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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

God sent an Evil Spirit
And a
Woman with a Familiar Spirit.
(2013)

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But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

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God sent an Evil Spirit and a Woman with a Familiar Spirit.

Topics.

- God sent an evil spirit.
 - An evil spirit from the LORD torments King Saul.
 - A woman with a familiar spirit calls up Samuel.
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God Sent an Evil Spirit.

Judges 9:23 ----- 23 God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem and the leaders of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech.

Since the Bible says, "God is love," (1 John 4:8, 16) it is very difficult to comprehend God sending an evil spirit. To help understand what this verse means it will help to look at the context it is in. The following is a very brief overview of the story.

- Abimelech went to Shechem and said to them what is better for you, that all seventy sons of my brother Jerubbaal rule over you or that I rule over you?" Shechem gave Abimelech seventy pieces of silver and Abimelech hired men and with their help murdered the seventy sons of his brother Jerubbaal (Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal hid himself and escaped) then all the leaders of Shechem made Abimelech king.

After this murderous event: -

- Jotham proclaims to the people of Shechem fire from King Abimelech will devour the leaders of Shechem because they took part in the murder of the seventy sons of Jerubbaal and fire will come out from the leaders of Shechem and devour King Abimelech because he murdered the sons of Jerubbaal.

This prophecy of Jotham came to pass in the following manner: -

- King Abimelech ruled over Israel three years and God sent an evil spirit between him and the leaders of Shechem, and the leaders of Shechem dealt treacherously with King Abimelech.

God's purpose for this evil (contention) was so that the punishment for the murder of the seventy sons of Jerubbaal would come upon the leaders of Shechem and also upon King Abimelech. The following verses show that later the leaders of Shechem plotted against King Abimelech to destroy him.

- When King Abimelech was told of Shechem plan to destroy him he and his men went to war against Shechem and through many battles destroyed them, but during the final battle a woman threw a millstone on King Abimelech's head and crushed his skull. Abimelech told his young armour-bearer to thrust him through with his sword so that no one would say a woman killed him, the young man thrust him through and King Abimelech died and when the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead they all departed to their homes.

This shows that God returned the evil of Abimelech, which he had committed against his father in killing his seventy brothers and also made all the evil of the men of Shechem return on their heads. Added to this the prophetic words of Jotham were fulfilled: "Fire from King Abimelech devoured the leader of Shechem and fire from the leaders of Shechem devoured King Abimelech."

In this story we see the stunning wonder of Gods ways, wisdom and justice (for the complete story see Judges 9).

The discord of the Shechemites (perhaps from pride and envy) resulted in them dealing treacherously with King Abimelech. This disharmony and conflict was permitted by God and was from God. The evil spirit (of pride, envy, jealousy and contention) brought about God's justice upon King Abimelech and Shechem for the murder of the seventy sons. This justice came about through jealousies, envies, resentments, covetousness, betrayal, lies, deception, treachery and brutal and bloody wars so in this context the evil spirit could be seen as the evil that arise up out of the dark depths of the human heart which in the New Testament is often personified as the devil.

Paul wrote: -

- The works of the flesh are enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, and things like these (Ga. 1 5:19).

Mathew and Mark wrote: -

- For out of the heart come evil thoughts murder and false witness (Matt. 15:19) (Mark 7:21).

It becomes very clear to whoever reads the story concerning the violent murder of Jerubbaals' seventy sons that all of these evils brought about the murder of the seventy sons and brought about God's justice upon Abimelech and Shechem especially when we consider that the verse states: "God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem (Judges 9:23).

James tells us: -

- That it is from our own passions that war within that we quarrel, fight and murder because we covet things we do not have.

It could be said that the evil spirit was the envious and jealous spirit of Shechem that brought about the treacherously and division between his people and King Abimelech.

The statement, God sent and evil spirit could simply mean: -

- God permitted hatred, suspicions, jealousies and ill will toward one another.
- God allowed the seeds of discord and contention to be sown among them.
- God permitted factions; and these factions produced insurrections, civil contentions and slaughter.
- God gave them up to their own hearts' lusts, to think evil of one another which grew into jealous rage and revenge.

