

“WHAT THE LITTLE CHICKEN SAW”

PSALMS 121:1-2

INTRODUCTION

THE IDEA FOR THIS MESSAGE CAME FROM AN UNUSUAL SOURCE.

THE THOUGHT AND THE IDEA FOR THIS MESSAGE CAME FROM THE COMIC STRIP SECTION OF THE NEWSPAPER.

IN THAT PARTICULAR PAPER, THERE WAS A SERIES OF COMIC STRIPS, LIKE LITTLE ABNER, AND CHARLIE BROWN.

BUT THERE WAS ONE COMIC STRIP ABOUT A LITTLE CHICKEN THAT CAUGHT MY ATTENTION.

THE COMIC STRIP OPENS UP WITH THE FIRST SCENE AND IN THE FIRST SCENE THERE WAS THE PICTURE OF A PLAIN COMMON EGG THAT WAS LYING ALONE ON THE GROUND;

IN THE SECOND SCENE THE PICTURE PORTRAYED THE SAME EGG STARTING TO CRACK;

IN THE THIRD SCENE, PIECES OF THE SHELL STARTED TO SHATTER APART AND THE SHELL BEGAN TO CRUMBLE;

AND IN THE FOURTH SCENE, THE FEATHERS OF THE CHICKEN COULD BE SEEN THROUGH THE CREVICES AND THE CRACKS OF THE EGG SHELL;

IN THE FIFTH SCENE, THE TOP OF THE EGG SHELL STARTED TO LIFT AND FELL OFF;

IN THE SIXTH SCENE, THE SMALL CURIOUS HEAD OF A LITTLE BABY CHICKEN STARTED TO EMERGE;

IN THE SEVENTH SCENE, THE LITTLE CHICKEN LOOKED TO THE LEFT, AND THEN HE LOOKED TO THE RIGHT;

IN THE EIGHTH SCENE THE LITTLE CHICKEN LOOKED IN THE FRONT AND THEN IN BACK OF HIM;

IN THE NINTH SCENE, THE LITTLE CHICKEN LOOKED WITH AN EXPRESSION OF HORROR OF ITS FACE;

IN THE TENTH SCENE, THE LITTLE CHICKEN, WITH A HORRIFIED, TERRIFIED, AND PETRIFIED EXPRESSION UPON ITS FACE, STARTED TO PUT THE LITTLE PIECES OF THE SHELL BACK TO TOGETHER;

IN THE ELEVENTH AND FINAL SCENE OF THIS COMIC STRIP SERIES, THE LITTLE CHICKEN CLOSED ITSELF UP TOTALLY AND WENT BACK INTO THE CONFINES OF ITS SHELL.

IT TAKES SOME TWENTY EIGHT DAYS FOR AN EGG TO HATCH;

WHY WOULD THE EMBRYO OF A SMALL CHICKEN THAT STARTED OUT AS A YOKE, AND THEN AFTER THE HEAT OF ITS MOTHER HAD BEEN UPON IT FOR TWENTY-EIGHT DAYS, WOULD GO BACK INTO THE CONFINES OF ITS SHELL?

WHY, AFTER STRUGGLING TO BREAK OUT OF ITS SHELL, WOULD THE CHICKEN REVERSE THE NATURAL ORDER AND GO BACK INTO THE STATE THAT IT HAD STRUGGLED SO HARD TO COME OUT OF?

THE ANSWER IS QUITE CLEAR. THE LITTLE CHICKEN APPARENTLY SAW SOMETHING THAT TERRIFIED HIM.

WHAT DID THE LITTLE CHICKEN SEE?

WELL, THE AWESOME REALITY OF THIS COMIC STRIP DID NOT REALLY REGISTER WITH ME UNTIL I READ A STORY ABOUT A PREACHER WHO WAS LEFT AT HOME ALONE WITH HIS TWIN DAUGHTERS:

THE STORY

THIS PREACHER WAS LEFT AT HOME ALONE WITH HIS TWO TWINS DAUGHTERS WHO BEGAN TO CRY, AND THERE WAS NOTHING HE COULD DO IN THE ABSENCE OF HIS WIFE TO COMFORT THEM.

