

OASIS: October 2 – 8, 2025: Hard Places



"Then God looked over all He had made, and He saw that it was very good! And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day." (Genesis 1:31 NLT. See also Genesis 2:8-17; 3:1-24; Revelations 12:1-18).

All that God had made were very Good. These included the Land, Sea, the Sky and their contents, and human beings. But since time immemorial human beings have known nothing but **Hardships And Not Pleasantness**. How did this come to be? And what implications does it have for Christian life and living? This is the theme we will be considering in the next few weeks by the grace of God. The key texts are indicated above.

Then God reviewed, (you might want to jump forward from Genesis Chapter One to Chapter Two verses 8-18, to fully appreciate the scope of this review), "ALL" referred to in verse 31 of Genesis Chapter One, which included the Land, Sea, and Sky, filled with myriads of things, which were put under the control of human beings, and the first place of habitation made for the first set of human beings - Adam and Eve his wife, Eden, better called a Paradise for lack of appropriate descriptive words, **and God said that they were Very Good** This Paradise had all sorts of trees that were beautiful and produced delicious fruits for food. It had a river with four (4) branches, not only making the whole place fertile, with controlled temperatures, but also as a source of fish and other creatures for food, and fresh water for drinking, cleaning, and bathing. Furthermore, this paradise had mineral stones without number and description, among other things. Hear, *"The gold of that land is exceptionally pure; aromatic resin and onyx stone are also found there."*¹ This is the habitation of the first couple from whom the rest of human beings descended. The responsibility of Adam, the first man was to care for this place, called the Garden of Eden. To make him able to do this job effectively, he was given a helper - Eve, who was **Made Capable - Helpmeet-** to provide the kind of help Adam required for success. Eve was not just to help physically, but also emotionally and psychologically - companionship, and I believe in every other way Adam will require help. *"Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."*² This is how human beings, whom God made as the climax of His creation began life on earth.

The picture painted above which is not perfect, nonetheless doesn't speak of Hardships or Hard Places. But human beings not only live in Hard Places today, but their life is also Hard and science, technology, medicine, and all the other forms of developments made by human beings, starting from the *Tower of Babel* has changed nothing. Life is Hard! Why? The answer is not far-fetched. As part of the instructions for occupying the Garden of Eden, Obedience was required. *"But the LORD God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the Garden - except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."*³ But what happened sometime after this instruction was given is the history of mankind, **and the reason why pleasant became hardship**.^{4,5} It wouldn't have mattered if time had helped us to correct our ways. **But the truth is that with every generation and development, the level of disobedience and the tact and audacity with which it is done increases.**⁶ **Your life and mine are testimonies to this fact even though there are those of us who live in denial.**⁷ Life has become Hard and will continue to be Harder, until the Creator of the world wind-up the world He has created. **So, the question is not about hardship but how do we successfully navigate this world of Hardship and still be able to return to live amicably with our Maker and the Maker of the world in which we live?**

Have you given thought to this question before, especially in recent times, as from my perspective, the world is getting Harder? Let us consider this question and related ones together in the days and weeks to come.

Have a Blessed, God-Centred, and Victorious Week.

Further & Daily Readings: Genesis 1:26-31; 1,2,3. 2:8-18; 4. 3:1-24; 5. Revelations 12:9,12b-13, 15-18; 6. 6:1-7; Romans 1:18-32; 7. 1Samuel 15:13-23; Jeremiah 17:9-10.

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