

Beyond the horizon – life from Mount Zion

We all acknowledge the serious times in which we live, times which are clearly visible on the horizon like dark clouds. But our eyes must not remain fixed on just what we see. Rather, the Spirit of God invites us to look beyond the horizon. Our eyes have been created to look beyond what is visible, obvious, and temporary – to look for what is unseen and eternal in the kingdom of God (2 Corinthians 4:18). If our gaze stays on the dark clouds, then we remain engulfed within the thought processes of our time which are far too limited for our prayer and intercession. Our thoughts and very being then remain entirely focused on our environment and our prayers are merely related to the current situation. Our minds run at full speed, going around in circles in fear, and we are unable to look to the future. But we are to be a light to the world, a city on a hill that cannot be hidden (Matthew 5:14) providing the orientation needed by those who look to us. Not just with words, but rather much more by showing our great trust in God.

When we look beyond the horizon, we experience a change of atmosphere. We then enter God's realm where so much is possible and we sense something of the rule of God, active at all times over the political unrest. We enter the realm of God's eternity and we perceive that turning points in history are not primarily of a political nature, but are related to God's kingdom purposes and to us. We are the messengers of a new age. But this requires a change in our view of reality in our lives, a reality that indeed includes our access to heaven, a view that goes beyond the horizon and perceives a new world. While the dark clouds on the horizon want to keep within us the anxiety of feeling distance and separation from God, we can experience with God that something within us will be set free. Here we encounter wisdom, old limitations disappear, and we experience the mystery of our sonship in Christ. What a tremendous change of perspective! Now "pro/contra Trump" is no longer an issue - instead we discover a wisdom that exceeds human political positioning. No wonder, because we are dealing with the Lord of history, who already best knows what the year 2025 and the following years have in store and who will provide what we need. In Hebrews 12:18-24, we read how God calls us to Mount Zion, the city of the living God. This is not far from us, because heaven and earth are bound together. We are never separated from being in this place. Let us no longer waste our time looking at the dark clouds, but instead create a change within ourselves and experience the majestic rule of God over all things.

Alexander Schlüter

Thankfulness as we face the future

We want to end 2024 with a heart full of gratitude and with a display of fireworks to celebrate our thankfulness. Thankfulness does so much for us in our lives. It strengthens our relationships, creates closer bonds, and brings to us awareness of the joy of togetherness. It allows us to empathize more sincerely, to better experience closeness and strengthens our relationship with God and with one another. And that is so good for our soul and spirit. With thankfulness we touch God's heart and become aware that it is not crises and catastrophes that determine the quality of our lives, but his great goodness, his loving care, and his protection. Thankfulness strengthens our physical health, our immunity to sickness, our mental health, and our psyche. Our body begins to relax and our face begins to shine. Thankfulness helps us to get through fear and stress more easily. And gratitude makes us think in a new way, takes us out of eternally negative thought patterns and connects us with God's wisdom. "He who offers thank offerings honours me and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God." (Psalm 50:23)

Let us look back with thanksgiving and look forward to the year 2025, thanking God in advance for his provision for each coming month, for he will lead us safely through the year.

Alexander Schlüter

Repentance and responsibility

The traffic-light coalition government (Red SPD, Yellow FDP, Greens) has broken apart prematurely. The dissatisfaction of the population with the government had been above 80% for some time, and its resignation was expected. The economic situation in particular has deteriorated rapidly in recent months and no solutions were in sight on the migration issue.

After the coalition break-up, Chancellor Scholz nevertheless postponed the vote of confidence in order to push further legislative proposals through the Bundestag with the remaining SPD and Greens government. Among other things, a group motion by SPD (Socialist), Greens and Left-wing members of parliament wants to overturn Section 218 of the Basic Law and legalise abortions up to the 12th week of pregnancy before the new election.

Instead of admitting failure, the former coalition partners are indulging in blame, especially against former Finance Minister Lindner, who stood by the policy to not increase debt. Chancellor Scholz and Economics Minister Habeck are running again as their parties' candidates for Chancellor in the early elections next year and are claiming to again be part of the next government. However, given the current situation in Germany, after three years of government, those primarily responsible must now be required to take account of how they contributed to the current situation if they are re-elected and stand for leadership in the next government.

Prayer:

- **Let us step into the gap in prayer for our rulers, bowing down before God for their denial of reality (for personal or political reasons), for the division, infighting, and the disputes within the coalition and the government, and in our country. (2 Chronicles 7:14)**
- **Let us thereby open doors for repentance and humility, to admit mistakes, understand the consequences and draw conclusions for the future. (1 Peter 5:6)**
- **Pray that there will be no more legislative proposals that are not righteous in God's eyes and that will be harmful for Germany. (Proverbs 14:34)** Karin Heepen

Global political upheaval

On November 6, 2024, Donald Trump won the US presidential election. On the very same day, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu fired his Defence Minister Yoav Gallant and replaced him with Israel Katz. In the evening, the coalition government of the SPD, the Greens and the FDP collapsed in Germany.