HE TRIED CHANGING THEIR DIAPERS, BUT THEY CONTINUED TO CRY; AFTER NOTICING A RASH, HE PUT SOME DESTIN POWDER ON THEM, BUT THEY KEPT ON CRYING;

HE HEATED UP THEIR BOTTLE AND STUCK IT IN THEIR MOUTHS, BUT THEY WOULDN'T STOP CRYING;

HE PICKED THEM UP AND WALKED THEM AROUND THE HOUSE, BUT THEY STILL WOULDN'T STOP CRYING;

HE THEN BEGAN TO SING TO THEM WHILE BOUNCING THEM UP AND DOWN ON HIS KNEE;

HE NOTICED THAT HIS WIFE HAD PULLED THE DRAPES BACK ON THE LARGE LIVING ROOM WINDOW, AND IT SEEMED THAT THE CLOSER HE GOT TO THE WINDOW, THE QUIETER THE TWINS GOT;

SO HE WENT ALL THE WAY UP TO THE WINDOW, AND AS THEY GAZED OUT OF THE WINDOW, THEIR LITTLE EYES WERE SCANNING ACROSS THE GROUNDS;

IT WAS AS IF THEY LOOKED AT EVERY CAR AND EVERY TRUCK THAT PASSED BY;

THEN A QUESTION CAME TO HIM, "WHAT KIND OF WORLD HAS MY TWINS BEEN BORN INTO?"

HE THEN SPOKE OUT TO THE TWINS LOUDLY AND SAID, "GIRLS, IF YOU HAD KNOWN THE KIND OF WORLD YOU WERE BEING BORN INTO;"

IF YOU HAD A CHOICE IN THE MATTER, IF YOU WERE LEFT TO MAKE THE DECISION TO COME OR NOT TO COME INTO THIS WORLD, WHAT DECISION WOULD YOU HAVE MADE?"

I THINK THAT THAT IS A QUESTION THAT'S WORTHY OF OUR CONSIDERATION. ;

BECAUSE WHEN I THINK OF THE STORY OF THE LITTLE CHICKEN, AND WHAT HE SAW, I MUST CONCLUDE THAT THE LITTLE CHICKEN SAW MUCH OF WHAT OUR CHILDREN ARE SEEING. WHAT THE LITTLE CHICKEN SAW IS WHAT MANY OF US ARE SEEING ON A DAILY BASIS.

MANY OF US HAVE BECOME NUMB AND IMMUNE TO THE AWESOMENESS OF WHAT WE SEE BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN IN IT SO LONG.

YOU CAN SEE SO MUCH MESS, AND SO MUCH WRONG, YOU CAN SEE SO MUCH UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, UNTIL YOU BECOME IMMUNE TO THE POINT THAT THINGS THAT USE TO EXCITE YOU DON'T EXCITE YOU ANYMORE.

THE LITTLE CHICKEN SAW WHAT WE SAW YESTERDAY AND THE DAY BEFORE THAT.

BUT I THINK THIS MORNING, WE OUGHT TO CONSIDER "JUST WHAT THE LITTLE CHICKEN SAW.

I. I THINK THAT THE FIRST THING THE LITTLE CHICKEN LOOKED OUT AND SAW WAS WHAT WAS HAPPENING ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE.

- A. HE SAW A WORLD FILLED WITH WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.
 - 1. HE PROBABLY LOOKED AND SAW NORTH KOREA, RUSSIA, IRAN, AND MANY OTHER ROGUE NATIONS WITH NUCLEAR MISSILES AIMED AT THE UNITED STATES.
 - 2. HE PROBABLY SAW THE UNITED STATES' NUCLEAR MISSILES POINTED BACK AT THEM.
 - 3. HE PROBABLY SAW PLANES ON THEIR WAY TO IRAQ WITH TROUPES AND MISSILES.
- B. THE LITTLE CHICKEN PROBABLY LOOKED OUT AND SAW A WORLD THAT HAD LOST ITS LOVE ,ONE FOR ANOTHER.

