

**WHEN WE GET DOWN TO NOTHING**  
**GOD IS UP TO SOMETHING**

**EXODUS 14:13 JOHN 11:37 ROMANS 8:28**

**INTRODUCTION**

IN THESE MODERN TIMES IN WHICH WE LIVE, IT IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR A PUBLIC FIGURE TO SAY OR DO ANYTHING WITHOUT BEING ACCUSED OF BEING UP TO SOMETHING.

IT SEEM AS THOUGH ALL LEADERS, WHETHER THEY ARE POLITICAL LEADERS, CIVIC LEADERS OR RELIGIOUS LEADERS ARE UNDER SUSPICION, BY THEIR CONSTITUENTS AND BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

MANY LEADERS WHO ARE HONEST AND SINCERE AND WHO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES WITH UTMOST INTEGRITY ARE CONSTANTLY BEING ACCUSED OF HAVING AN ULTERIOR MOTIVE.

NO MATTER WHAT THEY DO OR SAY, SOMEBODY WILL SAY THAT THEY ARE UP TO SOMETHING.

WHEN A PERSON IS ACCUSED OF BEING UP TO SOMETHING, HIS OR HER ACCUSERS ARE SAYING THAT THERE IS A HIDDEN MOTIVE BEHIND THE WORDS WHICH ARE SPOKEN, OR THE DEEDS WHICH ARE PERFORMED.

THEY ARE SAYING THAT THE PERSON IN QUESTION HAS A HIDDEN AGENDA, AND THAT WHICH YOU SEE ON THE SURFACE DOES NOT TELL THE WHOLE STORY.

IN SHORT, THEY SAY, "THERE IS MORE YOU DON'T SEE THAN THERE IS THAT YOU DO SEE."

"WHAT HE SAID WAS NOT WHAT HE MEANT." AND "WHAT CAME OUT OF HIS MOUTH WAS NOT WHAT WAS REALLY ON HIS MIND."

"YOU BETTER WATCH HIM BECAUSE HE IS UP TO SOMETHING."

NOW, UNFORTUNATELY, SUCH A LABEL IS TRUE OF MANY PEOPLE WITH WHOM WE HAVE TO DEAL.

MANY OF US HAVE BEEN VICTIMIZED BY PEOPLE WHO WERE UP TO SOMETHING.

THERE ARE SOME CON-ARTISTS IN OUR SOCIETY WHO CAN TELL A LIE WITH SUCH PASSION AND SINCERITY, AND WHO CAN TELL THAT LIE WITH SUCH BEAUTIFUL WORDS AND PHRASES THAT IT SOUND JUST LIKE THE GOSPEL TRUTH.

BUT WHEN YOU FALL FOR THEIR SMOOTH LINE AND PUT OUT YOUR HARD-EARNED CASH, IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE YOU KNOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN "TAKEN".

SO BECAUSE OF OUR EXPERIENCES WITH SWINDLERS WHO WERE UP TO SOMETHING, WE HAVE A NEGATIVE CONNOTATION OF THAT TERM.

WHEN WE HEAR THE TERM "UP TO SOMETHING," OUR MINDS AUTOMATICALLY FOCUS UPON SOMEBODY WHO IS TRYING TO "DO US IN."

BUT THE TERM "UP TO SOMETHING" DOES NOT HAVE TO HAVE A NEGATIVE CONNOTATION.

WHEN I READ MY BIBLE, AND SAW HOW GOD HAS DEALT WITH HIS PEOPLE, IT DAWNED UPON ME THAT GOD IS ALWAYS "UP TO SOMETHING."

HE DOES NOT ALWAYS "SHOW HIS HAND," HE DOESN'T ALWAYS CALL A NEWS CONFERENCE; HE DOES NOT ALWAYS "LEAK" IT TO THE PRESS, YET, WHEN STRANGE AND SPECTACULAR OCCURRENCES TAKE PLACE, YOU CAN REST ASSURED THAT "GOD IS UP TO SOMETHING."

## I. GOD WAS UP TO SOMETHING DURING THE DAY OF CREATION.

A. WHEN GOD STEPPED OUT IN SPACE AND CREATED THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH, "HE WAS UP TO SOMETHING." WHAT WAS GOD UP TO?