In global politics, we are in a time of transition until Trump takes office on January 20 and the new elections in Germany scheduled for February 23, 2025. On December 1, the new EU (European Union) Commission will begin its work in Brussels, reflecting the new balance of power in the EU Parliament.

In the power struggles of the transition, Russia is increasing its attacks on Ukraine, including with nuclear-capable missiles, such as those that the USA plans to station in Germany from 2026. With the approval of the use of long-range US missiles against Russia and the participation of North Korean soldiers in the war, the danger of a world war is growing. After Iran announced the commissioning of new centrifuges, Israel is targeting the Iranian nuclear facilities. The International Criminal Court (ICC) has meanwhile issued arrest warrants against Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu and former Defence Minister Galant, thereby effectively delegitimizing itself.

What the USA is to the world, Germany is to Europe. And Israel is the hand on the world clock for the dawning reign of Jesus Christ. **Let us pray** this Advent for His coming into the escalating world situation:

- **That the Lord of Lords will fill the current power vacuum in the Western world and the plans of evil will be pushed back. (Psalm 24)**
- **For the hand of God to be on the remaining governments in Germany and the USA, that they must clear the way for His plans. (Daniel 2:21f)**
- **For new governments in both countries that submit to His rule, serve Israel, and pave the way to peace. (Psalm 99)**

Karin Heepen

Fruits of the 1968 movement in our time

The idea of thinking in a new way about the world, society and even people formed the breeding ground for the movement in 1968. Its fruits are in fact visible in many ways today in politics as well as in society and in the formation of the image of man. The neo-Marxist ideology that underlies this does not allow for God and thus rejects any divine order in our creation. It tolerates no restrictions in terms of self-determination and does not accept any moral authority over oneself. It is a rebellion against existing norms, fundamentally against God, as a path to self-liberation and the creation of a newly conceived, "free" human being. God is replaced by society. Society, in turn, is brought up in an ideology of self-determination and godlessness - and at the same time in an intolerance towards those who think differently, which is at times aggressive. Those who think differently are those whose values and ideas are anchored in the "classical" Christian view of the world and of man. Gender identity, gender ideology, early sexual activity, abortion, elimination of conscience, de-Christianisation of society, anti-Semitism and anti-Israelism, the redefinition of marriage and family - these are just a few of the slogans that are visible today as fruits of the 1968 movement. The planned "march through the institutions" of the New Left has been successful up to this point.

In 1975, Bill Bright (Campus For Christ) and Loren Cunningham (Youth With A Mission) independently received the vision of the "Seven Mountains of Influence" from God: a vision of the spread of the Kingdom of God into all areas of society. These seven "mountains" are: religion, family, education and training, media, culture (arts, entertainment, sports), business and science. In almost all of these areas today we see the legacy of the 1968 movement. And yet: all of these areas long for the revelation and emergence of the "sons of God" (Romans 8:19ff). Perhaps this vision from 1975 was and is God's answer and his strategy in response to the plans of the '68ers, as well as his call to us as followers of Jesus - both in prayer and very specifically as ambassadors and creators on these "seven mountains".

In the next Call of the Watchmen prayer letters, we will go into more detail about the fruits of the 1968 movement. This article is about laying a foundation once again.

Prayer:

- **Where do I recognise something of the spirit of the 1968 generation in myself, perhaps in the form of the rejection of authority or intolerance towards those who may think differently? (Psalm 139:23f)**
- **Where have I become like the mainstream in my thoughts, feelings, and actions or become indifferent to it? In which areas am I set to shape and form the Kingdom of God? (Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 5:20)**
- **For strengthening our brothers and sisters who serve in the various areas of society, as well as for our nation, to turn to God. (2 Corinthians 2:14; Isaiah 66:8)**

Tanja Frank

Against loneliness - living in community with others alongside

Millions of people in Germany feel lonely. Both older and younger people are most frequently affected. "Loneliness affects all generations. It is perhaps the most widespread disease in Germany," says Eugen Brysch (German Foundation for Patient Protection). In Great Britain and Japan, specific ministries have long been set up to deal with the concerns of lonely people. Many people feel completely disconnected from anyone else. We all have had some experience of this and carry the longing within us for life in community with others. It is very interesting to me that Jesus, although he gives us precisely enough understanding that we indeed all belong together as his body, never lets any individual out of his sight. He leaves the 99 in the flock to look after the one who is lost (Luke 15:4). He also looks after orphans and widows (James 1:27). His heart reaches out to the lonely. Christmas makes many people experience their loneliness even more intensely. Do we not have an answer as followers of Jesus to this need to reach out and care for those in our community, or do we really want to leave it to governmental measures and action alone?

Let us pray for the emergence of (old and new) forms of true communal life – for ideas, projects, and the courage to take steps to bring people in our time into real and beneficial relationships and to initiate real cultural change as an example and witness for our country.

Alexander Schlüter

Blessings for the days of Advent and Christmas,

Alexander Schlüter and Team