



The Party's Over

Isaiah 47:1-15

PRAYER TO DRAW CLOSER

God, this world is your hometown, and we want to accept You into it rather than push you away. You are often so dishonoured in it in so many ways. And yet, if we are touched by Your spirit, we can invite You in, and You will do things through us, and first of all in us. I pray that You might touch us so that we could in faith and dependent prayer, move into the world, unsure of ourselves but sure of You, constantly listening going one foot at a time, listening for what we think is Your instruction, and be open to You changing it. Especially give us the will and the courage to do the things we're supposed to do. Our deepest selves want to obey You, but our conscious selves want to run like crazy. I pray that You'd change us so that we don't run from You. I pray this in Your son's name.

(by our Paul)



Where the heck was ancient Babylon again?





Chapters 46 & 47: Companion Pieces.... like a Medieval Diptych Painting

- The delegitimizing of Babylon's gods, in the experience of the Israelites in Exile led to the delegitimizing of the Empire as a whole. Chapter 46 leads right into 47.
- A likely reflection of the need for empires or civilizations to have a foundation mythology. When the foundation myth is compromised, empires tend to fail. Myths can evolve though to accommodate new experiences of the people.

What is Isaiah 47 about?

A taunt with pathos? A scoffing song? A redemption oracle? A lament? A diatribe of a vengeful deity? An ancient consolation?

Brueggemann says it's really a fake lament for an enemy in order to console a people whose God they thought had abandoned them in a strange land.



Chapter 47 does not match this modern conception!



“This is not a chapter notable for its tolerance of all philosophical points of view. It is not a place to turn for a celebration of the human being as center of the universe and source of all things needed for human well-being... Here the claim is made that the noblest and the best that civilization can offer is ultimately incapable of securing safety and happiness... For Isaiah everything that mattered came down to one contest, the contest between human pride and trust in God.” - Hansen



"Is he the God of the Old or the New Testament this morning?"

©nakedpastor.com

Kayward

I didn't know
they'd turn it into
a manual for hate!



“These ancient writers had an adequate understanding of God for them in their time, but not for all time—and if we take that to heart, we will actually be in a better position to respect these ancient voices and see what they have to say rather than whitewashing the details and making up ‘explanations’ to ease our stress.” - Pete Enns



"Whoa, Donald—you're scaring me, man."



Sadly and tragically, Donald Trump as US President was The Emperor with No Clothes come to life, with way too many complicit the deception.



ISAIAH 47 TEXT

- 1 Come down and sit in the dust,
virgin daughter of Babylon!
Sit on the ground without a throne,
daughter Chaldea!
For you shall no longer be called
tender and delicate.
- 2 Take the millstones and grind meal,
remove your veil,
strip off your robe, uncover your legs,
pass through the rivers.
- 3 Your nakedness shall be covered,
and your shame shall be seen.
I will take vengeance,
and I will spare no one.

4 Our Redeemer—the Lord of hosts is his name — is the Holy One of Israel.

5 Sit in silence, and go into darkness,
daughter Chaldea!
For you shall no more be called
the mistress of kingdoms.

6 I was angry with my people,
I profaned my heritage;
I gave them into your hand,
you showed them no mercy;
on the aged you made your yoke
exceedingly heavy.

7 You said, “I shall be mistress forever,”
so that you did not lay these things to heart
or remember their end.



“He was once funny ha-ha, but now he's just funny terrifying.”



“Stop—that Trump cartoon you came up with this morning just happened.”

8 Now therefore hear this, you lover of pleasures,
who sit securely,
who say in your heart,

“I am, and there is no one besides me;
I shall not sit as a widow
or know the loss of children” —

9 both these things shall come upon you
in a moment, in one day:
the loss of children and widowhood
shall come upon you in full measure,
in spite of your many sorceries
and the great power of your enchantments.

10 You felt secure in your wickedness;
you said, “No one sees me.”
Your wisdom and your knowledge
led you astray,
and you said in your heart,
“I am, and there is no one besides me.”

11 But evil shall come upon you,
which you cannot charm away;
disaster shall fall upon you,
which you will not be able to ward off;
and ruin shall come on you suddenly,
of which you know nothing.