1. A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE HAD GROWN COLD.
 2. A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE DIDN'T CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER.
 - a. HE SAW PEOPLE WHO WOULD NOT FEED EACH OTHER, SO HE SURMISED THAT THEY WOULDN'T FEED A LITTLE CHICKEN EITHER.
 3. THE LITTLE CHICKEN PROBABLY LOOKED OUT AND SAW THE STARVING IN AFRICA;
 4. HE PROBABLY LOOKED OUT AND SAW THE STARVING RIGHT HERE IN AMERICA
 5. HE PROBABLY LOOKED OUT AND SAW NEWSPAPERS FILLED WITH STORIES OF LITTLE OLD LADIES WHO HAD BEEN BEATEN, ROBBED, RAPED, AND KILLED.
 6. I TELL YOU, THE LITTLE CHICKEN SAW SOMETHING .
- C. HE PROBABLY SAW A WORLD FILLED WITH PEOPLE WITH ALL TYPES OF HANG-UPS, WHO ARE MIXED UP, MESSED UP, AND TORN UP.
1. HE PROBABLY SAW HOMES THAT ARE BROKEN UP.
 2. HE PROBABLY SAW SONS AGAINST THEIR FATHERS AND FATHERS AGAINST THEIR SONS.
 3. HE PROBABLY SAW DAUGHTERS AGAINST THEIR MOTHERS AND MOTHERS AGAINST THEIR DAUGHTERS.
 4. HE PROBABLY SAW BROTHERS AND SISTERS AT ODDS WITH EACH OTHER.
 5. HE PROBABLY SAW HUSBANDS AND WIVES GOING AT EACH OTHER.

I TELL YOU, THE LITTLE CHICKEN SAW SOMETHING.

I THINK THAT THE FIRST THING THE LITTLE CHICKEN LOOKED OUT AND SAW WAS WHAT WAS HAPPENING ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE.

II. I THINK THAT THE SECOND THING THAT THE LITTLE CHICKEN LOOKED OUT AND SAW WAS A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE WILL HATE YOU WITHOUT A CAUSE.

A. HE SAW PEOPLE WHO WILL DISLIKE YOU BECAUSE YOU LOOK THE WAY YOU DO.

1. HE PROBABLY LOOKED OUT AND SAW A WORLD RAGING WITH HATRED AND HOSTILITY.

B. HE PROBABLY LOOKED OUT AND SAW MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE TAKEN REVERSE ROLES.

1. HE PROBABLY SAW SOMETHING THAT HE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND.

2. HE PROBABLY SAW MEN WHO DIDN'T REALLY KNOW WHETHER THEY WANTED TO BE MEN OR NOT, AND THAT WAS STRANGE TO THE LITTLE CHICKEN.

3. HE PROBABLY SAW WOMEN WHO DIDN'T REALLY KNOW WHETHER THEY WANTED TO BE WOMEN OR NOT, AND THAT WAS STRANGE TO THE LITTLE CHICKEN. “

4. IT WAS STRANGE TO HIM BECAUSE IN THE ANIMAL WORLD, LITTLE CHICKEN HAD NEVER SEEN A ROOSTER THAT DIDN'T WANT TO BE A ROOSTER.

