

w/b 12th November 2017

THEME: COPING WITH THE INJUSTICE OF IT ALL - LIFE APPLICATION

PASSAGE: Wilfred Owen poem and PSALM 2

THE END

After the blast of lightning from the east,
The flourish of loud clouds, the Chariot Throne;
After the drums of time have rolled and ceased,
And by the bronze west long retreat is blown,

Shall Life renew these bodies? Of a truth
All death will he annul, all tears assuage?-
Or fill these void veins full again with youth,
And wash, with an immortal water, Age?

When I do ask white Age he saith not so:
'My head hangs weighed with snow.'
And when I hearken to the Earth, she saith:
'My fiery heart shrinks, aching. It is death.
Mine ancient scars shall not be glorified,
Nor my titanic tears, the seas, be dried.'

LAUNCH

What events or situations in the world today do you find the most troubling and why?

DISCOVERY

Read the Wilfred Owen poem and Psalm 2.

What are the similarities and what are the differences between the two?

Wilfred Owen clearly knew his bible. How can you gather this from reading his poem? (Optional)

Compare the blessed in the first verse of Psalm 1 with the blessed in the last verse of Psalm 2. What can we learn for ourselves from these two 'blesseds'?

'Anointed one' in verse 2 is *Messiah* in Hebrew and *Christ* in the Greek. How does this psalm point to Christ and what does it tell us about him?

The words 'meditate' in Psalm 1:2 and 'plot' in Psalm 2:1 are in fact the same word in the Hebrew. How is the word used differently in the two passages? What sort of petty plots can we allow our minds and mouths to get involved in? How do we go about turning this ungodly plotting into godly meditation?

'Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit' is an Anglican prayer that recently sprang to mind. Does this work and if so how?

UNDERSTANDING

Would you say this psalm is 'political' or not? If it is, what sort of political stance is it taking?

Do you feel as much responsibility to pray for the nation, the government and society as you do for friends, church and self? Why do you think this is? What might be wrong with this line of thinking?

How does the Lord view the vaunted power of nations? How does this compare to or contrast with your attitude as you watch the evening news.

The psalm makes it very clear how earthly kings relate to Jesus – the king above all kings. What difference should this truth make to our praying?

APPLICATION

- Take time to pray for 3 rulers or leaders who are in need of God's support or guidance
- Pray for any world situations where you think injustice needs to be corrected

Many questions sourced from Psalms – Eugene Peterson – Life builder series Scripture Union (some have been altered).