



IN THE WORD

Our Unchanging God

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Introduction: “The world is a changing.” Even though those words were spoken decades ago, they were prophetic of our world today. It is mind-boggling how rapidly the world around us is changing. Technology changes so quickly that our computers are out of date before we open the packaging. The advances in medicine are only outpaced by the new diseases and viruses and constantly moving goalposts of our current, challenging times. Governments and governance rapidly evolve all around our world, and maps that were up to date 10 years ago are obsolete. Then there is our currency and the advent of cryptocurrency, online medicine with virtual checkups, and I can control the temperature of my smoker/grill from my phone ... I think. The world has changed and continues to change. And change does not always bring us peace or make us comfortable. I look at my television and the remote thingy and wonder why things just can’t stay the same! Where do we find comfort and stability in the midst of it all?

I. God Never Changes

Read Hebrews 6:17–20, Hebrews 13:8, and James 1:17.

What do these verses tell you about our God and His character?

Compare these verses with **Psalm 110:4** and **Malachi 3:6** (quoted in Hebrews 7:21). Why should this bring you comfort and peace?

The fact that God is unchangeable and unchanging should bring comfort in the midst of the uncertain, frustrating, and changing world we live in. In the midst of it all, we are comforted by a God who is the same yesterday, today, and

forever! This is comforting. It's easy to understand it and hold fast to it ... too easy.

II. God Relents, Turns, Changes His Mind

Read Exodus 32:12–14 (the account of the Israelites making the golden calf) and compare it with the account of Hezekiah's sickness and recovery in Isaiah 38:1–6. Which of God's actions stands out in these accounts? How might this be considered a contradiction of the Hebrew passages read earlier?

Does this tension in any way take away your confidence in an unchanging God?

How do we resolve the tension in these verses? (**Read Psalm 106:45**).

Not only do we see evidence of God "changing" His mind in the pages of Scripture, we even find evidence that He wants us to ask Him to change His mind. Whenever we go to the LORD in prayer and ask Him to bring healing to a loved one or rescue us from a situation, we are asking God to change His mind ... and this is a good thing. After all, the prayer of a righteous man has much power (**James 5:15–16**)!

III. Resolution

Our struggle is in understanding the will of God. Not His specific will for a specific occasion, but rather what does the general will of God look like? Too often we consider God's will to be a tight rope, and one slip plunges us into the deep. However, God's will is depicted as a path upon which things, events of our lives, and the history of the world, both past and present, take place.

God is almighty, all-powerful, and in control of His world and its history. Nothing can take that power from His hand. On the path of His will, there is room for change, and because God is almighty, He can change His mind and still remain faithful to His promises and bring about all things according to His will.

After all, He did create the world in six days, He most certainly can keep the world from imploding because He changed His mind and gave Hezekiah 15 more years of life.

Read Isaiah 55:6–11. What is God's desire for His Word?

Read 1 Timothy 2:3–7. What is God's ultimate desire and will?

IV. Comfort

As you reconsider the passages you have already read, you may note an interesting and completely consistent pattern. If God does choose to change His mind (through our prayers or by other means), it is always on the side of grace. God never goes against His promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation in His Son, Jesus. It is correct to say that God changes His mind according to His unchangeable nature as One who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. God's will is a path, but because His ultimate will is that all men might be saved, there are things (changes) which would be off the path. God refuses to change anything that would go against His ultimate will.

Conclusion: The world is indeed changing. The evidence is all around and overwhelming, and this reality can cause us much anxiety and worry, both now and into the future. Yet, there is hope and great comfort because our God is in control. He never fails and never changes who He is or what must be done to accomplish our salvation. God never fails to be gracious and merciful toward His children. And, because His ultimate will is that all might be saved, He continues to act in a way that will accomplish His ultimate will.

Let us pray: LORD God, Heavenly Father, continue to watch over us, your children, as we live in an ever-changing world. Grant us comfort and peace in your unchangeable nature and your everlasting love, grace, and mercy for all. In Jesus' Name. Amen. 🙏

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