



TRAGEDY AND HOPE

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Here is another part of the Christmas story that we must look at - though many of us would rather not.

"This child is set for the FALL and rising again of many in Israel" (Luke 2:34).

A part of the Christmas story that is seldom told is the story of the presentation of JESUS to the Lord. On that occasion a prophet named SIMEON gave that prophecy to Mary. The prophecy indicates that the destiny of JESUS was to include a FALL (A TRAGEDY) and also a RISING AGAIN. A peculiar observation is that the process was not only for JESUS, but it would take place in the lives of many (others) in Israel.

It may help a little to know, "A just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again." (Proverbs 24:16).

CHRISTMAS TRAGEDY IN RAMA

What did the infancy of JESUS mean to the mothers of Rama? "In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not" (Matt. 2:18). Some Christmas!

That rotten King Herod had just committed carnage with the bodies of those dead babies two years and under - to try to kill JESUS.

How would you like to sing, "Joy to the world" to those mothers, that day. That's part of the Bible story of Christmas - you know!

TRAGEDY IN EGYPT

GOD said to Pharaoh, "Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, (1) that I might show my power in thee, and (2) that my name might be declared throughout all the earth (Romans 9:17).

On the day after Pharaoh killed all the babies, how would you like to quote those scriptures about him to the mothers of Israel?

I don't think you would get very many listeners and very few takers!

You may have noticed the similarity in the two stories about the birth of JESUS and also about the birth of Moses. A lot of TRAGEDY occurred as a result of both of them.

In both cases, those mothers could NOT have what they wanted. They wanted the joy of an infant child - and they got the TRAGEDY of a murdered baby.

Today, we have discovered through experience, study and maturity - that there are times when

WE CAN NOT HAVE WHAT WE WANT.

CAN NOT HAVE

Our GOD, incarnate in the body of JESUS CHRIST said, "My SOUL troubles me." (John 12:27, Matt. 26:38).

Since GOD had SOUL trouble, it is no wonder that we do.

Our GOD also said, "If it is possible, let this cup pass from me (Matt. 26:39).

Since GOD wanted to avoid a coming TRAGEDY, it is no wonder that we do. In effect, JESUS said, GOD if you can, please change my script I don't want to do what I have to do

JESUS' PLEASURE OR GOD'S PURPOSE?

Some theologians do not believe that JESUS actually said, "Not as I will, but as thou wilt!" (Matt. 26:39). That certainly says that there is a difference between the will of JESUS and the will of GOD. I think that the will of JESUS was to do the will of the Father at first. But in the time of approaching TRAGEDY JESUS' new will was to try for a script change. JESUS had just left the house of Mary and Martha in Bethany to go to Jerusalem for the Passover, the Garden of Gethsemane and then to His arrest and eventual crucifixion. (Matt. 26:6, 36, 27:50).

I think that He knew His script perfectly and that He did not want to complete the final act. He wanted to stay around!

But He also knew that there was a higher purpose in the approaching TRAGEDY. He knew that personal TRAGEDY in His own life would eventually result in a great victory and blessing in the lives of other people. It looks like a contest between His pleasure and GOD'S purpose.

TRAGEDY IN THE SCRIPT

But, the TRAGEDY was already written in the books. It had to be.

JESUS said, "For this cause came I into the world."

Another place is quoted, "Lo, I come to do thy will O GOD, because it is written of me in the volume of the book" (Paraphrased Heb. 10:7).

In other words; It had to be, because the script was already written about the TRAGEDY.

And that means that TRAGEDY in our lives does serve a greater and bigger purpose than just our own lives. That means TRAGEDY has purpose (if we can see it).

JOY IN THE SCRIPT

So the scripture says, "JESUS, who for the JOY that was set BEFORE him endured the cross" (Heb. 12:2).

That means that JESUS knew what was to follow the TRAGEDY. In other words, He knew the script. He knew that JOY was going to take place in the next act.

