

Bible Reading and Words of Encouragement

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May, 14, 2020 “God the Heavenly Mother/The Caregiver” 1 Peter 5:6-11

- We at First Afrikan Church have always likened God in an essence of duality, in the tradition of Afrikan cosmology – In many parts of Afrika, God is conceived as male, but in some parts as female; the Ndebele and Shona of Southern Afrika have a triad of God the Father, God the Mother, and God the Son. The Nuba of the Sudan regard God as Great Mother and speak of God in feminine pronouns. (Omoyajowo)
- This week’s narrative (1 Peter 5:6-11) is set against the backdrop of Peter (and Silas/Silvanus) writing to Christians in cities across the Roman Empire, offering encouragement and hope as these mostly new converts experience challenges and difficulties in their daily lives. The letters provide instructions, guidance and models to the churches for healthy and respectful leadership, how to accept the difficulties they face, resisting the devil, and finally maintaining trust in God.
- Peter’s prayer in a time of suffering, uncertainty and hardship is to reassure them (and us) that the “Mother God” is with us (vs 7), that our Parent God CARES FOR US. The “Mother God” will not desert her children to the evil one nor to the trials and tribulations they were facing, and we face today (vs 9).
- This week’s text is to remind us that Our Mother God CARES FOR US and will (vs 10) –
 - Restore/Fit us (*Gk. Katartizo*, a craftsman term) perfectly to face these challenging times.
 - Support us (*Gk. Themeliosei*, laying foundation), allowing us not to be moved or be distracted by the chaos around us.
 - Strengthen us (*Gk. Sthenoo*), giving us the health, strength and endurance to continue beyond this present situation.
 - Establish us (*Gk. Sterizo*) giving us immovable faith.

To “Her” be the glory and the power forever and ever (vs 11). God the Parent CARES FOR US! Ase’ O!