

THE INTRODUCTION

In chapter 1, I will be explaining why I chose the curious main title of this book; but, in this Introduction, I want to explain the 'sub-subtitle' . . . *is that even a legitimate phrase?* Of course, the official subtitle is *"Is it Really His Fault?"*, but it's quickly followed by: *"The Evil Side of Creation, Part I."* Officially, *"The Evil Side of Creation,"* which began as a four-part book series, was to start with an upcoming book title, called: *"Satan, The Devil, and Hell,"* and then continue with three other titles on similar subjects (see p.5). However, after the other books were begun, and some of them pretty much finished, I was suddenly inspired to write this book – because of some tough situations that have recently come up in mine and my family's life. While we are struggling, and are trying to hold on to the faith through it all, the thought crossed my mind that there are numerous others out there who are going through dire-straits as well. With that in mind, and while reminding myself by the things written herein, I thought that this might help others, too, who are also struggling, to help keep them from buckling in from the pressure.

Also, keeping in mind what Peter says:

1 Peter 4:12-13

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Or, of what James says:

James 1:2-4

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

And, also of what Paul says:

Romans 8:18

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

But, all that still does not explain the sub-subtitle! Basically, and without getting too deep into it at this point – *for we shall do so in the course of this book* – we are to know that God does sometimes allow us to enter into un-restful situations (trials and tribulations) that are of an evil nature; or – and more to the point of this book's purpose to explain – even *causing* some terrible situations to come into existence for our learning and training; whilst, again – and occasionally – employing evil elements to that end. Hence, *the evil part of creation*, for the Lord's usage, for Him to control it, to adapt it, so that it will help chisel the rough edges away from our lives, making us entire, whole, and complete, to where there is nothing lacking for us.

Even if this thought may seem absurd to most folks, or appear that I am possibly laying evil at the doorstep of the Lord, I assure you that I am not! The scriptures do boldly paint the picture of this before us, as I will certainly make use of them to back up the claims of this book; and, if one is inclined to give me some time herein to explain, then one will see a side of God that they may not have known to exist. *Not an evil side*, but a *corrective* side, in which evil can be utilized to further a circumstance along for our ultimate benefit and learning. *Impossible?* We shall see in the pages that follow...

Chapter 1 *Blaming God!*

Job 2:9-10

Then said his [Job's] 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.

There are several reasons for this book's main title, but none of those reasons paints a negative or bad picture of God. However, I am quite certain that within the following text I will raise a few eyebrows in my considerations and conclusions. But, know this, dear reader, that God is a generous God; God is a kind God; God is love; and God is all the good things that we have come to know and appreciate – *but, God also means business!* Also, and as I have pointed out in my first book, *'Brotherly Love: The Gospel of Jesus Christ,'* God can *hate* as much as he can *love*. Yet, that hatred (as well as His love) is *not* the same thing as fleshly love or hatred. His hatred (as I continued to point out in my first book) directs itself toward the core of the object of Godly hatred (which is nothing more than *fleshly* knowledge, wisdom, and understanding within us), rips out this basis of our evil nature, and makes the object of reform (ourselves) a much better element in the end. In fact, as I plod along in this narrative, one will certainly come to the conclusion that the thesis of this present work is based upon that idea. That is, seeing severe situations that we find ourselves in (no matter how dire they may be – or even *seem* to be) as the fiery trials that God sends us through so that we can be formed (through tough molding and shaping) into that perfect vessel for Him to use in His grand service. And, too, so that we can finally begin to get rid of that aforementioned fleshly knowledge, wisdom, and understanding!

And, to quickly get it out of the way (for I am going to go ahead and get to my point, and not beat around the bush – even though it may seem really strange to some, or even seem *very wrong to others*), I am going to declare, with boldness, that God *can* be blamed for a lot of the things that '*appear*' to go wrong with us in this life; and, not only so, but He will sometimes even use *evil elements* against our flesh for such enterprises . . . Now, before one will allow such a thought to disturb them (*or even for the naysayers to do a victory dance*), I ask for a chance to explain myself; and to assure my readers that not only is all of this a part of God's ultimate plan of salvation, but, too, that this idea *does*

not, and *will not* (in the least *whatsoever* – as will be seen when fully explained), show God in a bad or a negative light . . . Still, and even though my premise will not do Him an injustice – *how can I even declare this at all? Why would I even want to say this?* Of course, this book is going to explain my meaning in as much detail as possible; so, I ask for patience as we delve.

Certainly, with such a thesis as this, we must ask ourselves a simple question: *how much does God intervene in our lives?* Occasionally? Some? Half? Or, a hundred percent? Surely, if one were to answer *occasionally, some*, or even *half*, then my interpretation of scripture on this matter may seem ridiculous. However, I want to assure my readers – *if one were to think otherwise* – that my studies surrounding this subject are based exclusively upon the Written Words of the Christian God (*my usage, thereof, that's located in what has come to be known as the Protestant Bible; of which the most famous edition is the Authorized King James Version*); but, many years ago, before I could even begin to think in this direction at all, God had to really get my attention through obvious situations that had come up in my life. So, with this new thought, I am going to share my story with you – *my introduction into this frame of thinking*.

Even though I have been reading and studying my Bible since I was fifteen years of age (back in A.D. 1986), and even having sat under a gifted ministry from that time forward, God didn't really start opening my eyes in a *stronger* way to His Word until A.D. 1996 (ten years later), after I had a very obvious, personal experience with Him. After which time the scriptures (as I've said) had begun showing themselves to me in a way that they had not before. Just afterwards, within a year or two of this said experience, I observed some very curious things at my, *then*, current job. The morning, that particular day, was unusually terrible. Not that it's strange for a person to have a bad day at work, but this was very different: it seemed as if everyone in the building had aught against me, and were speaking very roughly to me; so much so, that I had thoughts of quitting, without taking time to look for another job first; which is very unlike me – *but this just shows how bad that morning really was*. As was my habit at that time, I took the hour lunch by myself in my pickup truck, reading my Bible, off at another parking lot several blocks away. What I read in God's Word that day – *Nay!*, *but, what God had led me to read* – had changed my thinking about God and this planet from that day forward . . . *So, what did I read?* I read what is to be the main set of scripture for this present Bible study:

Romans 13:1-7

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore *ye* must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very

thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

Now, I fully realize that there are several different interpretations from several different folks out there who will probably view these set of scriptures differently than me, but that particular day they sure took on a different slant than what I had thought previously about them. Especially when I got back to work and noticed that the afternoon was so contrasted from the morning that it was *as far as south is from north!* In other words, all my co-workers and bosses acted as if they were my long lost friends, and we all got along famously for the rest of the day . . . *So, what happened?* And what does that have to do with **Romans 13:1-7**? What was God trying to show me that day? Even though I fully understood at the time, it took many years afterwards for me to justify my thoughts by finding other scripture that backed them. So, here, within this present work, I am going to share with the public at large what I believe God was showing me that day...