5. HE NEVER SAW A HEN THAT DIDN'T WANT TO BE A HEN;
 6. HE NEVER SAW TWO BULLS RUNNING TOGETHER;
 7. HE NEVER SAW TWO HEIFERS LIVING WITH EACH OTHER AS BULL AND HEIFER.
 8. WHAT HE SAW, WHEN HE LOOKED OUT INTO THE WORLD, WAS STRANGE AND DISTURBING.
- C. HE LOOKED OUT AND SAW 5, 6, AND 7 YEAR OLDS WHO'S FIRST WORDS, AFTER MAMA AND DADDY, COULD NOT BE REPEATED IN CHURCH.
- D. HE PROBABLY SAW MOTHERS TAKING NO CARE IN BEING MOTHERS.
1. HE PROBABLY SAW MOTHERS LEAVING CHILDREN TO JUST RAISE THEMSELVES. –
- E. HE PROBABLY SAW FATHERS MAKING BABIES BUT NOT TAKING CARE OF THEIR BABIES.
1. THIS WAS STRANGE TO THE LITTLE CHICKEN BECAUSE HE WAS USE TO SEEING A MOTHER HEN RAISING HER BABY CHICKS AFTER SHE HATCHED THEM.
 2. THIS LITTLE CHICK LOOKED OUT AND SAW A WORLD WHERE CHICKENS HAVE MORE MOTHERLY LOVE THAN HUMANS.
 3. SOME MEN WILL BEGET YOU, AND THEN FORGET YOU
- F. THE LITTLE CHICKEN SAW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN USING DRUGS.
1. HE SAW LITTLE KIDS SNORTING COCAINE AND SHOOTING UP WITH HEROIN.

2. HE SAW LITTLE CHILDREN SIPPING WINE AND SMOKING *CIGARETTES*.
3. HE SAW LITTLE CHILDREN BEING BORN “ADDICTED TO DRUGS BECAUSE THEIR MOTHERS WERE USERS:

G. THE LITTLE CHICKEN SAW DISCRIMINATION.

1. HE SAW RACES AGAINST RACES.
2. HE SAW PROTESTANTS AGAINST CATHOLICS.

I. I THINK THAT THE FIRST THING THE LITTLE CHICKEN LOOKED OUT AND SAW WAS WHAT WAS HAPPENING ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE.

II. I THINK THAT THE SECOND THING THAT THE LITTLE CHICKEN LOOKED OUT AND SAW WAS A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE WILL HATE YOU WITHOUT A CAUSE.

III. THE LITTLE CHICKEN LOOKED OUT AND SAW A CHURCH THAT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE THE CHURCH THAT THE LORD BUILT.

- A. THE LITTLE CHICKEN LOOKED INTO THE CHURCH AND SAW FOLKS SINGING IN THE CHOIR, BUT WEREN'T LIVING THE LIFE THEY WERE SINGING ABOUT IN THEIR SONGS.

1. HE SAW CHOIR MEMBERS, SINGING AMAZING GRACE HOW SWEET THE SOUND ON SUNDAY, AND SAW THOSE SAME CHOIR MEMBERS SING “HOW SWEET IT IS TO BE LOVED BY YOU”, AND THEY WEREN'T TALKING ABOUT GOD, ON MONDAY.

B. THE LITTLE CHICKEN LOOKED INTO THE 'T CHURCH AND SAW PREACHERS PREACHING IN THE PULPIT BUT WERE NOT PRACTICING WHAT THEY PREACHED.

1. HE PROBABLY SAW PREACHING FROM THE POCKET BOOK INSTEAD OF THE HOLY BOOK.
2. HE PROBABLY HEARD THE PREACHER SAY, "DON'T DO AS I DO. DO WHAT I SAY DO."

C. THE LITTLE CHICKEN SAW CHURCHES WHERE THERE WAS NO PEACE.

1. HE SAW CHURCHES SPLITTING.
2. HE SAW CHURCHES BEING PADLOCKED.
3. HE SAW CHURCHES CARRYING EACH OTHER TO COURT.
4. HE PROBABLY SAW CHURCHES WHERE CHURCH FOLKS WERE CARRYING GUNS AND KNIVES TO HURT EACH OTHER RIGHT IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.
5. THE LITTLE CHICKEN PROBABLY SAW DIVIDED CHURCHES WITH A LITTLE CLIQUE OVER HERE OPPOSING A LITTLE CLIQUE OVER THERE.
6. HE PROBABLY SAW FOLK WHO WERE FULL OF HELL RATHER THAN FULL OF LOVE.
7. HE PROBABLY SAW FOLK FULL OF MESS RATHER THAN FULL OF GRACE.
8. HE PROBABLY SAW DEACONS WHO ONLY PRAYED AT CHURCH AND NEVER AT HOME.
9. I TELL YOU, THE LITTLE CHICKEN SAW SOMETHING.

