

“Again and again he rescued them, but they chose to rebel against him, and they were finally destroyed by their sin.” Psalms 106:43 NLT

[lectio] // PSALM 106:40-48

I just continue to be fascinated by the word, “they.” God speaks as though they were all one, but “they” is made up of thousands of individuals, families, men and women, little boys and little girls. THEY. Were they ALL behaving the same, as one. Were they ALL idolatrous, ALL rebellious, ALL turning against God? Was it just the leaders and “they,” the people were judged as one UNDER their leadership. Were their righteous in the “they?” Of course there was! God speaks in terms of a unit, a whole, an entirety- the PEOPLE of God. And yet the innocent suffered right along with the guilty. The righteous were enslaved as well. So, taking into consideration that God is always right, true and just, what does that mean? For one, it means that God has purposes far beyond the individual life. Two, God’s love, mercy, even grace is still at work even through suffering, slavery and death. Because we are eternal beings? But we only see through temporal perspective? So, God sees my individuality in terms of a larger, unified group (now called the church) and God is working his will in and through this group, this gathering as a WHOLE. Does he treat the church gathering in China different than the one in the United States? Does he treat the African church different than the South American church? I don’t know. I have a feeling, just from David’s language in the Psalms that we are viewed as ONE maybe by country? Either way, of course God sees, knows and even works through an individual, but he is working as a whole on THE Church, the U.S. church and he weaves grace and judgment (if necessary) to bring about his perfect will in ALL of us. Shouldn’t we be asking, “God, what are you doing in THE Church, this expression of THE Church in the U.S. and even this expression of THE Church in Costa Mesa? What are you doing, how can I fulfill your desire and fit with the WHOLE of the Kingdom of God coming on the Earth, Country and City in which I live?”

[oratio]

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

I told you, the “they” usage in these Old Covenant records and stories are starting to get to me. I know you see me and respond to me as an individual, but I get a sense that what you’re doing is far MORE wholistic than I ever imagined. It’s not just my faith, my country, city or even church - it is YOURS! So the measure of grace and even the pouring out of the Holy Spirit is upon a wide swath of the earth or nations. I am a small part in a huge THEY. Nonetheless I want to be in your will, used by your Spirit to available to be, do, go my part well. Help me Lord Jesus be/do/go my part well.

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root