

### Perfect times

We are currently experiencing difficult times in global and domestic politics. But we can rest in the knowledge that God is always by our side. Nothing and no one can be against us when God is for us! (Romans 8:31). All serves us and His kingdom purposes. This does not mean that we just passively endure everything. Rather, it is about gaining a deeper experience now: God reigns in our times. He will not let anything slip out of his hands. His Holy Spirit is present at all times and in all places. We must seriously look for the possibilities and actions by God. We often just assess our circumstances - some days are good, some are bad. But really, every day is a perfect day! We want to escape difficult times because we are afraid. But bad times, just as good times, are full of God's goodness. He is always completely at our side and can be found in all circumstances. So, we should welcome the difficult times that will lead us to find a deeper peace and trust in God. All resistance to this process must go. Even if the tensions pose enormous challenges, they ultimately serve to bring about the necessary transformation within us. We live in perfect times for a new perspective, for new thoughts, to ask new questions, to build a new relationship with God. Every situation holds within itself the potential for a new experience with God and we can get to know more about Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and about ourselves. In doing so, we will rediscover the tremendous reward that comes from confidence in God. (Hebrews 10:35). Even when everything seems out of hand, God is still in control. We can learn to trust in God, even if we do not yet see a solution. Difficulties are not a sign of being far from God, but an invitation to experience the joy of being close to Him and learning from Him! (James 1:2-4).

Alexander Schlüter

### Freedom from a spirit of division and control

We live in times of one turmoil after another. Our heart-felt thoughts and our interactions with those who think differently are more important than taking sides. We should learn how to remain calm when unresolved tensions surround us. God alone is in the position to judge. This is due mainly to the confusing nature of our current sociopolitical situation. The possibility of being mistaken in one's own assessment of the news media is enormous—if not actually probable!

We live in an extremely charged atmosphere that seeks to divide people through taking sides, without a genuine desire to understand other views and opinions. We are particularly open to being easily persuaded when, endowed with an apparently moral superiority, we elevate ourselves above others, because we then think that we are on the right side, among the decent, among those who have correctly understood the issue. This often occurs because we reason that different opinions can seemingly no longer coexist in one's mind, because the simple understanding of an opinion is equated with support for the particular people group who hold that opinion. It is in this way that diversity is replaced by uniformity under pressure from fear, shame, control, and law. This is dangerous, and we must not give any room to this way of running our lives and our land. Instead, we must give people the freedom to think or say something that contradicts what we believe to be right. Judging and condemning people in this way leads us into a trap. Instead, we need the courage for self-awareness and self-criticism – and the acceptance that we also can still be deceived and act in a bad and unholy way, for we all have deeper dark chasms within us than we would like to admit. Therefore, the best way for us to stand by and to support our country is through prayer, in which we ourselves have a totally "different spirit".

### Prayer:

- **Let us trust God to bring darkness to light. Jesus spoke of the need for us to not pull up the weeds (darkness) too soon, but to let the wheat (light) grow until the harvest, in case we take a wrong action. (Matthew 13:30).**

**God reveals in his own time what is darkness and what is light for us and maintains control of the overall development. Let us not be the judge, but rather seek God's heart to bring in the harvest that we need.**

- **Let us not be inwardly opposed to other people, to their opinions, especially in difficult circumstances. This is an enormously important time for growth and transformation in our land. Maximum flexibility is required of us. The strong "waves" may continue to swirl back and forth for a while, but we practice resting in the peace of God.**
- **Let us ask the Spirit of wisdom and revelation for "new" wisdom for a new age. (Ephesians 1:17).**

Alexander Schlüter

### National and ideological images of the enemy and their effect

Times of crisis and uncertainty hold within them the opportunity for new beginnings, realignments, change, and innovation. At the same time, however, they also provide a breeding ground for the emergence or even the deliberate creation of certain images of the enemy, which we find in German history and elsewhere.

They often arise from a combination of political, social, and economic factors, and are reinforced by various media reporting and ideologies. This is currently very evident again in Germany, where images of the enemy are quite multifaceted. Such images of the enemy create a clear separation between "us" and "them" and thus strengthen a sense of community, belonging, identity, and strength within a group of like-minded people. From a psychological perspective, an image of the enemy helps simplify how to react by describing a clear culprit, a scapegoat. Images of the enemy have the potential to not only divide a nation and its society, but also families, churches, communities, etc., and to bring about destruction,

persecution, discrimination, and much violence. However, our real enemy is not earthly, humanistic, nor a group of people. The true enemy is a spiritual one. And this is where vigilance is needed! For us as Christians and intercessors, it is clear that we should not join the worldly chorus of hymns about our images of the enemy, but to expose the enemy behind the enemy! To stand up against the one who has come only to steal, kill, and destroy. (John 10:10).

