

The Fullness of David

Part Eleven

(Post, Amends)

When we have fixed our minds on using examples from Scripture to make a case for ignoring the weight of errors and sins of our life, as we try to bypass accountability; we must be ready to apply the full weight of the example, instead. One of the weights of the examples of Scripture, as they are associated with errors of humans, is the matter of consequence. If we want to apply the examples of Scripture to our lives, we must be ready to accept the consequences that are associated with those examples. Scripture tells us that this is the normal course of events in the Kingdom of God.

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

(Galatians 6:7-8)

When one *soweth to the Spirit*, the consequences are indeed blessed ones. For instance, in the community of Israel, the LORD described a series of blessings that were waiting for the people of that nation when they adhered to the requirements of righteousness.

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.

Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store.

Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

(Deuteronomy 28:1-6)

There is, though, another side of the ledger of accountability for behavior, in the

Kingdom of God: besides the blessings, there are the (I wish I could think of a less threatening word) curses, which arrive in our lives as consequences of our contrary actions in the kingdom of man; consequences (curses) that are, too, of the Kingdom of God. Thus, when one *soweth to his flesh*, their life is pushed to the other side of the ledger, away from blessing. On that side of the ledger are the burdensome recompenses of the LORD for our actions against God's commandments.

To summarize the ledger of our life's possibilities: at opposing sides of the recompenses are the following: *death*, and, *eternal life*.

I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

*For the wages of sin is death;
but the gift of God is eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

(Romans 6:19-23)

Besides death, there is a somewhat lesser recompense that we may receive when we violate the Law of God; regardless of whether we try to justify it, or not. The lesser recompense involves the management of the life of the violator. There are certain sins of the soul that receive the direct intervention of angels of the Kingdom of Heaven. In this category, there is a common expression that is used to describe the activities of the angels; it is said that the human members of this category (generally referred to as, violators) will surely *fall into the hands of the living God*. This is not a pleasant place to be.

For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord.

And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

(Hebrews 10:26-31)

As pertains to our behavior, we do indeed have an option; an option that will prevent the negative *fall into the hands of the living God*, but that, instead, takes us to the place of blessing at which we positively *fall into the hands of the living God*.

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

(Hebrews 10:23-25)

One may ask why God would be involved in the human condition, at all. Isn't there enough for the LORD to do, in managing the physical components of our reality? Doesn't the LORD'S message to the patriarch, Job, indicate that He is the very busy God? What message? This message . . .

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said,

Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.

Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it, And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors, And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?

Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; and caused the dayspring to know his place; That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it?

(Job 38:1-13)

Some of the actions that are contained in those questions to Job are powerful ones, indeed; and there is much more activity that goes on in the universe and in the rest of reality, besides the itemization that is in the book of Job. All the activities of reality-- which includes the universe--are managed by the power of God. This would seem to be a set of activities that would keep the LORD very busy. Moreover, in realizing that we are blessed to have the LORD'S attention to us, there are a few other considerations, besides whether this would keep the LORD busy outside of the human condition. Consider this: all the activity of this, our, reality is only the tip of the tip of the iceberg, so to speak, as a portion of the span of God's glory. There is much additional territory that the LORD God encompasses. Moses told us a little bit about this, the Presence of *the LORD thy God*.

And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?

Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD'S thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.

Only the LORD had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day.

(Deuteronomy 10:12-15)

In a later time than Moses, king Solomon again spoke of the majestic span of the LORD God.

And Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven: And he said, LORD God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart: Who hast kept with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him: thou spakest also with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with thine hand, as it is this day. Therefore now, LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel; so that thy children take heed to their way, that they walk before me as thou hast walked before me.

And now, O God of Israel, let thy word, I pray thee, be verified, which thou spakest unto thy servant David my father.

But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of

heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?

Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant prayeth before thee to day: That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place.

(1 Kings 8:22-29)

Yes, we might indeed think of this as being a full plate; if it was sitting in front of a human, or even if it was assigned to the entire kingdom of man, with all its physical laws and other powers of science. However, the One THAT manages this portfolio of reality is the same One of which the Psalmist wrote.

A Song of degrees.

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

(Psalm 121:1-4)

Still; through all the extra-man activity of the LORD, He finds "time" to intervene in the kingdom of man. Still; in the aftermath of our folly and our missteps, the LORD releases the forces that make amends for our error and that prevent us from falling by our own hand of our destruction. This, too, is a part of the knowledge that is of the fullness of David. It is as David describes it, briefly, in a portion of one of his Psalms.

The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

(Psalm 121:5-8)

Such is the wonder of our relationship with the LORD. By His grace, the LORD shared a portion of God's power over circumstances, as He placed it in a precious and peculiar Creation of the Kingdom of God. This blessed gift has been spread abroad in the earth, and especially, to man. We, mankind, abide as the blessing, now, and not just in it. As of the sixth day of Creation, reality is configured as the Psalmist proclaimed . . .

To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm of David.

O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set

thy glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.

