

ADJUSTMENT BY GOD

In this publication we will talk, with the help of the Holy Spirit, about some aspects of God's justice, according to what His Word teaches us.

So, as we said previously in the publication under the title "The Last Designs of God", based on the sacred scriptures, it was God himself who blinded the eyes and hardened the hearts of the Jews so that they, part of them, would not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the God of glory, the Son of God.

Thus, the unbelief of the Jews is something supernatural.

By human reason and according to the Bible, a book that tells the story of creation, the history of the people of Israel and humanity, in addition to being the Word of God, they would not be able to deny the Lord Jesus, his work and his sacrifice.

From the book of Genesis to the book of the Prophet Malachi, that is, throughout the Old Testament, the Word of God teaches us about the creation and fall of man through sin, and also about the coming, work and sacrifice of Christ. Finally, when Christ himself was among us, he raised the dead, opened the eyes of the blind, cleansed lepers, healed the paralyzed, walked on water, calmed storms, fed multitudes with a few loaves and fish, cast out demons and, after being killed, was expelled from the world of the living, as the Prophet Isaiah said, in a speech transcribed in chapter 53:8 of his Book: "By oppressive judgment he was taken away; and who has considered his seed? For he was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken." He was resurrected.

Some of the miracles, and both the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, are reported by the Apostle Matthew and the Apostle John in their Gospels; these were his disciples, eyewitnesses of the facts; and, according to what Moses taught, as it is written in the Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 19: 15: "One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin that he commits; by the testimony of two or three witnesses a fact shall be established"; that is, the law considers that the testimony of two or more people establishes a fact.

As a result of this severity towards the Israelite people, God, by His grace and mercy, brought salvation to all other peoples; for us, Gentiles, it is enough to simply believe that the Lord Jesus died on the cross as a sacrifice for the sins of all; and, just like Adam, who through his act of eating the forbidden fruit came to know good and evil, opening the door to sin and with it, death, all of his descendants are born with the aptitude, the suitability to sin and, as a consequence of our sins, we die; but, in Jesus Christ, through His death on the cross, His sacrifice, we, who are in Him and are His, achieve salvation, the reconnection of our spirit with the Spirit of God who brings us from death to life the moment we believe (Gospel of the Apostle John 5:24); the resurrection of our soul when we die physically; when we disincarnate, if we remain faithful to God until our death, our soul joins our spirit, which is already connected to the Lord Jesus, and they begin to live in the Lord (first resurrection - Revelation 20: 4 and 5); and, finally, the resurrection of our body when the Lord Jesus returns, thus destroying the last enemy which is death (1 Corinthians 15: 20 to 26).

As John the Baptist testified about Christ: "...: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (Gospel of the Apostle John 1: 29).

In fact, sin entered the world and, along with it, death, when man began to be aware of good and evil and to practice evil consciously, which is sin; however, when we become aware that Jesus Christ was the Lamb of God offered for us, we no longer suffer condemnation and we will no longer die (Epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Romans, chapter 8; 1 and 2).

But someone might ask the following question: I do not kill, I do not steal, I do not commit adultery, I do not interfere in anyone's life, I try to live honestly; so why would I be condemned as a sinner? Answering, as the Apostle Matthew reported in his Gospel, in chapter 5:21, the Lord Jesus taught thus: "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not kill;' and, 'Whoever kills will be subject to judgment.'

But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; and whoever insults his brother will be liable to judgment; and whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to the hell of fire." And continuing in v. 27: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'

But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

In fact, we are imperfect; we can add to what the Lord Jesus said, feelings such as envy, selfishness, greed, pride, hypocrisy, etc.

For reflection, let's ask the following question:

Could God have been unfair to the Israelite people, bringing blindness and hardening upon them and thereby, by grace and mercy, bringing salvation to the rest of humanity? Would God be unfair? Of course not. God is PERFECT, PURE and HOLY.

We men, yes, are imperfect. We can even say that we were created perfect, however, our perfection had limits.

We couldn't, we didn't have the structure to know good and evil.

Next, we will transcribe Psalm 106, which has as its title, "The Grace of God and the Ingratitude of Israel": "Hallelujah! Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever."

