

WHEN GOD IS STRANDED

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

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Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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God bless you!

Topic:
WHEN GOD IS STRANDED
Bible Text: Ezekiel 22:23-31

Prayer

Heavenly father we thank you once for today as your word is shared, we pray that you open the eyes of our heart so that we understand your word today.. Let the word gain supremacy over our lives to transform us, Lord help us also to not only listen to your word but also to act upon it in Jesus Name we pray!

Introduction

Today's study is a very sensitive one which the Holy Ghost will use to create burdens, deliver territories and prepare a people ready to go forth and shine His glorious light in this end time. This is why we are all encouraged to submit ourselves to the leading of the words of the Spirit of life now. May these words not leave us the same way we are but push us into another dimensions and realms of the Spirit in Jesus Christ's name

Bible Text: Ezekiel 22:23-31

[23] And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

[24] Son of man, say unto her, Thou art the land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation.

[25] There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof.

[26] Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.

[27] Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain.

[28] And her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken.

[29] The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully.

[30] And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

[31] Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD.

One might ask, **what kind of topic is this?** That how can God be stranded? And can God really be stranded? We will look into this carefully.

Study

God is almighty, all-powerful. God is great. God can do all things. But for the fact that He can do all things, He will not do all things—especially when it comes to matters relating to the affairs of men. God has protocols which He has established that must be followed, except for some cases. He has plans, and He has His limitations in some areas. Does this mean that God is limited in scope or operation? No. It is like you choosing not to eat a particular food for a certain period of time. If you abide by what you have chosen to do, does this mean that you have no power to eat that food? No. You simply do, but your decision is what limits you. In the same way, God has placed certain limitations in His affairs in men's matters. In this portion of the scriptures, He lamented over the sins of Jerusalem and then cried out that He sought for a man among them who would stand

in the gap so that He would not destroy the land. And He said that He found none. If we say someone is stranded, it means the person did not receive help when they needed it most. At this point, God had the heart of changing His mind concerning the destruction of Jerusalem, but He got helpless, that He would have no choice but to destroy her. At different times, He sought the help of men in His governing in the midst of men. God cannot come down and do things by Himself, except for when He came to die for the sins of men. It is too great a matter that, if He decides to come into the world to do things by Himself, we would all have to die because there would be no one able to stand His presence.

If He now decides to carry out some duties in the midst of men, He needs a man who would serve as His representative. This was why He cried out, saying, "**Whom shall I send?**" (**Isaiah 6:8**). Why should He make such a statement? Why should He need someone to send? This tells us that God also needs men of cooperation to carry out His purposes on earth. When the Lord Jesus Christ had to come into the world, God had to carefully search for a virgin. Mary was a human being. Why did God pass through her? He could have chosen to evolve from nowhere, but He did not. God had to send Nathan to David. He could have gotten to him physically by Himself. In fact, when He wanted to bring the children of Israel out of Egypt, He had to get Moses to do that for Him.

What then happens if this God, who is so powerful, is left stranded with no help from those who should help Him to establish His plans and purposes on earth? At every point in time, there should be those who would help the Lord. Moses was such a man: "**Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath, lest he should destroy them.**" – **Psalms 106:23**

KJV. But Moses died, and at this point, the Lord was short of men. Not that there was no man in Jerusalem, but that there were no men who could stand before God, making themselves a pillar that would stand between the earth and heaven, saying, "Lord, if You will destroy these people, then You must destroy me too." And the Lord would say, "Never. I would rather not destroy the people because of you." Far be it from Him to destroy the righteous with the unrighteous, for He is a just God: "And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?" – **Genesis 18:23 KJV.** "That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" – **Genesis 18:25 KJV**

Abraham knew God's nature and stood in the gap for Sodom and Gomorrah, but the land was still destroyed because the land did not meet up with the criteria Abraham gave. Sodom and Gomorrah would have been spared if she had met up with the criteria. And because God would not destroy a righteous man with the wicked, He evicted Lot from these cities.

When we say God is stranded, it means:

1. When He no longer has intercessors in the land.
2. When the righteous are getting scarce in the land.
3. When the preachers of truth are becoming absent in the territory.
4. When darkness is defeating the light and there is no one to shine the light.

5. When the gate of hell is prevailing against the church and there is no one to stand in the gap for the church.

From the verses we read, we can see that the Lord started by making what the land was doing clear, which is why He wanted to destroy it. God is a merciful God, and He always wants to repent. He is not quick to destroy men, but He desires change. This is why He would always seek for men to stand in the gap for the people. Looking into the case of Nineveh, God had to send Jonah to Nineveh to stand in the gap for Nineveh before Him, which made Him change His mind about destroying Nineveh. We can see Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed because they chose not to repent, and we can see Nineveh spared because they chose to repent at God's warning, and they obtained mercy.

We must understand that Jerusalem was not short of priests, princes, and prophets. They had many who were still serving in their different offices. But before God, there was still a vacancy. It appears that they were operating and functioning before men, yet they were missing on heavenly radar—because they had left the purposes of heaven and were no longer carrying out the counsels of God. They no longer bore the burdens of God's heart or the cry of heaven. It is a tragic thing for a man to appear dutiful and promising before men, but in heaven, his position is vacant because he has gone out of purpose. These leaders of Israel moved out of purpose, which made their position vacant in the realm of the Spirit.