- D. WHAT THE LITTLE CHICKEN SAW DISTURBED <r HIM, AND IT SHOULD DISTURB US AS WELL.
1. COULD IT BE THAT THE LITTLE CHICKEN SAW YOU LAST NIGHT?
 2. COULD IT BE THAT WE ARE A PART OF THE LITTLE CHICKEN'S TERROR.
- E. COULD IT BE POSSIBLE THAT WE ARE A PART OF THE LITTLE CHICKEN'S DISTURBANCE?
1. MAYBE HE SAW US BEING A LONG WAY FROM WHAT WE PROFESS TO BE.
- F. I WANT TO TELL YOU THIS MORNING, WE OUGHT NOT ONLY BE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT THE LITTLE CHICKEN SAW, BUT WE OUGHT TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT THE WORLD SEES FROM US.
1. WHETHER YOU KNOW IT OR NOT, THERE ARE SOME LITTLE BOYS AND GIRLS LOOKING AT YOU.
 2. THERE ARE SOME FOLK THAT YOU DON'T KNOW BUT THEY KNOW YOU AND WHAT YOU ARE SUPPOSE TO BE ABOUT.
 3. THEY SEE YOU WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW THEY ARE WATCHING YOUR EVERY MOVE.

CONCLUSION

AS I GET READY TO CLOSE THIS MESSAGE, THE CHICKEN SAW A LOT OF TRAGIC AND SAD SITUATIONS.

SITUATIONS THAT SHOULD DISTURB ALL OF US, WHO ARE A PART OF THE CHURCH OF GOD.

BUT MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, THE STORY ENDS

- A. THE LAST SCENE OF THE COMIC STRIP SAYS THAT THE LITTLE CHICKEN LOOKED FORWARD, HE LOOKED TO THE LEFT AND TO THE RIGHT.
1. BUT EVIDENTLY, THE LITTLE CHICKEN HAD NOT READ THE 121ST PSALMS.
- B. NOTICE HERE THAT THE LITTLE CHICKEN LOOKED FORWARD.
1. ANY TIME YOU LOOK FORWARD, YOU WILL ALWAYS SEE SOMETHING IN FRONT OF YOU THAT WILL CAUSE YOU TO DROP YOUR HEAD.
- C. THE LITTLE CHICKEN LOOKED TO THE LEFT AND SAW SOMETHING OVER THERE THAT WAS DISTURBING.
- D. THE LITTLE CHICKEN LOOK TO THE RIGHT AND SAW SOMETHING THAT WAS DISTURBING.
- E. BUT I WISH TO GOD THAT I COULD HAVE BEEN AROUND THAT EGG WHEN THAT LITTLE CHICKEN WAS HATCHED OUT.
1. I WOULD HAVE TOLD HIM THAT IT'S ALRIGHT TO LOOK FORWARD, IT'S ALRIGHT TO LOOK TO THE LEFT AND TO THE RIGHT, BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE IT IN THIS WORLD, YOU'VE GOT TO LOOK UP, LOOK TO THE HILLS FROM WHICH COMETH YOUR HELP.
 2. AND I BELIEVE THAT THERE OUGHT TO BE SOMEONE IN THIS BUILDING THIS MORNING, WHO CAN TESTIFY THAT ALL OF YOUR HELP COMES FROM THE LORD.
- F. YOU DO UNDERSTAND THAT THE LORD WORKS THROUGH PEOPLE DON'T YOU?
1. THE LORD BLESSES US THROUGH OTHERS.
 2. HE WANTS TO USE YOU HANDS.

