



New Apostolic Church USA

Are your windows open towards Jerusalem? – Written by one of our members
May 13, 2020

Being a senior citizen in all senses of that title, there are times that I wake up in the middle of the night, and it takes me a while to get back to sleep. Such was the case the other night. When this happens, I sometimes read or try to reflect on spiritual matters. But this time, I awoke with the recollection of the words of an old hymn. I was amazed that not only could I remember all three verses of this hymn verbatim, but I could also remember the number of the song from the old, old hymnal. As I sang the hymn in my head, I realized even more how relevant this song is today:

*Do you see the Hebrew captive kneeling,
At morning, noon, and night to pray?
In his chamber, he remembers Zion,
Though in exile far away.*

*Are your windows open towards Jerusalem,
Though as captives here a little while we stay?
For the coming of the King in His glory,
Are you watching day by day?*

Certainly, we are not "captive" in the same way as the Jewish people were in Babylon. But, in a way, we are currently being held captive by the Coronavirus. It has caused us to be in exile from our families, our brothers and sisters, and our church. I had to ask myself,

Towards where have my windows been open? For what have I been watching?

In honesty, I have been giving too much attention to maintaining my physical health, my concern over my future financial situation, and how I have to adapt to this new lifestyle. Having my windows open in that direction hasn't provided me with much comfort or peace. However, the words of the third verse offer us a path that *can* give both comfort and peace:

*Children of the living God, take courage,
Of great deliverance sweetly sing;
Set your faces towards the hill of Zion,
So to hail your coming King.*

If we can focus more on the coming of our Lord Jesus, instead of the difficulties we are currently facing, I believe it will be much easier to endure this captivity of the Coronavirus for the "little while" we have to. By thinking more about how I need to adjust my life to fit into the kingdom of heaven, even though my financial condition may decline, my spiritual condition can grow. I hope I can keep these windows open in that direction much more in the future.



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The day after I had my little "mid-night experience," I shared it with my wife. We got out the hymnal and started singing many of the songs. It was amazing how we were able to remember so many of the words by heart. I thought of how firmly these words were established in our memory, from the many hours we spent in God's house growing up with three services a week. And now, *these memorized words reveal their purpose* in reminding us of what is most important. One of the songs that we sang was *I praise God's love in adoration*, and I was quite pleased to hear that same song sung during the Chief Apostle service a few weeks ago. There is a line from that song that we had memorized, but probably never fully comprehended:

All thoughts of self from me I'll banish, into the gulf of love to vanish.

This certainly is a good time for us to banish all thoughts of self, and replace them with thoughts of how we can help our congregations and communities...

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