

27th December 2020 Our weekly message from the 10:45 Zoom Service -God of Mystery By Carolyn Carter

As we approach the ending of this year, which has been so hard for many, and the beginning of the new year which holds so much uncertainty – perhaps more than we’ve ever known – let’s seek comfort in the truth that God is also the God of Mystery! My last talk was about him being God of the valley, of the dark seasons in life as well as the ones where we can see everything clearly.

It seems that **uncertainty** has become the new norm this year!

All our plans have shifted and we don’t know what we might be doing tomorrow – let alone in the coming months or year – and yet for people of faith throughout history – uncertainty has to some degree **always** been the norm – their certainty was rooted in who God was, rather than their own knowledge of where they were going or what they were doing! Faith, the Bible teaches, is believing God and being certain (amid the uncertainty) that He will come through! HEBREWS 11 says faith is being “sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” – the Amplified version says “faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses.”

Noah was asked by God to build a huge boat in the desert – where he would have seen very little rain in his life! Abraham was called to leave his homeland – with no idea of where he was going. Moses was called to lead the Israelites out of Egypt – with no experience and no idea how God would provide for hundreds of thousands of people living in the desert – and they went the LONG way round – it took them 40 years when it could have been an 11 day journey! Moses faithfully followed God’s lead even when it must have made no sense to him!

In the Christmas story (we can forget with our familiarity of it) that God had called a teenage girl, who was engaged to be married – to carry Jesus into the world – knowing that it would be shameful in her day and that Mary would have NO idea how it would pan out and what she was saying yes to – but she DID say YES.

This is the remarkable thing that all these people of God have in common – they trusted God more than their feelings – they looked to Him MORE than at their circumstances – they believed in Him MORE than their culture or what the world around them said.

Randall Worley said, “faith embraces the ambiguity of not knowing where it is being led – because it is so in love with the one who is leading”. The wise men from the east also followed an unusual star in the heavens – in faith that it would lead them to the new-born king. We are called to walk by faith into the unknown too.

Where are our faith levels today? And if we are honest – what is our faith in? PROVERBS 3 says “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In ALL

your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight". In this season let's ask ourselves where are we putting our hope, our trust?

Let's ask God if we have a "Yes" in our hearts to Him – to where He might want to lead us in this coming year – even if it looks different to what we might have thought we'd be doing. Let's lean on Him to lead us and trust not in our own understanding or plans – let's be open to the NEW thing that heaven might want to be born in us today.