

# MINISTER'S MESSAGE

## He's Still the King of Kings

Based on Exodus 3:13-15,  
Revelation 1:4-8

Happy New Year! (Almost) Today is the last Sunday of the Christian calendar. Which means, today is rather like New Year's Eve, spiritually speaking. In a month or so, after the Christmas turkey has come and gone, and the sparking wine is chilling in the fridge for you to toast in 2019, you might find yourself sitting down and making a short list of goals for the coming year: losing a few pounds around the waist, joining a book club, taking a trip to visit an old friend.

But peeling back the frivolity of the season reveals some more serious questions that lurk in our minds as we consider the coming year: Do I need a change of scenery? Is it time to get more care for myself, or for the one I love? Is this my last winter in the condo or the house? Is this my last winter?

In matters of faith, we might ask ourselves similar questions. Are you and your Creator on friendly terms right now? Just because you are here in a pew does not necessarily mean that

everything is OK in your head and in your heart with your Saviour. Are there things you need to sort out? Questions you need to ask? Anger you need to let go of? Tears that need to be shed? Is there room in your heart for something new God might be trying to show you?

Now is the time. Why?

- Because we are at the cusp of something old becoming something new.
- Because it's good to do a check and balance once in a while, not just on the car, but on yourself as well.
- Because we will conveniently get side tracked soon with the beautiful story of Bethlehem, and allow ourselves to push the difficult questions

aside and not deal with them.

- Because your world may be completely upside down by tomorrow, and it would be good for you and God to be on friendly terms, so that you can face the challenge together.

Moses sat in the desert sand and tried to understand the meaning of the burning bush he had just witnessed. It had been sign. And although he shied away from the burden of responsibility that awaited him, he knew in his heart, what had to be done. It overwhelmed him. It frightened him. It paralyzed him in his tracks. Defy the Pharaoh? The king? Him? Lead thousands of willing and unwilling Israelites through miles of sand, defeat enemy armies, poisonous snakes, lack of food and clean water, extraordinary desert heat, and the minutia of problems that come with daily living? Him?

Too many decisions.  
Too many problems.  
Too much change.

"How do I possibly do this," Moses asked of his God.  
"What do I tell the people?"  
"Calm down," God said, as He soothed Moses' fear. "Listen carefully. *'I am.'* Think about

that for a minute. *'I am.' I can make anything possible. I can change everything. I am the Almighty.* And *I am* not going anywhere. You tell the people:

*'I am* has sent me to you...

The God of your fathers  
The God of Abraham,  
The God of Isaac and the God  
of Jacob...

This is my name forever, the  
name you shall call me  
from generation to  
generation.'" (v14-15  
paraphrased)

Generations later, the power  
of those two words, "*I am*"  
surface again, in the Book of  
Revelations:

*"I am the Alpha and the  
Omega," says the Lord God,  
"who is, and who was, and  
who is to come, the Almighty."  
(v8)*

Our God did not say, "I am  
with you at the beginning and  
the end." He said,

*"I am* the beginning.  
*I am* the end."

That means, that before any  
of your beginnings, God was  
already there. And after all of  
your endings, God will  
remain. There is no promise  
greater than this.

▪ **Before** everything  
that is you, and about  
you, God was there,  
preparing the way.

▪ **During** your life: all  
the things you have  
done, mistakes you've  
made, successes  
you've had, victories  
won, and  
disappointments  
suffered, God was  
there, walking with  
you.

▪ **Today**, tomorrow,  
until your earthly life  
is complete, and  
beyond, God is there,  
keeping your memory  
alive.

Which means, you can face  
those New Year's resolutions,  
spiritual or otherwise, with  
your head up and a solid step  
forward. You can answer the  
difficult questions, make the  
hard decisions, change your  
scenery, add a little colour,  
and know that at each step  
along the way, you are 'safe  
in the arms of your Saviour.'  
It is in knowing that our  
Christ is still the king of kings  
and lord of lords, which  
allows us to be optimistic in a  
cynical world, hopeful in  
shadowy places of  
uncertainty, courageous to

swim against the current, or  
open to try something new.

There were a lot more bumps  
along the road of life for  
Moses. The ten plagues were  
just the beginning! It got  
much worse after that. To  
complicate it all, the  
Israelites continued to  
misbehave, and the map to  
the Promised Land was lost.  
It would take forty years to  
accomplish what scholars  
think could have been done  
in about two weeks of  
walking. Yet Moses did not  
waver, because he  
remembered God's words, "*I  
am!* And if 'I can' then you  
can too, because *I am* with  
you."

You and I walk into a 'new  
year' this week with the  
Great "*I Am.*" Let us follow  
Him, saying confidently, "*I  
can.*"

Amen.