That doesn't make the TRAGEDY any less hard to take, it gives us strength to go through it. JESUS would not have sweat, as it were, great drops of blood if the TRAGEDY was easy. No. The knowledge of His script gave Him the power to endure the TRAGEDY and get to the other side of it where there was victory and JOY.

DO WE HAVE A SCRIPT, TOO?

But O man, you say to me, "that was easier for JESUS than it is for ME. He knew that He had a script. I don't know if I've got one or not! And if I do, I sure don't know what is on the next page!"

First. Do you have a script? Do you love GOD? Then listen.

"And we know that all things work together

for good to them that love GOD, to them who are the called according to HIS PURPOSE. For whom he did foreknow he also did predestinate" (Romans 8:28-29).

I believe that "predestinate" means that He wrote a script for you - according to HIS PURPOSE - not yours. We cry in TRAGEDY when things are NOT going according to OUR purpose. I did not say that your script is for YOUR purpose - it's for HIS! This is not YOUR life. It is His life (script) that you live.

Do you have a script? "He has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world... Having predestinated us into the adoption..." (Eph. 1:4-5). I'd say that describes a script.

Do you have a script? "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to HIS OWN PURPOSE and grace, which was given us in CHRIST JESUS before the world began" (II Tim. 1:9). I'd say that your script was written before the world began.

Are you still wondering if you have a script? "Thine eyes did see my substance (embryo) yet being unperfect; and IN THY BOOK all my members WERE WRITTEN, when as yet there was none of them, but they were continuously fashioned later" (Paraphrased Psa. 139:16). I'd say that the color of your eyes, hair and skin, and your height and weight were all in your book. YES. You have a script!

Starting to become convinced? "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee, and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee..." (Jeremiah 1:5). Sure, there was a belly or womb. Sure, there was a script that described every part of his mother and father, too.

Yes, my dear precious special friend, you do have a script. There is purpose for your life. It is GOD'S purpose - not yours. And sometimes GOD'S purpose is to include TRAGEDY in the life of one person so that many changes can take place in the lives of many other people - for GOD'S purpose.

CONDEMNATION FOR TRAGEDY

Some people have got a terribly wrong idea about TRAGEDY. Some have told me that whenever TRAGEDY strikes it is because that person has been bad. Some mistakenly believe that TRAGEDY is punishment. Don't you ever believe it. Don't ever let anyone condemn you if TRAGEDY strikes your life. And don't

ever let yourself think that if you would have done something differently, then TRAGEDY would not have come. How often we hear people mistakenly blaming themselves at the funeral of a loved one, "If I only would have stayed home that day instead of going shopping! It must have been my fault for going shopping." I think that kind of self condemnation is dumb. But, I excuse it in a time of grief.

JESUS said that the 18 people who were killed when the tower in Siloam fell on them WERE NOT sinners above other people. (Luke 13:4).

If TRAGEDY appears in the life of someone, it does not necessarily follow that they have been bad. Ask JESUS at Gethsemane if He had been bad!

WHY CAN'T WE REMEMBER?

You say to me, "I'm starting to believe that I do have a script. But, I cannot remember what is on the next page. Would my present walk through TRAGEDY be easier if I knew what was ahead?"

A little. It will be easier in the sense that you will be stronger. (It won't be less, you will be greater.)

The reason that you cannot remember what is in your script is because you are trying to remember with your SOUL (mind) and that part of you was not there when you received the script. You were there in SPIRIT, not SOUL and not BODY. If you have not read my book 1,2,3, SPIRIT, SOUL, BODY, THE THIRD SALVATION, then you really should. All this will make a lot more sense.

TRAGEDY MOVES PEOPLE TO CHANGE

In fact, the scriptures tell us that it was GOD'S plan to include TRAGEDY in the lives of thousands of Israelites on the occasion of the birth of Moses and then bring one TRAGEDY after another in order to bring Israel to the place where they would be willing (the word "WILLING" is associated with SOUL) to leave Egypt (the only place they had known for 450 years) and into a wilderness in search of a promised land. They would not have gone without TRAGEDY to drive them. It had to be.

