness burns as the fire; It shall devour the briars and thorns, And kindle in the thickets of the forest; They shall mount up like rising smoke. Through the wrath of the LORD of hosts The land is burned up, And the people shall be as fuel for the fire; No man shall spare his brother. And he shall snatch on the right hand And be hungry; He shall devour on the left hand And not be satisfied; Every man shall eat the flesh of his own arm. Manasseh shall devour Ephraim, and Ephraim Manasseh; Together they shall be against Judah. For all this His anger is not turned away, But His hand is stretched out still.”

The Hands that Keep You

A while ago I read a story by a young woman in memory of her father entitled "My Fathers Hands". In the story the author traced the memory of the love and care of her father expressed through his big but gentle hands. Her father, being a quiet and somewhat shy man, spoke little of his love for his family, nevertheless the tender care of the work of his hands demonstrated daily his commitment to those he loved. How wise the author was to see this expression of love and take the time to write of it.

Men and women should do the same toward Our Father in heaven. As a matter of fact, the Lord rebukes His people when they chose to party "in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the LORD, neither consider the operation of his hands." (Isaiah 5:12). Think for a moment with me about the works of God's hands.

God's hands are strong in that they made and hold the universe together. "For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." (Colossians 1:16-17 NIV). The earth will complete it's purpose, the sun will not burnout prematurely, the ozone layer will not collapse one second before God's original plan.

Peter spoke of God's steadfast hold on our universe: "By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men." (2 Peter 3:7 NIV). Here Peter states that even as God has demonstrated His firm hand on history through the fulfilment of prophesy, so His hand will remain strong to fulfil the purposes of creation.

To those who have come to accept Christ as personal saviour, having believed in the substitutional death of Christ for sin as well as His resurrection from the dead as victory over sin, the hands of God are special: "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no-one can snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no-one can snatch them out of my Father's hand." (John 10:28-29 NIV). The same hands that built the harmony and intricacy of the universe, that designed and put together the galaxies as well as the molecules, atoms and DNA code, the same hands that hold the universe together, that sustain life, and that shall bring all things to His determined end, are the hands that hold the true believer in the embrace of His loving care, forever.

There is an old saying that merits attention: "Don't bite the hand that feeds you". To each reader I urge: "Don't forget the hands that keeps you".

What is my response:
