

BIBLE DICTIONARY—

Photos of Bro. Howard Phillips' personal notes on symbols and metaphors: his personal dictionary.

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SYMBOLIC USE OF THINGS CREATED

HEAVEN/RULING POWERS - DEUT.32:1...ISA.1:2...
ISA.49:13...DAN. 8:10... 2PET. 3:10-12

EARTH/PEOPLE - GEN.6:11...DEUT.32:1...PSA.96:13
ISA.34:1...JER.51:7...MICAH 1:2...ZECH.1:11

WORLD/PEOPLE - PSA.9:8...ISA.13:1...JO 3:16...
JO 8:26...HEB.11:38...REV.12:9...REV.13:3

LAND/PEOPLE - PSA.100:1
SEA/PEOPLE (WICKED) = ISA.17:12...ISA.57:20
JER.6:23...JUDE 13

SUN/CHRIST - ISA.60:20...MAL 4:2...2 PET.1:19...REV.22:16

MOON/CHURCH - REV.17:3 - 9, 18

STARS/SAINTS - DAN.12:3 REV12:1

LIGHT/KNOWLEDGE, RIGHTBOUSNESS - PSA.119:30
ISA.60:20...JOEL 3:19...2 COR.4:6...EPH.5:13

DARKNESS/IGNORANCE, SIN - JOB 37:19...ROM.13:12...2 COR.6:14

MOUNTAINS/KINGDOMS - DAN.2:35...JOEL 3:10 (Matt.24:32)

TREES... FIG/ISRAEL - JER.24: 1-5 HOSBA 9:10...JOEL 1:6,7

OLIVE/ISRAEL - ROM.11:15-24 VINE/ISRAEL - ISA.5:2 (see v. 7)

GRASS/FLESH, MAN - PSA.90: 5,6...PSA.103: 15,16

FLSH/PEOPLE - HAB. 1:14...1 PET. 1:24

WHALE/PHARACH - EZEK. 32:2

ANIMALS... LAMB/CHRIST - JO.1:29

SHEEP/LORD'S PEOPLE - PSA.23:1...PSA.74:1...PSA.79:13

MATT.15:24...MATT.25:32

GOATS/REJECTED - MATT. 25:32

HORSE/WAR - EKOD.15:1...PROV.21:31...ZECH.10:3

REV.10:3

THE KEY...1 COR.15:46 = FIRST THE NATURAL, THEN THE SPIRITUAL

SEVEN DAYS - CREATION WEEK

First Day Light
ver.1 Psa.104:30 Reviewed face of Earth
Jer.4:23 without form, void, no light
Isa.45:7 formed light & darkness
II Cor.4:6 God commanded light to shine
Symbolic use...Psa.119:130*word

Second Day Firmament - Heavens
ver.6 Rev.10:6 all in them
Psa.19:1 God's handiwork

Third Day Dry Land - Seas
ver.9 Seas - Job 26:7-13 boundaries for seas
Jer.5:22 boundaries for sea
made seas

ver.11 Grass, Herb, Trees Luke 12:20 God clothes grass
Psa.104:14 grass and herb

Fourth Day Sun, Moon, Stars
ver.14 lights in firmament
Psa.104:14 grass and herb

Fifth Day Fish and Fowl
ver.19 Rev.10:6

Sixth Day Beasts - Man
ver.24 Beasts - Man
ver.26 Man = Psa.50:10 God's

Seventh Day REST ** BLESSED
II ver.2,3 Rested Exod.31:17 became Sabbath day (rest, repose, intermission)
I Cor.15:46 Natural explains spiritual.

SYMBOLIC USE OF THINGS CREATED

Birth Jer.4:20 Psa.69:34 Heb.6:7,8 Heavens Dan.4:26 ruling powers
Rev.6:14 powers overthrown Light II Cor.4:6 Light of knowledge of God
Ephes.5:13 John 3:19 Sea Isa.57:20 Jer.6:25 Rev.4:6 Isa.17:12 James 1:10 Tree Isa.57:20 Jer.6:6 man
107:14-16 James 1:10 Waves I Pet.1:24 Isa.40:6 all flesh is grass. Waves Psa.113 Waves Mal.4:2- Christ Waves Church (religious power)
Rev.3:12 Waves Mal.4:2- Christ Waves Church Waves Mal.12:3 Those in Kingdom
rule over nations
Dan.8:3420, 3421, 3422 Waves Mal.4:19 Waves Isa.46:47 Adam symbol of Christ Waves Mal.4:19 Waves Mal.4:11 Remains heat for people

Psa 34:8 "O taste and see that the LORD *is* good: blessed *is* the man *that* trusteth in him"

- **Margin: Reference – 1Pet 2:3; Heb 6:5 (*the Word*)**

1Pet 2:1-3 "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, *desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious*" RSV (FOR, you have...)

