

18 January 2015

Believers are either stirred up by Satan, unbelievers or the Lord (Pt 2 Stir up)

Introduction.

This is our second study on the phrase “stir up” in the Scriptures.

Previous points covered in Pt 1.

1. The teachings of Jesus stir up the heathen, and
2. The word of God stirs up the mind of a believer, and
3. The sight of sin stirs up the spirit of a believer.

Three points are established for this study (Part 2) from the Scriptures.

1. Satan stirs up believers to sin against the Lord, and
2. Unbelievers stir up devout women & men in authority **against** believers, and
3. The Lord stirs up an adversary against His disobedient children.

Our three points in more detail.

1. Satan stirs up believers to sin against the Lord.

Supporting Verse.

1Chr.21: 1 “And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.”

Context and meaning of our verse.

- * Prior to our verse David is king of Israel and has victory in battle over his enemies. Then our verse indicates that Satan stood up against Israel and provoked David to number Israel.
- * The Scriptures indicate that Joab thought the king’s action was an abomination (verse 6), and that “God was displeased with this thing” (verse 7), and so David immediately felt convicted of his iniquity and told God that he had “done very foolishly” (verse 8).
- * We have used this verse because one of the meanings for “stir up” is provoke, and hence we say that Satan stirred up David to sin against the Lord.

Other scriptural support.

- * Acts 17: 5 and 2Sam.24: 1 & 1Sam.1: 6.

Scriptural examples.

- * Judas was a disciple of Jesus yet Scriptures record that Satan entered him (he stirred him up) to betray the Lord of glory (Lk.22: 3 & 4). In the example of Judas however, the devil snared him and Judas was “taken captive at his will” (2Tim.2: 26), and he never got out of the snare, whereas David did.

Application of our verse today.

- * Satan stirs up believers today to sin against God, to provoke them to bridle **not** their tongue (James 1: 26), to speak **not** “alway with grace seasoned with salt” (Col.4: 6), and to edify **not**, and esteem **not** others better than themselves” (Phil.2: 3).
- * Let us remember that David was king of Israel, a man who had a perfect heart before God (1Kg. 15: 3), and yet he was stirred up by Satan, so clearly no one is immune from such attacks.

Illustration.

- * There is a fine line between us opening the door to Satan and being disobedient, and Satan stirring us up to sin against the Lord. The Bible says, that he “that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (Jam.4: 17), where we know the good, but choose what we want.
- * Today, if a believer got stirred up in his heart by the Pope’s false display of love, to the point of desiring to join Rome because of their love, his stirring would be from Satan because Rome is a counterfeit religion.

Learning from our Illustration.

- * Always prove what stirs us up (1Thes.5: 21) and if the outcome of being stirred up is that we abandon truth according to the Scriptures, then what is stirring us up is generated by Satan.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* David was stirred up by Satan to sin against God, and his commander who was under him gave him counsel to stop, but David did that thing which he felt stirred up to do, without proving, without asking the Lord if it was His will.

* Let us all, both leaders in authority, and those who sit under their instruction, **always** submit our feelings, our stirring up within our hearts, to the word of God.

* Let us learn from David's example and when we feel stirred up in our heart to sin, let us stop, prove it is of the devil and sin **not** according to the scriptures of truth.

2. Unbelievers stir up devout women & men in authority **against** believers.

Supporting Verse.

Acts 13:50 "But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts."

Context and meaning of our verse.

* The unbelieving Jews, those who did not believe the preaching, responded by stirring up the devout women (believers) and those in authority (likely to be unbelievers).

* Paul told the Jews that by rejecting Christ, they judge themselves "unworthy of everlasting life" and so he turned to the Gentiles (verse 46), who believed and "were glad" (verse 48), and the Jews who did not believe were distraught, and so they stirred up, they provoked firstly the weaker vessel in the body of Christ, the "devout and honourable woman" and also those chief men of the city to "raise persecution against Paul and Barnabas". Hence, unbelievers stirred up the devout women and men in authority against the believers.

Other scriptural support.

* Acts 14: 2, 17:13, 19: 23 & 21: 27.

Scriptural examples.

* Acts 6:12 & 14: 2 and Jezebel stirred up her husband Ahab (1Kg.21: 25).

Application of our verse today.

