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Dear praying friends in Europe –

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me.” (Daniel 7:13-15).

Daniel lived through times of great upheaval and the rise and fall of the political order he knew, yet throughout it all, however troubled he was, he remained utterly committed to the one true God, the Great King of Kings, even willing to die rather than deny God. He is an encouragement and inspiration to all who follow Jesus in our turbulent times, to focus on that which lasts and not be overcome by that which is transitory.

Homily
and
main article
by
Adam Isaacs

The Prayerbridge between Europe and the USA

Of all the political changes that have happened recently, probably that which has most shaken the way in which the world is led is the election of Donald Trump as 45th President of the USA. It is not just his brash communication style, his coarse behaviour and words, or his populist showman image that has disconcerted the ruling classes everywhere. What is most unsettling is his willingness to break with the post-War consensus, rejecting multilateralism and seeing everything through the prism of ‘America First’.

The Trump Presidency represents a rupture with all that has gone before, and there can be no going back to how things were before. This is very unsettling for Europeans who have enjoyed a benevolent “Pax America” under which Europe could be rebuilt after the two world wars. We Europeans have come instinctively to look to the US as our chief ally and partner in facing whatever challenges are before us. We can no longer rely on that being the case, and the world seems more unsafe, more uncertain and more threatening.

In these circumstances, God’s unchanging word is a source of comfort to us. Daniel was taken into exile by the Babylonians as part of God’s judgment on His

faithless people who had broken their covenant with Him. His people had abandoned the living God for lifeless idols, yet God’s love for His people remained unchanged.

The first Babylonian emperor, Nebuchadnezzar, was vain, capricious, thin-skinned and completely unlike anyone the Jews had met before. Yet, though a pagan who wanted to make everyone bow down to his own statue, twice he did what God’s people failed to do, and tell the whole world of the glory of the One True God (Dan 2:47; 4:34-35, 37).

Prayer:

- As we consider US leadership now, we must look beyond our distaste for the man, his methods and his message, and pray for him, as we must for all those in authority, that he will govern justly, with wisdom, compassion and mercy.
- We cannot ignore the USA, so we must pray that through it God’s kingdom is proclaimed and expanded here on earth.

We know that our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual forces in the heavenly realms (Eph 6:12). We may be dismayed by what is happening, but we can live certain in the knowledge that the ultimate victory is won and Christ will return to reign.

Please also pray for

- the conflict between Spain and Catalonia, that not pride and revenge but trust and understanding will prevail.
- Germany and Austria try to build a new coalition which they had never before (Germany) or long ago (Austria).

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