The "prince of this world" uses various people, ideologies, and groups. But he also uses the mindset of all those who harbour hatred against these people and groups. Let us be vigilant not to act in the same spirit and not to join in the work of destruction, but instead to address the evil plans of the enemy and to stand up against them in spirit – believing in our authority in Christ to destroy the works and intentions of the devil! That includes the works he does in people who allow themselves to be used by him. Our God is a Saviour God, and we are intended to be the extended rod and staff of His power on earth.

**Prayer:**

- **What images of the enemy do you currently perceive in politics, in our society and in your environment? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you expose the enemy's plans behind them and to guide you in prayer and declaration. (Ephesians 6:12; John 10:10)**
- **Where do you perceive a tendency within yourself to create images of enemies in your mind? Ask for conviction and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what new thinking He has for you here. (Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5; Isaiah 55:8).**
- **Pray for the people and groups whom you perceive to be currently being used by the enemy. Pray for salvation and deliverance from evil. (Matthew 5:44; 1 Timothy 2:3).**

Tanja Frank

### Initiating reforms in government

Even before the coalition negotiations for the new government began, Friedrich Merz, the designated new Chancellor, initiated the largest debt package in German history with the SPD and Green Party factions of the old Bundestag: the suspension of the hold on debt for defence spending, the creation of up to €500 billion in special funds for infrastructure, including €100 billion for climate neutrality by 2045 with constitutional status, and the relaxation of the hold on debt for the federal states. The Federal Audit Office warned that this will result in about €37 billion in additional annual interest payments, significantly limiting the financial options of future generations. With a shortage of skilled workers and declining economic potential, there is also a risk that there will be too little output from industry for the new amount of money brought into circulation, fuelling inflation. The Bible warns us that: "The rich rule over the poor and the borrower is slave to the lender." (Proverbs 22:7). This also applies to states that depend on the banks. Urgently needed structural reforms for the economy regarding bureaucracy and regulations, as well as for government spending, must be given priority. These will not be solved by additional funding; rather, in the worst case, they will be side-lined. The fact that the CDU broke key election promises with this decision has severely damaged the trust of many voters.

**Prayer:**

- **Repentance for relying on money instead of enacting fiscal discipline with existing revenues. (Isaiah 55:1-3)**
- **For the coalition negotiations: that fundamental economic reforms and a consolidation of public finances be initiated. (Haggai 2:6-8)**
- **That the Body of Christ practice a culture of giving and receiving in a completely different way than by our current governmental monetary system. (Luke 6:38; Revelation 13:16f)**

Karin Heepen

### Israel between wounds and wonders

The ceasefire in the Gaza Strip ended on March 18. Hamas is still in power and holds hostages, which is why the IDF has not withdrawn from the border area with Egypt. Israel has launched new airstrikes and killed several Hamas leaders. Rocket fire from Gaza has resumed on southern Israel.

The weeks of the handover of surviving and dead hostages were marked by dramatic tension for their families and the Israeli population. Handovers were delayed and staged in a degrading manner by Hamas. The low point of grief and humiliation was the handover of the murdered mother and children of the Bibas family on February 20. In exchange, over a thousand Palestinian prisoners were released from Israeli prisons. On February 20, Israel experienced four bus explosions, in which, miraculously, no one was injured. According to reports, 15 buses were set to explode during the morning rush hour and five suicide bombers were to detonate bombs on the light-rail system as a diversion from a simultaneous terrorist invasion like the one on October 7, this time from Judea and Samaria on Israeli cities. Amidst the deepest pain and despair, God has supernaturally preserved His people, assuring them of His greatness and presence – and this after all the victories the Israeli army has achieved over Hamas, Hezbollah, the Syrian military, and Iran. In February, US President Trump put forward a proposal to relocate Palestinians from the Gaza Strip to Egypt and Jordan. After both governments officially rejected the idea of expelling people from the Gaza Strip, they developed an alternative reconstruction plan and discussed it with all the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council - Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Katar, Saudi-Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Israel's positively disposed neighbours are finally assuming shared responsibility for a possible peace in the region.

**Prayer:**

- **For the release of all hostages, the disempowerment of Hamas, and the end of the war by Passover. (Esther 7+8)**
- **That the Israeli government and people look to their God, from whom all help comes. (Psalm 121)**
- **For the government coalition negotiations in Germany, that the dogma of the two-state solution is abandoned, and for a new foreign minister who unconditionally stands by Israel. (Joel 3:1-3)**

Karin Heepen

**Resting under the rule and freedom of God,**  
Alexander Schlüter and Team