1. HE WAS PROVIDING A DWELLING PLACE FOR ALL MANKIND.

B. WHEN HE DECORATED THE ROOF OF THAT HOUSE WITH THE SUN MOON AND STARS, “HE WAS UP TO SOMETHING.” (WHAT WAS GOD UP TO?)

1. HE WAS INSTALLING ELECTRICITY IN MAN’S DWELLING PLACE.

C. WHEN GOD SAID “BRING FORTH” AND THE GRASS AND ALL FORMS OF VEGETATION BEGAN TO SPROUT, “GOD WAS UP TO SOMETHING.” (WHAT WAS GOD UP TO?)

1. HE WAS INSTALLING WALL TO WALL CARPETING AND DECORATING A MAN’S HOUSE WITH A VARIETY OF PLANTS AND FLOWERS.

A. WHEN GOD SAID “BRING FORTH” AND THE AIRWAYS WERE FILLED WITH SINGING BIRDS AND THE WATERWAYS WERE FILLED WITH ALL VARIETIES OF FISH, “GOD WAS UP TO SOMETHING.” (WHAT WAS GOD UP TO?)

1. HE WAS INSTALLING PIPED IN MUSIC FOR MAN’S HOUSE AND HE WAS LAYING THE GROUND-WORK FOR A FISHING INDUSTRY SO THAT MAN WOULD HAVE A WAY TO MAKE A LIVING.

E. WHEN GOD TOOK ONE OF ADAMS’ RIBS AND MADE A WOMAN, “GOD WAS UP TO SOMETHING.” (WHAT WAS GOD UP TO?)

1. GOD WANTED ADAM TO HAVE SOMEBODY TO HAVE, TO HOLD AND TO LOVE.
2. I KNOW THAT A LOT OF MEN ARE GLAD THAT ON THAT OCCASION, “THAT GOD WAS UP TO SOMETHING.”

II. WELL, AS WE LOOK AT THE WAY GOD DEALS WITH HIS PEOPLE, SOMETIMES HE ALLOWS THEM TO COME TO THEIR WIT'S END AND HAVE THEIR BACKS AGAINST THE WALL BEFORE HE SHOWS THEM "THAT HE'S UP TO SOMETHING."

- A. SOMETIMES WHEN WE ARE AT OUR LOWEST EBB AND FEEL THAT THE BOTTOM HAS DROPPED OUT OF OUR WORLD, GOD STEPS IN AND WORK A MIRACLE IN OUR LIVES.
1. IT IS THEN THAT WE REALIZE THAT ALL THE WHILE WE WERE SINKING DOWN IN DESPAIR, GOD WAS UP TO SOMETHING
- B. ONE OF THE MOST VIVID EXAMPLES OF GOD BEING UP TO SOMETHING WAS WHEN THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL WAS CAMPED ON THE BANKS OF THE RED SEA.
1. THEY WERE ENJOYING THEIR NEW FOUND FREEDOM.
  2. THEY HAD JUST WITNESS GOD CHOOSE SIDES AND WORK ON THEIR BEHALF.
  3. THEY HAD SEEN GOD SEND PLAGUE AFTER PLAGUE TO SOFTEN THE HEART OF A STUBBORN PHAROAH.
  4. THEY HAD SEEN RIVERS TURN TO BLOOD.
  5. THEY HAD SEEN SWARMS OF FROG, FLIES, AND LOCUSTS.
  6. THEY HAD SEEN GOD SEND MIGHTY HAIL STORMS UPON THEIR ENEMIES, WHILE IN THE SLAVE CAMPS, IT WAS BRIGHT SUNSHINE.

7. THEY HAD SEEN GOD SEND A DISEASE THAT KILLED ALL OF THE ENEMIES' CATTLE, WHILE THEIR CATTLE WERE UNHARMED.
8. AND FINALLY, THEY HAD SEEN GOD SEND A DEATH ANGEL TO RIDE THROUGH EGYPT AND KILL THE FIRST BORN IN EVERY EGYPTIAN HOUSEHOLD WHILE LEAVING THEIR HOUSEHOLD UNHARMED.

