

WHEN GOD DOES NOT ANSWER
Follow Christ
Banská Štiavnica, 30th September 2018

Lk 23:7 καὶ ἐπιγνοὺς ὅτι ἐκ τῆς ἐξουσίας Ἡρώδου ἐστὶν ἀνέπεμψεν αὐτὸν πρὸς Ἡρώδη, ὄντα καὶ αὐτὸν ἐν Ἱεροσολύμοις ἐν ταύταις ταῖς ἡμέραις. ⁸ Ὁ δὲ Ἡρώδης ἰδὼν τὸν Ἰησοῦν ἐχάρη λίαν, ἦν γὰρ ἐξ ἱκανῶν χρόνων θέλων ἰδεῖν αὐτὸν διὰ τὸ ἀκούειν περὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ ἠλπίζεν τι σημεῖον ἰδεῖν ὑπ' αὐτοῦ γινόμενον. ⁹ ἐπρώτα δὲ αὐτὸν ἐν λόγοις ἱκανοῖς, αὐτὸς δὲ οὐδὲν ἀπεκρίνατο αὐτῷ. ¹⁰ εἰστήκεισαν δὲ οἱ ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ οἱ γραμματεῖς ἐυτόνως κατηγοροῦντες αὐτοῦ. ¹¹ ἐξουθενήσας δὲ αὐτὸν [καὶ] ὁ Ἡρώδης σὺν τοῖς στρατεύμασιν αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐμπαίξας περιβαλὼν ἐσθήτα λαμπρὰν ἀνέπεμψεν αὐτὸν τῷ Πιλάτῳ. ¹² ἐγένοντο δὲ φίλοι ὁ τε Ἡρώδης καὶ ὁ Πιλάτος ἐν αὐτῇ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ μετ' ἀλλήλων· προὔπηρχον γὰρ ἐν ἔχθρᾳ ὄντες πρὸς αὐτούς.

Lk 23:7-12 And when he [Pilate] learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸ When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. ⁹ So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. ¹⁰ The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹ And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. ¹² And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

וַיָּבֹאוּ אֵלַי אַנְשֵׁים מִזְקְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּשְׁבּוּ לִפְנֵי
וַיְהִי דְבַר-יְהוָה אֵלַי לֵאמֹר ³ בְּ-אָדָם הָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה
הָעֵלּוּ גִלּוּלֵיהֶם עַל-לִבָּם וּמִכְשׁוֹל עֲוֹנָם נִתְּנוּ נֹכַח
פְּנֵיהֶם הַאֲדָרָשׁ אֲדָרָשׁ לָהֶם

Eze 14:1-3 Then certain of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me. ² And the word of the LORD came to me: ³ "Son of man, these men have taken their idols into their hearts, and set the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I indeed let myself be consulted by them?"

OUTLINE

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0. INTRODUCTION

0.1. THE WORD OF GOD AND THE SPEECH OF GOD

- the *Logos* is always there...
- the specific will of God; the difficult questions are answered according to God's decision...
- to *hear* God speaking we have to _...

0.2. HEROD ANTIPAS

- (A.D. 6–39). This prince was the full but younger brother of Archelaus (*Schaff-Herzog*:) Excessively cunning (cf. Luke xiii. 32), shrewd and astute, a pagan at heart, he was superstitious and sensitive. In

27 a.d. he went to Rome, saw there the beautiful and ambitious Herodias, his own niece and already the wife of his half-brother, Herod Philip, and although he had a wife living, he proposed marriage to her. By divorcing his wife, the daughter of Aretas, and marrying Herodias he aroused the anger and caused the denunciation of John the Baptist and inflamed with anger Aretas, by whom some years afterward he was disastrously defeated (36 a.d.).

- **Mark 6:20** Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly (καὶ συνετήρει αὐτόν, καὶ ἀκούσας αὐτοῦ πολλὰ ἠπόρει, καὶ ἠδέως αὐτοῦ ἤκουεν)

0.3. WORLDLINESS

- **2Tim 3:6-7** For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions (σεσωρευμένα ἁμαρτίαις, ἀγόμενα ἐπιθυμίαις ποικίλαις), ⁷ always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth (πάντοτε μαθάνοντα καὶ μηδέποτε εἰς ἐπίγνωσιν ἀληθείας ἔλθειν δυνάμενα).