O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

(Psalm 8:1-9)

The dominion that we have been given allows us to behave as images of the Father. Wherefore as the LORD releases the forces that make amends for our error, in the broader landscape of reality; we need to activate the power of being *a little lower than the angels*, in our localized portion of God's reality, in the kingdom of man. When an event has been marked as being an error of ours, and has been posted to our ledger; we need to overlay its forward-moving effects with a powerful medication that we have been empowered to make and use in our dominion. The medicine is this: amends. For, we need to remember that if we do not manufacture, through wisdom, and apply, in humility, the medicine of, amends, then we will stay as a captive in this reserved and burdensome place of further recompense and negative consequence: evil-doer.

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In addition to the wonderful passages of the LORD'S empowerment of man and mankind for dominion, with its opportunity to make amends; there are, too, other passages of Scripture that describe other aspects of the intervention that the LORD accomplishes in the kingdom of man. Among these passages is one from the book of Job; it is a passage that describes what the evil-doer might count as being his dues from the LORD.

*The wicked man travaileth with pain all his days, and the number of years is hidden to the oppressor. A dreadful sound is in his ears: in prosperity the destroyer shall come upon him.*

*He believeth not that he shall return out of darkness, and he is waited for of the sword. He wandereth abroad for bread, saying, Where is it? he knoweth that the day of darkness is ready at his hand. Trouble and anguish shall make him afraid; they shall prevail against him, as a king*

*ready to the battle. For he stretcheth out his hand against God, and strengtheneth himself against the Almighty. He runneth upon him, even on his neck, upon the thick bosses of his bucklers: Because he covereth his face with his fatness, and maketh collops of fat on his flanks.*

*And he dwelleth in desolate cities, and in houses which no man inhabiteth, which are ready to become heaps. He shall not be rich, neither shall his substance continue, neither shall he prolong the perfection thereof upon the earth.*

*He shall not depart out of darkness; the flame shall dry up his branches, and by the breath of his mouth shall he go away.*

*Let not him that is deceived trust in vanity: for vanity shall be his recompense. It shall be accomplished before his time, and his branch shall not be green. He shall shake off his unripe grape as the vine, and shall cast off his flower as the olive. For the congregation of hypocrites shall be desolate, and fire shall consume the tabernacles of bribery.*

*They conceive mischief, and bring forth vanity, and their belly prepareth deceit.*

(Job 15:20-35)

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In addition to the recompense of the evil-doer, there are passages that describe the recompense that falls on the person in the middle. You know; those types of individuals who believe that a white lie is alright. Also, those type of individuals that believe, to borrow a modern expression, “no harm; no foul“. These thoughts are not welcome in the Kingdom of God: we must follow offense, by mending--whether the offense is detected, or not. When contact has been made of a sort that is a variance from the law of God, there is indeed a foul. Wherefore be warned: when we behave in a foul manner, and practice avoidance, then the recompense may be delivered in the following fashion, arriving at any time, without further warning.

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because 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:

(Revelation 3:14-17)



A strong motivational force for making amends is this: even though the LORD surely owes no debt to us, He still shows us, in a Personal way, the great value of amending things after discord has occurred. The LORD involves Himself in a personal way by His intervention in the affairs of earth and its kingdoms. One example of this intervention of the LORD happened in the day of Noah. Once the flood--which was sent for the sake of the earth--had amended the evil that the mass of humanity had produced, Noah received the intervention of the LORD, on behalf of man, for the forward benefit of us all. The beginning of the intervention of the LORD, for the sake of mankind, is contained in a quiet promise of the LORD.

And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him: Every beast, every creeping thing, and every fowl, and whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after their kinds, went forth out of the ark. And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

(Genesis 8:18-22)

In the intervention of Noah's day, the LORD commanded the earth and the elements to put away their potential for total destruction of man. This type of intervention was again visited in the earth when the LORD redeemed the mixed multitude of Israel, as the beginning thunderous sound of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. Then, as the mixed multitude was transformed into the nation of Israel, we received the powerful wisdom that allows us to imitate God's Kingdom, here on earth. At that time, the way was open for us to fulfill this directive of the Son of God, Jesus Christ . . .

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.

Amen.

For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also

forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

(Matthew 6:9-15)

The LORD'S establishment of the reign of David--as one of the first bricks in the fulfillment of the prayer that we call the Lord's Prayer--shows us another aspect of the fullness of David; an aspect that was activated in him by the LORD: measured means. When we start to interact with someone that we have offended, we must not be in a hurry. For instance, we must not try to lavish gifts on a wife that we have defrauded, as a kind of compensation for her delivery of forgiveness. We must be willing to invest time to re-develop a strong relationship. As we pause, take a look at how the LORD invoked measured means to re-develop a strong relationship of the children of Abraham, in Israel, with the land of the promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Please include this, the LORD'S technique of reconciliation, in your portfolio of behaviors: *By little and little.*

Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him.

But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries. For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off.

Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do after their works: but thou shalt utterly overthrow them, and quite break down their images.

And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil.

I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee. And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee.

I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee. By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land.

(Exodus 23:20-30)



-- Next, in The Fulness of David --
Measured Means

