

Can I admit I'm a bit nervous about the election on Tuesday? My nervous "habit" is to pick my cuticles and if you look at my hands, there is nothing pretty about them right now. I'm edgy because I know how important this election is. This election can change the direction of our country forever and possibly send it the wrong way. But the first two verses of the book of Daniel settles my heart and may preserve my nails.

Daniel 1:1-2 (ESV)

"In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god."

Did you notice in the second verse, it says "and the LORD *gave* Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand"? In other words, God *allowed* the pagan, evil, and nasty King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to conquer and capture Jerusalem. It was in God's plans and under His control. One of the main themes of the book of Daniel is God's sovereignty. God places kings and leaders in their positions and God removes them according to His plans and purposes. At times His purpose is to bless and prosper and other times, His purpose is to discipline. King Nebuchadnezzar learned about God's sovereignty and authority the hard way. (see Daniel 4)

Yes, Tuesday's election has a lot on the line but one important truth you and I need to remember is God's purposes and plans *will* prevail. HE is in control and whoever wins, God has allowed that man to win. God still holds authority over that person and our nation. Whatever the outcome, we must continue to trust Him, seek Him, and ask for His grace to give us strength during these uncertain times. Ask God to show us His will and way as individuals and for our country. Then be silent...

Habakkuk 2:20 "But the Lord is in his holy temple;

let all the earth keep silence before him."

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