

GROWING IN GRACE LETTERS! — Calling saints in Christ, (in our Homes and with one another in Church), to Walk in the Steps of CHRIST, (1 Peter 2:15-25)! (Edited by James Bell, a servant of Jesus Christ)

7 8 25 V1n9 MESSAGES FROM 'BAD' THINGS? Texas Flood death toll is now over 100; more than a few are still missing; more possible flooding dangers. 'Why did God cause or let it happen?' // OR: GOD IS SPEAKING, AM I ... are we LISTENING?

FOR MILLIONS of people, life on planet earth HAS BEEN or is TODAY a horrifying nightmare with unspeakable pain, suffering, disease, war, cruelty, etc. SO human reasoning says,

(1) IF THERE IS A GOD, and If God is all knowing, all-loving, and perfectly good— He must have wanted, for example, to protect folks from the devastation of the Texas flash flood! (2) If God is really sovereign and all powerful— He was FULLY ABLE to protect those in Texas and the millions who suffer!

(3) However, worldwide, SUFFERING, from many sources, seems to be on the increase. "What kind of a monstrous god would allow millions to suffer as they do?"

EXAMPLE: Baptist Pastor Gregory Boyd, in ***GOD OF THE POSSIBLE*** asks, "...If God foreknew that Adolph Hitler would send six million Jews to their death, why did He go ahead and create a man like that? **How is God not responsible for the**

behavior of evil people He “unleashes” on the world— if, in fact, He is absolutely certain of what they will do once “unleashed”? **Because of questions like these, SOME people are concluding that,**

(1) God must not be all loving and all good!

(2) Or if God is all loving, God must not be all powerful! He means well. He would like to deliver those IN SUFFERING; but He is just not able to pull it off!

(3) **GREGORY BOYD** and others teach that there are lots of events that **God simply does not know about until they happen!** God is only “The God of the POSSIBLE” who may or may not be able to carry out His desired will! God is **all-loving but not always all powerful** to stop suffering. HOPEFULLY, like me, YOU can’t swallow Boyd’s views!

HOWEVER, when life tumbles in *on us* with pain, suffering, injustice, etc. — *many of us quickly question the goodness, love, wisdom, power, and/or the sovereignty of God!* Many of us tend to forget or deny or minimize and/or refuse to receive and apply clear BIBLICAL REVELATION!

What follows are some statements along with many Scripture references, which — if we receive them — they will tear down FALSE TEACHING as to God and help move us to peace in the midst of the storms of life.

BIBLICAL TRUTH: Biblical revelation NEVER HINTS that satan's rebellion or man's Fall into sin or anything that satan and/or man has ever done has ever caught God by surprise. God is not wringing his hands in fear or frustration that He will not be able to accomplish all of His good and perfect pleasure.

Here is a much needed REPEAT of critical truth about the true and living God:

Psalm 103:19-*The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all. Psalm 115:3- But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased. Psalm 135:6- Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did He in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.*

Proverbs 19:21- *There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.*

Proverbs 21:1- *The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: He turneth it whithersoever he will.*

Isaiah 43:13- *Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?*

Lamentations 3:37- *Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not?*

Daniel 2:20-21- *Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God forever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he*

changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

Daniel 4:17- *This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.*

Daniel 4:35- *And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and He doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, What doest thou?*

BIBLICAL TRUTH: Adam and Eve disobeyed God's instructions in the Garden of Eden. (Genesis 2 & 3) **As a result of that rebellion and choice to sin, we all face a number of realities and CONSEQUENCES!**

BIBLICAL TRUTH: In our fallen world not only people, but **the entire creation suffers and groans:** Romans 8:20-22! *** Hurricanes, Tsunamis, Tornadoes, Earthquakes, Drought, FLASH FLOODS, atrocities of war, disease, and more are all repercussions of man's rebellion; and they 'touch' both saint and sinner!

[Texas Flash Floods: JOIN those who are blaming Trump! Blame those who were 'SEEDING' the clouds, seeking to manipulate the weather, blame whoever, but do not forget the ROOT of Romans 8:20-22, etc.]

BIBLICAL TRUTH: From the Beginning, God revealed to Adam and Eve that they, and all after them, were RESPONSIBLE BEINGS who would face repercussions for disobedience: Genesis 2:16-17; 3:16-19.

BIBILCAL TRUTH: There are AWFUL DEPTHS of man's depravity. And the Bible speaks plainly about the WICKEDNESS OF THE HUMAN HEART. (Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:10-18) In our fallen world, God has decreed SOWING AND REAPING!

CONSEQUENCES! SIN PAYS WAGES! We suffer for our own sin. We suffer consequences from the sins of others, such as— the drunk, the Child abuser, the Evil Politician, the specter of Terrorism!

When I experience or witness some of the HORRORS of this fallen, rebel world, I SHOULD BE CRYING OUT: "Look at the consequences of sin and rebellion.

Look at the awesome evil potential of my own heart.

Thus, "O sinner flee to Christ before it is everlastingly too late!"

And, "O saved sinner, be amazed at grace that saved a wicked sinner like me who only deserved eternity in hell... and O HOW MERCIFUL YOU HAVE BEEN TO ME!"

