

The Gospel Herald

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

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by
Donald E. Martin, Sr.

Clay in the Potter’s Hand

A dear brother and I were traveling along this past Thursday from north Florida to south Georgia, to attend a Primitive Baptist meeting that was rescheduled due to an annual meeting that was to be on this fourth weekend at a nearby church. Normally, this church where we were in transit to meets on the fourth Sunday and the Saturday before, but to accommodate the other three-day meeting, they were having church on this Thursday.

In our almost two-hour drive from the brother’s area to the meeting, the fellowship was sweet, and we have never ceased to be revived in Spirit and soul in our travels, as we have made this trip often.

I had been reading the book of JOB of late and was blessed, as always, with a fresh and further revelation of the truths contained in the Holy writings. I had mentioned to my dear brother, “for a man that was chosen of God, perfect and righteous, and eschewed (despised) evil, that God loved, you know, he did not reap what he had sown,” for he was a chosen vessel to suffer the loss of ALL things, except his dear wife. Then stricken with physical affliction beyond what the majority of the human race has ever experienced.

In the text, Satan appeared before God, and the Almighty bragged on his man JOB, that he was a righteous man, perfect, hating evil, etc. Satan knew all these things were true and replied, challenging God to allow him (Satan) to strip JOB of his earthly possessions and family. God said “GO,” but don’t touch his soul.

God sent Satan on a MISSION in both occasions that Satan visited God in the text. To destroy possessions, family and then physical affliction.

What did JOB do to deserve such hardship and suffering, ten children killed at one occasion, all his animals and lands destroyed, and if the mental anguish and grief of the loss of ten children was not enough, his body was afflicted.

As I pondered these experiences of JOB's life and shared with my brother along the way as we traveled, I thought that it is a wonderful truth to have a trust in a God that can do anything in fulfilling his divine purposes and is NOT bound by any laws or regulations apart from his own Holy character.

My dear brother made this statement, "if God in his determined purpose, so desired to take a man or men that he alone has made righteous as JOB, and desire to dangle them over hell's lake of fire and drop them one by one; would he not be righteous in his actions? Can he not do as he pleases with the vessels which are all made of the same clay?"

Dear brethren, we need to be reminded that Satan is a mere puppet in the hand of the Almighty, limited in everything and ONLY is roaming around as a lion with a chain up on his neck, and can ONLY do that which is orchestrated by the Lord God.

Did JOB have any choice in his circumstances? Did Judas Iscariot have a choice in whether Satan was going to enter into him or not? "the devil having now PUT into the heart of Judas Iscariot" (John 13:2). Who put the devil in the heart of this one chosen of God as one of the twelve? GOD caused Satan to be placed in the heart of the betrayer, that the decreed, determined purpose of the Almighty would be carried out according to God's foreordained purpose.

Thanks be unto God that we have the blessed promises that "there is therefore NOW no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus." For Christ was sent to redeem us from the curse of the law and its judicial curse, taking our sin upon himself as a ransom for such an unworthy lot out the ruin of the human race.

Oh, what a blessed hope we have through the operation of faith, and that we have been given the earnest of our expectation by the Spirit which has taken its abode within us that believe. Oh, what sovereign mercy, what wonderous love, that such A Holy God would look upon sinners and choose them for his bride.