

The start of a new chapter in life, whatever the context, can often evoke anxiety and worry in the midst of all that's not yet known. With the beginning of a new year it's important to remember that God is sovereign over all time. He is working about His good purposes even when we may not be able to see them taking shape.

Isaiah 46:8-11

The God of Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Our past often has the ability to haunt us. Guilt and shame over where we've come can not only cloud who we are, but it also has the power to hinder who we hope to become. Only in Christ can we be free from past sin that entangles *and* hopeful in all He is yet to do in our future. For some, the past cripples our ability to engage the future. For others, the unknown of what is up ahead creates anxiety and zaps pleasure for today. Knowing God is sovereign over all time allows us to trust in Him for our past, present, and future.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

WHEN you consider things from your past that define you, **WHAT** comes to mind?

ARE there things from your past you struggle to leave behind?

HOW satisfied are you with the present and where you are in life?

WHAT comes to mind when you consider the future?

ARE there things in the past, present, or future that cause you worry?

Isaiah 46:8-11

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Read Isaiah 46:8-11

OBSERVATION

What does Isaiah say to remember and do in vs. 8?

According to vs. 9, what is true of God?

What does God alone have the ability to do in vs. 10?

What does vs. 11 say about who is in control of time and all events?

INTERPRETATION

According to vs. 8, what are we called to “remember”? See 46:1-7 for context.

How does remembering this allow us to stand firm?

Read Matthew 6:25-34

What does Jesus say about what we are to remember in this passage?

How does remembering who God is and what He has done free us from anxiety and worry about the future?

What are we supposed to do with what we’ve experienced, according to these passages?

APPLICATION

What are the things you are able to recall about God’s faithfulness in your past that gives you hope for the future?

Are there areas of your past where you feel stuck or struggle to find peace? How can you invite God into those memories or areas in order to experience freedom for the present *and* the future?

As a church, entering into a new endeavor, what worries/uncertainties are you experiencing? What steps might you take to trust the Lord with those things and experience hope in what is yet to come?