It is certain Abimelech and Shechems' own lusts were evil spirit devils in men's own hearts from which come fights and wars (James 4:1). It would be right and proper to say that it is to these evils that God gave them up or that God sent (permitted) these evil spirits between them. God permitted jealousy, distrust, secret disaffection, rebellion and tyranny between Abimelech and the men of Shechem and used this evil discord to punish the wickedness of the Shechemites and the vicious crimes of Abimelech the royal murderer and usurper of the king's throne.

God allowed this evil amongst king Abimelech and the Shechemites, because they consented with the king in shedding innocent blood, therefore God brilliantly used the evil in their own hearts to destroy each other. Sooner or later God will bring justice upon those who murder the innocent.

Sin results in punishment and though God is not the author of sin, He is the author of justice and punishment. Abimelech and the Shechemites cruelly murdered the seventy sons of Jerubbaal and so it is only just that God used the evil of their own hearts to bring punishment upon the Shechemites because they approved and aided Abimelech in the bloody murder of the seventy sons of Jerubbaal and agreed make him king after he had murdered them.

NOTICE: Abimelech paid one piece of silver for the murder of each of Jerubbaal's sons this is evil manifested in its highest form rising up from the depths of darkness of Abimelech's own wicked and corrupt heart.

An Evil Spirit from the LORD Torments King Saul.

An introduction to the story: the LORD told Samuel that he had rejected Saul from being king over Israel because Saul had turned back from following the LORD and his commandments (1 Sam. 15:10-11). The LORD then instructs Samuel to go to the house of Jesse because he has chosen David to be king. Samuel says, "LORD Saul will kill me if I do such a thing and he hears of it." God shows Samuel what to do and he goes and anoints David. The following verses show that immediately after this event the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David and from that day forward the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul (1 Sam 16:1-14).

1 Samuel 16:14-16 --- ¹⁴the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him. ¹⁵And Saul's servants said to him, "Behold now, an evil spirit from God is tormenting you. ¹⁶Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre, and when the evil spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well."

Later David was brought to King Saul to play the harp: -

- And whenever the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him (1 Samuel 16:23).

Saul was extremely jealous of David, so the Spirit of God departed from Saul and therefore he was troubled by fear which means he would have lost the peace he would have had when he had the Spirit of God upon him. The word evil comes from the Hebrew word (ra) and from Strong's Concordance refers to anything that gives pain, causes harm or hurt (physical, mental or spiritual) and to anything that is bad of its kind (i.e., salty land, toxic water, storming weather etc.) and embraces such things as unhappiness, misery and stress. In relation to people it refers to a person who is vicious, spiteful, malicious, brutal, nasty, cruel, hurtful, mean, violent and sadistic in disposition and wicked ethically.

The word troubled comes from the Hebrew word (baath) and from Strong's Concordance it means to be afraid, terrified, affrighted, dismayed, startled or overtaken by terror in the context of Saul having a troubled spirit from the LORD it carries the idea of Saul being full of anxiety, jealousy, anger, aggression and violence as opposed to being peaceful and calm.

Consider for a moment: God is love and the fruits of the Spirit are love, compassion, grace, kindness, mercy, patience, self-control, forgiveness and desiring the best for others and rejoicing with them when they do well even when they maybe promoted above us or are having far greater success. Saul was fully jealous of David being favoured by the people and by God so naturally God's Spirit departed and of course Saul is flooded with the fruits of the flesh (i.e., anger and wrath and the aggressive desire to inflict harm on David who Saul greatly envied and was extremely jealous of).

The evil Spirit: in this context refers to the evil spirit of violence, anger and aggression that came upon Saul. It appears that when Saul saw that God was removing the royal throne of Israel from him and giving it to David, his mind became extremely jealous and he grew in anger toward David (God's chosen King) as a result of this jealousy anger and his previous rebellion toward God (1 Sam. 15:10-11) not only did God's Spirit leave Saul, but his mind grew fretful, irritable spiteful, discontented and suspicious and as a result he became foolish and fearful and losing all courage he fell into a deep melancholy (depression).

NOTE: even after Saul conceived an enmity toward David no one else could bring peace to his mind which most likely added even further aggravation to his troubled mind and his fits of rage toward David (1 Sam. 19:9).

