

God Is In Control

This is called 'God is in control' because He is. Proverbs 16:33 says; 'the lot is cast into the lap but the decision is wholly of the Lord'. In Hebrew it reads; 'even the events that seem accidental are really ordered by Him'.

Genesis 7 and 8 shows us God controlled the rain and the settling of the water after the flood.

In Genesis 11:9; the Lord confused their languages; so He was in essence, controlling their minds.

In Genesis 18:10 & 11 then again in Genesis 21:1 to 3; the Lord controlled Sarah's womb to stop her having a child until God wanted Isaac to be born. Why? We will read about that later.

In Genesis 19:24 God precisely controlled the seismic activity that caused fire and brimstone to rain down on Sodom and Gomorrah.

In Genesis 29:31 and again in Genesis 30:22 & 23; God controlled Rachael's womb to stop her having a child because He could see Leah was despised by Jacob. Eventually the Lord allowed Rachael to have Joseph then Benjamin – then she died.

Exodus 4:11 tells us it is the Lord Himself who causes people to be born deaf, mute or blind.

See in Exodus 7:3; Exodus 9:12; Exodus 10:1; Exodus 10:27 and several other scriptures where the Lord controlled Pharaoh and hardened his heart so he would not let the Hebrews go.

In Exodus 14:21 & 27; God controlled the Red Sea; He parted it then closed it over the Egyptians.

In Exodus 16:14 until Joshua 5:12; God controlled the manna. Manna was angel's food (see Psalm 78:25) the Israelites ate for 40 years as they wandered around in the wilderness.

In Numbers 22:28; God controlled the donkey's mouth and caused the donkey to speak to Balaam in Hebrew. I wonder how the donkey felt about being able to speak like a human instead of braying and I wonder why Balaam was silly enough to argue with the donkey in the first place?

In Joshua 6:20; God controlled the walls of Jericho to make them fall outwards so the Israelites could take the city. Archaeologists have found true evidence that the walls did indeed fall outwards.

God controls the devil completely and actually uses it to bring about God's will in some circumstances. See in Judges 9:23; 1 Samuel 16:14, 16 & 23; 1 Samuel 18:10; 1 Kings 22:20 to 23; 2 Kings 19:7; 2 Chronicles 18:19 to 22 and there are other scriptures besides these where God allowed an evil spirit to deceive, lie, cause havoc, sickness or death; all completely controlled by God.

In Job chapters one and two; we read where the devil had to ask God for permission to destroy Job's family, animals, servants etc and God granted his request but told the evil one not to kill Job. However, Job's ten children were killed.

In Luke 22:31 the evil one asked excessively to 'sift' Peter and the other apostles, but the Lord Jesus said "No", and prayed for them.

In Luke chapter one, we read about the birth of John the Baptist when his parents were elderly. They waited for many years for their son and we will soon see why they had to wait.

Matthew 10:29 says, 'not one sparrow will die without the expressed consent of the Father'.

Matthew continues in 10:30 and tells us God even knows how many hairs are on your head.

In Matthew 1:17 we read something even more remarkable. From Adam to Noah were ten generations. From Noah to Abraham were ten generations. From Abraham to David were fourteen generations. From David to Jesus were fourteen generations. God controlled the ages and births of twenty generations, then He controlled the ages and births of twenty-eight generations to bring about Jesus birth. How incredible is that? It means God would have planned each and every marriage and birth from Adam to Noah to Abraham to David to Jesus, over a few thousand years to make Jesus birth happen at exactly the right time for mankind. That is an amazing thought. That is why God didn't allow Sarah to give birth to Isaac until the appointed day. That is also why Elizabeth had to wait years for the birth of John the Baptist.

In essence; we have the security of knowing full well the Lord God, creator of everything, controls everything, and keeps everything on earth, and in the whole universe, in His absolute, total and complete order. Nothing is done or happens without God knowing about it and giving His permission. He controls His creation absolutely and completely and in every way. Now if He controls all the things we have read about in this text, including at times, even our will and desire, then we have the safety of knowing he is in control of adverse circumstances too. Thank God for the powerful and mighty arm of the Lord. Thank God He is on our side.

We have written this to show you one major thing: whatever troubles you are having or whatever blessings you are enjoying, God knows and is in control. Why do Christians have so many troubles? To purify us by fire that's why. To make us fit for the Kingdom of God. (See Colossians 1:12). Sinners can not enter into His glory so we need to be purged and cleansed of sin; God disciplines whom He loves. Let's see the scriptures that back that up. Do you have troubles? See 2 Timothy 2:3. 'Take your share of the hardship and suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus'.

1 Peter 4:12; 'Beloved, do not be amazed and bewildered at the fiery trial which is taking place to test your faith, as though something strange were befalling you'.

Do troubles purify us? See Titus 2:14; 'Jesus gave Himself on our behalf that He might cleanse us from all iniquity and purify for Himself a people'.

1 Peter 1:6 & 7; 'Though now for a little while, you may be distressed by trials, so that the genuineness of your faith may be tested, which is more precious than gold which is purified by fire'.

Hebrews 12:5 to 12 tells us God punishes, scourges, disciplines, corrects, trains and chastises. Is this fun? No, it is grievous and painful but the scriptures tell us God does it to bring righteousness.

God is in total control. Sometimes terrible things happen to believers, but nothing happens without God allowing it or even doing it - but always for a reason. Romans 8:28 & 30 says, 'Remember that all things (not some things but all things) work together for good, for those who love God and are called according to His will and purpose. And we are being moulded into His likeness, so we are being justified, acquitted, made righteous and glorified'. In other words, you are being made fit for the Kingdom of God. See Colossians 1:12. Isaiah 48:10 says 'Behold I have refined you but not as silver. I have tried you in the furnace of affliction'.

Why? This scripture sums it up. Isaiah 43:4. 'Because you are precious in My sight and honoured and because I love you. Fear not for I am with you'.

God cleanses us and purifies us and unfortunately that is sometimes terribly painful but don't be afraid, because God is in control. He will never leave you nor forsake you (Hebrews 13:5) and we must trust Him in our sorrow as much as in our joyful times.

Amen and God bless you.

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