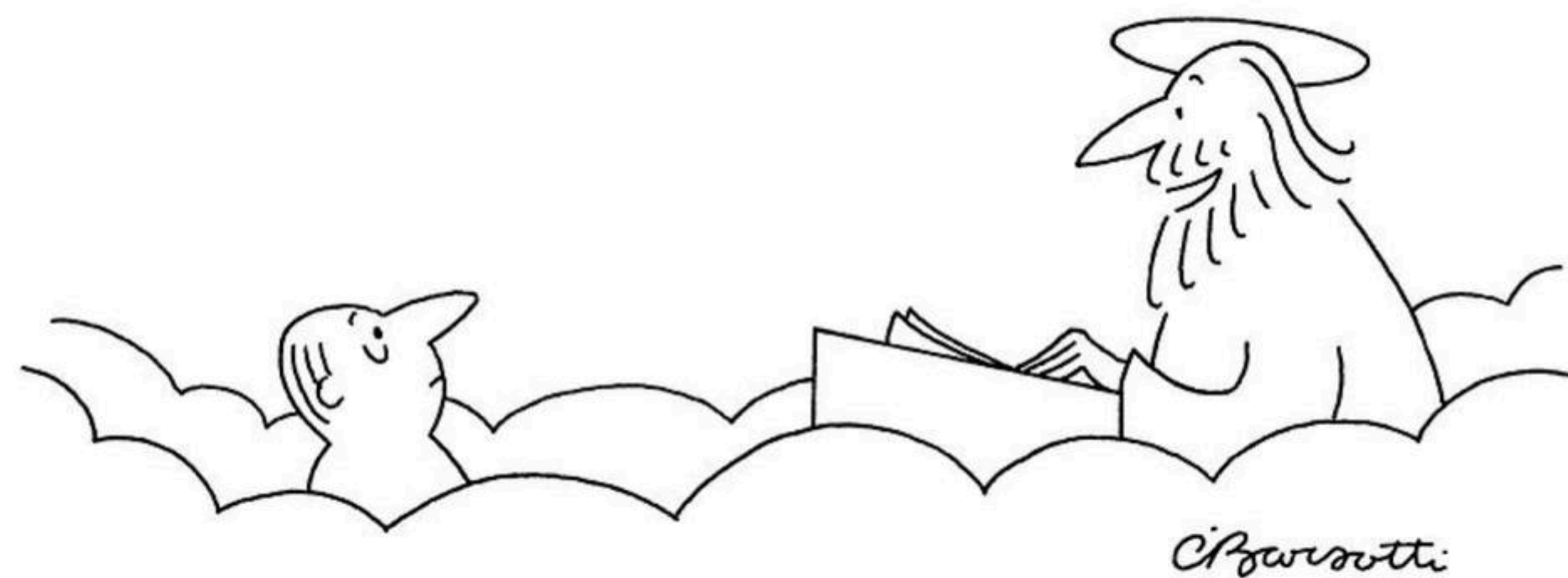
12 Stand fast in your enchantments
and your many sorceries,
with which you have labored from your youth;
perhaps you may be able to succeed,
perhaps you may inspire terror.

13 You are wearied with your many consultations;
let those who study the heavens
stand up and save you,
those who gaze at the stars,
and at each moon predict
what shall befall you.





14 See, they are like stubble,
the fire consumes them;
they cannot deliver themselves
from the power of the flame.
No coal for warming oneself in this,
no fire to sit before!



"Theologian? You guys are always fun."

15 Such to you are those with whom you laboured,
who have trafficked with you from your youth;
they all wander about in their own paths;
there is no one to save you.