Who can tell the mighty acts of the Lord or proclaim his praises?

Blessed are those who keep righteousness, and who practice justice at all times.

Remember me, O Lord, according to your goodness toward your people; visit me with your salvation, that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones, and rejoice in the gladness of your people, and be glad with your inheritance.

We have sinned, like our fathers; we have committed iniquity, we have done evil.

Our fathers in Egypt did not understand your wonders; they did not remember the multitude of your mercies; they rebelled at the sea, the Red Sea.

But he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his power known to them.

He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up; and he made them pass through the depths as through a desert.

He saved them from the hands of those who hated them and redeemed them from the power of the enemy.

The waters covered their oppressors; not one of them escaped.

Then they believed his words and sang his praises.

But they soon forgot his works, and did not wait for his counsel; they gave themselves over to covetousness in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert.

He granted them what they asked for, but made their souls wither away.

They were jealous of Moses in the camp and of Aaron, the saint of the Lord.

The earth opened and swallowed Dathan and covered the group of Abiram.

A fire was kindled against their company; the flame burned up the wicked.

In Horeb they made a calf and worshiped the molten idol.

And so they exchanged the glory of God for the likeness of a bull that eats grass.

They forgot God their Savior, who had done mighty things in Egypt, wonders in the land of Ham, and awesome deeds at the Red Sea.

He would have exterminated them, as he said, if Moses, his chosen one, had not interposed, preventing his wrath from destroying them.

They also despised the pleasant land and did not believe his word; but they grumbled in their tents and did not heed the voice of the Lord.

Then he swore to them with uplifted hand that he would destroy them in the wilderness, and that he would also destroy their descendants among the nations and scatter them throughout the lands.

They also joined themselves to Baal Peor and ate the sacrifices of the dead idols.

Thus by such actions they provoked him to anger, and a plague broke out among them.

Then Phinehas arose and executed judgment, and the plague was stayed.

This was credited to him for righteousness from generation to generation forever.

Then they angered him at the waters of Meribah, and evil happened to Moses because of them, because they rebelled against the Spirit of God, and Moses spoke rashly.

They did not destroy the peoples, as the Lord had commanded them.

But they mingled with the nations and learned their works; they served their idols, which became a snare to them; for they sacrificed their sons and daughters to demons and shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; and the land was defiled with blood.

Thus they defiled themselves with their works and repaid themselves in their deeds.

Therefore the anger of the Lord was kindled against his people, and he abandoned his own inheritance and gave them over to the power of the nations; those who hated them ruled over them.

Their enemies also oppressed them, and they were subdued under their power.

Many times he delivered them, but they provoked him with their counsel, and for their iniquity they were brought low.

Yet he looked upon them in their distress, and heard their cry; he remembered his covenant for them, and had compassion according to the multitude of his mercies.

He also caused them to have compassion on all who had taken them captive.

Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting; and let all the people say, Amen!

Hallelujah!"

For all the sins described in this Psalm, for others that are also reported in the Bible, and still others that are recognized by tradition such as the death of Prophets, we cannot say, in any way, that the Lord God was unjust in blinding the eyes and hardening the hearts of the Jewish people.

In the Book of Exodus, in chapter 32: 30 to 35, Moses' intercession and God's response to him after he came down from the mountain and found the people worshipping the golden calf are described as follows: "The next day Moses said to the people, 'You have sinned a great sin; but now I will go up to the Lord and perhaps I will make atonement for your sin.

Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Now the people have committed a great sin by making for themselves gods of gold.

Now therefore forgive her sin; or else, blot me, I pray thee, out of the book wherein thou hast written.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book.

Now therefore go, and lead the people to the place where I have spoken to you: behold, my angel shall go before thee: and in the day of my visitation I will avenge their sin upon them.

Just as the Israelites, after seeing all the plagues God had cast upon Egypt, after crossing the Red Sea on dry ground, eating the bread of angels that fell from heaven, after seeing the transformation of bitter waters into sweet waters, after seeing and drinking water that flowed from a rock, after eating meat in the desert, after winning a war, decided to make, worship and adore a golden calf, so now, by the work of God, they are unable to believe in Jesus Christ, despite all the works He performed among them, even though they are asked: "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do, and you do not believe Me, believe the works; that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I am in the Father."

