

Bible Reading and Words of Encouragement

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June 3, 2020 “God is Present”

Ezekiel 48:30-35

- Like all of us this past week, I too was glued to the television watching the events of the killing of Mr. George Floyd at the hands of some members of the Minneapolis, MN Police Dept., and the aftermath that transpired. Watching mass protests not only here in the US but in other parts of the world, in cities like London, Berlin and Toronto.
- This week’s text speaks to this.
- The Prophet Ezekiel is writing his last vision while in exile in Babylon, after the Babylonians had destroyed the Temple at Jerusalem. In this vision he foresees a “New City”, where hope replaces despair, and his nation is restored.
- I argue, we (people of color, the poor, the marginalized) are in exile in Babylon - the greater percentage of deaths from covid-19; voter suppression; suffering under systemic racism and white privilege; neo-colonialism by the Chinese in Africa and the Caribbean; police brutality with little or no accountability...ad infinitum.
- Debate all you want about ‘how do we protest?’ but these protests in the end are really about creating a “New Jerusalem”, i.e. Respect for the history and sacrifice of ALL the people who built this nation; a justice system that is fair for ALL races and classes; an economic system that does not favor the rich and giant corporations; an electoral system that honors 1 person, 1 vote, and getting rid of the electoral college.
- Like Ezekiel’s vision (and John’s vision in the Book of Revelation), the New City is about putting in place systems that build community, strengthens the nation, and puts God and God’s place of worship (no, I am not talking about a building) at the center of our collective consciousness.
- We will keep protesting (in its many forms), keep on fighting for this New Jerusalem because we know God is always on the side of those who seek Ma’at (truth, justice, harmony, balance, order, reciprocity, and propriety), AND because we know that in the midst of our current Babylonian captivity - GOD IS PRESENT.