

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: [Isaiah 10:5-7,12](#).
- B. From Roy Enoch (4-3-94).
- C. We need to learn that we are completely dependent on God. When we trust in Him, we cast all of our care on Him.
- D. When we have hardship and trials, we often turn to Him.
 - 1. He will bless us if we are sincere and dedicated to His service.
 - 2. The prosperity that God gives us are often a greater test of faith than adversity.
 - 3. Often those who turned to God in trouble, turn from God when He blesses them with peace and prosperity. They have the faith to turn to Him, but not the gratitude to stay with Him.
- E. God rules men, but He gives them the choice of submitting to His rule, or rejecting Him. As a means of testing, He allows us to have hardships/difficulties which will strengthen us if we overcome.

I. GOD USES MANY KINDS OF INSTRUMENTS TO BRING ABOUT HIS WILL.

- A. Angels are often used.
 - 1. Positively in Heb. 1:14.
 - 2. Negatively, when the angels brought the plagues on the Egyptians (Psa. 78:49).
- B. God used Satan to test us all, as Adam and Eve, and Job.
 - 1. James says that this testing brings patience (Jas. 1:2-3).
 - 2. If our faith will not stand testing and hardship, we have much to grow in.
- C. God often uses governments to test, bless, or punish men.
 - 1. The authority for civil governments comes from God (Rom. 13:1-3).
 - 2. Righteous rulers like David are a blessing to the nation.
 - 3. Wicked rulers are often used to punish those who do evil, as well as test the faithful.
 - a. God used the king of Assyria to punish the two divided kingdoms of Israel.
 - b. Assyria was the "the rod of My anger and the staff in whose hand is My indignation" (Isa. 10:5).
 - c. He is called the Lord's "hired razor" in Isa. 7:20.

II. GOD'S PROVIDENCE CARES FOR US IN MANY WAYS.

- A. God blesses men in many ways, as He told David (1Chr. 29:12).
- B. God not only gives riches, but sometimes He takes them away as in the case of Job.
 - 1. Job was the greatest man in the East for worldly possessions.
 - 2. By the trial that God allowed Satan to test Job, he lost it.
 - 3. Some of the loss came by the Chaldeans, but Job did not hold them responsible (Job 1:21-22).
- C. God made heaven and earth; He upholds and maintains them (Neh. 9:6).
All of God's creatures are dependent on Him, even man (Eccl. 8:8).
 - 1. The birds build nests and care for their young as God directs.
 - 2. The ant follows the instincts God gave it (Prov. 6:6-8).
 - 3. Birds migrate on their time schedules (Jer. 8:7).
- D. Through X, God upholds all things and maintains them (Heb. 1:3).
- E. The earth and all of its inhabitants would be destroyed if God withdrew His supporting hand (Psa. 75:3; 104:29).
- F. God rules over all nations (Psa. 22:28).
- G. God disciplines us all by His providence (Heb. 12:6).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. All of creation shouts that there is a Creator and His providence oversees us.
- B. God's wisdom and power is shown in the beauty of seemingly unimportant details (Mt. 6:28-30).
- C. We should trust in His word and lean on Him for support.
- D. His unchanging love assures us that "all things work together for good to those who love the Lord" (Rom. 8:28).
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.