

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **Despair**

"So long as one does not despair, so long as one doesn't look upon life bitterly, things work out fairly well in the end." – George Moore

"Despair lames most people, but it wakes others fully up." – William James

"He that despairs degrades the Deity, and seems to intimate that he is insufficient, or not just to his word; in vain hath he read the Scriptures, the world, and man." – Owen Feltham

"Some days simply lay on you like stones." – Patrick Rothfuss, *The Slow Regard of Silent Things*

"I must lose myself in action, lest I wither in despair." – Alfred Tennyson

Despair means, "the complete loss or absence of hope." It seems that in times like this, an election season, we find ourselves fighting feelings of despair. If we look at things with the absence of Scripture, one can readily see how such feelings can manifest themselves.

What we often forget is that God is in control. Buried within the wonderful book of Daniel, is the verse, "This decision is by the decree of the watchers, and the sentence by the word of the holy ones, in order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men" (Dan. 4:17). The latter portion of the verse is repeated again in verse 25.

When an election occurs, we need to remember that God is in control. Whoever is elected is in accordance with His will. We may not understand why He allows what He does to happen, but we know that He allows it. It may be for our good, and it could in fact be to punish us. Study Israel's history, and that of Judah, and you will find that those in power at times were certainly not ideal.

We also often forget that when the New Testament was written, the Caesars were in power. Even so, prayers were offered on their behalf (1 Tim. 2:1-2). And even Peter wrote, "Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king" (1 Pet. 2:17).

With elections it seems inevitable that some folks are going to be highly disappointed and have feelings of despair. What is crucial is that we remind ourselves, as the song says, "This world is not my home, I'm just a passin' thru. My treasures are laid up, somewhere beyond the blue; the angels beckon me, from Heaven's open door, and I can't feel at home in this world anymore."