



Laurence Crutchlow is a London GP and CMF Associate Head of Student Ministries

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 1:8)

In a world obsessed with the new, the innovative, and 'progress', why would someone say that they are always the same? Isn't that boring? Isn't someone who was the right person for the time 2,000 years ago rather old news?

We often look for constant things in an ever-changing life. It might be the security of visiting our parents still living in the home where we grew up; it might be meeting with friends that we knew before medical school.

One of the only certainties in our world is uncertainty. *Nucleus* has been prepared in the final days before the 2015 general election. The opinion polls suggest a real prospect that there still won't be a settled government when this arrives on your doorstep a week or two after the votes have been counted. It is not yet clear what changes will happen in the NHS – all the main parties promise change but can they afford it? Will there be funding to carry on the day-to-day business of caring for patients if there is effectively no government for a few weeks?

It is not just in the NHS, or in the UK, where life is uncertain. Political instability is nothing new to many countries. Those of a more historical bent see a string of powerful empires rising and falling, sometimes with few traces left.

Can Jesus have a place in this world if he never changes? Does he adapt?

Uncertainty is not a sign of the absence of God. Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Daniel 2) of a complex statue is interpreted by Daniel, revealing that a number of great kingdoms will rise and fall. Yet all this appears to be within God's knowledge and control. Job's suffering, seen from an earthly perspective, was senseless; yet the opening chapter of Job is clear that God remained in control.

It is Jesus, the same yesterday today and forever who is the constant in all these events. When our own path is uncertain, it is he through his Spirit who will guide us. When our sin seems overwhelming, it is his death and resurrection that restore us to a right relationship with God. It is he who is not just our only hope as individuals, but is the only hope of nations. He doesn't need to 'adapt' to change; he already knows it will happen, and has already planned for it.

As Daniel concludes his interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, he prophesies about Jesus' ultimate goal. 'In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure for ever.' (Daniel 2:44).

Whatever the uncertainties of this world, Christians already have a foretaste in Jesus of the kingdom of heaven, where there will be certainty as God dwells with his people. ■