



Bulletin 10

So What's next?

A friend once said to me that he loved 'take-off and landing' but it was the long 'in-flight time' that he found hardest! He was referring to his job rather than his flying time. I have to say I feel exactly the same thing! The beginning of lockdown presented some difficult challenges as to how we could remain together in community and witness to our faith. But with a wonderful, combined effort from so many people, and with ever more continuing to come to the fore, we have found new ways of being together and encouraging one another. But now we find ourselves in mid-flight and that, although less frantic, is much harder.

***will we learn
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I'm reminded that it was while Moses was up the mountain – away from the public eye, that the Israelite people soon settled back into their own ways and forsook the Lord their God. Having witnessed some of the greatest miracles the world has ever known, through their loss of sight and malaise, they fell back to their former pagan ways:

"When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."¹

Aaron, the high priest, exhorted them to make a god out of their melted down jewellery that they could see, and pronounced,

"These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."¹

Even though history informed them of their folly, the people readily forsook the *reality* of what had given them strength in the past and simply sought after something that they could touch and see in order to *feel* secure.

Now a routine has set in that we can manage, there begins a tendency to feel in charge of our lives once more, only to be occasionally surprised by reality's reminders on TV that the whole world currently remains in the midst of something which is

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¹ Deuteronomy 32:1-2

beyond everyone's immediate control. We are left *feeling* insecure, when in reality, nothing has changed in respect to our *actual* security in Christ. That is the same as it ever was. The only question is, what will we do with our feelings of insecurity? Pander to them and try to make ourselves feel better by thinking *we* can somehow cope? The golden calf. Or are we faithfully prepared to admit we have no solution other than, in this period of in-flight, to trust the Lord our God who has promised to see us through?

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."²

Many of the Israelites in Moses' time, failed the test. How about us? Will we fail too? Or will we learn the empowering lesson of these times? Not just to trust Christ for the take-off and landing moments of our lives, but for the 'in flight time' too – for the latter constitutes the majority of our lives and if we can lay hold of that lesson in a *sustained* way during these times we really will be able to stand with Paul in saying,

For when I am weak, then I am strong!³

and

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.⁴

We really will be unassailable! Only when we let go of control of our lives and hand them over to our eternal destiny in the Lord our Maker and Redeemer will we know that freedom from fear and anxiety and be able rest content as we see these times through under His hand and in His timing. In the meantime, let's continue to pray our hearts out for vaccine, treatment and cure, for those who suffer and for all who continue to provide selflessly for our earthly needs.

So let's be found faithful, let's keep 'meeting together' and see this thing through together under the hand of the Lord our God. And wow! Will there be a celebration upon our landing!

Rev Karl
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² 2 Corinthians 12:9

³ 2 Corinthians 12:10

⁴ Romans 8:38