Heb 6:1-5 "For *it is* impossible for those who were *once enlightened*, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, *And have tasted the good word of God...*"

- **A most appropriate theme for our studies around the Inspired Word! We place ALL confidence in this alone.**

We accept the Scriptural Truth of our Need for Divine Instruction

2Ti 3:10-17 “Continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works*”

- As is often the case, the priority is listed by order. DOCTRINE is the absolute foundation, with the instructions and perfecting qualities of Divine Truth flowing out of ‘The Truth’ to make us complete in godly works. Note what follows: “reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness...”

We accept the Scriptural Truth that we need Divine Inspection

Joh 3:19-21 “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. *For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God*”

Heb 4:12-13 “*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do”

We accept the Scriptural Truth we have no wisdom of our own

Jer 10:23-24 “O LORD, I know that *the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.* O LORD, CORRECT ME, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing”

Pro 14:12 “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, *but the end thereof are the ways of death*”

The Divine Process of Inspecting the Heart and Affections

Jer 17:9-10 “The heart *is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings*”

- This is the Almighty’s way of scrutinizing the heart—

We MUST ALSO accept the need for Trial to mold our character

Heb 12:3-11 “For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds...ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; *for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?*...Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby” **This process is indispensable for our development**

"Taste and See that Yahweh is Good"

Simple Construction of Psalm 34—

v. 4 Fears

v. 6 Troubles

v. 17 Troubles

v. 19 Afflictions

Trial

v. 4 Sought

v. 6 Cried

v. 15 Cry

v. 17 Cry

Petition

v. 4 Delivered

v. 7 Delivereth

v. 17 Delivereth

v. 19 Delivereth

Salvation

Principal Application—

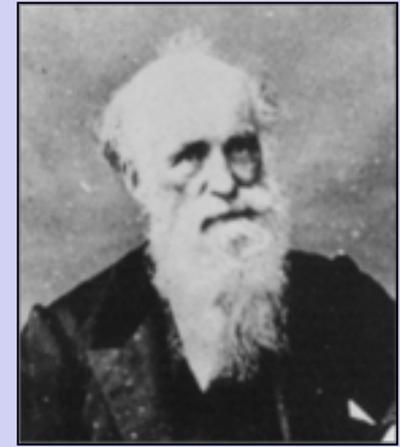
"It is certain that a study of a psalm *without Christ in view* will not bring to light all its meaning"—John Carter, 'Messiah in the Psalms' pg 58

Psalm 34 “In the first place, David was applying to himself...But, of course, *the fullest meaning of these verses comes out only when they are understood as a prophecy of the Lord Jesus, who though he suffered and died on the cross, was, like the Passover lamb, left with his limbs unbroken, ‘that the Scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken’.*” *Psalms Christadelphian Scripture Study Service, pg 419*

“These songs are full of overflowing things pertaining to Christ. They celebrate his sufferings—his resurrection—his exaltation—his heroism—his kingly glory—the splendor of his dominion that is to be—the resurrection of the dead—...All these things and more they set forth to the admiration and inspiration of the diligent student of the sure prophetic word” —John Thomas, Apostasy Unveiled

Messiah In The Psalms—

It is critical that we identify Christ, especially related to this subject



John Thomas quotes the following:

“David’s afflictions are Messiah’s sufferings. David’s penitential supplications are Messiah’s, under the burden of his suffering for the iniquity of man. David’s songs of triumph and thanksgiving are Messiah’s song of triumph and thanksgiving for his victory over sin, and death, and hell. In a word, there is not a page of this book of Psalms, in which the pious reader will not find his saviour, *if he reads with a view of finding him*” —*Psalmody*

Psa 34:19-20 “Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but Yahweh delivereth him out of them all. *He keepeth all his bones not one of them is broken*” *mg. John 19:36*

John 19:30-36 — “When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, *It is finished*: and he bowed his head, and gave up the spirit...when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: ...For these things were done, *that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken*”

- **Psalm 34** relates to the depth of afflictions of the Lord: even unto death, as he hung lifeless on the tree. His closest friends and family had forsaken and denied him. He had *only* the Father. What David experienced was but a type of the sufferings of Messiah in this capacity—

Mar 15:34 “And at the ninth hour *Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying...My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*”

Psa 34:6 This *poor man cried*, and the LORD heard *him*, and saved him out of all his troubles.

