

HANDOUT PART THREE BUT GOD

'BUT GOD MOMENTS" Arrive During Those Seasons of Life when Everything Seems to be Against Us.

1 Samuel 23:7-14 'Day After Day Saul Searched for Him...**BUT GOD** Did NOT Give David Into His Hand.'

The hand of God is often expressed in relation to His Omnipotent Power. Consider the Following Verses that Mention the Hand of God. Isaiah 48:13 Speaks to God's Creative Power...Job 12:9-10 Speaks to Gods Sustaining Power...Psalm 139:10 Speaks to God's Guiding Power...Isaiah 41:10 *I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand*...Psalms 37:23-24 Speaks of God's Upholding Power...John 10:27-29 speaks to God's Saving Power...

- Isa 49:16 God said to the nation of Israel 'Behold, I have graven thee upon the Palms of My Hands.
- In Christ, Your Name is Graven on His Hands, It's Written in His Heart-You Can Know that In Heaven He Stands, and Nothing Can Separate You From His Love and Care.

I've Been Asked, "Since We are All Protected Under the All-Powerful Hand of God...Why Do So Many Difficulties Still Come Our Way?" **ANSWER: The Same Hand that Protects... Also Shapes and Molds Us. He is Protector...But He is Also the MASTER POTTER.** Isaiah 64:8 & Jeremiah 18:6

KEY: Though YOU and I are Under the Protective Hand of God...He Allows Circumstances that Try and Refine Us for Our Good and His Glory! READ JAMES 1: 2-7

If You think that God is there to Smooth Out Every Road, Calm Every Sea, Ease Every Wind and Make Life Easy, I'm Sorry to Report that You Have a Very Limited...Even "Unbiblical" View of God!

We Can't Help But See the Similarities Between David's Day and Our Own. Even the place that David and Christianity had within society seems similar.

- In the early days David was accepted and loved within Saul's kingdom. He had conquered Goliath and Israel prospered because of him.
- He was given a seat with the king and was successful in all that he did 1 Sam 18:2,5
- Then Saul's jealousy & hatred of David grew as an evil spirit afflicted Saul 1 Sam 18:10
- David went from being the Golden Boy and Loved in the Kingdom to Being Despised by a Jealous and Partially Mad King.
- Soon unexpected spears were getting thrown his way (1 Sam 18:11). Before long David and his men are not welcome at all within the kingdom and were driven out.

I Don't Think it's too Much of a Stretch to see that Christianity within Western Society is Much the Same. Western Society was Founded on Judeo-Christian Beliefs.

- The church was a respected, integral part, of society shaping how people thought.
- America Prospered just as they did when David was Honored within Israel.

But Over Time Things Have Changed in America. Proverbial Spears Are Being Directed at Christians and Our Beliefs. Maybe you've noticed the increased antagonism.

- *The Biblical Message of Jesus As the ONLY Way of Salvation is Largely Despised in a Post Truth Society where There is NO Standard of Truth!*
- The Biblical Message of God Ordaining Marriage Between a Man and Woman is Shamed today as... Too Narrow! Too Bigoted! Too Exclusive!
- The Sanctity of Life, Especially for the Unborn, has been Tragically Discarded.
- In Many Countries Hate laws are increasing which often target Christian beliefs.
- Gods Laws that Made Society Strong are Being Removed All in the Name of Being 'Progressive'.

Just as an evil spirit came upon Saul and everything changed within the Kingdom, so there has been a 'Giving Over' 'to the 'Depraved Mind' Mentioned in Rom 1:18-32

Things became difficult for David. 'But God' was with him and He did Not give him into the hands of Saul. God's Hand Was Greater!

- 1 Thess. 1:10 Makes Clear that As Believers We Look to the 'Blessed Hope', the Coming of the Lord Who Rescues Us from the Wrath to Come.
- We see the Signs of the Nearness of Christ's Coming but We do Not know how much Change, Trial and Tribulation there will be Before that Day Arrives.

But Here is What I Do Know...That in Christ, We are Loved, Cared For, and Kept Under the Unseen, Sovereign, and Protective Hand of God...AMEN?!

Whatever changes come upon this world...Do NOT Forget or Take Your Eyes Off the 'But God' Plans for Your Life and the World.

- ***Always look to See, with the Eyes of Faith, the Unseen Hand of God. HE is Your STAY...HE is Your STAFF...HE is Your SUPPORT...HE is Your SUPPLY!!!***

STORY OF JEHOShAPHAT: The Moabites and Ammonites came to wage war against Jehoshaphat. people came and told Jehoshaphat, "A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Dead Sea.

- Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah and all the people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord.
- Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly at the temple of the Lord and Proclaimed Gods Absolute Rule Over All Creation and Sought His Help with the Issue before them.

Then the Spirit of the Lord came on Jahaziel. He said: "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the Lord says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, BUT GOD's. 17 You will NOT have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you, Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you.'"

This is the Best Part of this Story: In Faith They Went into Battle Praising God... Singers Lead the way saying: *"Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever."*

- As they sang and praised the Lord, God Set Ambushes Against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir and they were Defeated.
- The Ammonites & Moabites rose up against Mount Seir to destroy and annihilate them. After they had slaughtered the men from Seir, they destroyed one another.
- When Judah came to the place that overlooks the desert they saw only dead bodies lying on the ground; no one had escaped.
- **NOW THAT IS A BUT GOD MOMENT!**

Like Jehoshaphat...May We Praise God Through Every Trial Knowing He Will Provide!

"LIFE" POINT: EVERY BATTLE I FACE IS NOT MINE...BUT GODS!