

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by
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Evil Wrought by the Hand of God!

*“And they shall know that I am the Lord, and that I have not said in vain that I would do the EVIL unto them”
(Ezek. 6:10).*

Does the eternal God of Heaven, the Heavenly Father of our Lord Jesus Christ cause evil?

Oh! I can imagine the reply of the vast majority of Christendom saying, God forbid that such a subject even be considered. Just because we do not understand a Biblical subject, we should not close our ears and exclude the issue from our thinking but, consider the subject allowing Scripture to interpret Scripture, as we are admonished to “prove all things.”

Consider the following verses with me, “Now therefore go to, speak to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, this saith the Lord: Behold, I frame evil against you.” (Jerm. 18:11). “But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him.” (I Sam. 16:14, 16:23, 18:10, 19:9). When we normally think of the word, evil, we associate it with wickedness, ungodly, unrighteous and sinful behavior. This is correct and obvious when man performs evil deeds and actions. When man performs evil, it is rooted from the depths of the depraved nature and is defined in the Greek work kak-os which means worthless, depraved, injurious, bad, evil, harmful, wicked. From this definition also springs the works of the flesh, as set forth in Galatians Chapter five.

The proper understanding of the word evil must be defined as it is used in its Scriptural context. You cannot merely throw a blanket definition over many words and have it properly applicable to the meaning of the subject under consideration. A word being spelled the same can have more than one meaning. Let me give you a perfect example by using the word, evil. Evil as performed by the almighty, sovereign God is defined in

the Hebrew as the word RAH. *THIS* Hebrew word means; adversity, affliction, calamity, distress, great grief, harm, hurt, misery, sorrow, and trouble. Do you begin to see the major difference between the word evil in relation to its scriptural use? The easiest way to remember the proper, true meaning of the word evil is to find out by context who is performing or causing the act under consideration.

Man will always perform evil generated from a sinful, depraved, selfish motivation. God always performs evil (as defined) in his best interest for the judgement of man's wicked actions (as in the bringing about of the flood or the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah). He chastens his children into Gospel obedience as He works in us both to will and to do of his good pleasure to the praise of his glory. Did God not perform evil deeds (as defined) upon the Egyptian nation and continually harden Pharaoh's heart over and over again to demonstrate His sovereign power? This performance of God was a righteous work of evil (as defined) which manifested the almighty character of our ever-ruling, all powerful Heavenly Father.

Oh! When man performs evil, it always displays deeds of unrighteousness, with detesting results at the time, yet we see through a glass darkly as the divine purpose unfolds. I am persuaded that in the action of sin in the elect heir of grace, that *GOD-CAUSED REMORSE* shall be the end thereof, and God shall be adored and worshipped with honorable devotion from the heart of a failing Christian.

When God brings about evil in His divine purpose to accomplish His eternal will and good pleasure, He will do so by what ever means He pleases to use. He even uses Satan himself as an instrument to fulfill His sovereign decree as He did with the chosen vessel, Job. Consider this; in David's temptation and yielding the adulterous affair with Bathsheba, was it determined to be so? Have you considered that the genealogy of Lord Jesus Christ came through the lineage of this adulterous affair? He was addressed on more than one occasion in the New Testament as "Thou son of David," "from the SEED of David," as God determined. Yet, God never sins, *ONLY THE CREATURE* sins, even to fulfill the divine purpose of the Almighty. To man it is SIN, yet God can use whatever means to accomplish his divine will and NEVER be guilty of sin, for ALL that God has purposed is RIGHT in that the end result be for the glory of God!

The man David, chosen of God, the anointed King of all Israel, a man whose desires were after God's own heart, a man who the scriptures say, "cried out after God's heart." Consider this; if David had not been CAUSED to go the way of an adulterer, the volumes of the Psalms that expressed David's Spirit-driven remorse and contrite desperation would have never been penned for our comfort and hope when sin befalls us in this walk among the land of sin and sorrow. Beloved of God, even our sin is CAUSED to occur that divine chastening which has been promised to them who love the Lord would not be manifest if God in his divine determined will had not brought us through the wilderness of sin's dark valleys. In the valleys of sin, failure and despair is where the child of God can "look up" and see the mountain top of divine deliverance. Unless the valley be our experience, the mountain top could never be appreciated. The Hebrew

writer made it quite clear that ALL shall be partakers of God's chastening; not a few, but ALL God's heritage, in time, shall be instruments of the chastening of the Lord that the after effect will yield the "peaceable fruit of righteousness" (Heb. 12:5-12).

Was Lot's incestuous relationship with his two daughters, after being delivered from Sodom and Gomorrah, outside the sovereign purpose of God? Absolutely not; for through the offspring Amon, God raised him up to be an arch enemy to Israel in time, ALL fulfilling the decreed sovereign purpose of the Almighty. God can and shall use his creatures to come through the dregs of sin (as interpreted by the creature) to accomplish His eternal purposes and BE RIGHTEOUS in ALL his purposes! ABSOLUTELY!

God has a wonderful revelation for His people. If, and when, our sovereign Head decides to visit us with calamity, distress, adversity, grief, and other evil characteristics of His divine acts, He will (by the result of adversity and evil deeds) provide grace to help in the time of need as a balm for the soothing of our pain. He gives us the peace of Christ as a means by which we can lie down in green pastures and graze upon his precious Word. We can become washed by it, sanctified, cleansed, refreshed, and continually conformed to the very image of our glorious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He is the King of Glory, the Head over all things in heaven and on earth. To Him be praised forever and ever without end.

*Humbly submitted
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