Psa 34:15 The eyes of the LORD *are* upon the righteous, and his ears *are open unto their cry*.

Psa 34:17 *The righteous cry*, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

- Only in the deepest throws of affliction and trouble are we compelled to pour out our souls unto Yahweh in prayer. The deepest despair is essential to our character:

Psa 34:18 The LORD *is nigh* unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Psalms are Prayers in Song—

Psa 4:1 “Have mercy upon me, and *hear my prayer*”

Psa 6:9 “The LORD hath heard my supplication; the LORD *will receive my prayer*”

Psa 39:12 “*Hear my prayer*, O LORD, and give ear unto my cry”

Psa 55:1 “*Give ear to my prayer*, O God”

Psa 72:20 “*The prayers of David* the son of Jesse are ended”

- Psalms are also prophecies. Notably: Music is used as a symbol of prophecy (1Chr 25:1-3; Exo 15:20; 1Cor 14:26).

Trial and Prayer are every so closely associated—

Psa 141:2 *“Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice”*

- Prayer is represented by *incense*, which is a key to understanding the purpose of “crying unto Yahweh.”

Rev 5:8 *“And...four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and GOLDEN vials full of odours (mg. incense), which are the prayers of saints.”*

Rev 8:3 *“Another angel came and stood at the altar, having a GOLDEN CENSER; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with *the prayers of all saints upon the GOLDEN ALTAR*”*

Lev 16:12-13 “He shall take a censer full of burning COALS OF FIRE from off the altar before the LORD, *and his hands full of sweet incense BEATEN SMALL...*”

- The elements of the incense to be offered upon the “golden altar” taught the very principle of abasement. “*Thou shalt beat some of it very small*”—Exo 30:36.
Isa 53 “It pleased Yahweh to bruise him”—Isa 53

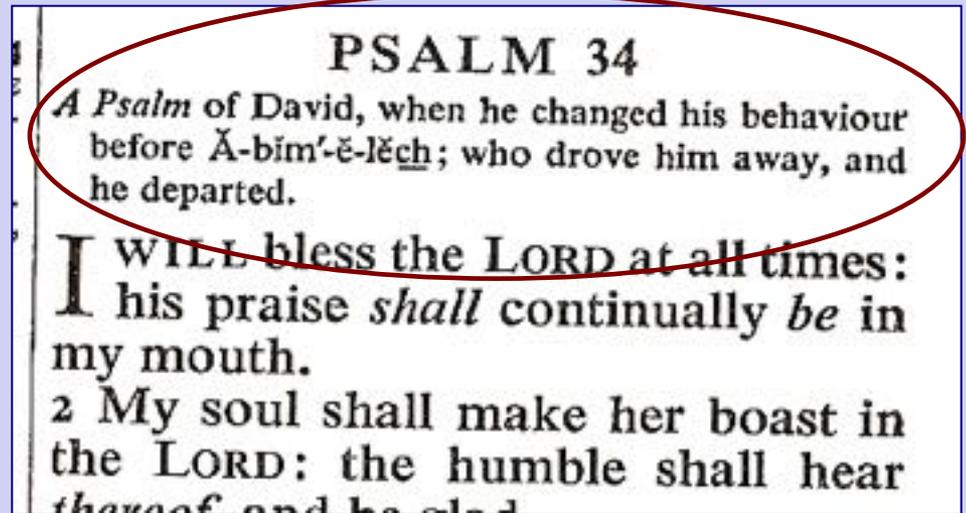
Luk 22:44 “And being in an agony HE PRAYED MORE EARNESTLY: and his sweat was *as it were great drops of blood* falling down to the ground”

- **As the difficulty of crucifixion approached, the Lord’s prayers intensified. Thus, revealing the purpose of trial!**

Psa 34:2 My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: *the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.*

- David experienced great difficulties, and accordingly represented the Messiah at his first advent—a man acquainted with grief and trouble (Mat 9:27)

INSCRIPTION: “A Psalm of David, when he changed his behaviour before Abimelech; who drove him away, and he departed”



The Historic Allegory reveals the context Psalm 34

1Sam 21:1 “Then came David to Nob to Ahimelech the priest: and Ahimelech was afraid at the meeting of David, and said unto him, Why art thou alone, and no man with thee?”

