

15 February 2015

Believers are to stir up the Jew to Jealousy (Pt 4 Stir up)

Introduction.

This is our fourth and final study on the topic “stir up” in the Scriptures.

Previous points covered in Pt 3.

1. Hate stirs up strife, and
2. Grievous words stir up anger, and
3. An angry man stirs up strife.

Three points are established for this study (Part 4) from the Scriptures.

1. Stir up thyself O Lord and awake to my judgment, and
2. Hell stirs up the dead for the arrival of Satan and his followers, and
3. The Lord shall stir up jealousy like a man of war.

Our three points in more detail.

1. Stir up thyself O Lord and awake to my judgment.

Supporting Verse.

Ps.35: 23 “Stir up thyself, and awake to my judgment, [even] unto my cause, my God and my Lord.”

Context and meaning of our verse.

- * Verse 1 – “Fight against them that fight against me.”
- * Verse 6 – “Let their way be dark...and let the angel of the Lord persecute them.”
- * Verse 17 – “Lord, how long wilt thou look on? rescue my soul from their destructions”.
- * Verse 22 – “O Lord: keep not silence”.
- * And then our verse “Stir up thyself (within the context it is a reference to God), and awake to my judgment, even unto my cause, my God and my Lord.”
- * Remember that one of the meanings for stir up is “awake”, so David was beseeching the Lord to help him with those that were seeking to persecute him wrongfully, and hence his call to God to “stir up thyself and awake to my judgment, even unto my cause”.

Other scriptural support.

- * Ps.7: 6 & Is.64: 7.

Scriptural examples.

- * “And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God” (Acts 7: 59).

Application of our verse today.

- * Our verse is in the Old Testament, and the Lord Jesus teaches “love your enemies...pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you” (Matt.5: 44), so how can we apply our verse to us today?
- * Turn to 2Thes.1: 6, it says “it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you”, and 2Tim.4: 14 says “Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works.” Based on Paul’s instruction to the church, it would appear that David’s prayer is applicable to us today, where a believer asks God to reward his enemies according to their works.

Illustration.

- * How would you pray for your Christian brothers and sisters if you were kidnapped by ISIS and ended up as one of the 21 Greek Orthodox Christians who were beheaded? Would you be praying as David did, that the Lord would stir up and awake to your cause? Would your brothers and sisters in Christ be asking the Lord to reward your persecutors for their evil?

Learning from our Illustration.

* I think a man calling on God to reward his persecutor for his works when he is trying to kill him would be nothing short of loving him. It is certainly in contrast to the Muslim whose book requires him to kill the infidel, which bears its fruits in those like ISIS who seek to murder believers. Was Paul unloving asking the Lord to reward Alexander (who did him much evil) for his wicked works?

Challenge & or encouragement.

* Let us remember that we are in a spiritual battle, and those that hate the cross of Christ (like ISIS) who seek to kill us in obedience their book and serve the devil, they are blind to their evil.

* May our families remember this, our church brothers and sisters also remember that the only way to have victory is to remain focused on God, to beseech Him for His justice, His judgment, and that **He** would reward those who seek us harm, just as did David and Paul.

2. Hell stirs up the dead for the arrival of Satan & his followers.

Supporting Verse.

Is.14: 9 "Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet [thee] at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, [even] all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations."

Context and meaning of our verse.

* Up until verse 9 the word "thee" applies to Israel as we see in verse 1, 2 & 8, but then in verse 9 the context appears to change because "hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming", and then verse 11 "Thy pomp is brought down to the grave", and verse 12 "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!"

* The "thee" in verse 9 is Satan. It is the devil that will be welcomed into the pit, and hell stirs up the dead waiting for him.

Application of verse today.

* Hell was not created for men, but for the devil and his angels (Matt.25: 41). God doesn't want any man to perish (2Pet.3: 9), that is why He sent His Son to die on the cross. So given that God does not want anyone to perish, and we know that hell eagerly awaits the devil, and his angels, his ministers, then it would seem logical that for those who seek to persecute Christians, who seek to behead them today, they are serving their master the devil, and hell is just as stirred up waiting for them, as it is Satan.

Illustration.