MOREOVER, REMEMBER THE ACCOUNT OF JOB:

(1) **God initiated** the conversation with satan about Job. (2) Job rightly proclaimed: ***God gave. God took away. Blessed be God!*** (3) God used satan to accomplish God's purposes. (Rebellious satan is on a Divine leash!) (4) JOB and his friends 'go at it' in deep and often confusing philosophical and theological discussions! During these discussions, in spite of his wrong perceptions, Job continued to hold on to a genuine faith in God. **Ultimately**, GOD COMES TO JOB and asks a series of mind-blowing questions! (Job 38-41) **As God asks all these questions,**

Job begins to realize something which we need to see—

The world does not revolve around me, my plans, my wants and wishes! This is GOD'S world and He does all of His GOOD pleasure!

Finally, (Job 42:5-6), Job gives the proper response of repentance to God and humility before God!

LET IT BE SO IN MY LIFE AND IN YOURS!

BIBLICAL TRUTH: The world and all that is in it was created by God and for God and His purposes and good pleasure. (Rev. 4:11)

INDEED, flowing out of the setting of satan's temptations, man's sin and God's redemption— **grand demonstrations of God's attributes are revealed** as the Almighty God, the Master Potter, does ALL of His good pleasure! (Rom 9:13-23)

BIBLICAL TRUTH: For the redeemed, God always works all things to bring about ultimate good and the glorifying of His name. Read of Joseph, who practiced 'Romans 8:28' long before the Holy Spirit moved Paul's pen to write it! (Genesis 37-50; 45:3-5; 50:18-21; Ps. 105:17-19; Romans 8:28-39)

THEREFORE, HERE ARE BOTTOM LINE REALITIES:

1. Were it not for the restraining mercies of Almighty God, there would be more HITLERS, MORE WAR ATROCITIES, more ... etc... and we among them ... producing more who suffer!

2. Why? Because of the exceeding wickedness of our hearts
→ Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:22-23; Matthew 24:21-22.

3. The great mystery we have to face is **not that of all the SUFFERING and atrocities to be found in our world!** For every groan and all the agony on the earth — coming from man or beast — SHOUTS, "O, the awfulness and the consequences of sin ... O, THE DEPTH OF HUMAN DEPRAVITY!"

4. Here is the supreme grand mystery on planet earth— the reality that there are countless Trophies of Grace— the

redeemed, what a glorious wonder! Hell deserving as all others, yet redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb, coming right out of the midst of a world of sin and suffering— this is the great mystery! **Amazing Grace!**

5. The redeemed have often suffered and have often been slaughtered by God haters. The redeemed have NOT been shielded from the diseases and other sufferings found in our fallen world.

However, for all eternity, the redeemed have no complaints or regrets! (Rev. 7:14-17)

6. YES, God reveals that He holds men responsible and accountable. At the same time, God demonstrates His patience. **But the day of vengeance against unrepentant rebels is coming:** Romans 1:18-32; Revelation 16:4-11; 21:8. Moreover, for carrying out His holy and just wrath, **God will be rightfully worshiped!** (Rev. 19:1-2)

7. ABOVE ALL ELSE God's ultimate purpose of a Bride for His Son, out of every kindred, tongue, tribe and people is now being and will be totally fulfilled: Rev. 21:9 - Rev. 22:5.

THEREFORE, Let us be HUMBLE and rejoice! ALMIGHTY GOD who is love, who is all powerful, who is holy, who is faithful, who is merciful and so much more—

REIGNS IN GRAND AND HOLY SOVEREIGNTY!

“Sovereignty means that God is free to be God! It’s the truth that enables me to say THANK YOU to the One who allowed whatever it is that I VIEW AS the cause of my anxiety and to know that He could have controlled it if He had wished.

“Since He didn’t, then I accept the fact that INFINITE WISDOM and UNCHANGING LOVE conspired with ALMIGHTY POWER to cause something that’s ultimately for the Christian’s good and God’s glory!” (Quote from Don Baker)

LET US focus on TRUSTING in and worshiping of the Almighty God of Calvary love and BE FOUND SERVING HIM; for the days ARE INDEED EVIL, thus we must redeem the time; and labor for the MASTER from the dawn till the setting sun!

“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! ... For of Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things; to WHOM BE GLORY FOREVER. AMEN!” (Rom. 11:33, 36)

And let us not forget: An amazing result of such PRAISE to God is that **we begin to experience the peace of God that**

surpasses all understanding! ***Philippians 4:6-7 (ESV) "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus!"***

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

EVERY SATURDAY * 8:00am**, — Men's Bible Study! (Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits!)

[7/12/25 – Ephesians 6:16 – “Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked!”

NEXT Ladies Bible Study, JULY 22, 2025 @ 11:00am (LADIES Bible Study, from JOB!) (NO CHILD CARE.)

*****EVERY TUESDAY: LADIES PRAYER MEETING FROM 10:00 to 10:30am, come in back door, under drive-thru awning, go IN THE IMMEDIATE FIRST ROOM ON THE RIGHT!**

Tuesday Evening, Southside Young Adult Group; Bible Study, (EXODUS), @ 7:15pm, at Jaden & Rhi's home

.....

WEDNESDAYS: 6:30pm—

**** Adult MEN'S Prayer Service**

**** Young FAMILIES STUDY/Prayer Service**

.....

***** LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or by ONLINE GIVING; For Church Ministry and/or MISSIONS: SUCH funds, (if checks), make out to Southside Baptist) — MAIL TO: Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066 / OR... TO GIVE via ONLINE GIVING:**

<https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>