- The account refers David and the few men with him taking of the hallowed bread, contrary to the Law, while being hunted by King Saul. The Lord directly applies this to himself and his disciples—

Mat 12:1-8 “At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat. But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day. *But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him; How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests? ...*”

1 Sam 21:10-15 “David arose, and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath. And the servants of Achish said unto him, Is not this David the king of the land? did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands? And David laid up these words in his heart, and was sore afraid of Achish the king of Gath. *And he changed his behaviour before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scrabbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard.* Then said Achish unto his servants, Lo, ye see the man is mad: wherefore then have ye brought him to me? Have I need of mad men...” **Psalm 34 is borne out of this event**

- **Brought to the point of utter emotional exhaustion—**

This marks a significant change in the life of David. His personal suffering results in his exaltation.

1Sam 22:1-2 “David therefore departed thence, *and escaped to the cave Adullam*: and when HIS BRETHREN AND ALL HIS FATHER’S HOUSE heard it, *they went down thither to him*. And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; AND HE BECAME A CAPTAIN OVER THEM: and there were with him about four hundred”

Both David and Christ are called “mad” (John 10:20; Mark 3:21). *Driven from Israel, seen mad among the Gentiles*. Those who gathered unto David represent the saints seeking the Captain of their Salvation—

Heb 2:9-12

“Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, TO MAKE THE CAPTAIN OF THEIR SALVATION PERFECT THROUGH SUFFERINGS. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the ecclesia will I sing praise unto thee”

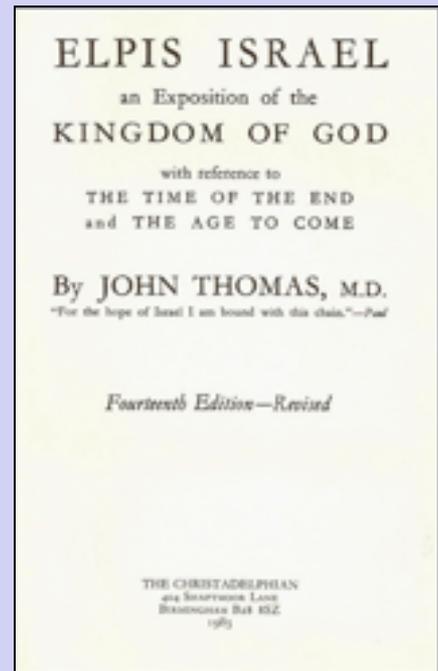
The Lord Jesus Christ, sharing our nature, was made perfect through suffering. By what means?

Heb 5:7-9 “(Jesus) Who *in the days of his flesh*, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from (*out of*) death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, *yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered*; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him”

- Why was it necessary for the Lord to “learn obedience” through “suffering”? BECAUSE he shared our nature: “in the Days of His Flesh.” Thus, the need to be “made perfect.”

The Lord partook of “flesh and blood” (Heb 2:14-18); having the “likeness of sinful flesh” (Rom 8:3); “made of a woman” (Gal 4:4); and made “to be sin for us” (2Cor 5:21).

Elpis Israel, pg. 74 “Man’s first estate is the natural and animal; his second, the spiritual, or incorruptible. To be exalted from the present to the future state and inheritance, ***he must be subject to trial...Probation, then, is the indispensable ordeal to which every man is subjected in the providence of God, before he is accepted as ‘fit for the Master’s use.’*** By these examples, also, it appears that man’s probation is made to bear upon ***the trial of his faith by testing his obedience.*** And untried faith is worth nothing; but a faith that stands the test of trial, ‘is much more precious than gold which perisheth, though it be tried with fire’; because the sustained trial will be ‘found unto praise, and honour, and glory, at the appearance of Jesus Christ.’”