* The world believes it can improve human behaviour through science and knowledge, and they teach our young that we are on a journey of discovery. But according to the Bible, man's behaviour will wax worse and worse (2Tim.3: 13), perhaps because Satan is being stirred up by those already in hell.

Learning from our Illustration.

* Perhaps, just as the angels in heaven **rejoice** every time a sinner repents, so does hell **stir up** the dead in the pit each time a Christ-persecuting heathen dies and descends into the pit of hell.

* Remember we are in a battle, there is Satan and the Lord Jesus Christ, and Satan knows his days are numbered, he knows that those in hell are being stirred up to welcome him to his everlasting home, and he wants to make ineffective as many believers as possible, and maintain the snare over the lost.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* Let us teach our young, preach with passion, and be ever vigilant not to open the door to the devil who is being stirred up by the dead in hell. Our Christian walk will not get any easier as Satan nears the end of his time, he will continue to use all the devices at his disposal. Let us put on the armour of God, know the word of God, and be skilful in its use to defend ourselves and attack the enemy. Because as the days draw closer to Satan going to his long home in hell, the more those already there will be stirred up to welcome him home. Remember, hell stirs up the dead to welcome Satan and his ministers home, so let us remain vigilant and awake to his devices.

3. The Lord shall stir up jealousy like a man of war.

Supporting Verse.

Is.42: 13 "The Lord shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war: he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies."

Context and meaning of our verse.

* Chapter 42: 1 sets the stage for who "He" is in this chapter. It is "my servant", and Matt.12:

17-20 indicates that "my servant" is a reference to the Lord Jesus Christ.

* Verse 6 confirms that it is Christ, where it says "and give thee, for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles (see Lk.2: 32).

* Verse 7 "To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners" – The Lord Jesus did this (Jn.9: 26).

* Verse 13 "Lord shall go forth like a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war...he shall prevail against his enemies." Is it any wonder that Israel thought their Messiah would come to rescue them, to prevail against their enemies.

Other scriptural support.

* Is.10: 26 & Rom.10: 19.

Scriptural examples.

* God went before Israel in the wilderness like a man of war, and Moses said "I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you" (Rom.10: 19).

Application of verse today.

* Gentiles receive salvation today because Israel stumbled, and "through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy" (Rom.11: 11). Hence for believers today, the Lord Jesus Christ was a man of war, who has stirred up Israel by offering salvation through His death, His blood shed on the cross, to the Gentiles. And believers today are the body of Christ on earth, soldiers for Christ, men of war, who, when we preach Christ crucified to the Jew, we provoke him to jealousy, "to emulation them which are my flesh" (verse 14).

Illustration.

* Have you ever watched the movie, Keeping the Faith? It is about a Roman Catholic (RC) priest and a Rabbi who both love the same woman, and their beliefs deny them romance. From this movie and many others the Rabbi is compared with a RC and not a Bible believing Christian. Hence the Jew can never be stirred up or provoked to jealousy by a RC who believes his church's teachings.

* Jews that become Roman Catholics have not converted because the Christian has provoked them to jealousy but because they have been deceived by the devil.

Learning from our Illustration.

* The Lord stirs up the Jew to jealousy by a soldier for Christ who is skilled in the use of the word of righteousness, and able to lead a Jew, not only through the Old Testament Scriptures as Paul did, but also overcome objections from the Jew about the counterfeit church of Rome that has deceived so many into believing she is the church of the living God, whilst slaughtering Jews throughout the centuries.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* Have you ever had the privilege to preach Christ to a Jew? If you went inside a Synagogue on the Sabbath what would you say to the Rabbi? How would you provoke him to jealousy?

Paul took his gospel to the Jew first and then the Gentile, yet today the church focuses their efforts on the Gentiles. Let us pray for the Jew, pray for wisdom to preach Christ to the Jew and so, as men of war, soldiers of Christ stir up jealousy in the Jew, that they would desire our God (their prophesied Messiah), that we might by any "means provoke to emulation them which are of [Paul's] flesh, and might save some of them" (Rom.11: 14).

Summary of our three points.

1. Stir up thyself O Lord and awake to my judgment, and
2. Hell stirs up the dead for the arrival of Satan and his followers, and
3. The Lord shall stir up jealousy like a man of war.