

# Security in Sovereignty

*Getting your news from the true Source*

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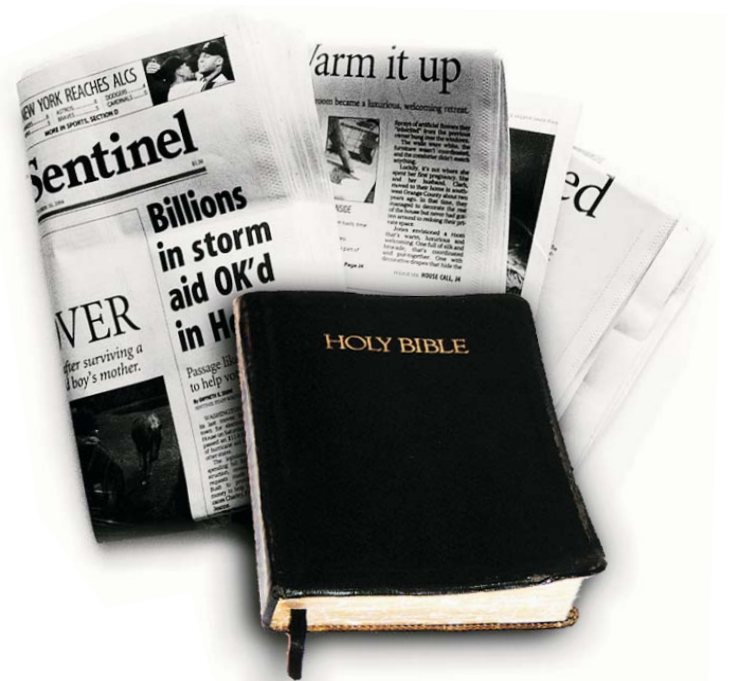
Lately, have you felt like turning off the TV news, letting the newspapers pile up on your front sidewalk, playing only elevator music in your car as you travel congested highways, and blocking all news sites on your computer's Internet service?

If you have, perhaps you have developed "bad-news overload." How much fun is it hearing that war has broken out in another area of the world-and a religious spokesman has declared it the beginning of Armageddon? What joy is there in hearing that electricity costs may surge 30 to 70%, while fuel oil costs grow faster than crab grass as we head into the fuel-sucking seasons of fall and winter? Where's the encouragement in being bombarded with stories of newly discovered pandemics before you have even understood the last purported medical time bomb? How could new political scandals, perpetual mudslinging, and reports of ineptness inspire confidence in a government response to all these bad-news scenarios? Frankly, there seems to be enough bad news seeping into our personal world without seeking more. Intentionally seeking more bad news is like throwing buckets of water onto the sinking Titanic. We don't need any more.

So where can we turn for good news in a bad-news world?

The character of Job in the Old Testament can give us a hint. His personal world is filled with bad news. He receives the news that he has lost his wealth (Job 1:13-17). Word reaches him that he has lost his family (Job 1:18-19). Compounding the bad news were physical problems-boils from head to toe (Job 2:7-8); lack of encouragement from his mate, who suggested he "curse God and die" (Job 2:9); and friends whose words rubbed salt deep into Job's emotional wounds. I'm sure Job would have had no desire to open the pages of the Fertile Crescent Times. He would have feared reading about himself in the front-page headline: "Righteous Job or Secret Sinner?"

How did Job find encouragement in a bad-news world? In the final chapter of Job we read, "Then Job replied to the Lord: I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted" (Job 42:1). Essentially, he



rested in the comfort of knowing that God was still sovereign in a chaotic, bad-news world.

How comforting it is to know that order remains even in the chaos that swirls around us. Jonathan Edwards, a godly man of another era who had encountered bad news in numerous areas of his life, wrote, "It has often been my delight to approach God, and adore Him as a sovereign God." Edwards chose to focus upon the One who was maintaining order in a bad-news world, rather than to dwell on the perilous swells of adversity that often sweep over our fallen, sin-scarred world.

The Apostle Paul also knew that he lived in a bad-news world. He pictured the world as "groaning" while sin enslaves and wounds our fallen world (Romans 8:22). Yet in this he sees God sovereignly working in this groaning world, moving it through its painful present toward a glorious restoration (Romans 8:21). Realizing this, Paul gained perspective in the bad news world in which he lived. He concluded, "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18).

You may have developed "bad news overload." Is it time to counter that overload with a "good news antidote?" As you face the reality of living in a bad-news world, focus on another reality: God is still at work in our world. More than this, His will will not be overcome by a bad-news world. Perhaps we'd be better off focusing less on CNN or FOX News and more on God's Word and on the realities of His character and His sovereign will.