Eureka, Vol. 1 pg. 107 (Deity Manifested in Spirit)

“Another reason why the Word assumed a lower nature than the Elohist was, *that a basis of future perfection might be laid in obedience under trial.* Jesus has been appointed Captain of Salvation in the bringing many sons to glory...(the principles of exaltation) are to be attained only by conquest of self under trial...Its promises are to those who overcome, as their captain has overcome...(that) they may all have attained to it upon the principle of voluntary obedience, motivated by faith, and maintained in opposition to incitements within, and enticements and pressure from without. *The flesh is, therefore, a necessary basis for this...*Perfection of character and substance, then, is the consummation predetermined by the Deity in his manifestation by the spirit in Jesus and his brethren.”

OVERCOMING TRIAL AS REVEALED IN THE CAPTAIN OF SALVATION

Luk 4:1-8 “And Jesus being full of the Holy Spirit returned from Jordan, and *was led by the Spirit into the wilderness*, Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered. And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. *And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God...*”

- In this familiar account, following his baptism Yahweh led His son into the wilderness to be “tempted.” The Lord combated the “temptation” through the same means of his brethren: The Word. Note the quote—

TRIALS INTENDED TO FORCE OUR RELIANCE UPON GOD'S WORD

Deu 8:1-5 “And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, *to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.* And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; *that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.* Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years. Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee”

SAINTS NOT ABANDONED IN TRIAL: PROMISED DIVINE PROTECTION

Mat 4:11 “Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, *angels came and ministered unto him*”

Psa 34:7 “The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them”

- **With Israel—the *ecclesia in the Wilderness*—Yahweh’s angel led them out of Egypt, guarded against Pharaoh’s army, led them on their journey, and went before them into the Land to drive out the inhabitants (Exo 14:19; 23:20; 33:2). Although “out of Egypt,” Israel had to learn holiness through the ordinances, statutes and commandments, as well as trial! 2Tim 3:15-17.**
- **Angels minister to the saints, protecting us and recording our lives (Heb. 1:14; Psa. 91:11; Mat. 18:10; Luke 24:6; Acts 12:15).**

The parable of the Sower provides a lesson of why we must understand trials in relation to our understand of the Word:

Mat 13:20-21 “But he that *received the seed* into stony places, the same is he that *heareth the word*, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet *hath he not root in himself*, but dureth for a while: *for when tribulation or persecution ariseth BECAUSE OF THE WORD, by and by he is offended.*”

- The lack of depth of understanding of the “seed of the Word” (Luke 8:11) causes many to abandon the Truth because of trial, brought about by the very Word they embrace. We must have the wisdom to react maturely:

Psa 119:67-72 “Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word...*It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes*”

TRIALS COME UPON US “IF NEED BE”—FOR OUR DEVELOPMENT

1Pe 1:6-9 “Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, *if need be*, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire*, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: *Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls*”

- The object of trial—*if need be*—is to produce a character of faith. “Fiery trial” is intended to dislodge our confidence on the temporal and drive our focus to the eternal: “even the salvation of our souls.”

TRIALS NOT ALWAYS IN THE FORM OF OUTRIGHT OPPRESSION

Jud 3:1-4 “Now these *are* the nations which the LORD left, *to prove Israel by them, even as many of Israel as had not known all the wars of Canaan...And they were to prove Israel by them, to know whether they would hearken unto the commandments of the LORD, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses*”

- Sometimes there is deliberately no Divine interference

2Ch 32:31 (Hezekiah) “Howbeit in *the business of the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, who sent unto him to enquire of the wonder that was done in the land, God left him, to try him, that he might know all that was in his heart*”

- Trial is not limited to grievous difficulties.

YAHWEH PERMITS ECCLESIAL TRIALS: EVEN DOCTRINAL TROUBLE

1Co 11:18-19 “For first of all, when ye come together in the ecclesia, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it. *For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you*” (ref. Deut 13)

Rev 2:2-4 “I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, *and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.*”

- Saints must “try the spirits” to be sure they are of the Truth; knowing many “false teachers” can spring up from among ourselves. (1John 4:1; Acts 20:29)

YAHWEH PERMITS TRIALS FROM OUR CLOSEST ASSOCIATIONS

Deu 13:6-9 *“If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers; Namely, of the gods of the people which are round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth; Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him: But thou shalt surely kill him; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people”* **Some will change their entire position over this**

SOME TRIALS ARE AFFLICTIONS OF PHYSICAL INFIRMITIES

2Co 12:7-10 “And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, *lest I should be exalted above measure*. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong”

- **When the flesh is abased, Yahweh is exalted (Rev 2:10)**

TRIALS MAY COME UPON US FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS

Php 1:12-14 “But I would ye should understand, brethren, *that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places; And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear*” (2Cor 1:6)

Jas 5:10-11 “Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, *for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.* Behold, we count them happy which endure. *Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy*”

- Trials empty all selfishness and consider others, first.

