



# THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST BIBLE OUTREACH

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## DECEMBER FIRST THREE DAYS - DAY TWO CAUSES OF AFFLICTIONS

**Pastor A.S.O Olaleye**

**2nd December, 2023**

*Individuals and nations can be afflicted, and that affliction is often attributed to the Lord and His punishment*

*Isaiah 45:7*

*[7]I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the Lord, do all these things. ' Amos 3:6*

*[6]If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid? If there is calamity in a city, will not the Lord have done it?.*

*Individuals can be afflicted for a number of reasons:*

*1. Affliction can be a direct consequence of sin*

*Proverbs 11:18*

*[18]The wicked man does deceptive work, But he who sows righteousness will have a sure reward.*

*Prayer.....*

*2. Affliction can be a judgment from God*

*Ezekiel 36:18-19*

*[18]Therefore I poured out My fury on them for the blood they had shed on the land, and for their idols with which they had defiled it.*

*[19]So I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed throughout the countries; I judged them according to their ways and their deeds.*

*Romans 2:5-6*

*[5]But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,*

*[6]who "will render to each one according to his deeds":*

*3. Affliction can purify us and help us develop endurance.*

*Daniel 12:10*



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[10] Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.

4. Affliction can occur for God's divine purposes.

Job 2:6-7

[6] And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life."

[7] So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

Isaiah 53:7

[7] He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

5. Affliction is part of living in a fallen world.

Psalms 25:16-17

[16] Turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me, For I am desolate and afflicted.

[17] The troubles of my heart have enlarged; Bring me out of my distresses!

6. Affliction can be the result of persecution for Jesus' sake.

2 Timothy 3:11

[11] persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.

7. Affliction can be the result of a direct attack from Satan.

1 Peter 5:8

[8] Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Nations can experience affliction for many of the same reasons. In the Old Testament, God often afflicted whole nations for their disobedience and wickedness. The plagues in Egypt at the time of the exodus caused great affliction (e.g.

Exodus 8:24

24] And the Lord did so. Thick swarms of flies came into the house of Pharaoh, into his servants' houses, and into all the land of Egypt. The land was corrupted because of the swarms of flies.



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One reason God brought affliction upon the nations was to purge the earth of their wickedness. Another reason was to teach Israel the necessity of following the Lord. (Deuteronomy 28:58–60).

God also quickly judged Israelites who defied Him or His appointed leaders (Numbers 12: 1–4, 10; 16:28–33). It was critical that Israel learn to thrive as a community set apart from the world, and insurrection would quickly destroy that unity.

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