

# Help When It Hurts

*"God sits on His holy throne"*

*Psalm 47:8*

**H**aving studied theology for many years, I recognize that biblical words such as election or predestination have caused great rifts in the church of Jesus Christ. When we are well and have what we need in life it is easy to argue about these truths. However, when life is rough and we are confused about what is happening to us, we often seek comfort from the idea that God is still on the throne.

I recall a parent of several small children who lay in the hospital knowing he would never return home. As I listened to this man speaking of his very frustrating situation one wonderful comment I heard was, "I am confident that the Lord knew me in my mother's womb."

When the patient said that, I immediately thought of Psalm 22:10 where it says, "You have been my God from my mother's womb." This person who was so ill and tired from fighting to live took comfort in the fact that God had been with them from before they were born.

When life is smothering us in sorrow there is comfort to be had in knowing that God has been with you from your conception. This patient obviously believed in predestination and found that biblical word and truth to be an anchor to hold them fast.

Moses said it well when he wrote in Deuteronomy 33:27, "The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms." At the time when we are face to face with our mortality and facing our departure from this tired old world, there is enormous comfort to be had in the knowledge that, "Before the mountains were born or you formed the earth from everlasting to everlasting you are God." Psalm 90:2.

We think clearly when we consider, and meditate on, our great God. A sigh of relief escapes our lips as we think that our afflictions are as nothing in the presence of an omnipotent God. Temporal cares vanish as the morning mist in the presence of the God Who sits on the circle of eternity. Isaiah 40:28-29 says, "The Lord is the everlasting

God...He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak." (NIV)

The recollection of the fact that God is busy preparing an eternal home for all of His people (John 14:2-3) also gives us a comforting perspective on what is happening now. From His holy throne God oversees the eternal dwelling places being prepared for His chosen people of all generations.

The more a Christian thinks of heaven the easier it is to keep on in the midst of the inevitable sorrows of this life. Look past the present weary Christian, lift up your eyes to see eternity and the joys that shall never fade or be blown away by tragedy. Your God shall wipe all tears from your eyes and everlasting joy will be your portion. Comfort yourself in the present trials by the joy that comes in the eternal morning of God's home. He is still on the throne and that is our great hope.

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