- Then a harmful spirit (the evil spirit in KJV) from the LORD came upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing the lyre (1 Sam 19:9).

There is a universal expression that states: "What God does not fill evil will." Clearly this is a true statement in the case of Saul. Here we see that after God withdraw his Spirit from Saul because of his rebellion and disdain toward David, Saul's murderous thoughts of evil to the extreme have filled the void of darkness in his heart and mind. Evil can be seen as the absence of God like darkness is an absence of light, the greater the light the less the darkness, darkness can only exist in the absence of light in the same way cold is the absence of heat the greater the heat the less the cold so it could be said that the evil spirit came upon Saul because of the absence of God's good Spirit.

The soothing power of music: there is no-doubt certain modes of music have a natural tendency to either, exhilarate and excite the mind or to sooth, calm and sedate a disturbed and troubled mind. Hollywood movie makers are fully aware of this truth and very skilfully use music to enhance the drama and suspense of a movie or to enhance the joy and happiness of the story. Public speakers and skilful orators (secular and religious) use mood shifting music to influence the minds of their audience and sway them to a particular way of thinking. Obviously this influencing effect of music does not have the same effect on everyone some are far more influenced by it than others.

David: after being anointed by Samuel was later called to become a physician to Saul by playing music on his harp to make him merry and so bring calm and tranquillity to his mind to help him against some form of mental disorder which no one else could help him with (no doubt this is also God's doing). Though only David's instrumental music with his harp is mentioned it is possible that he added vocal music to his playing and sang hymns and songs of praise.

The expression, the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul carries the same idea as the following: -

- The spirit of prophecy departed from the prophet.
- The spirit of wisdom departed from the wise.
- The spirit of courage departed from the brave.

The Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul and an evil spirit from the LORD came upon him and filled him with fear and anguish and an inward feeling of depression which grew into melancholy, and occasionally broke out in passing fits of insanity. This evil spirit not only deprived Saul of his peace of mind, but stirred up the feelings, ideas, imaginations and thoughts to such an extent that at times it drove him into madness and violent fits of rage. The loss of Saul's throne, the extinction of his royal house, the loss of the LORD'S Spirit and the exaltation of David by God and by the people drove Saul to such jealousy that he became, irritable, vindictive, and subjected to fits of morbid melancholy.

The Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul carries the idea that God took away Saul's: -

- Judgment, wisdom, good sense, caution and courage.
- All other gifts that qualified Saul for his kingship.

When people grieve and quench the Spirit of God by conscious deliberate and wilful sin the Spirit will not always strive, but depart, the consequence of this for Saul was that an evil spirit from God troubled him. Those that drive the good spirit away of course become prey to the evil spirit.

An evil spirit from the LORD carries the idea that it is by God permission, that Saul was delivered up to be troubled by unruly and tormenting passions; as envy, despair, rage and fear and from these he grew suspicious, fretful, irritable, discontented and paranoid. How much better it would have been if Saul had honestly humbled himself before the LORD in true repentance before God and turned away from his rebellion toward the LORD and his sinful attitudes toward

David. Though he would not have retained the royal throne the Spirit of God would have returned to him and he would have regained mental relief and peace of mind.

NOTE: if this evil spirit was a literal evil demonic spiritual creature with an evil conscious mind (as much of traditional Christianity believes them to be) it is certain music no matter how beautiful would not calm it down from its evil purposes. For further information concerning evil spirits see the title: -

- Demon and the title, Devil.

In Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

A Woman with a Familiar Spirit calls up Samuel.

1 Samuel 28:7 ----- 7 Then Saul said to his servants, "Seek out for me a woman who is a medium (has a familiar spirit in KJV) that I may go to her and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "Behold, there is a medium at En-dor" (a woman that has a familiar spirit in KJV).

The word, familiar comes from the Hebrew word (owb) and from Strong's Concordance means necromancer (i.e., one who evokes the dead). It also carries the idea of inspiration (i.e., the inspiration of God or man's own opinion). The Spirit in this context carries the idea of spiritual impostors and deceivers. The woman with the familiar Spirit could be referred to: -

- A performer like ventriloquist who makes something appear to speak in that she spoke out of her belly or seemed to do so.
- A woman who had the spirit of necromancy or divination and by it appears to bring up a dead person who foretells the future.
- A woman with a conjuring spirit by which the dead are supposedly conjured up for the purpose of making inquiry concerning the future.

