

A Bird's Eye View on 2012

2012 is a new year, a leap year and an overwhelming election year. Three hundred and sixty-six days lay before us. It may be a year of great optimism or a year of struggle. It can be a year of births, graduations, weddings and celebrations or it can be a year that brings pain, suffering, and loss. In many ways we do not have control over the events we will encounter in our lives, but we have control over our response to these events. As believers, we are reminded whom we serve, *"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."* Rev. 1:8.

The Lord Almighty is not bound by time. He knows the beginning of the year as well as the end. God's oversight of our lives was illustrated to me one day while taking a small plane ride. As we were sitting on the runway, all we could see was the runway ahead of us and the orchards on all sides. As we taxied down the runway at an increasing speed, the runway before us was shortening every second. Soon the pilot pulled back the wheel and up we went. In seconds we were over the trees and we could see beyond the orchards. There were roads, houses and farms. But as we climbed to 1,000 to 2,000 feet, our visibility greatly improved. Where once our visibility was limited, we now had a broad view of what was behind, below and beyond us.

We had a clear vision of what the cars traveling on the road below would encounter for the next five to ten miles. There were stoplights, traffic congestion, and sharp turns in the road. We had a bird's eye view of everything. And so it is with God. Since He was, is, and is to come, He sees the whole year, the whole century, the world's past and future all at the same time. Since He is the beginning and the end we can trust Him to guide us through another year. His Spirit directs our ways, is with us, and instructs us. He will guide us through the joys and the sorrows that may come our way, but to do so, we need to draw near to Him (James 4:8). We need to stay in tune with Him through prayer and the Word. We need to be aware He wants us to experience the mind of Christ as we learn to trust Him through the circumstances of the coming year.

It is not a matter of waiting for a dynamic or traumatic event to take place before we draw on the Lord, but rather that we remain close to Him, day by day. In this way we will have the companionship of the Lord as we encounter the unknown events in our lives. Then we are assured that our Heavenly Father is watching over us, that He will never leave us or forsake us, and that He will direct our paths. As we begin 2012 we can entrust our lives to the "Alpha & Omega...the Almighty."