(Apostle John, chapter 10: 37 and 38).

However, out of fidelity to the patriarchs, out of fidelity to his servant Abraham, and out of love for Christ himself who said on the cross: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do," God loves and does not abandon the Jewish people; and, in view of the mercy granted to the Gentiles, there will come a day when the Lord God, after the fullness of the Gentiles has come in, will also out of mercy remove from his people the blindness and hardness of their hearts.

We want to make it clear that it is not our intention, in any way, to judge the Jewish people, or anything or anyone.

As the Apostle Paul also taught, "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts; and then each will have praise from God" (1 Corinthians, chapter 4:5).

God did not give us the power to judge. We do not have the capacity or the conditions to do so.

We are all imperfect and flawed.

Our goal is to highlight, based on the Word, God's justice and mercy.

Regarding the Gentiles, there will also be a day when the Lord God, because iniquity will multiply here in this world, will remove the Holy Spirit, as the Apostle Paul wrote in his 2nd Epistle to the Thessalonians, in chapter 2: 1 to 12: "Now we urge you, brothers, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to him, not to be quickly shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

Let no one deceive you by any means, for that day will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits in the temple of God, displaying himself as God.

Do you not remember that, while I was still with you, I used to tell you these things?

And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his season.

For the mystery of lawlessness already works, and waits only for the one who now restrains it to be removed; and then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and destroy with the brightness of his coming.

Now the coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. For this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but delighted in unrighteousness.

So, just as we asked earlier about the Jews, will God be unjust toward the Gentiles by withdrawing the Holy Spirit and allowing Satan, according to his power, to deceive them? Absolutely not; after all, we have done nothing to deserve such salvation that is given to us by grace and mercy from the Lord.

God will send the operation of error upon the Gentiles because they did not receive the love of the truth, did not believe the truth and delighted in unrighteousness (sin).

Let us conclude with the text of the Prophet Daniel which is in his Book, in chapter 8: 3 to 12.

"Then I lifted up my eyes and saw, and, behold, there before the river was a ram that had two horns; and the two horns were tall, one taller than the other; and the taller one came up last.

I saw the ram pushing toward the west, and toward the north, and toward the south; and none of the animals could withstand him, and there was none that could deliver from his power; but he did as he pleased, and so he became great.

As I was watching, behold, a male goat came from the west across the face of the earth, but did not touch the ground. The goat had a prominent horn between its eyes. It went up to the ram that had the two horns, which I had seen by the river, and ran at it with all its might.

I saw him come near the ram, and he was enraged at him, and struck him and broke his two horns, for the ram had no strength to resist him; and the goat threw him to the ground and trampled him underfoot, and there was no one who could rescue the ram from his power.

The goat became very large; and in his strength his great horn was broken, and in its place came up four notable horns toward the four winds of heaven.

And out of one of the horns came forth a little horn, and waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the glorious land.

It grew until it reached the host of heaven; some of the host and of the stars it threw to the ground and trampled on them.

Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host: he took away from him the daily sacrifice, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down.

The army was given to him, with the daily sacrifice, because of transgressions; and he cast down the truth to the ground; and what he did prospered."

In this vision of the Prophet Daniel, I want to highlight two statements: The first is that there was no strength in the ram to resist the goat.

And the second is when it says that "The army was given to him, with the daily sacrifice, because of transgressions;".

LORD JESUS, SON OF DAVID! HAVE MERCY ON US SINNERS.

DO NOT TAKE YOUR HOLY SPIRIT AWAY FROM US.

MAY WE, YOUR CHURCH, CONTINUE TO REFLECT THE IMMENSE BRIGHTNESS OF YOUR LIGHT IN THIS DARK WORLD.

DELIVER US FROM ERROR AND DECEPTION.

RICARDO LINHARES TAMY

Biblical texts extracted from the translation by JOÃO FERREIRA DE ALMEIDA - Revised and Updated.