

Providence and Prayer

While teaching and studying the Minor Prophets (as the elders are doing this quarter), we have noted occasional references to nations and world leaders that are also mentioned in history classes. In our history classes there is usually no reference to the Bible and in our Bible classes there is little information about leaders of other nations. One might think God is concerned only about the prophets and people in Judah and Israel.

God sent Jonah to preach to the people of Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian nation. This nation was in the process of capturing and destroying some of God's own people. Jonah, a native of the northern kingdom, Israel, was both a prophet and statesman. We see that God was concerned about the people of both Nineveh and Israel.

Clearly, God superintends the affairs of His people. We understand from the Bible how God through His providence preserved a remnant through which the Son of God was born and His church, the kingdom that would not be destroyed, was established. Were there other times when God's intervention in the affairs of nations paved the way for God's people to flourish?

Consider this. Greece is considered the cradle of Western civilization and democracy. If either Persian king Darius I or his son Xerxes I were able to conquer Greece in 490 BC and 480 BC, respectively, Greece, under Persian rule, would likely have been a very different country. It follows that Western Europe would likely have been much different also, and so would America. Daniel told King Belshazzar why God had so dealt with his grandfather, Nebuchadnezzar, " --- *till he knew that the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men and appoints over it whomever He chooses* (Dan 5:21b).

I certainly don't understand how God rules in the kingdom of men but I am convinced that God providentially answers our prayers in the same manner He rules in the affairs of nations. Let's all pray that in this election God will "appoint" people who will continue to allow us the freedom to worship Him. We also pray that the Karns congregation will continue to flourish and be able to spread God's message to the world.

For the elders,
Don Denton