

edge of the unknown

"but the land which you cross over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water from the rain of heaven, a land for which the Lord your God cares; the eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year."
deut 11:11-12

today dear friends, we stand upon the edge of the unknown. there lies before us the new year and we are going forth to possess it. who can tell what we shall find? what new experiences, what changes shall come, what new needs shall arise? but here is the cheering, comforting, gladdening message from our heavenly Father, "the Lord your God cares for what lies ahead for each of us. He cares from the beginning of the year until it's very ending."

all our supply is to come from the Lord. here are springs that shall never dry; here are fountains and streams that shall never be cut off. here, anxious one, is the gracious pledge of our heavenly Father. if He is the source of all our mercies they can never fail us. no heat, no drought can parch that river, "there is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God," and yes, it is "the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High." psa 46:4

the land is a land of hills and valleys. it is not all smooth nor all down hill. if life were all one dead level the dull sameness would oppress us; we want the hills and the valleys - we need them. the hills collect the rain for a hundred fruitful valleys. let

it be so with us!

it is the hill difficulty that drives us to the throne of grace and brings down the shower of blessing; the hills, the bleak hills of life that we wonder at and perhaps grumble at, bring down the showers. how many have perished in the wilderness, buried under its golden sands, who would have lived and thrived in the hill-country; how many would have been killed by the frost, blighted with winds, swept desolate of tree and fruit but for the hill - stern, hard, rugged, so steep to climb. God's hills are a gracious protection for His people against their foes!

we cannot tell what loss, sorrow or trial are working in us. trust only. the Father comes near to take our hand and lead us on our way each today. "therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. sufficient for the day is its own trouble." matt 6:34 it shall be a good, a blessed new year with our Lord walking beside us!

He leads us on by paths we did not know;
upward He leads us, though our steps be slow,

though oft we faint and falter on the way,
though storms and darkness oft obscure the day;

yet when the clouds are gone,
we know He leads us on.

He leads us on through all the unquiet years;
past all our dreamland hopes, and doubts and fears,

He guides our steps, through all the tangled maze
of losses, sorrows, and o'erclouded days;

we know His will is done;
and still He leads us on.

- n.l. zinzendorf

based on streams from the desert.

non of us can truly know what this year will hold.
"but whether there are prophecies, they will fail." 1
cor 13:8 but i have a hope burning deep in my heart
that our Lord will retrieve us to His self this year.
i had so much hope for 2023 but alas, evil grew only
worse as the hearts of mankind were drawn deeper into
darkness.

the devil is promised his day. "it was granted to him
to make war with the saints and to overcome them. and
authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and
nation." rev 13:7

i am reminded of the speech from the lord of the rings.
"hold your ground, hold your ground!... i see in your
eyes the same fear that would take the heart of me. a
day may come when the courage of men fails, when we
forsake our friends and break all bonds of fellowship,
but it is not this day."

no! it will not be this day, while we live and breath
and have the Holy Spirit battling within us. no and no

again! "on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." matt 16:18 our Lord will have to remove us before the enemy may fully have his day. the tribulation saints will have a battle to rage, perhaps leading to defeat, but not His bride. we pray they shall endure as well. one year has passed by the way and we are one day closer to His coming. all glory and power to Jesus!