

Bryan Station Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT

MISSIONARY

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

ORGANIZED 1786

VOL. 14, NO. 1
OCTOBER, 1982

"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"

TROUBLES IN ISRAEL

C. D. Cole

"And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?"

And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim." I Kings 18:17, 18.

From the day that Jeroboam had split the kingdom of Israel, matters had grown increasingly worse, each succeeding king a little worse than the former until Ahab reached the throne, of whom it was said that he sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the Lord. Most wicked characters are also strong characters, but Ahab was a weakling. In him we have the weakness of wickedness and the wickedness of weakness. Ahab had a helpmeet in Jezebel, who was as strong as she was wicked. These two did wickedness by the wholesale. When Ahab's nerve failed him, he could go to bed and leave the job to Jezebel. As a rule, women are more tenderhearted and shrink from things that men will do. There are a few exceptions in history. When Ahab's nerve failed him,

Jezebel could plot and cause the death of Naboth.

The opposition of Ahab and Jezebel to God showed itself in their desires and efforts to exterminate the true prophets of God. Elijah thought that they had enjoyed marvelous success, and that he was the only one left. Opposition to God today is manifested in the same manner.

Elijah was sent to Ahab with the message that it would not rain until he said so. Elijah immediately leaves the country and is gone for three years. There was a terrible famine; the land became parched and barren--starvation stares both people and animals in the face. Through all this period of distress, Ahab is in search of the only man who could bring rain, but to no avail. Finally, after three years of distress caused by lack of rain, God commands Elijah to go show himself to Ahab, and he obeys. Now Ahab and Obadiah, the governor of his house, are in search of a little pasture so that they might save the horses and mules alive. Obadiah was one of the remnant--one of the 7,000 whom God had reserved

to Himself, and who had not bowed the knee to Baal. He fears the Lord greatly, and hid 100 of the true prophets in a cave, and fed them with bread and water, when Jezebel was hunting them down like beasts. To succor and support God's preachers is a good way to show that you fear the Lord greatly.

In the search of pasture, Ahab goes in one direction and Obadiah in another. Obadiah meets Elijah and is requested to announce his presence to the King. Obadiah feared that such a message might cost him his life. He was a pious and faithful man, but was fearful and trembling. He was afraid if he told Ahab that Elijah was near, that the Spirit might take Elijah away, and that Ahab would punish him for lying. (Satan can put a lot of difficulties before a man who really wants to do right, but who is fearful). When Elijah assures him that he would face Ahab; he announces the presence of Elijah and Ahab goes forth to meet him. (Business picks up when an Elijah meets an Ahab or Jezebel.) Ahab speaks first and addresses Elijah as the troubler of Israel. Elijah answers in his characteristic

way and with a stern rebuke, says, "I have not troubled Israel; but thou and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord." (The issue was as to who had troubled Israel.) Nobody doubted that there was trouble--plenty of it. Ahab contended that the man who spoke God's word was the troubler; Elijah insisted that the man who had broken God's word was the troubler. This sounds like an allegory from the present days, yea, from this very hour.

1. There is trouble here and everywhere. Churches torn, and others like a graveyard--no life. Members with one foot in the world and the other foot in the church. With their heart in the world, and their name in the church.

2. Who is the troubler? Some will say the preachers who preach the whole truth--preachers who engage in the ministry of rebuke; who beg their people to come out of rival organizations to the body of Christ, with their worshipful master and high priest. God's people have but one Worshipful Master and that is God; they have but one High Priest and that is Jesus Christ. The preachers reply in the words of Elijah, "We have not troubled Israel, but thou hast troubled her by forsaking the word of God." It is not the speakers of God's word, but the breakers of His word who are the troublers. May God pity any who are deceived.

A. Opposers of God's word cause trouble.

B. Worldly members cause trouble.

C. Indifferent members cause trouble. Those who come not to the help of the Lord against the mighty.

D. Secret sinners cause trouble. Achan, who sinned secretly, was called a troubler.

3. The end of the troubler. "Which is not another; but there are some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ." Galatians 1:7. "I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded; but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be." Galatians 5:10. "Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;" II Thessalonians 1:6.

4. The end of the troubled. "And to you who are troubled, rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels," II Thessalonians 1:7. "There the wicked cease from troubling, and there the weary are at rest." Job 3:17.

