



From Our Vicar

Rev. Wayne Walters

The God who calls into being things which are not! 1 Samuel 1:4-20

There are things which are beyond belief, but not beyond God.

Counter intuitively, it is characteristic of God to create something from nothing; to transform what the world despises as of no account into a trophy of grace. This is to confound the wise and shame the strong – ‘so that no one may boast before him.’ 1 Cor1:27-29.

Consider Hannah, the much loved of the two wives of Elkanah, but childless and taunted by her child-bearing rival. Praying desperately in the temple, Hannah was presumed by the priest to be drunk! When she explained that she was rather deeply troubled, the priest blessed her, praying that God would grant her request. It is from this seemingly hopeless plight of Hannah’s that Samuel was born. He grew up in the temple, apprenticed to the priest through Hannah’s sacrificial gift of the child to God, and he became a prophet and judge over Israel, mighty in prayer and a maker of kings, anointing first Saul, then David at God’s command.

Consider all the mighty leaders of Israel - Abraham who was called out of his nation to become the Father of God’s people, aged 75, his wife ten years younger and barren. Moses was born under an edict that all male Hebrew children in Egypt should be killed and was drawn from the water by no less than Pharaoh’s daughter herself!

Fast forward to Jesus, born of a virgin in an animal stall, and pursued by the murderous Herod in his infancy. It was said of Jesus’ childhood background, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Then came the apostle Paul, originally a murderous persecutor of Christians!

These are just a sample of the ways of the God who made the universe out of nothing! Reflect on the situations you see as impossible to change. Consider the state of the world; the many homeless and struggling in our own land; the declining strength of the church in increasingly secular Australia; of little St Michael’s in comfortable well-off Beaumaris. Is anything too hard for the Lord? Whatever situation seems daunting, take heart, and breathe in the faith that such projects are what God delights to perform for those who cry out to him day and night. May we persist in boldly bringing our mustard seed of faith, and so witness God bring about in our day that which is beyond belief!

God bless you,
Wayne

