

The Gospel Herald

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

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by
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*“What? shall we receive good at thy hand of God,
and shall we not receive evil?”*

In all this did NOT Job sin with his lips.”

(Job 2:10)

In an attempt to set forth some scriptural truth in my efforts to preach this past Lord’s day, I was led to this text as I have been reading of late the experiences of Job as one of the Almighty’s chosen vessels.

In my beginning comments I quoted from Galatians “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” Galatians 6:7).

I ask the question before the gathered assembly; can you think of an experience where one of God’s elect children had reaped devastating calamity that was not the result of what he HAD SOWN?

I further stated that the Holy Writ has a premiere account of one such individual that as a trophy of the Almighty’s sovereign grace and enduring mercy, had REAPED severe grief, sadness, bereavement, emotional trauma, the loss of ALL possessions, lands, livestock, children and added to his anguish, the torment of his physical body beyond the mortal minds description.

Job was a “perfect” man, an “upright” man, a man that “feared God” and “eschewed (shunned) evil”. With ten children, 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 oxen and 500 she asses and a very large household of servants. Yet, Job’s children had caused him worrisome concern, for he would rise up in the mornings and offered burnt offerings before God in behalf of them all because of their lifestyle of feasting and drinking. Job was attempting to cover the sins of his beloved children day after day. What a demonstration of this father’s unconditional love.

In all that Job had exercised in his devotion to the Almighty, the God of eternal glory was to use the chosen mortal as a record of the mighty grace of God when bestowed upon the heir of divine love.

Satan, the rebel of the angelic host, was among the sons of God as they came before the presence of the almighty God of heaven. God was glorified in the person, integrity and devotion of his man Job. God had said to Satan, "Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and upright man, one that feareth God and escheweth evil?"

Satan most assuredly had taken note of this man Job, and replied to the Almighty that HE (God) had hedged Job about with divine protection and that by God's sovereign grace the wiles of the wicked one COULD NOT penetrate God's wall of grace. Satan said, "if you put forth thine hand now, and TOUCH all that he hath , and he will curse thee to thy face" (for Satan KNEW he could not touch Job's substance nor body). The Almighty said unto Satan, "behold, all that he hath is in THY power." ONLY, WHEN GOD PERMIT THE ARCH ENEMY OF OUR SOULS CAN HE CAUSE CALAMITY AND LOSS to be performed against the elect heirs of divine grace.

Those that are familiar with the record of the life of Job realize that he was stripped of ALL his possessions, Children, all ten dead, all his animals taken from him, all his lands burned to ruin. He is left with NOTHING except his wife, for even their home was destroyed.

Did Job SOW what he had REAPED? Per the record of scripture, he was the favorite in the eye of the Almighty. God bragged on his integrity and devotion, which was ONLY made possible by the divine determined decree of God's Predestined purpose.

Doeth God the Almighty sovereign ruler over ALL creation have the RIGHT to take one of his as a demonstration of HIS divine power to cause him to persevere through the most devastating of circumstances?

Absolutely HE has the RIGHT as GOD, for there is NONE like him, he alone is the all powerful ever ruling sovereign of the universe. We know upon Satan's second visit before God, Satan said if Job's bones and flesh were afflicted, he would curse thee to thy face, "skin for skin." God said to Satan, "He (Job) is in thy hand, but SAVE his life." You know the result of Satan's second visit, for he afflicted Job with boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.

With torment, pain and suffering, yet JOB maintained a TRUST in the Almighty. Even when his dear spouse expressed, "Curse God and die" rather than suffer with such anguish of body and soul. Job eventually expressed, "though the Lord slay me, yet shall I trust him."

This is where I refer back to my original text scripture, “What, shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive EVIL?”

Job was given a divine revelation of the God of the Bible, the God that can do all that fulfills his divine will and purpose among the creatures of mortal man and ALL creation. In ALL that Job endured with the loss of ALL things, family, and physical afflictions along with the criticism of his “supposed” brethren, he was blessed to remain FAITHFUL.

Beloved of God, Job did not SOW what he had REAPED, yet through it all, God CAUSED him to persevere as a trophy of grace and divine mercy. Those circumstances that are “Evil” in calamities, hardships, disappointments, discouragements, loss of love one’s, loss of possessions and monetary funds are ALL under the divine CONTROL of the Almighty God that rules and reins in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth, and what man can say unto him, what doeth thou? Who can question the means and methods of an Almighty God? That will use satan as an instrument to bring about EVIL events upon the children of men.

God CANNOT be put in a perimeter where he cannot move about as he wills. He shall do as he pleases with his creation even as with Job; yet, we find in his sweet promises in the New Testament, New Covenant That he will NEVER leave us nor forsake, for he will not leave us comfortless, as his peace is past understanding, and his joy unspeakable.

He has promised to prepare a Bride for his Bridegroom darling Son, Jesus the Christ. He is doing this preparation by divine grace to meet his beautiful Bride upon his soon return to claim her for himself.

A Remnant from the ruin of all mankind, God has chosen a people that have his treasure (Holy Spirit) in an earthen vessel’s. We are the result of his divine handiwork, molded, formed and being CONFORMED to the image of his dear Son Jesus in character and Christ-like integrity.

May our God spare us from being an instrument used by Satan to prove our calling and election through affliction and trial. But, if it be the Almighty’s desire to do that which we fear at this time, may we be blessed with such an abundance of grace that if we shall enter the furnace of fiery trials, we shall endure without even the smell of smoke, for JESUS’ SAKE! For his glory, honor and praise.

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