

Some Simple Wisdom

Oliver Cromwell (1599 – 1658) was an English military and political leader who became Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland and Ireland.

According to *Wikipedia*, the free encyclopedia, Cromwell was relatively obscure for the first 40 years of his life. But after undergoing a religious conversion in the 1630s, he became an independent puritan, taking a generally tolerant view toward the many Protestant sects of his period.

An intensely religious man – a self-styled Puritan Moses – Cromwell fervently believed that God was guiding his victories. In a 2002 BBC poll in Britain, he was selected as one of the 10 greatest Britons of all time.

On one occasion, Cromwell's secretary was dispatched to the continent on some important business. En route, the secretary stayed one night at a seaport town and tossed on his bed, unable to sleep.

According to an old custom, a servant slept in his room, and on this occasion slept soundly enough. After some time, the secretary awakened his servant and complained of insomnia

"I am so afraid something will go wrong with our work," he said.

"Master," said the valet, "may I ask a question or two?"

"To be sure," the secretary responded.

"Did God rule the world before we were born?" the servant inquired.

"Most assuredly He did," replied the secretary.

"And will He rule it after we are dead?" the servant continued.

"Certainly He will," declared the secretary.

"Then, master, why not let Him rule the present, too?"

The secretary's faith was stirred. Peace was the result, and in a few minutes, both he and his servant were in sound sleep.

Are anxiety and uncertainty in your personal life – and maybe concerns about the important work in which you are involved – keeping you awake at night?

The servant of Cromwell's secretary has some good advice for all of us, no matter what our life situations may be.

Let God rule our present. And let's believe in Him for the future as well.

As the popular American spiritual reminds us: "He's got the whole world in His hands."

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope (Jeremiah 29:11 ESV).