TRIALS INDUCE CONTENTMENT WITH TEMPORAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Php 4:11-13 “Not that I speak in respect of want: *for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.* I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me*”

- **Trials must not result in our always attempting to improve our temporal standing. The apostle urges us to expect trials as a requisite for entering the Kingdom.**

Act 14:22 “Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God*” (as Israel in the wilderness)

TRIALS WILL NEVER BE IMPOSED BEYOND OUR ABILITY TO ENDURE

1Co 10:11-13 “Now all these things happened unto (Israel) for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, *who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it*”

Exo 13:17 “When Pharaoh had let the people go, that *God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt*” **Exhortation to the Young**

TRIALS INTENDED TO REMOVE ALL SELF RELIANCE

2Co 1:9 “But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, *that we should not trust in ourselves*, but in God which raiseth the dead”

Heb 5:7 “Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears *unto him that was able to save him from death*, and was heard in that he feared”

Pro 3:5-6 “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and *lean not unto thine own understanding*. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths”

- Remember: Abraham would have appointed Ishmael; Isaac—Esau; Samuel—Eliab; and Peter would have forbid Jesus’ death! We have no wisdom of our own!

CAUTION: TRIALS CAN HAVE THE CONVERSE EFFECT

1Pe 2:19-23 “For what glory *is it*, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer *for it*, ye take it patiently, this *is* acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: *Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; BUT COMMITTED HIMSELF TO HIM THAT JUDGETH RIGHTEOUSLY*”

- Trial can result in one of two paths: full trust in Yahweh, or bitterness, guile and reviling. Note Psalm 34—

Psa 34:11 COME, YE CHILDREN, HEARKEN UNTO ME: I WILL TEACH YOU THE FEAR OF THE LORD.

Psa 34:12 What man *is he that* desireth life, and loveth *many* days, that he may see good?

Psa 34:13 *Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.*

Psa 34:14 Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. **Quoted directly 1Pet 3:8-12**

- The “tongue” is the easiest way to sin (Rom 3). Israel’s continual murmuring in the wilderness because of the trials intended to purge them resulted in their death!

1Co 3:13 “Every man's work *shall be made manifest*: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and *the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is*”

Even with the loss of substance, family, health, and friends:

Job 1:20-22 “Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. *In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly*”

Job 2:8-10 “And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes. Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die. But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? *In all this did not Job sin with his lips*” (Job 5:17-22)

BRO. THOMAS' WORDS ON FINDING THE TRUTH



“Thus, after a journey of fourteen years, I had found the Truth, which, on the ocean I declared I would not rest till I had found, should I be permitted again to tread on *terra firma*; but, in all this journey, I had been directed in a course very different from what I would have selected if I had been left to map it out for myself. I had been entangled into preaching and editing, and taking part in distasteful theological controversies, which, however, in their combined influence, brought me to a knowledge of the One Faith, and the obedience which it demands” *Dr. Thomas: His Life and Work, pg 123*

“Pride and ambition, our ancestral sins, were the leading characteristics of our early manhood. These urged us on to ‘high things,’ as we then esteemed them. We sought distinction in politics and science, ‘the mean ambition and pride of men;’ but God in His goodness foiled our schemes, and we found ourselves an alien in a strange land.”—*Dr. Thomas His Life and Work, pg. 124*

Isa 45:9 “Woe unto him *that striveth with his Maker!* Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. *Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?”*

- **Purpose of Trial: to transform us from “the works of the flesh” to “the fruit of the Spirit” 2Pet 1:4-11; Gal 5:19-26**

Rev 3:15-18 “Thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: *I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see*”

“All over the world today, brethren and sisters are abandoning the standards of yesterday of both doctrine and practice and they are doing it for convenience’s sake, because of the pressures that are forcing them into a situation that they themselves do not desire, but from which they cannot extricate themselves”—*H.P. Mansfield*

Psa 139:1-4, 23-24 "O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known *me*. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted *with* all my ways. For *there is* not a word in my tongue, *but*, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether...*Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting*"

- ***What amazing faith: to invite God to try the heart and search the thoughts to purge out any wicked way and develop in us a character toward Life Eternal. Have we the faith to ask the Father for such trial?***