



Ruach (Wind of God)

Pentecost/Endowment Day

Acts 2:1-21

In the last days, God says,

“I will pour out my Spirit on all people . . .

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

May 17, 2015

Thought for the Week

VE Day Remembered

We recently celebrated the 70th anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe) when, on 8 May 1945, Nazi Germany unconditionally surrendered to the Allies. As World War II in Europe came to an end celebrations erupted from Moscow to Los Angeles. In Britain more than one million people celebrated on the streets of London. King George VI and the Queen, accompanied by Winston Churchill, appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace. Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret were allowed to join the celebrating crowds incognito.

It is no wonder there were great celebrations. The dark years of World War II, the deadliest conflict in history, were over in Europe, and 3 months later the war in the Pacific also ended. During the War the Allies lost 61 million people, of whom 45 million were civilians. The Axis countries lost 12 million people, including 4 million civilians. Many millions of people were also injured.

The history of the world reveals the constant reality of evil and wickedness. In every generation wicked people kill and maim men, women and children in pursuit of their own evil ambitions. Every day we hear reports of the wars and conflicts in our world today. Will it ever come to an end?

The Bible answers this question and provides a coherent view of history. The universe didn't come into existence by chance, but by the creative act of God. He created the heavens and the earth. Everything he created, including men and women, was good. In early history, however, sin entered the world as the first man, Adam, disobeyed the command of God. From that time on sin and evil have always been with us and stem from our rebellion against our Creator. The course of human history reveals the tragic consequences of this rebellion.

In his Son, Jesus, God decisively intervened in the history of the world to bring hope to the nations. By his death on the cross Jesus defeated death and the devil and brought a new age of hope for the peoples of the world. He sent his disciples “into all the world” to preach a message of good news and hope to all. As they have received Jesus as their Savior, people from all nations have found peace with God and hope for the future. One day the Kingdom of God will be consummated and “the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.” What a celebration there will be when that day comes!

Happy Birthday Mary (5/26)

Prayer Thought for the Week

God of all that is, all that ever was, and all that shall come to be, we praise you. We give thanks for your goodness, your loving care, your guidance, and your vision for all creation.

Forgive us when we have been guilty of acts and thoughts that did not promote peace.

This day, O God, we remember the people of Yemen. Be with the peacemakers there. May we learn to live in harmony, one with another.

We would also hold before you the concerns and the needs of all who are gathered here this day.

May your name be praised in all nations, O God of all peoples. Amen.

Stewardship Thought

God has created me to do Him
some definite service;
He has committed some work to me,
which He has not committed to another.
I have my mission
I never may know it in this life,
but I shall be told it in the next.

Somehow I am necessary for His purposes,
as necessary in my place as an Archangel in His
if, indeed, I fail, He can raise another,
as He could make the stones children of Abraham.
Yet I have a part in this great work;
I am a link in a chain,
a bond of connection between persons.

He has not created me for naught.
I shall do good, I shall do His work;
I shall be an angel of peace,
a preacher of truth in my own place,
while not intending it,
if I do but keep his commandments
and serve Him in my calling.