

An evil spirit from God?

The child was born! That was good news. For the covenant people of Israel, another news just came that the ark of Lord had been taken by the philistines. That was a monumental catastrophe. God has been the stay of the people since the call on Abram to leave his country (Gen 12:1-3) of heathen and journey into the land that God will show him. He obeyed in that call and many others and it was counted to him for righteousness. His children, on the other hand, have not fared well. The husband of the new mother, Phinehas, who had not lived well in the sight of God had just died as predicted in battle, with his brother, Hophni and not only that, the ark of the Lord was taken. On hearing that the ark was taken, Eli, the Priest, the grandfather of the new bay, fell and died at ninety-eight. That means the glory of God, had departed from Israel (I Sam 4:4-22). Now they were exposed to the vagaries of nature and flesh of the uncircumcised and ungodly people. Ichabod! She named the child and died and there was no one to reverse it (Gen 38:18)! That is what happens when people are disobedient.

The bible says clearly that God hides himself from the wicked (Isa 45:15). The wicked man is a man who works after the counsel of his own will. It is god alone, because there is no greater, that works after the counsel of his own will. Those who are wicked are therefore seeking to play God. When wickedness reigns in the life of a man, he has acquired another god in place of the almighty God. That god is the god of this world, who does so well in deceiving men, as in Adam, to death. He also is a spirit and seeking where to dwell. He contends with the spirit of God in man, to exercise dominion over him, in rebellion. His name is the devil.

When a man begins to question the authority of God, or rationalize sin, another spirit has entered into him. Inaccurate response to ungodly query leads to death. Heavenly father, let not the enemy find any opportunity to raise questions in our minds. It is the mind that is cold and idle that entertains such questions (Jos 1:8, Ps 119:11, 104). He did it to Jesus and found no way. Jesus rebuked him, and he departed from him. The angels, who were watching, ministered to Jesus when Satan had departed. So, we ask oh God, that the fire in us will burn brightly and produce so much heat that the enemy of righteous shall not be comfortable therein. Amen.

He was appointed a king when he did not expect it and when there was no antecedent of kingship in the land. But he was helped by the anointing ordered by God. Samuel did it secretly! But Samuel also told him that he should proceed to Gilgal and wait for him (in prayers and fasting?) for seven days and he would need tell him what and how, next, he should do. That apparently did not happen. Saul was not seeing with the eyes of the spirit. He acted after the counsel of is own will. In I Sam 15, the final straw that broke the back of the Carmel occurred when he spared the goats, cows and king of the Amalekites, against God's counsel. The kingdom was taken from him. The bible (I Sam 16:15) says that an evil spirit from God troubled Saul, when the spirit of the Lord departed from him. Lord, this is confusing. An evil spirit from the Lord? God cannot harbor evil!

It dawned on him what the consequences of his foolish act in greed meant. The cover of God, the anointing lifted! He was destitute and had a vacuum within. God's loving kindness departed from Saul (II Sam 7:15). There can be no vacuum in nature. Something had to occupy the space departed by God. Evil spirits settled in, and had a feed day (Matt 12:43-45). Father, do not let your loving kindness depart from us. Amen. He lost the throne. He was disgraced in the presence of the people, having not acted in a kingly manner. In desperation to save his face, he tore Samuel's dress. Saul became vindictive, highly irritable and suffered

fits of morbid melancholy. With the spirit of the Lord departed from him, he became a fertile ground for the devil to exercise his influence. What keeps the devils at bay, is the spirit of God within a man! The devil, by divine permission, troubled Saul. He became demoniac. He needed music to suit his nerves and David, who had been anointed to take his place, was called in.

This shall not be the lot of your children. Father, we give trouble, unlimited to those who trouble us, seeking to bring us to the point where your children shall be naked and exposed to the evil one. Blessed are those who sniff life out of the enemies of righteousness, who had dug holes for your children to fall in. They shall fall into their own holes o God. Good morning Holy spirit. Speak to us clearly. We do not want to see men as trees, we want to see men as men. It is possible even in this day, where iniquity pervades the land.