[LLOYD-JONES *Life in Christ*] **1John 5:19** We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one (οἶδαμεν ὅτι ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ ἐσμεν καὶ ὁ κόσμος ὅλος ἐν τῷ πονηρῷ κεῖται). What a tremendous statement that is, and how important! You and I are 'of God,' strangers and pilgrims in this world—a colony of heaven, says Paul to the Philippians, and we are far from home. But we are going towards home in an alien land, and we have to remember that and bear it in mind. 'We are of God, and the whole world lieth in the wicked one.' Let us have a right view of the world; let us have a right view of its history; let us understand what is happening to the world at this present time; let us look ahead and see what it is destined for; let us never rest our affection on it. And as we go on, let us remember its subtle insinuations, and let us beware of its defilement and sin. But let us ever remember that whenever we may fall or be conscious of defilement, the blood of Christ still avails; we can be washed, we can be cleansed anew. We can continue to walk in blessed fellowship with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. 'We are of God'—amazing! But 'the whole world lieth in the wicked one,' so let us have pity, mercy, and compassion upon others and tell them of the way of escape.

0.4. IDOLATRY

- **Ps 115:4-8** Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. ⁵ They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. ⁶ They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. ⁷ They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. ⁸ Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.
- **Ps 135:15-18** The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of human hands. ¹⁶ They have mouths, but do not speak; they have eyes, but do not see; ¹⁷ they have ears, but do not hear, nor is there any breath in their mouths. ¹⁸ Those who make them become like them, so do all who trust in them!
- **Mt 13:15** For this people's **heart** has grown dull (ἐπαχύνθη γὰρ ἡ καρδία τοῦ λαοῦ τούτου), and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.'

1. CURIOSITY

- [LLOYD-JONES *Life in Christ*] ...there is nothing more dangerous than a theoretical interest in truth...
- [CHAMBERS *Bringing Sons into Glory*.] "Beware of curiosity in spiritual matters" (**2Cor 11:3** But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ).

[CHAMBERS *He shall Glorify me*] We discern spiritual truth not by intellectual curiosity or research, but by entreating the favour of the Lord, that is, by prayer and by no other way, not even by obedience, because obedience is apt to have an idea of merit.

- **Rev 1:8** "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.
- **Col 2:2-3** that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (ἵνα παρακληθῶσιν αἱ καρδίαι αὐτῶν συμβιβασθέντες ἐν ἀγάπῃ καὶ εἰς πᾶν πλοῦτος τῆς πληροφορίας τῆς συνέσεως, εἰς ἐπίγνωσιν τοῦ

μυστηρίου τοῦ θεοῦ, Χριστοῦ, ³ ἐν ᾧ εἰσιν πάντες οἱ θησαυροὶ τῆς σοφίας καὶ γνώσεως ἀπόκρυφοι).

1.1. OMNISCIENCE

- Knowledge → to be in control (Gn 3)
- **2Thes 3:11** For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies (Ἀκούομεν γάρ τινας περιπατοῦντας ἐν ὑμῖν ἀτάκτως μηδὲν ἐργαζομένους ἀλλὰ περιεργαζομένους)

[CHAMBERS, O. *Our Portrait in Genesis*] The Bible never argues or debates, it states revelation facts, and in order to understand these facts we are dependent entirely, not on intellectual curiosity, but on a relationship of faith. Our perception of Bible truth is of the nature of implicit vision granted by the Holy Spirit, and the remarkable thing about the Holy Spirit's illumination of Bible truth is that it commends itself as being the true interpretation to every child of God who is in the light.

