



December 24, 2006

### Could It Be ?

What would it have been like to live during the time that God performed the wonders seen by the Hebrews and others? What would it have been like to have seen the power of God demonstrated against the enemies of his people. What would it have been like to speak to a priest who really could consult with God in one form or another and receive an answer? Wouldn't it have been great to live at the time of the patriarchs who communed with God directly? One of the weapons Satan uses against us is doubt. Job was certain that in spite of his trials he would stand in the presence of God (**Job 19.26**). It later happened and what an awesome, frightening event (**Job 38**). Satan knows if we are under fire emotionally and physically we may weaken. We may question our beliefs or whether God is there for us. Satan knows our fears, just as he did Job's, and works against us in ways that will do the most damage. God allowed his people to be tested by the things that arose in their lives. The greatest of these tests came from situations they created for themselves. The Israelites were burdened by those who continued to live in proximity to them. Failing to drive out the inhabitants of Canaan, God allowed them to remain as a thorn in Israel's side to test their faithfulness to him (**Judges 2.1-3**). God told the people to subdue the land and He would send his fear before them to drive the inhabitants out (**Deut 2.25**). We see this at work in Rahab's statements to the spies who came to Jericho. Rahab indicated the land was filled with dread at the coming of the Hebrews and they feared the approach of the "invaders" (**Josh 2.9**). Today things work differently. Some look at their lives and seeing chaos lose hope. Others are stricken with fear and panic over world events while others rest in the wisdom of the world to solve the problems of life. Some tout God's word as though it were some magic talisman that would ward off evil, provides physical security and brings one closer to God. Some of this is true and part is distorted. God seemed to think that in the age we live in His word was enough. Sufficient to strengthen, sufficient to lead and sufficient to prove His existence, love and mercy for us. Satan wants us to let difficult times make us wonder if God loves us, or better yet, if we love him enough. We may be swallowed up in doubt and wonder what we have done wrong, as Job did, or, we may be overcome by guilt and grief at things that we have done and wonder why God won't forgive us. In the middle ages (1348 - 1350) flagellants sought to stay the hand of God at the height of the black plague. They thought that corruption and the evil of humanity brought the illness on the world and so they attempted to atone for the sins of all by severely punishing themselves publicly. Paul speaks of this and remarks about the worthlessness of human suffering to atone for sin (**Col 2.23**). In spite of the flagellant's attempts, 40 of the 90 million inhabitants of Europe died during the plague. Belief in God was questioned. Some, who claimed to represent God, committed atrocities such as walling families alive in their homes so they could not infect others. Eventually the plague relented but not before the seeds of disbelief and mysticism were firmly planted in the minds of mankind. This is how Satan works. He depends on the physical, psychological and emotional to tear us down but God has left us his word. To some this is unbelievable and choose to think that God empowers in ways the Bible does not speak of while others turn to the occult, atheism, pseudoscience and science for answers. But God thought His word was enough. God's word has prevailed, persevered and been preserved through the centuries. No other document has done this with the amount of opposition to it. God's word has inspired love for scripture and the creator as well as fear and hatred for the Lord. No other book in the history of the world has had this effect on mankind. Why is that? Logic demands that there has to be something to it. Could it be that the scriptures are correct when it states that the word of God is able to read our inner being and discern even our thoughts (**Heb 4.12**). Could it be that this is the intended power to lead humans to salvation in the midst of chaos and thus prove itself as the power of God unto salvation (**Rom 1.16**)? Could it be that the scriptures provide comfort by reading and meditating on them, knowing that God is watching and working in ways that we do not know? Is it possible that we burden ourselves? Could it be that God allows us to learn from our mistakes? Could it be that God is right and man is wrong and has lost sight of what is real? Could it be that Satan wants us to question what is real and render everything subjectively? Could this be Satan's evil plot to confuse and rob us of an eternal home? Could it be? Yes it could! God has given us his word which will strengthen, comfort and save. If we will allow it to. Could it be? Why not?

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