3. HE WANTS TO USE YOUR FEET.
4. HE WANTS TO USE YOUR MOUTH.
5. HE WANTS TO USE YOUR EYES.
6. HE WANTS TO USE YOUR MIND.

G. THE LITTLE CHICKEN SAW SOMETHING, BUT HE DIDN'T SEE THE HILLS FROM WHICH HIS HELP CAME.

1. IF HE HAD SEEN THE HILLS FROM WHICH HIS HELP CAME, INSTEAD OF HIM PUTTING THE SHELL BACK TOGETHER *AND* CRAWLING IN THAT SHELL, HE WOULD HAVE STEPPED OUT AND SAID, "I'M GOING TO RUN ON, IF I HAVE TO RUN BY MYSELF."
2. LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING, LIFE GETS ROUGH SOMETIMES, BUT YOU CAN'T CRAWL UP IN A SHELL TRYING TO GET AWAY FROM LIFE.
3. WHEN YOUR WAY GET DARK, KICK THE SHELL BEHIND YOU AND TELL THE DEVIL, "GREATER IS HE THAT IN WITHIN ME THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD."

H. CAN I PREACH FOR A MINUTE?

1. I THANK GOD, WHENEVER TRIALS GET IN MY WAY;
2. WHEN IT LOOKS LIKE MY WAY IS GETTING 7' DARK, AND MY ENEMIES ARE ALL AROUND ME,
3. OVER MY HEAD IS THE TOP OF THE HILL FROM WHICH COMETH MY HELP.
4. I CAN LOOK UP OVER MY ENEMIES AND STILL SEE THE HILLS FROM WHICH COMETH MY

HELP.

5. I CAN LOOK UP OVER THE DITCH DIGGERS
AND STILL SEE THE HILLS FROM WHICH
COMETH MY HELP.

I. AREN'T YOU GLAD FOR THE HILLS FROM WHICH
COMETH YOUR HELP.

1. IF YOU ARE GLAD THAT ALL OF YOUR HELP
COMES FROM THE LORD,
2. IF YOU KNOW BEYOND A SHADOW OF A
DOUBT THAT THE LORD YOU SERVE HAS
BROUGHT YOU OUT,
3. AND IF YOU ARE NOT ASHAMED OF WHOSE
SITTING NEXT TO YOU,
4. IF YOU'RE NOT ASHAMED OF WHOSE SITTING
IN FRONT OF YOU,
5. IF YOU'RE NOT ASHAMED OF THOSE SITTING
BEHIND YOU,
6. IF YOU'RE NOT ASHAMED OF SOMEBODY
KNOWING THAT YOU KNOW THE SOURCE
FROM WHICH COMETH YOUR HELP,
7. WILL YOU LOOK AT SOMEBODY WHO LOOKS
LIKE THEY KNOW THE LORD, AND SHAKE
THEIR HAND, LOOK THEM IN THE FACE AND
REPEAT AFTER ME:
 - a. "I KNOW I SERVE A MIGHTY GOD."
 - b. "I KNOW MY HAND IS IN GOD'S HAND."
 - c. "AIN'T HE ALRIGHT?"
 - d. "AIN'T HE ALRIGHT?"

- e. "I KNOW HE LOVES ME."
- f. "I KNOW HE DIED FOR ME."
- g. "I KNOW THEY BURIED HIM IN A BORROWED TOMB."
- h. "I KNOW THAT EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, GOD RAISED HIM UP WITH ALL POWER IN HIS HAND."
- i. "I KNOW HE'S GOT POWER."
- j. "HEALING POWER."
- k. "CHANGING POWER."
- l. "WONDER-WORKING POWER."
- m. "LIVING RIGHT POWER."
- n. "WALKING RIGHT POWER."
- o. "TALKING-RIGHT POWER."