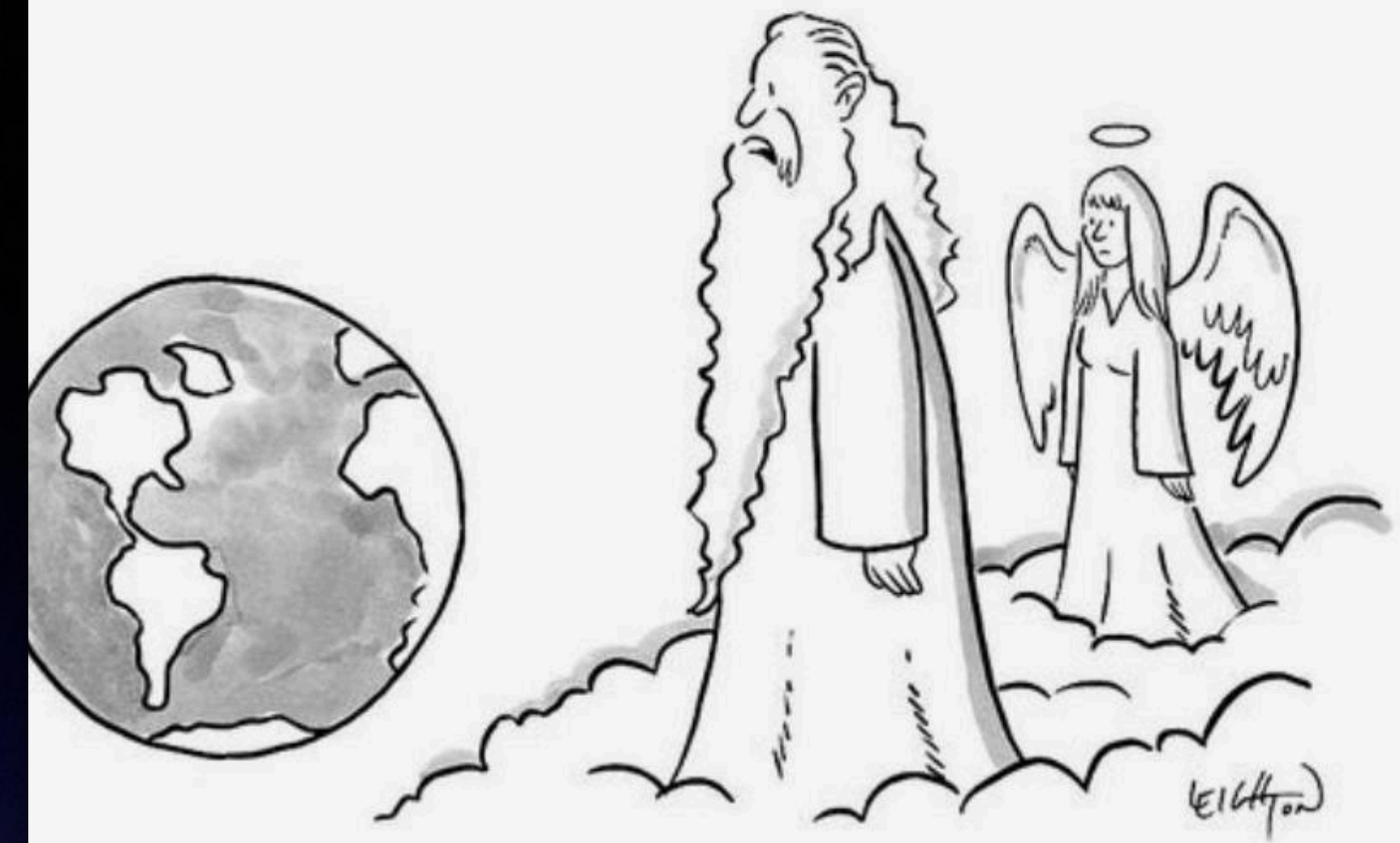
Lorraine Douglas

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

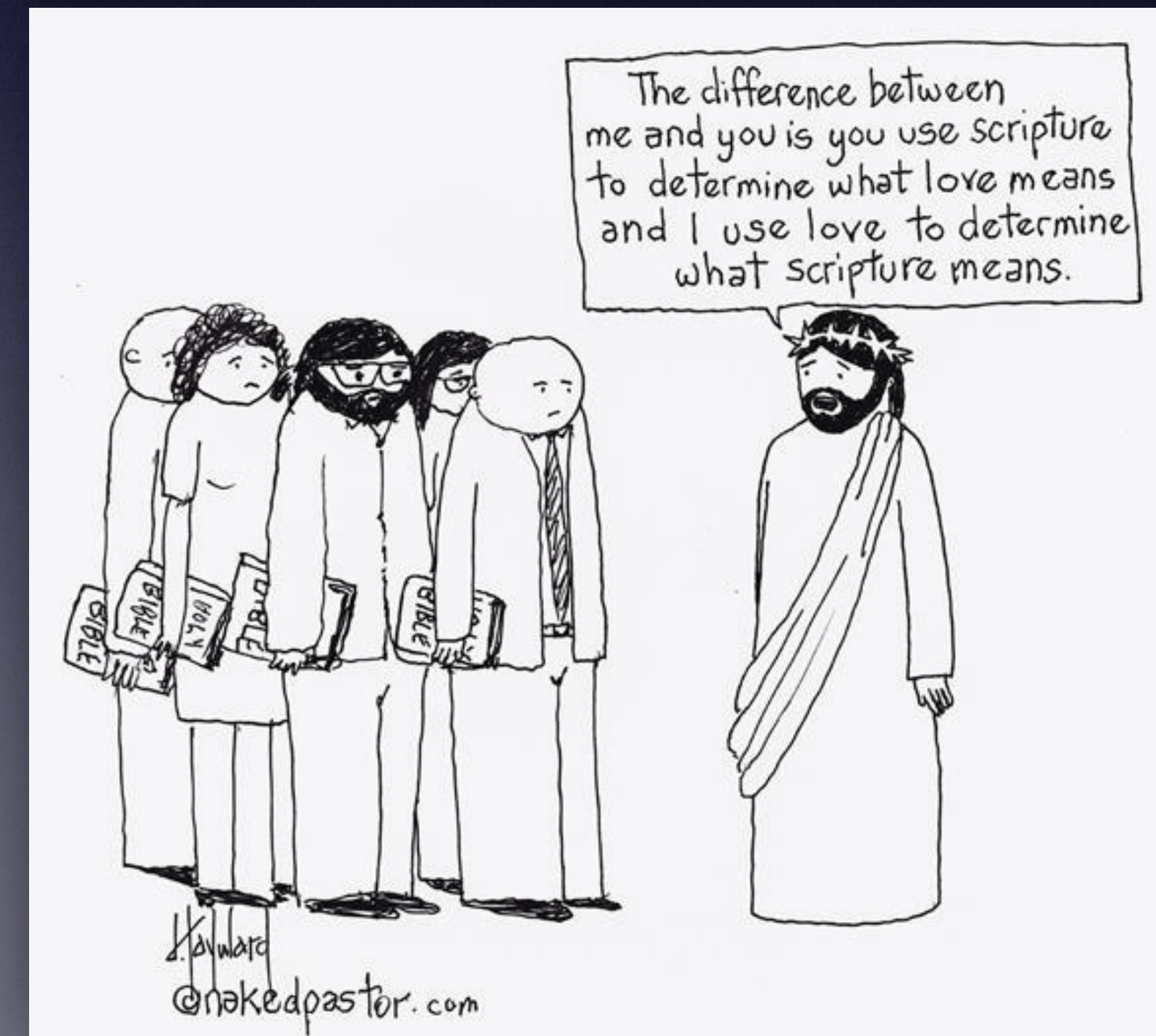
- I. Give an example of how language, poetry, art, or even humour can serve to unmask a 'principality or power' that's crossed the line?

It could be an empire 'out there' or an aspect of our false self 'in here'.