1.2. NO INTENTION TO OBEY

- rejected previous word (John the Baptist)
- **Luke 20:4-8** Was the baptism of John from heaven or from man?" ⁵ And they discussed it with one another, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why did you not believe him?' ⁶ But if we say, 'From man,' all the people will stone us to death, for they are convinced that John was a prophet." ⁷ So they answered that they did not know where it came from. ⁸ And Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. ... **Jn 5:35** He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light (ἠθελήσατε ἀγαλλιαθῆναι πρὸς ὥραν ἐν τῷ φωτὶ αὐτοῦ)

2. ENTERTAINMENT

2.1. VISUAL

2. *Locus of Personality.* In most texts the eye is the locus of personal perception and knowledge. In the eye the human "soul" is revealed.²⁵ Gen. 3:5 and 7 clearly illustrate this personal admixture. The snake declares that the eyes of the man and the woman will be opened as the result of their eating of the tree in middle of the garden, so that they will be like God (v. 5); v. 7 confirms that their eyes are indeed opened — but with the consequence that they both recognize that they are naked.²⁶ In 21:19 God opens Hagar's eyes so that she sees the well (cf. Nu. 22:31). In 2 K. 6 Elisha prays that Yahweh will open the eyes of his servant (v. 17) and of the Arameans (v. 20); both prayers are answered. In Ps. 119:18 the psalmist asks Yahweh to open his eyes that he may behold the wondrous things in Yahweh's law. Yahweh's "enlightening" (*wr* hiphil) the eyes implies renewal or preservation of life (Ps. 13:4[3]; 19:9[8];²⁷ cf. Prov. 29:13; 15:30).

- **Ecc 1:8** All things are full of weariness (יגעים); a man cannot utter it (לֹא-יִוָּכַל אִישׁ לְדַבֵּר); the eye is not satisfied with seeing (לֹא-תִשְׂבַּע עֵין לְרֵאוֹת), nor the ear filled with hearing (וְלֹא-תִמְלֵא אָזְן מִשְׁמָע)

2.2. PLEASURE

- **2Tim 3:4** ...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God (φιλήδονοι μᾶλλον ἢ φιλόθεοι)
- **Eze 33:30-32** "As for you, son of man, your people who talk together about you by the walls and at the doors of the houses, say to one another, each to his brother (וְדַבְּרֶהֱר אֶת-אָחִיךָ אִישׁ אֶת-אָחִיו), 'Come, and hear what the word is that comes from the LORD (מִהַ הַדְּבָר הַיּוֹצֵא מֵאֵת יְהוָה).'³¹ And they come to you as people come, and they sit before you as my people, and they hear what you say but they will not do it; for with lustful talk in their mouths they act (כִּי-עֲנֵבִים בְּפִיהֶם הַמָּה עֲשִׂים); their heart is set on their gain (אָחֲרֵי בָצֵעַ).³² And behold, you are to them like one who sings lustful songs (כְּשִׁיר עֲנָבִים) with a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument (יָפָה קוֹל וַיִּטַּב בְּנֵן), for they hear what you say, but they will not do it (וְשָׁמְעוּ אֶת-דְּבָרֶיךָ וְעֲשִׂים אֵינָם אוֹתָם). → **Mk 4:16** And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy (εὐθὺς μετὰ χαρᾶς λαμβάνουσιν αὐτόν,)

2.3. JOKING / MOCKING

- laughing at holy things → **Ps 1:1** Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers.

3. VALUES**3.1. BRUTE FORCE**

- **Ps 20:7** Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.
- **Zech 4:6** Not by might, nor by power (לא בכח ולא בקחל), but by my Spirit (כי אִם־בְּרוּחִי), says the LORD of hosts.
- absurdity spiritual power and eternity
- invisible world unreal

3.2. “NEUTRALITY”

- **Mt 12:30** Whoever is not with me is against me (ὁ μὴ ὦν μετ’ ἐμοῦ κατ’ ἐμοῦ ἐστίν,).
- **Mk 9:40** For the one who is not against us is for us...
- no judgment → agnosticism
- Pilate washing hands

4. TO REMEMBER

- To hear the word of God is to hear a commandment. Curiosity is inappropriate as a motive.
- New guidance is given to those who obeyed the last instructions.
- The most serious hindrance to hearing the living Word of God is IDOLATRY.