

The Promise in Chaos

Baptism of Jesus B Jan. 9/10, 2020 Rev. Dr. David Gardner Tweed

Genesis 1:1-5

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Mark 1:4-11

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

These readings mark the official beginning of Jesus’ ministry. The pairing of the OT lesson from Genesis also reminds us that Creation itself received its beginnings from God. Its easy to see Chaos that looms very near to both entrances of God into the world. The chaos of Roman oppression, ancient tribalism, scratching out a meager existence were all known to Jesus and the people he encountered. Illness, superstition and ignorance of basic contemporary insights to health, safety and what makes for a vibrant life inside of oneself as well as with the external world only added immensely to the chaos that Jesus often confronted in people’s lives. He brought with his presence, touch and blessing a sense of healing, unity and order....the same ordering that is written about in the Creation stories themselves.

Underneath it all, God is always interested in bringing forward that which might bring order, life and wholeness into our midst. A way to make sense of life – especially when it seems senseless. In such ways we can find life energies and are able to better harness the wild mysteries of God in more effective and universal ways. Jesus healings bring this to people – more than physical healing only it re-connected them within their own God-given identity as well as with the community of their neighbors.

This is the why of Jesus Baptism – so God’s love may be brought into the world through this God/man we call Jesus. So the completeness of God’s Promise can be brought into the midst of the chaos that is so often pervasive. It is a journey of adventurous and arduous discovery. It is the journey of his soul. It is a journey to which we are invited through our Baptism as well. It is the one thing that carries with it the Promises of God that outlast and persevere beyond all other things.

- I) Name some sources or scenes of Chaos recently in the world or in your life....

- II) Name some of the “healing energy glimmers” (Baptisms of Fire) that have appeared in the chaos...

- III) Claim some of these God-moments in your life....., Give thanks to God for them.....

- IV) Remember to renew your Baptism regularly – each time you wash your hands, take a shower, drink down a glass of cool water. Remember that God’s life sustaining presence is yours & God desires to become part of every aspect of your life – especially when you’re pushed into Chaos. You are God’s child with whom God desires to be well pleased.