Then, as far as heaven is concerned, another man is needed to fill that vacant position—so that God would not destroy the land. There are different things that the Lord said were happening in the land, which required someone to stand in the gap for—just the same way it happens in our days:

- Their prophets plot conspiracies, like a roaring lion tearing the prey. This shows that these said prophets are false. They live in the midst of the people, they set traps, and they catch men. **“For among my people are found wicked men: they lay wait, as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch men.” – Jeremiah 5:26 KJV.** The Bible calls them wicked men. They are everywhere today, just as they were in the land of Israel. They devour innocent people—seizing and taking in their greed, treasure, and precious things—extorting wealth from people. When the right messages that could save the souls of men are not preached to them, Instead, they tear their souls to pieces. God looks from heaven and is grieved. Is it not saddening that those who present themselves as God's prophets are the same ones killing His people? Today, you would see thousands of souls sitting in the abattoir of souls—places they call churches.

And these souls get butchered daily and the people do not mind because they have itching ears that cannot hear the truth and they love to have it so. God looks from heaven as He continues to behold the activities of these false prophets—even when they feel He does not see them. If prophets will not make souls better, then they should not kill them. But these have become spiritual carnivorous beasts who do not care, and have taken people as prey. This they do by seizing treasures and extorting wealth in their greed. They devour souls also by being accessories to the shedding of the blood of many innocent persons. And so they have made many to become sorrowful widows—who were once comfortable wives.

These have persecuted to death those who spoke against their wicked acts. The Lord spoke concerning these prophets, saying: **“Thus saith the Lord concerning the prophets that make my people err, that bite with their teeth, and cry, Peace; and he that putteth not into their mouths, they even prepare war against**

him.” – **Micah 3:5 KJV**. From this, we can see that God's lamentation concerning these false prophets remains. **They bite with their teeth**. As voracious beasts, they wound. The teeth they could have used to protect now become instruments of destruction. They lead people astray. Yes, they promise peace to those that give them food. It is all about what they can get. Those who do not give are fought against. They declare war against those who refuse to feed them. This was the state of Israel.

Is the church not also caught up in this predicament?

The Lord then did not exclude what the priests do from being known. He says they have violated His instructions and defiled His holy things. The priests—who should be teachers by office and in charge of sacred things—should have called the false prophets to account, but they did not. In fact, they grew worse than them. It is something to weep about, when those who should lead others towards the right way have become blind and now use sticks to find their way. That was the case with the priests. The Lord says these priests violated His laws, which they should have observed as examples to the people and taught them to observe. They disregarded the law and willfully broke it, like Hophini and Phinehas. Having departed from the way, they caused others to stumble at the law. They did not respect the covenants of the law, which is the covenant of priesthood. As an individual whom God has chosen to lead others in the right way, have you not also become like these priests, are you not worse than those you are leading, think about it.

Ezekiel 22:26 KJV Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.

Your priests have violated my instructions. The Lord laments, and defied my holy things, He cried out. If there are things God does not joke with, they are His commandments and the nature of His holiness. This is why He says, even though heaven and earth will pass away, His word will not pass away. God is holy, and in Him there is no unrighteousness. **Be thou holy**, He commands, **for I am holy**. If these two things really matter so much to Him, then it becomes an error for those whom He has appointed to be bearers of His name before the people to trample upon such things which are of great concern to Him, as if they do not matter.

The priests were the ones that should lead and serve by example, showing the fear of God, but they were void of it. In our world today, the priests can be likened to the pastors, teachers, and those whom the Lord has appointed to lead His people—the Church. It is so saddening that this set of people are not different from those the Lord lamented about in Israel. In fact, they have done worse than these priests. What God desires is that those whom He has chosen to lead His people are to make what is holy known from what is not holy. But today, because of the things of this world that do not count, preachers have hidden the truth, and they no longer make plain those things that gladden the Lord and provoke Him known to the people.

Are you with me please?

Ezekiel 44:23 KJV: *And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.* This means that if you are a preacher or a teacher, and you are not making the difference between what is clean and unclean known, and what is holy from what is unholy known, the Lord is against you. Some are of the

opinion that if they do this, people will run away to another church. I think we must then choose whom we will serve—maybe the Lord or the people—we must choose whose voice we would obey: maybe the voice of God or the voice of the people, like Saul. We should know that if we would not tell the mind of God because we fear them, the Lord will not respect us either, because of how important it is to make what God wants known, from what He does not want plain. He says it in several portions of the scriptures. **Leviticus 10:10 KJV:** *And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean;*

There is a problem where ministers can no longer distinguish between what is holy and sacred from what is not, because even they themselves are confused. How then will they serve the mind of Christ? In fact, it has gotten so worse to the point that preachers are now afraid to say some truths which people believe to be hard. Many say it is wrong to tell people certain truths because it will scare them, and the message of the Lord Jesus Christ has been watered down. One of the major things that qualifies a minister of God as a true servant of God is his ability to differentiate between the clean and unclean, the pure from impure, the sacred from the unsacred—and the boldness to teach it to people without looking at their faces.