* The common factor in both our verse from Acts 13: 50 and the account of Jezebel in 1kg.21: 25 is women who are used to stir up the men. In one account the women are devout and honourable women (believers, who, if married would be in subjection to their husbands – Gen.3: 16), and the second example in 1Kg.21: 25 we have Jezebel who was a worldly, devilish women, who sought to rule over her husband and stir him up to sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the Lord.

Illustration.

* The anti-smacking bill was introduced by a women (Sue Bradford) which stirred up unbelievers on the basis that smacking was the reason young children were dying at the hands of their parents. There was no evidence, and no logic, but Satan stirred her up and she in turn stirred up others in authority to introduce a bill that caused believers of "the Book" to sin against their God.

Learning from our Illustration.

* When we respond to someone that has been stirred up by unbelievers and thinks passionately about smacking children being a reason for young children in homes dying at the hands of their parents, you know any challenge to their beliefs cannot be won by logic or common sense.

* Unbelievers do not feel the need for logic when they stir up, the devout women and men in authority against the believers.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* If our devout women-folk or others in authority are being stirred up in their hearts about what the Christians are doing, let us see the subsequent attack for what it is, an attack on the body of Christ. Remember that **no** attack by minority groups was ever founded on logic, but rather, irrational propaganda on the back of fear, designed to stir up the hearts of non-believers against the believers (no different with Nazi Germany in 1933).

* Let us be ever mindful of the scriptural and historic examples where unbelievers have stirred up the women-folk and those in authority to destroy the body of Christ, and pray for our women folk.

3. The Lord stirs up an adversary against His disobedient children.

Supporting Verse.

* 1Kg.11: 14 “And the Lord stirred up an adversary unto Solomon, Hadad the Edomite: he [was] of the king's seed in Edom.”

Context and meaning of our verse.

* 1Kg.11: 1 “But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh.” Verse 2 “Of the nations which the Lord said unto the children of Israel , Ye shall not go in to them...for surely they will turn your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto them in love.” Verse 3 “and his wives turned away his heart.” Verse 4 “his wives turned away his heart after other gods.” Verse 6 “And Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord”. Verse 9 “And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the Lord”. Verse 10 “but he kept not that which the Lord commanded.” Verse 11 “Forasmuch as this is done of thee...I will surely rend the kingdom from thee”.

* Then we have verse 14 “And the Lord stirred up an adversary unto Solomon”, see also verse 23. It must have taken Solomon years to accumulate 700 wives, and three hundred concubines (verse 3), and over that time he allowed his love for women to turn his heart away from God, and serve their gods. In the face of such wilful disobedience the Lord stirred up adversaries against Solomon.

Other scriptural support.

* 1Chr 5:26, 2Chr 21:16, 36:22, Ezra 1:1, Isa 13:17 and Hag 1:14.

Scriptural examples.

* Is.13: 17 – The Lord stirring up the Medes against Israel.

Application of our verse today.

* When a believer puts anything or anyone ahead of the Lord in their journey they are being disobedient, because at that point, Jesus Christ who is our Saviour is no longer our Lord. If we are so wilfully disobedient then do not be surprised if the Lord stirs up an **adversary** against us, perhaps to chastise us for our sin (“whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth” – Heb.12: 6).

Illustration.

* The nation of England departed from the word of God in 1882 when they abandoned the Authorised Bible for the counterfeit copies whose foundation is the Roman Catholic text.

* When England denied God's word and went to Rome's text the Lord stirred up adversaries that plunged England into consecutive world wars.

Learning from our Illustration.

* How do we know if that which is come upon us is Satan stirring us up to sin against the Lord, unbelievers being stirred up by the work, or if the Lord is stirring up an adversary against us?

* In our illustration the nation that was given the English text of the Authorised Bible abandoned “the Book” for a fraudulent copy of the Scriptures. Hence, they disobeyed God, which is a strong indication that it was the latter, it was the Lord that stirred up the adversaries.

Challenge and or encouragement.

* Be mindful, be vigilant, and sin not that the Lord does not chasten you by stirring up an adversary against you.

* When you go through tribulation discern whether you are being stirred up by Satan, or whether the Lord is stirring up an adversary. You will know by whether or not you are walking worthy of God, or contrary to His word.

* Let us sin not lest we too be disobedient children and the Lord stirs up an adversary against us.

Summary of our three points.

1. Satan stirs up believers to sin against the Lord, and
2. Unbelievers stir up devout women & men in authority **against** believers, and
3. The Lord stirs up an adversary against His disobedient children.