

Eden Uniting Church - Sunday 29th March 2020

Reflection by Steve F

Good morning to you all from Kiah, maybe I will see some of you [virtually after the service at 11]

As I have discovered, after a tumultuous year [so far!] of fires, floods and now the corona virus , every morning is a bonus and a new opportunity to thank the Lord for His enduring love, care and guidance in an uncertain world to be sure. The fires of January certainly tested our nerve, and who of us were without a modicum of uncertainty, if not abject fear! Now, history, except for sleepless nights, I have been encouraged by many things of late, not the least of many verses in scripture, often bought to light in morning readings of The Word For Today [recommended] Fri 20 March was particularly relevant as it looks at Isaiah 26:3 “You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, and whose thoughts are fixed on you. “ Easy to say, as our circumstances tend to dominate our thoughts and responses, forgetting as we do the spiritual reality of a sovereign God. Perfect peace must, essentially not be defined by those circumstances which are constantly changing. Making matters worse is a constant barrage of news updates to remind us of these circumstances! God and his promises [eg Romans 8] are unchanging , however, and unrelated to what we daily experience except that He promises to walk with us !

Peace , we are told, is mutually exclusive to worry. “ Worry or anxiety throttles our confidence, chokes our perspective and suffocates our spirit.” [The Word for Today- Fri march 20] It robs us of the peace that comes knowing the God that can handle anything and through whom all things are possible. Our natural default is to rely on ourselves to solve all problems , mistrusting a God who not only created us [in His own image] and has empowered us with His Spirit if we choose to trust Him. If we allow God to play the major role in our relationship with him [in the sense that we trust in Him because of what He has already done for us , peace will be in reach ! Our trials will be surmountable, and our hope is assured. Like the Elephant and the mouse walking together over the bridge. When they reached the other side the mouse chimes up, “man, we certainly shook that bridge!”

Yes, the fires were frightening, mainly because of the unseen nature of them. With Gods help Jehoshaphat , you will recall, overcame not one army but three. And his victory with Gods help , enables us to overcome our battles, [fire, floods, ill health, insecurity, persecution, poverty] in the same way.

Through trusting God. Like Jehoshaphat, we need to identify the enemy, and yes it , like the approaching fire , was alarming, but God said, “Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will hold you with my righteous hand .”

Comforting words as we face the present corona virus, yes? May we have the strength of spirit to comfort those who are anxious, reminded them of these truths and being His church on this earth at this time [Ref video] Ezekiel is commanded by God to prophesy to dry ones, that they will come to life, adopting flesh. A somewhat unlikely event without Gods intervention. A metaphor for Israel, this unlikely scenario is already coming to pass as modern Israel is dramatically rebuilding after being scattered to the four corners of the earth, now a prominent world leader in technology ! God keeps His promises. [Ezekial 37:vs 12,13,14.] and so we must try to keep in mind the bigger picture as predicted world events unfold. As Gods church, may we be constantly reminded of His sovereignty as we are empowered by His spirit to love, support, comfort, and be the hands of Jesus in a society that has lost its way spiritually, morally and environmentally. May God bless you all at this time, Amen.

A series of Pictures from Steve

During the 2020 Kiah Bushfire



The day after



Regrowth begins



A beautiful gift



A stepping stone back



Footnote . May i take this opportunity to thank you all for your constant prayers and support post fires , particularly Janice for lovely mower and canoe, Paul and Robyn for beautiful shrubs (pictured) , Phil for his lovely angel sculpture from found objects, Marianne for a watch and many more you know who you are! May God bless you and keep yu safe at this time. Steve.