C. BUT AS THE NOISE OF CELEBRATION DIED DOWN, SOMEBODY HEARD THE NOISE OF CHARIOT WHEELS AND THE HOOFS OF RUNNING HORSES.

1. THEY HAD NOT ENJOYED A WHOLE DAY OF FREEDOM, AND NOW PHAROAH'S ARMY WAS COMING AFTER THEM.
2. PHAROAH HAD CHANGED HIS MIND AND THEY WERE IN NO MAN'S LAND.
3. THEY WERE DOWN TO NOTHING.

D. THE BIBLE SAID THEY BEGAN TO LAY THE BLAME ON MOSES.

1. THEY SAID UNTO HIM, "WHY DID YOU BRING US OUT HERE TO DIE?" "WEREN'T THERE ENOUGH GRAVEYARDS IN EGYPT FOR US TO BE BURIED IN?"
2. "WHY DID YOU COME TO EGYPT ANYHOW TO START YOUR CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT?"
3. ."WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST LEAVE US ALONE?" "SLAVERY WASN'T ALL THAT BAD."
4. "WE DIDN'T HAVE THAT MUCH TO EAT BUT AT LEAST WE COULD DEPEND ON SOME ONIONS, GARLIC AND A BOWL OF SOUP."

5. "BUT YOU BROUGHT US OUT HERE TO DIE." "AND WE ARE DOWN TO NOTHING."
  6. THEY LOOKED TO THE RIGHT AND THE LEFT, THERE WERE MOUNTAINS.
  7. THEY LOOKED STRAIGHT AHEAD AND THERE WAS THE RED SEA. AND PHAROAH'S ARMY WAS COMING BEHIND.
  8. THEY THOUGHT GOD HAD FORSAKEN THEM.
  9. THEY WERE DOWN TO NOTHING.
  10. THEY FELT THAT THE SAME GOD WHO DELIVERED THEM FROM EGYPTIAN BONDAGE, WAS GOING TO LET THEM DIE.
- F. BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING THAT THEY DID NOT KNOW. THEY DID NOT KNOW THAT "GOD WAS UP TO SOMETHING." (WHAT WAS GOD UP TO?)
1. GOD WANTED TO SHOW PHAROAH JUST WHO WAS IN CHARGE.
  2. GOD WANTED TO SHOW PHAROAH THE REAL MEANING OF "I AM THAT I AM."
  3. GOD WANTED TO SHOW PHAROAH THAT HE MEANT WHAT HE SAID WHEN HE SAID, "LET MY PEOPLE GO."
  4. GOD WANT TO SAY TO PHAROAH, "YOUR ARMY IS HISTORY.
  5. GOD WANT PHARAOH TO KNOW THAT HE SHOULD PREPARE FOR A MASSIVE FUNERAL AND THE RED SEA WAS ABOUT TO BECOME A MASS GRAVE.

G. WHILE ISRAEL WAS SHAKING IN HER BOOTHS, GOD REVEALED TO MOSES WHAT HE WAS UP TO.

1. HE TOLD THE PEOPLE TO “STAND STILL AND SEE THE SALVATION OF THE LORD.”
2. MOSES STRETCHED OUT HIS ROD AND THE EAST WIND BLEW AND A HIGHWAY WAS MADE THROUGH THE RED SEA.
3. YES, WHEN THE ISRAELITES WERE DOWN TO NOTHING, GOD WAS UP TO SOMETHING.

III. ONE DAY AT A CEMETERY IN BETHANY, MARY AND MARTHA WERE DOWN TO NOTHING.

A. THEIR BROTHER LAZARUS HAD BEEN DEAD FOR FOUR DAYS.

1. WHEN THEIR BROTHER BECAME ILL, THEY SENT FOR JESUS, BUT FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON, JESUS DIDN'T ANSWER THEIR REQUEST.
2. AND WHEN JESUS DID ARRIVE, THEY DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME LETTING HIM KNOW HOW THEY FELT.
3. MARTHA SPOKE FIRST, AND THEN MARY VOICE THE SAME SENTIMENT: “IF YOU HAD ONLY BEEN HERE, MY BROTHER WOULD NOT HAVE DIED.
4. YOU TALK ABOUT A FEELING OF HELPLESSNESS, WHEN YOUR CLOSE RELATIVE OR FRIEND IS SICK, AND YOU SEND FOR YOUR FAMILY DOCTOR AND HE DOESN'T EVEN SHOW UP, YOU'RE DOWN TO NOTHING.