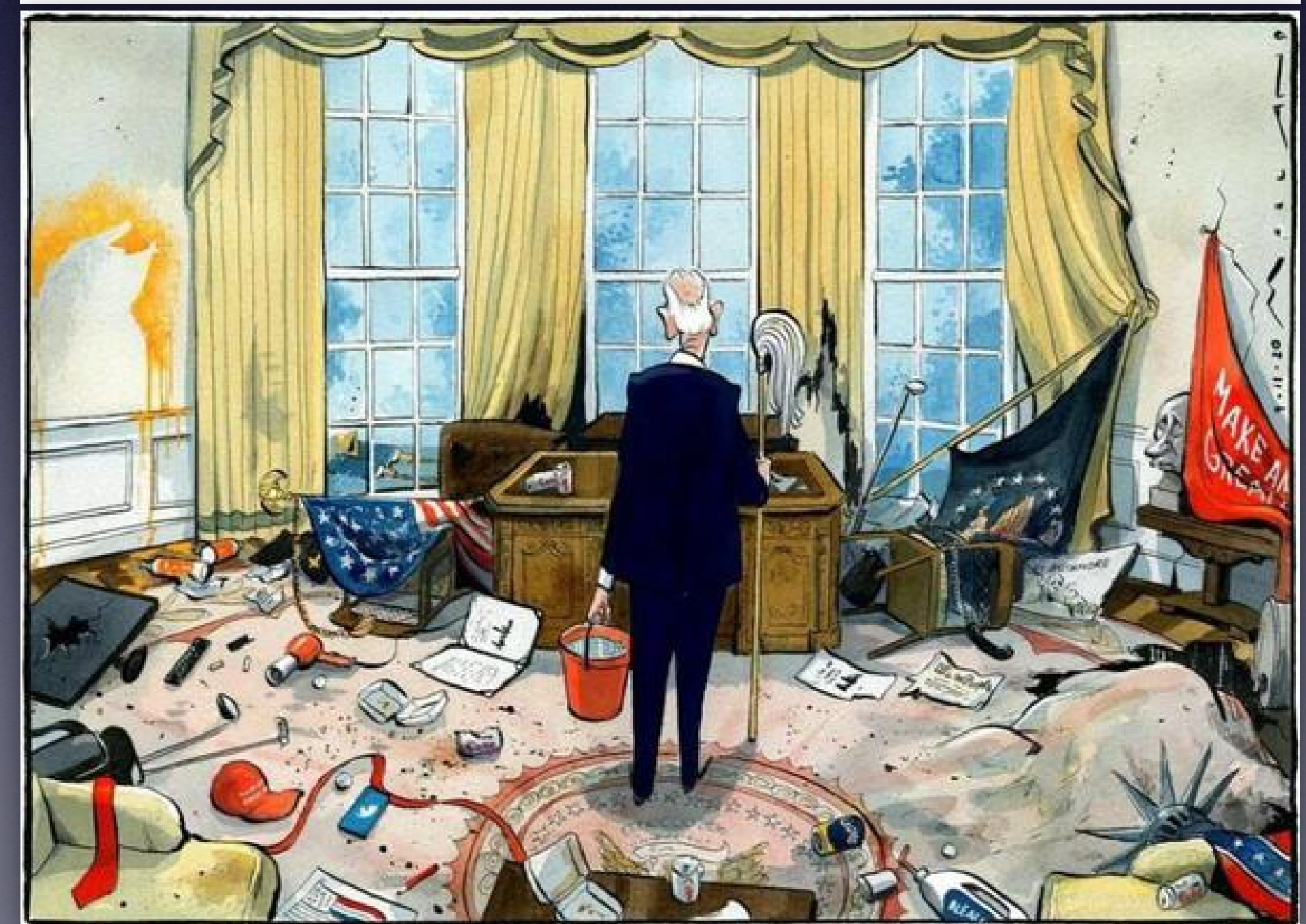
2. What makes for an effective saving judgement of another? How have you tried to combine love and truth (mercy and justice) in communicating with someone in need?



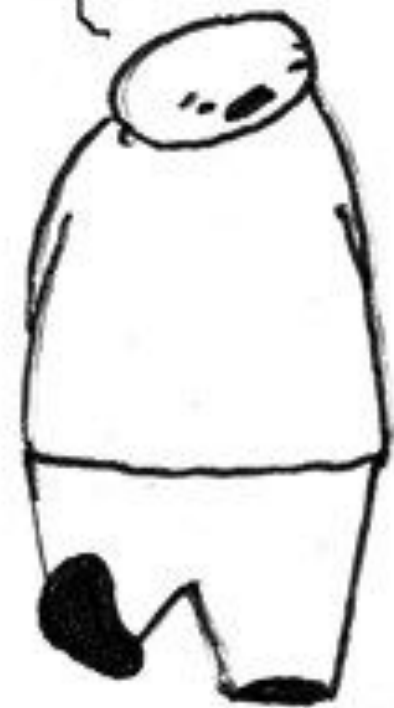
"I'm starting to prefer the ones who don't believe in me."



3. Yahweh in this chapter is seen directly involved in the historical process. The big picture is that Yahweh is (or soon to be) using the Persian Cyrus to liberate the Israelites. What's the danger of this way of interpretation? What is one thing you would say to far-right Christians today who thought Trump was a modern-day Cyrus?



So God, why
do you come
with so much
baggage?



This is your
shit, not mine!



nakedpastor.com

©dhayward

THE EIGHTH DAY



BUT WHAT DOES
IT ALL MEAN??

FINCK



WHAT'S ANOTHER WAY TO UNMASK POWERS DAILY?

“Prayer is subversive activity. It involves a more or less open act of defiance against any claim by the current regime.... [As we pray,] slowly but surely, not culture, not family, not government, not job, not even the tyrannous self can stand against the quiet power and creative influence of God's sovereignty.”

- Eugene Peterson

**The
End**



**Now a
surprise
(but short)
presentation
by !**