

OASIS: October 23 – 29, 2025: Hard Places



"This is what the LORD says: "Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind, who makes the flesh his strength and turns his heart from the LORD." Jeremiah 17:5 (BSB).

The meditations in the last few weeks about Hard Places have clearly pointed to human beings as the reason for the hard Places which they are experiencing. The stage was set however by satan when he engaged Eve in a deceitful and tempting discussion. Eve bought into his lies, disobeyed and rebelled against God, and also made sure that the husband, Adam joined her.¹ Through their actions the world was plunged into darkness of evil, and the redemptive work of Jesus Christ has not generally reversed the situation. But it provided the option and for redemption for those who believe and take the step of faith.² But the majority of people do not accept this option, as they do not believe in the Almighty Creator who has the right to rule the world He has created.³ Instead, most human beings believe in themselves, fellow human beings, and the works of their hands.⁴ In other words, they are their own gods, deciding what is good and bad for themselves. And the result has been utter disaster, which however, they would not admit, but blamed on not having sufficient knowledge, the technology, the right philosophy of living, and more freedom. What is not very apparent is that this thinking that rejects the Almighty God, and puts human being in His place is from satan. He started it when he rebelled against God with the support of 30 percent of the angels.⁵

As we consider the passage for this week together with previous passages, it should become increasingly clear that human being are the architect and builder of their destruction, through the active connivance, or the instigation of, and support of satan the chief of rebels. Human beings seem to be in a vicious cycle of evil and self-destruction. Satan is doing overtime in the hearts and minds of human beings, encouraging, persuading, and even forcing them to self-destroy. Such can only be the explanation for the continuous evils and even the development of more wicked and dangerous means of destruction that human beings are unleashing on themselves. The weapons of war are increasingly developed, oppression and exploitation are on the increase and the abandonment of the masses of the people to suffering and death through hunger, poverty, homelessness, drug addiction, and every other kind of addiction, which are actively supported by governments at every level is the order of the day. Human beings are on the downward spiral of destruction, encouraged, persuaded and nudged on by satan, the chief liar and murderer,⁶ and nothing can hold them back. This was the case thousands or millions of years ago, when God decided that it was necessary to destroy all living things, because their thoughts were continuously evil and even the inclination of their hearts was evil at all times. He did destroy, but left a remnant, which did not take long to return to the way of destruction.⁷

I learnt recently about the pastor in Nigeria who brutally murdered a fellow member of his church to acquire his vehicle. How cruel and scandalous! But the crueller thing is that the pastor is free today, out there still deceiving people, just like satan the greatest murderer is free, out there deceiving and killing people. The Bible said that his time is short, and his anger against the descendants of the Woman – Christians specifically, and human beings generally know no bounds.⁸ The unfortunate thing is that he continuously find recruits from the same people he is out to destroy to join him in the destruction of the children of the Woman. What a cynical contradiction, which allows the perpetuation and perpetration of pain, death, and destruction. But what should

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we expect from the “... *heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.*” With “*every Inclination of the thoughts of his heart was all together evil at all the time.*”⁹ As noted in previous meditations, such a combination – a wicked heart beyond cure, and one with thoughts that are always evil, cannot but produce EVIL; in fact, Quantum evil which can only cause Hard Places!

People say that they believe in retributive justice, which they also call the law of karma. But this is not the invention or discovery of human beings, any law from or of karma. It is the Word of God, copiously found in the pages of His written Revelation to mankind called the Bible. For example you find written in the Scriptures, “***He who sows injustice will reap disaster.***”¹⁰ “***He who digs a pit will fall into it, and he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him.***”¹¹ “***but whoever is perverse in his ways will suddenly fall.***”¹² “***Those who plow iniquity and those who sow trouble reap the same.***”¹³ “***But Israel has rejected good; an enemy will pursue him. For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind.***”¹⁴ “***Sow for yourselves righteousness and reap the fruit of loving devotion.***”¹⁵ “***God is not to be mocked. Whatever a man sows, he will reap in return. The one who sows to please his flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; but the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.***”¹⁶ And many more such passages are found in the Scriptures. Jesus went to great lengths to explain this principle, using agriculture, with which the people of His time were very familiar. So He asked rhetorically, “***Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but bad tree bears bad fruit. So then, by their fruit you will recognize them.***”¹⁷ A heart given to evil at all times, and wicked beyond cure, which sows to please the flesh will of course reap the benefits of the flesh. And the benefits of the flesh are, “***sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery; idolatry and sorcery; hatred, discord, jealousy, and rage; rivalries, divisions, factions, and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.***”¹⁸ These are the known characteristics of modern society which has no place for their Creator the Almighty God.

The cry, therefore, should not be ‘how did we get here, but how do we get out of here? Apostle Paul cried earnestly and found Jesus Christ.¹⁹ Will you truly cry out for the same help? If you do, you too will find Jesus Christ, the deliverer and be delivered. He is your Deliverance, not Technology, Pleasure, Wealth, Sexual Perversions, Drug Addictions, Different Religious Persuasions, and even “Good” Governance, that does not exist. The instruction you is to seek the LORD while He may be found.²⁰ The time is short, and it is running out. Thousands, perhaps, millions die daily bringing to an end the opportunity to make any change. You can make changes only while you still have the breath of God in you. Today you are hearing His voice again though this meditation. DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEART.²¹

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

Further & Daily Readings: Jeremiah 17:1-6; 1. Genesis 3; 2. John 1:12; 1John 2:1-2; 3. Romans 1:18-25; 4. Exodus 32:4-6; 5. Isaiah 14:12-16; Revelations 12; 6. John 8:40-44; 7. Genesis 6:7-8; 9:21, 24- 25; 8. Revelations 12:13, 17; 9. Genesis 6:5; 10. Proverbs 22:8; 11. Proverbs 26: 27; 12. Proverbs 28:18; 13. Job 4:8; 14. Hosea 8:3, 7; 15. Hosea 10:12; 16. Galatians 6:7-8; 17. Matthew 7:16-17, 20; 18. Galatians 5:19-21; 19. Romans 7:15, 23-25; 20. Isaiah 55:6-7; 21. Hebrews 3:7-8.