

GOD IS IN CONTROL

INTRODUCTION

Truly, the events of Sept. 11, 2001, will remain in the hearts of Americans for a very long time. Thousands of Americans lost their lives at the hands of the terrorists, and thousands of others were affected by the tragedy. It was as if nothing else happened that day, and what did happen faded into nothingness because of the tragedy of that day. Citizens of other nations shared in our grief. One lady in New York City went to a Theme Park with her young daughter to get her mind off of the events. She looked so sad, that her daughter asked her what was wrong. She replied, "All New York is dead."

The events of 9-11 were just the beginning of continued opposition to freedom by extremists throughout the world. As discouraging as it all may be, we need to always remember, that "GOD IS IN CONTROL."

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, GOD IS IN CONTROL BECAUSE HE IS THE CREATOR.

- A. The world was not started by chance or accident as atheists believe.
 - 1. The Everlasting God "spoke" everything into existence. Psa. 33:6-9
 - a. These verses have to do with the events of Gen. 1 and 2.
 - b. In these verses, it is often written, "And God said," followed by various material things coming into existence.
 - c. God will continue to sustain the universe until such time that He decides to close out man's existence here. 2 Pet. 3:5-9
 - 2. The world should stand in awe at the mighty power of God. Psa. 33:8; 90:1-2; Heb. 12:28
- B. So, despite the evil deeds of the terrorists, we should always remember that "God is in Control."

II. 2nd, GOD IS IN CONTROL BECAUSE HE REIGNS IN THE KINGDOMS OF MEN.

- A. In the Old Testament record, God emphasized this point.
 - 1. He used Daniel to reveal to Nebuchadnezzar that God had more power than did this world renowned king had.
 - a. Nebuchadnezzar, a wicked ruler, was once made to exalt God in Dan. 3:1-30. (Discuss as needed.)
 - b. He was later warned in a dream of his continued defiance. Dan. 4:1-16 (Discuss). See verses 17, 25, 32
 - c. Belshazzar, Nebuchadnezzar's successor, also saw HIS kingdom taken away from him because of sin. Dan. 5:1-30 (Discuss)
 - 2. It was by the providence of God that Esther was queen at a time when Israel was in danger of annihilation. Esther 3:1-8, 17
 - 3. Can we be sure God is not STILL ruling in the kingdoms of men to further His control of the universe, even today?
 - a. Who knows but from what Harry Truman was used of God to bring an end to WW2 by ordering the dropping of the A-bomb?
 - b. Who knows but from what Ronald Reagan was used of God to topple Communism's grip in Europe in the 1980's?
 - c. Who knows but from what the present powers that be will be the breaking of the Muslim's destructive power in our day?
- B. Evil in the world **may appear** to be in control, but in reality, GOD is in control.

III. 3Rd, GOD IS IN CONTROL BECAUSE HE IS THE ULTIMATE JUDGE.

- A. God works through governments to **ble**ss and **protect** the righteous. Rom. 13:1-4
 - 1. We are to pray for governmental rulers that we may serve God in peace. 1 Tim. 3:1-2
 - 2. Let us be obedient to civil powers and practice righteousness may prevail. Prov. 14:34
 - 3. Men may talk back to God **now**, but He will have the LAST WORD.

- B. God will ultimately judge **ALL NATIONS** through Jesus Christ, His Son. Gen.18:25; Eccl. 12:13-14; Acts 17:30-31; 2 Cor. 5:10

CONCLUSION

- I. May we **never forget** that GOD IS IN CONTROL.
 - A. Be RIGHT with Him and before Him.
 - B. Be prayerful about the adversities that evil brings to this life, and leave things in His hands.
- II. If you need to become a Christian by your faith, repentance and baptism, or as a child of God you need the prayers of Christians, we invite you to respond right now, as we stand together and sing.

Don Tarbet

(This is a remake of a sermon I first preached in 2011, and I do not recall to whom I might give credit for it's main and sub points.)