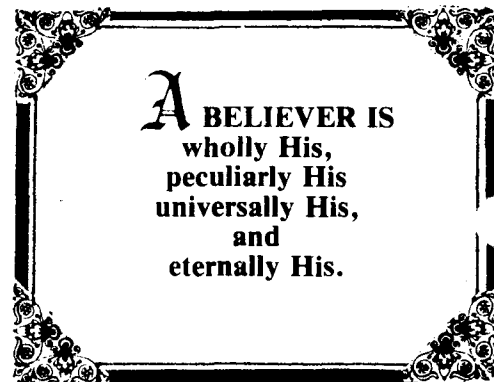
5. What to do in trouble. "Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses." Psalm 107:6. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1.

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after ye have suffered awhile, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you." I Peter

5:7-10. "Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not, but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously;" I Peter 2:23.

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Ephesians 6:10, 11.

"Stand, therefore, having your loins girded about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness, And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, with which ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds; that in this I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak." Ephesians 6:14-20.



A BELIEVER IS
wholly His,
peculiarly His
universally His,
and
eternally His.

DO or DONE

We hear so much about what we must do, that one would think there was nothing that he had done. "Do," "Do," we hear on every hand, and how seldom do we hear "Done."

The story has often been told, and needs to be often retold, of an old Scotch lady who said to the moralist, "Your theory is 'Do,' 'Do,' but my theology is 'Done,' 'Done.'" Thank God that in a world of so many unfinished things, there is one thing finished - the work for our salvation is finished. "It is finished," said He who did it, and no one yet has ever been able to point out an unfinished thing in that redemption work.

The Philippian jailer asked what he should "do to be saved" AND LEARNED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING TO DO, BUT THAT ALL HAS BEEN DONE. Paul did not tell him to weep, to pray, to agonize, to do penance, or to do anything; he simply placed before him the one distinguishing requirement of the gospel: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." (Acts 16:31). The "done" takes away the "do." "Do" means human endeavor; "Done" means Divine accomplishment. "Do" is possible to human attainment, but "Done" spells our DIVINE ATONEMENT! "Do" is possible to man. "Done" is alone possible with God. "Do" satisfies the flesh. "Done" is grasped by faith. "Do" is the exercise of human energy. "Done" is the display of the Divine initiative. Said a good man while praying recently: "O God, we must crucify ourselves." His heart was right, but the conception was contrary to the Cross. In the believer's sanctification, as in the sinner's salvation, the work has been done. It is not to be done again. We are not to be crucified with Christ; we were crucified with Christ.

God does not put His servants in hothouses and rear them delicately, but he exposes them to trial that they may know how to bear it when it comes. The Lord will not screen you from those trials by which faith is strengthened.

C.H. Spurgeon

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We have never charged a subscription for our paper and do not intend to do so. However, if you would like to share in the expense of printing and mailing, we would appreciate that also.

The books and messages of Brother C. D. Cole are being used world-wide; and, we are thankful for the privilege of publishing his works. But, in the day of high cost, we want to be as conservative as possible.

Pastor Al Gormley

MAYBE YOU CAN HELP!

The Bryan Station Baptist Church now has six missionaries out from under its authority--they are listed below. You may have friends or family, saved or lost, who reside near one of these mission works. Put them in touch with each other by informing them of the Lord's work in their area. Or, write the missionary with their address, so that he may contact them. The result could be the salvation of a lost soul or an addition to a mission's membership of a person already saved.

Bobby Aldridge
Caixa Postal 1651
60,000 Fortaleza Ceara
Brazil, S.A.

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Richard Paulin
280 Marion Drive
Mount Dora, FL 32757

If you are a Christian, you can expect folks to criticize, but you ought to live so nobody will believe them.

A Letter From the Devil

I visited your Sunday school last Sunday and I was overjoyed to see that so many of you had not come. I heard some lessons that were not well-prepared, and teachers reported they had made no visits or contacts for the week. They made my heart leap for joy.

I was thrilled, so thrilled, last Sunday when I saw so many people walk away from Sunday school taking with them their wives, husbands, and children from the morning service. I always tremble when they attend the preaching services, because there they get their souls fed, and there is always a possibility that someone will give their heart to the Lord and be saved. It is always helpful to me for members of the Sunday school to dodge their responsibility. It makes me happy to see your pastor upset when so many of you leave your own church services to use your talent somewhere else. It gives me such a good chance to get my Sunday punches in. Then, too, I laughed with glee when I saw how many of you failed to pay your tithes, and give much offering. I like to see you make the minister and the church board (or deacons) squirm and worry about finances. It takes away from the time they could be using to win souls for Christ.

I am writing you this personal letter to beg you to stay away from Sunday school and preaching every Sunday. You know it is more comfortable at home. Besides, when you stay home and fail to tithe and to support the church, it makes my work so much easier.

Hope to have you with me soon.

Sincerely,

Lucifer

Recopied from: Pulpit Helps



"GO YE into all the
WORLD
and preach the gospel"