The following verses show that calling up the dead or presuming to do so was expressly forbidden by the law.

- There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination, tells fortunes, interprets omens or a sorcerer, a charmer, a medium, a wizard or a necromancer (Deut. 18:10-11).
- When they say to you, "Inquire of the mediums and the necromancer who chirp and mutter," should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living? (Isaiah 8:19).

Saul instead of searching his own heart and recognising his own sin attempts to obtain a revelation of the future in the most ungodly ways. Is it any wonder God withdrew his Spirit from Saul. Here is manifested Saul's total lack of heartfelt integrity and faith toward the LORD. Instead of searching his own heart and humbling himself before God in honest repentance he in total defiance of God seeks out a woman who earns her living from a practise that was expressly forbidden by God (Deut. 18:11).

In an attempt to gain knowledge or help when it cannot be found from the LORD Saul seeks out a woman who had the reputation amongst the people of possessing the forbidden powers and who was acting completely against God's will to conjure up from the dead Samuel who had anointed Saul to the kingdom and had formerly been his faithful friend and counsellor. To add to Saul's great sin he was fully aware that what this woman practised was an abomination to the LORD. We know this because he had previously commanded his soldiers to put all the mediums and the necromancers out of the land of Israel (1 Sam 28:3).

The appearance of Samuel: the woman thought she was seeing a god coming up out of the earth appearing as an old man wrapped in a robe, she did not know it was Samuel except by the fact Saul had told her to call up Samuel.

Saul did not see the appearance or apparition of the old man wrapped in a robe, but had to ask the woman what his appearance looked like and trust in her words. Once Saul believed the woman was seeing and talking with Samuel he bowed his face in reverence. It is possible the woman had Saul remain in another room, but it is more likely that this is a vision the woman is seeing in her mind, as many clairvoyants see today or a vision outside of her mind (much like a hologram) that only she can see (these are common types of biblical visions). Paul on the road to Damascus saw Christ, but the following verses show that the men with him didn't.

- As Paul went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him and falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting, rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one (Acts 9:3-7).

Biblical visions: can relate to a spectacle gazed at by the eyes or a movie played out in the mind. In most cases God gives the picture or vision then the prophet speaks or writes it in their own words. Sometimes the same biblical event or experience is spoken of as an actual and real event, while at other times the same event maybe recorded as a vision (an image or mental experience within the mind).

A biblical vision is always under God's control and can appear as a movie played out on the screen of the imagination of the mind (similar to a dream) or it may appear as a hologram appearing in the air that is actually seen by the eyes of the prophet or to whoever God chooses to give the vision to. The vision communicates the LORD'S will or future events to the prophet who then proceeds to tell the vision to the people, sometimes in their own words and at other times in the exact words the LORD has spoken to them in the vision

The woman the mystic experience and Saul: whatever this mystic experience of the woman involved it is clear that God was in full in control of it since everything the woman told Saul was everything Samuel had previously told King Saul that the LORD would do. Added to this if she was pretending it is very unlikely she would have told the King he will be defeated in battle and be killed the very next day (1 Sam 28:19). Had this woman been a pretender it is almost certain she would have made up something that would have pleased the King to win his favour (and perhaps gain her a far greater reward).

NOTICE: Saul said, "Bring me up Samuel," and the very next words are, "When the woman saw Samuel" (v12) whereas one would have expected to be given some detail as to how she performed the operation, what spells and charms she used or at least some little intimation to be given concerning what she said or did; but the profound silence of the Scripture concerning it forbids our coveting to know the depths of this evil practise (Rev. 2:24) or to have our curiosity gratified with an account of the mysteries of iniquity. The Scripture conceals sinful art so that our minds may remain simple concerning evil (Rom. 16:19).

At the end of Samuel's words Saul was terrified and filled with fear, but sadly this fear was most likely motivated from the woman's words he would be killed the next day rather than from a humble spirit and the fact he had grossly offended God. If people consciously and deliberately chose to deny God and deny what they know is right before the LORD and be deceived, it is just with God to say, "Let them be deceived."

End.