



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

January 10, 2016

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Kirby Hinds

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

Monday

Ladies class 10:00 a.m.

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“WHY DID GOD ALLOW THAT?”

Have you ever heard anyone ask the question above? It seems that when problems arise in a person's life, they want to blame God instead of understanding the fact that it is Satan himself that causes the bad things to occur in the world. The world suffers the consequences of actions not related to what God does; rather the consequences are a direct result of disobedience to His word.

Sin was brought into this world by the deception of Satan from the very beginning of man. I recently read an article that said “Built into obedience to Satan are automatic consequences, not as a direct punishment brought by God, but as the inherent result of sin.” Satan is called many things in the Bible. In **Revelation 12:9** he is called the “*deceiver of the world.*” In **John 8:44** he is referred to as the “*father of lies.*” The Bible is filled with other descriptions of Satan such as the evil one, liar, murderer, enemy, etc. I know we could think of several examples of Satan's work among us. The drunk driver who kills an innocent driver is a direct result of the consequences suffered when an individual compromises God's teaching on alcohol. The thief who kills an innocent victim is a direct result of someone violating the teachings of God on murder and stealing. Many other examples can be given, but the key is we need to recognize that Satan is active among us, and learn to combat those things He would have us do that are contrary to God's will.

We all need to remind ourselves of the words found in **Ephesians 6:10-20**. Let us all examine our lives and make sure that we will not have to suffer the consequences of our own actions when we directly violate God's will.

Ken Williams

“SPIRITUAL PROTECTION”

By Walter Rayburn

“As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people from this time forth and forever” (Psalm 125:2). Jerusalem was the holy city of the Jews. It was the home of the Jewish Temple and was considered God’s City. Like many ancient people, the Jews used a mountainous area as a natural defense against enemy attack. In the above passage, the writer compares that natural defense to God’s defense of His people. By examining the reality of this text, we can gain a greater appreciation for what God can and does do for us in our spiritual battle against Satan.

First, the mere appearance of the mountains around Jerusalem would have prevented some attacks on the city. The natural defense acted much like a “Beware of Dog” sign in our front yard acts today. Just seeing the barrier would stop some from even attempting to take the city. In the same way, drawing close to God ensures us that Satan will be kept at bay. *“Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you” (James 4:7-8).* God is always looking to help His people. All we have to do is ask. When we draw close to God by serving Him, He becomes a sort of bodyguard ensuring that Satan will run away from us. By doing this, we are safe.

Next, God makes it harder for Satan to attack us. It was not impossible for Jerusalem to come under attack from foreign foes. In fact, we see this happening on more than one occasion in the Old Testament. However, the mountains meant it would take a greater number of attackers a longer amount of time than if Jerusalem was not protected. In other words, the mountains meant the enemy would have to work harder to attack. In the same way, God makes sure that Satan has a difficult time defeating His people. God assures us that He will not let Satan do more than we can bear. *“No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape, so that you will be able to endure it” (I Corinthians 10:13).*

Finally, God offers a safe place when the enemy attacks. Often caves in the mountains surrounding Jerusalem would be used as a place of refuge for people fleeing the city. When it seems like all hope is lost, it is time to turn to God for safety. In the Lord’s prayer Jesus taught us to ask God to *“deliver us from evil” (Matthew 6:13).* When we are struggling in the battle against Satan, we need to turn to God for safety. He offers it to us and we need to take advantage of His offer. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so God STILL surrounds His people.