B. THIS IS THE WAY THAT MARY AND MARTHA FELT, BUT WHAT THEY DIDN'T KNOW WAS THAT JESUS WAS UP TO SOMETHING.

1. THEY KNEW THAT JESUS HAD POWER OVER SICKNESS, BUT JESUS WANTED TO PROVE TO THEM THAT HE HAD POWER OVER DEATH.
2. THEY KNEW THAT HE WAS A DOCTOR IN A SICK ROOM, BUT HE WANT THEM TO KNOW THAT HE WAS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.
3. JESUS SAID, "SHOW ME WHERE YOU LAID HIM."
4. AFTER GOING TO THE GRAVE, JESUS RAISED HIS HEAD TOWARD HEAVEN AND TALKED TO HIS FATHER.
5. AFTER HE FINISHED PRAYING, TO TOLD THEM TO ROLL THE STONE AWAY, AND HE CALLED LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD.
6. THE COMMAND OF JESUS WAS SO POWERFUL UNTIL LAZARUS CAME STEPPING OUT OF THE GRAVE.
7. YES, MARY AND MARTHA WERE DOWN TO NOTHING, BUT JESUS WAS UP TO SOMETHING.

### **CONCLUSION**

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN DOWN TO NOTHING PHYSICALLY, FINANCIALLY OR EMOTIONALLY?

HAVE YOU EVER HAD A PERIOD OF DEPRESSION WHEN YOU FELT LIKE EVERYBODY WAS AGAINST YOU?

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN SO DISAPPOINTED AND DISCUSSED THAT YOU FELT LIKE THROWING IN THE TOWEL AND JUST GIVING UP?

WELL, IF YOU LOVE THE LORD, AND IF YOU BELONG TO JESUS CHRIST, I HAVE SO GOOD NEWS FOR YOU. GOD IS UP TO SOMETHING.

A. ROMANS 8:28 “AND WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD FOR THEM THAT LOVE THE LORD, AND WHO ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.”

1. IT DIDN'T SAY THAT ALL THINGS WERE GOOD, BUT THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD.
2. THAT MEANS THAT GOD CAN TAKE BAD THINGS AND EVIL THINGS, MEAN THINGS AND CROOKED THINGS, UNDERHANDED AND CONTEMPTIBLE THINGS, LOW DOWN DIRTY THINGS AND USE THEM FOR OUR GOOD.

### **STORY OF WOMAN WHO THREW HER DISHWATER IN HER NEIGHBORS YARD**

B. SO NO MATTER WHAT YOU ARE GOING THROUGH, GOD IS UP TO SOMETHING.

1. YOU MAY BE GOING THROUGH A STORM, BUT GOD IS UP TO SOMETHING.
2. IF YOU LOVE HIM, YOU CAN REST ASSURED THAT HE HAS A PLAN FOR YOUR DELIVERANCE.

C. EVERY TIME MAN GOT DOWN TO NOTHING, GOD WAS UP TO SOMETHING.

1. MOSES.
2. DAVID.
3. ELIJAH
4. DANIEL.
5. THE HEBREW BOYS.
6. JEREMIAH.

7. PETER.
  8. PAUL AND SILAS.
  9. THE WOMAN WITH THE ISSUE OF BLOOD.
- D. THE ALL FOUND OUT THAT THE LORD WOULD MAKE A WAY SOMEHOW.
- E. WHEN THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE WAS DOWN TO NOTHING, GOD WAS UP TO SOMETHING. (WHAT WAS GOD UP TO?)
1. [ST. JOHN 3:16] “FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.”
  2. “HEREIN WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SIN.”
- F. WHILE CHRIST WAS DYING, GOD WAS UP TO SOMETHING. (WHAT WAS GOD UP TO ?)
1. HE HAD ALREADY SAID, “DESTROY THIS TEMPLE, BUT IN THREE DAYS I’LL RAISE IT UP AGAIN.”
  2. AND EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, GOD RAISED UP JESUS FROM THE DEAD, WITH ALL POWER IN HIS HAND.