

## Daily Update Jan 13th

### Heb 2:14-18

This last week has seen extraordinary scenes in America, the president's supporters storming the Capitol building, to America's authority to protest. Violent scenes were recorded, four people lost their lives and one more since. One of the outcomes has been that outgoing President Trump may be impeached out of office or deemed unfit under the 25th Amendment before he leaves officially on Jan 20th. That's the only use of the word un-presidented, most people want to hear.

One outcome has been Trump's suspension from his social media accounts. In fact Twitter have permanently suspended him because of comments he made leading up to the riot. The owners of Twitter stated, "*We have permanently suspended the account due to the risk of further incitement of violence..*" Actions eventually have consequences. Trump's example shows even in a world with very few moral guidelines, it is possible to find ourselves on the wrong side of an authority which we can do nothing about.

The encouraging message of Hebrews is that in spite of what we are like, God, the ultimate authority to whom we must give account, sent Jesus to rescue us. You may have noticed that the language of Hebrews is quite sacrificial. Jesus is described in priestly terms, (more of that later!) because he performs a sacrificial role.

THE universal human problem, is that our sin leads to death and separation from God, both in this life and after. In the Old Testament, priests made sacrifices to reflect that sin has a blood price - life for life. Yom Kippur the Day of Atonement is perhaps the most familiar. In this annual festival the sins of the nation were sprinkled in blood on a goat that was sent out to the desert. This scapegoat represented the removal of the people's sin, but of course another goat was sacrificed to provide the blood that provided satisfaction for God's anger at the people's sin.

We sometimes overlook that part, we prefer the picture of a goat wandering off into the desert, but the reality is that sin has a price - life. God is justly angered by sin. We commit it against him, others, creation and often ourselves as well. These all spoil and mar what he intended us to be and we cannot be with him who is holy, while our guilt remains. The question is how can we be reconciled? How can we remove the accounts of sin we accumulate to be restored once more to God. If only there were someone to mediate between us, someone to bring us together, - Job 9:33

I have just finished watching Vikings on Amazon TV and stand guilty of binge watching. But the vikings were in many ways deeply religious. There were things they believed were out of their hands, things they could not solve by themselves. They regularly made sacrifice to the gods for things out of their hands, a safe voyage, victory in battle or

sometimes to appease the gods' anger against the community by offering a representative. To resolve these gaps, the vikings offered flawed people in return for flawed lives, but the sacrifice was no better than the cause of the problem...

What is extraordinary is that God came as Jesus Christ to be a sacrifice on our behalf. That he was like us in every respect shows the fullness and perfection of his humanity, like us, but having never sinned. He lived like us, experienced all the things we do - fear, rejection, isolation, expectations, but showed his perfect obedience to God by never succumbing to sin - always trusting Father God, keeping his will, trusting his word, following the Spirit. All things we can do, but often do not.

Jesus gave himself as a sinless offering so we could be counted as sinless so we could be with God. We all know that there is stuff only God can deal with. But, Jesus' willing sacrifice brings us into relationship with God who knows us, loves us and has made it possible to be with him. We can come to God trusting Him for all things we need, love, forgiveness, courage, patience and more, because he has already given all he could.

Life, for life.

Himself.

### **Ps 8**

1 Lord, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory  
in the heavens.

2 Through the praise of children and infants  
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,  
to silence the foe and the avenger.

3 When I consider your heavens,  
the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars,  
which you have set in place,

4 what is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
human beings that you care for them?

5 You have made them a little lower than the angels  
and crowned them with glory and honour.