Some 3500 years later the story repeated itself. This time it was the Jews in Germany. Without the TRAGEDY of WW II they would not have left Germany to reenter the same promised land - establishing the NEW ISRAEL, our GOD'S present time clock, by which we now judge the

events in the fulfillment of prophecy in these last days. It had to be.

Right now, there are people going through tragedy who need to know that some good will come out of it - because people will be motivated to change for the better because of it.

YOUR FUTURE SCRIPT

Second, we address the question of your future in your script - "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning" (Psa. 30:5). In your future, joy is coming.

In other words, when your script contains a time of sorrow, it also must have joy on the next page.

If you believe it, then "for the joy that is set before you" - you will endure the TRAGEDY and look for a better day. If you don't believe it - the TRAGEDY may do you in.

GOD CREATED THE BRINGER OF TRAGEDY, FOR HIS PURPOSE

Our GOD is such a lover and is so good that it is impossible for Him to destroy anything. Lovers create, not destroy. So GOD created a destroyer to remove things that were in the way of His script.

"I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace and create evil: I the Lord do all these things" (Isaiah 45:7).

"I am he, and there is no god with me: I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand" (Deut. 32:39).(Isa. 54:16).

"Shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?" (Amos 3:6).

My GOD is in charge of everything, even the DEVIL. SATAN could not bring TRAGEDY to JOB until our GOD said OK. (Job 1:12, 2:6).

Everything that happens is for the purpose of our GOD and is in the script that He wrote even the TRAGEDY.

Yes, I admit that there are seeming contradictions in the various natures of GOD. But already thousands of people have testified that it is being cleared up now after studying the different NAMES OF GOD.

In our tape series we try to show that YAHWEH (one name for GOD) gave law, judgment, condemnation, punishment and death. But EL ELYON (another name for the same GOD - but a different nature) gives love, light, forgiveness, mercy and life.

VESSELS OF MERCY, PREPARED TO GLORY

"What if God, willing to shew his wrath and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted (made up) for destruction, and that he might make known the riches of his GLORY on the vessels of MERCY, which HE HAD AFORE PREPARED UNTO GLORY" (Romans 9:23).

I submit to you, the fact that all of the hell on earth that you and your forefathers have had to go through, was for our GOD'S purposes. It was to place His GLORY on the manifest Sons of GOD, the vessels afore prepared unto glory. He wrote the script which included TRAGEDY so that He could develop a group of Kings and Priests (Kingdom of Priests) who could rule and reign with Him. Those people will mentally associate with and will learn from every TRAGEDY that has ever been suffered on this earth.

A TRAGIC FALL

Part of the Christmas message is that you must FALL before you can rise again.

"This child is set for the FALL and rising again of many in Israel" (Luke 2:34).

"For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again" (Prov. 24:16).

A RISING AGAIN

The Christmas story tells me that it doesn't matter how bad your TRAGEDY may be - you DO have the prophesy, power and strength to RISE UP again, brush yourself off, and get back to your business of living, loving, laughing and granting mercy and forgiveness.

Yes. "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning" (Psa. 30:5).

TURN MOURNING INTO DANCING

"Thou hast turned my mourning into dancing for me, thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness. To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto thee forever" (Psa. 30:11-12).

When things go bad and you take a fall, through TRAGEDY, it's OK to cry. But you better start HOPING for a better day.

If I could paraphrase Simeon's Christmas prophecy, I would say that in modern English the meaning goes something like this:

Hang in there, baby!

Keep on truckin'!

War is HELL!

Don't give up the ship!

Damn the torpedos! Full speed ahead!

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS MY TWO FRONT TEETH

This Christmas a lot of people are going to get a lot of things that they do want. And there will be some who will not receive what they want. They may even TRAGICALLY exercise FAITH for something that they can never have. Like JESUS, they may even say, "If it's possible, let this cup pass from me." But, if the cup of TRAGEDY is in your script then everyone will be better off when you walk it out.

When you can't have what you want, then want what you can have!

Merry Christmas, Honest!

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