After all, the Lord told Jeremiah not to be afraid of their faces. **Jeremiah 1:8 KJV** *Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.* The reason the Lord said this is because He knows that for every truth that is said, there will always be those who will not be happy with it, and they will try to resist it. Therefore, in this case, you need not look at their faces. If you begin to find it hard to tell people their sins because they are wealthy, in authority, or because they are older than you, and God has placed you in a position to preach to them and

teach them the truth, then there is a problem. You should know that you will stand before God to give account of how you have carried out the assignment He gave you. God's true servants are clear on their assignment, no compromise, because men are men and God will always be God. It is expected of you as a man of God, to take your stand on the word of God, no matter who is involved, and the gains attached, so as not to displease the Lord.

Isaiah 58:1 (KJV) – Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

Shew people their sins and their transgressions. That is your major duty as a preacher and a teacher of the gospel. Let those who want to be offended be offended for the truth, so that when they are finally damned for neglecting the truth you told them, they will put all the blame on themselves only. If only the priests in Jerusalem would not hide the truth from its inhabitants, God will not be angry with them too. Man of God, save your own head from God's wrath by making your stand in God known to the people. It is better to offend men to please God than to please men to offend God. No one will plead your cause. You remember the case of Moses as an example. The people made him sin against God and as a result he did not enter the promised land. This really pained Moses that he told them.

Deuteronomy 1:37–38 (KJV) – Also the Lord was angry with me for your sakes, saying, Thou also shalt not go in thither. But Joshua the son of Nun, which standeth before thee, he shall go in thither: encourage him: for he shall cause Israel to inherit it. Better be wise, man of God, if there is anyone you feel should not hear the truth because they are the ones paying your children's school fees, or even feeding you, or supporting your ministry, or they are in positions of authority, and you refuse to make what is holy plain to them from what is unholy, you are playing dice with

your soul. God can send you to hell. Save your soul. Moses begged the Lord to allow him enter the Promised Land, but the Lord said he should not speak of it again in His ears. **Deuteronomy 3:26 (KJV)** – But the Lord was wroth with me for your sakes, and would not hear me: and the Lord said unto me, Let it suffice thee; speak no more unto me of this matter. If you do not tell men the truth, they need to know you are not safe either. The people made Moses sin against God because of their character, and he missed the Promised Land. Thank God he made heaven. If you allow what people will say to stop you from obeying the voice of the Lord— which is to make their sins known to them — you might miss heaven.

This is the time to begin correcting your messages and preach the truth fearlessly, no matter who is involved. Let them get angry and leave. At least, you will save your own soul. **Another complaint the Lord made concerning Israel is that "her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain." Ezekiel 22:27 (KJV).** It is the duty of the leaders who have been placed over the people to serve for the good of those they are over. But the reverse is the case. Yes, these leaders won't protect their subjects, and instead of leaving them the way they met them, they devour them through different means.

Ezekiel 22:6 (KJV) – Behold, the princes of Israel, every one were in thee to their power to shed blood. They have always intended to shed blood—murdering the innocent because of worldly materials. **Isaiah 1:23 (KJV)** – Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them. This verse reveals the nature of the princes' atrocities, which the Lord laments about. If

we look into these attributes carefully, we would certainly find them in the lives of many leaders today.

- **They are rebellious:** Today, how many leaders of the world truly stand for Christ? They rebel against Him in words and in deeds. In fact, some have gotten so rebellious that they enact laws contrary to divine laws, just to show the degree of their rebellion. In this, they set themselves against God.

- **They are companions of thieves:** How many leaders do we have today who go into office and do not take anything that does not belong to them? Not only in the world—this has also crept into the church. Ministers now steal in the church? Those who are to lead others in the way of righteousness now partner with thieves. It is now becoming something to weep about, to see leaders in the church working hand in hand with thieves outside the church to rob the church. Some even lead these sons of Belial to steal church instruments and engines. Such were the leaders of Israel. They were companions of thieves.

Those who were to lift the sword of judgment against unrighteousness—so that all those who are guilty might be brought to book—they themselves have given themselves over to such lifestyles. Who then would do justice?. **Isaiah 1:23 (KJV)** – "Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them."

- **They love bribes:** If we look into our world today, we would see that bribery and corruption are nothing to write home about—most especially in Africa. It has become the order of the day, just like how it was in Israel. You can virtually do nothing tangible today without someone—who should perform their

duties—taking bribes. In fact, every sector of our society suffers because of this.

They follow after rewards: that is, they demand payoffs. The followers take after them and are becoming worse than their leaders. And since they are all the same, there is no one to checkmate the other. God's command is clear: **Exodus 23:8 (KJV)** – "And thou shalt take no gift: for the gift blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous."

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

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Contacts:

+2347067511039

+2349028350180

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Edited & Compiled by

Joanna O. Obalana

Goodness O. Wande-Oloro

Media Team

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