

# OASIS: October 9 – 15, 2025: Hard Places



**"Now when men began to multiply on the face of the earth and daughters were born to them, ... Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great upon the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was all together evil at all the time. And the LORD regretted that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart."** (Genesis 6:1, 5-6 BSB).

We noted last week that All that God had made that were very Good, became very bad, and that mankind has known nothing but **Hardships And Not Pleasantness**. We also asked the question, How did this come to be? And what implications does it have for Christian life and living? The key text for our meditation for this week point us to how human beings gravitated to this position of Hardship and Hard Places. We also noted last week that the real challenge is not necessarily that there are Hard Places, but rather the penchant of human beings to continue to make things Hard. Therefore, reading that the trouble would seem to have been with the multiplication of human beings, with emphasis on the female gender, and the involvement of fallen angels, one must be reminded of the tragedy of the Garden of Eden. As has been noted in last's weeks meditation also, the woman was made to make life easier and pleasurable, but she was used to crash the world. Is it therefore not an irony that we are again drawn to how they were used again to precipitate the problem of Hard Places, and once more with the active agency (encroachment) of satan? The Almighty God saw, and was greatly disappointed – Grieved in His heart, at what had become the thoughts and consequently, behaviours of the crown of His creation, human beings!

I believe that there are many like me who do not like to be reminded or go back to the incidence of the Garden of Eden, which is often referred to as Paradise Lost. Adam and Eve his wife, the first couple allowed themselves to be deceived to disobey their Creator, an act which God sees more as rebellion than just disobedience, that plunged humanity into the darkness from which it is hard to recover, the rescue work of Jesus Christ notwithstanding.<sup>1</sup> The thought and fact of it is more than a bad dream or nightmare that would not go away. The very good became very bad and evil, beautiful became ashes, and the Masterpiece became dross. God said of His masterpiece that he was made from the dust, and he would return to the dust.<sup>2</sup> Of course we are very familiar with the phrase in funerals and burial ceremonies, "dust to dust, ashes to ashes." As these thoughts come to me while preparing this devotional, I was reminded of a quotation in one of the very famous books written by a Nigerian, Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*, "Turning and turning in the widening gyre The falcon cannot hear the falconer Things fall apart, the center cannot hold; Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world." -W. B. Yeats, "The Second Coming." And then King David's lament over king Saul and Jonathan his son, "Your glory, O Israel, lies slain on your heights. How the mighty have fallen!"<sup>3</sup>

Does the Church that is supposed to be the "Salt and Light" of the world<sup>4</sup> not see this corruption and decay that has become of the beautiful? Why does she go about not only as if it does not matter, but actually have become a major contributor to this decay?<sup>5</sup> Prophet Isaiah wondered also about the behaviour of the Israelites, who despite all the warnings continued in sin. His lament was echoed by Apostle Paul several hundred years later.<sup>6</sup> **There is hardness and hardship all over the place, and the Church has forgotten her mandate, and is deeply involved in the sins which continue to plunge the world into darkness and hard places for people.** Prophet Isaiah again stated clearly that the Israelites are suffering and storing up the anger of God, because though the way of Rest has been made very clear to them, they have chosen their own ways, which will only cause them pain.<sup>7</sup> The same is true in our world, and the **solution is GENUINE REPENTANCE, which is a scarce commodity in the Church today. People confess to salve their conscience, But They Don't Repent**

**Are you making the world a Harder Place or are you an instrument in the Hand of God for a change? Let us consider our ways and Return To The Lord With Sincere Repentance.**<sup>8</sup>

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

**Further & Daily Readings: Genesis 6:1-7; 1. Genesis 3; 1John 2:1-2; 2. Genesis 3:19; 3. Samuel 1:19, 27; 4. Matthew 5:13-16; 5. Jeremiah 8:1-17; 6. Isaiah 65:1-12; Romans 10:18-20; 7. Isaiah 28:1-4, 7-12, 15, 18-20; 8. Hosea 14:1-3.**

*Oasis@HelpMasters Consulting*

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