

Column

On the eve of the 2016 election, then President Barack Obama made a prediction: Regardless of which candidate won, the sun would still rise the next day. It did.

As we begin 2020, there are many unknowns. For example: Will the economy continue to grow or tank? Will President Trump be successful in weathering impeachment attempts? Will the price of fuel go up or remain stable? When or where will natural disasters or man-made calamities strike? Who will not be with us a year from now?

In spite of all these uncertainties, like the former President, I want to make one prediction, actually a two-fold one. It is that the God who raised up Jesus will remain on the throne and that no matter what happens His resources of help will remain available to all who seek them.

Because of this conviction we can have a peace that is unknowable to those who believe in an out-of-control universe, a universe where God is absent, one ruled only by change and chance. The Old Testament prophet Isaiah had this

conviction and could therefore write: “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee” (26:3).

While visiting a dying friend, the Rev. Edward Henry Bickersteth, a 19th century clergyman and hymn writer, turned this promise of peace into words of reassurance. He did so by asking a series of questions, to which, one by one, he gave an answer:

“Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin? *The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.*

“Peace, perfect peace, by thronging duties pressed? *To do the will of Jesus, this is rest.*

“Peace, perfect peace, death shadowing us and ours? *Jesus has vanquished death and all its powers.*

“Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown? *Jesus we know, and he is on the throne.*”

His words still stand. Regardless of what happens on the international scene, in nature, in the political arena, in our own personal lives, God

remains on the throne. Armed with this knowledge, let us go into 2020 with confidence, purpose and a peace that comes from knowing the God of the years and resting on His unchanging grace.

O ETERNAL Lord God, who hast brought thy servants to the beginning of another year: Pardon, we humbly beseech thee, our transgressions in the past, and graciously abide with us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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