

SUBJECT: How Do We Know God Can?

READING: Psa 78:1-7 Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. (2) I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: (3) Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. (4) We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. (5) For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: (6) That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: (7) That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:

Psa 78:12-20 Marvellous things did he in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan. (13) He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through; and he made the waters to stand as an heap. (14) In the daytime also he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a light of fire. (15) He clave the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink as out of the great depths. (16) He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers. (17) And they sinned yet more against him by provoking the most High in the wilderness. (18) And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust. (19) Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness? (20) Behold, he smote the rock, that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed; can he give bread also? can he provide flesh for his people?

Introduction:

"A man named Jack was walking along a steep cliff one day when he accidentally got too close to the edge and fell. On the way down he grabbed a branch, which temporarily stopped his fall. He looked down and to his horror saw that

the canyon fell straight down for more than a thousand feet. He couldn't hang onto the branch forever, and there was no way for him to climb up the steep wall of the cliff.

"So Jack began yelling for help, hoping that somebody passing by would hear him and lower a rope or something. "HELP! HELP! Is anyone up there? Help!" He yelled for hours, but no one heard him. He was about to give up when he heard a voice.

"`Jack. Jack. Can you hear me?'

"`Yes, yes, I can hear you. I'm down here!'

"`I can see you, Jack. Are you all right?'

"`Yes, but...who are you, and where are you?'

"`I am the Lord, Jack. I'm everywhere.'

"`The Lord? You mean GOD?'

"`That's Me.'

"`God, please help me! I promise--If You'll get me down from here, I'll stop sinning. I'll be a really good person. I'll serve You for the rest of my life.'

"`Easy on the promises, Jack. Let's just get you down from there, and then we can talk. Now, here's what I want you to do. Listen carefully.'

"`I'll do anything You say, Lord. Just tell me what to do.'

"`Okay. Let go of the branch.'

"`What?'

"`I said to let go of the branch. Just trust Me and let go.'

"There was a long silence. Finally, Jack yelled, `HELP! HELP! Is there anyone else up there?'

The answer to Jack's question is plain and simple! God can Help him! He is the only one who can! **But they still ask the question Is there anyone else up there? The answer is still the same Jack I can only help you if you trust me!**

The conclusion to last Sunday's sermon articulated what are somewhat discouraging but true statements;

We cannot by ourselves solve **The Problem of National Sin**; we can see it, we can lament over the pain it causes, we can even pray about it but we by ourselves cannot solve it! **BUT GOD CAN!**

Neither can we alone or even as a church reverse **The Problem Of Changing Values**. We can and should *turn away* from those valueless values; but we cannot reverse the growth of wickedness. **BUT GOD CAN!**

When it comes to **The Problem Of Universal Suffering** we can lament over it but it is an undeniable part of life in a world that is saturated with sin, evil, and infiltrated by demonic forces in the unseen world! **Those forces come to bear on both the righteous and the wicked! And only BUT GOD CAN help!**

Can God Help?

That was the question of the Israelites after God had delivered them from their bondage in the Egypt; **Psa 78:17-27 *And they sinned yet more against him by provoking the most High in the wilderness. (18) And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust. (19) Yea, they spake against God; **they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?** (20) Behold, he smote the rock, that the waters gushed out, and the streams***

*overflowed; **BUT can he give bread also? can he provide flesh for his people?***

Their sin was in spite of all that God had done in Egypt they still questioned that God would do what they needed. Verse 22 illustrates their sin; *(22) **Because they believed not in God, and trusted not in his salvation:***

Where can those who face such negative prospects find help? Whose voice will they hear say "**Jack. Jack. Can you hear me?**"

ONLY GOD'S! And only we can only bring hope to Jack and a lost and dying world by introducing them to the only one that can deliver the current generation of helpless people in hopeless circumstances; **that one is GOD! BUT HOW DO WE KNOW?**

How do we know Can God?

From the time God established the Nation of Israel as His chosen people there has been **a consistent plan to let People know what He Can Do.** The First Thing I call to your attention is that we can let people know what God Can Do...

I. By Considering What God Has Already Done;

Psalm 78 gives us a historical look at God's work on behalf of His people.

*Psa 78:1-7 Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. (2) I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: (3) Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. (4) We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the **generation to come** the praises of the LORD, and **his strength, and his wonderful works** that he hath done.*

- a. The history of man is a canvas upon which God has illustrated what He has done, proving that there is no limit to that which He CAN DO!
- a. The writer of Ecclesiastes said; **Ecc 1:9-10** *The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. (10) Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us.*
- b. Man's history repeats itself generation after generation. The faces change, the names are different but what man experiences is always the same.
- c. Let me illustrate what I mean; God created the material universe out of His own mind and by His own power!
- i. A QUARK is the smallest material thing and protons and neutrons are made of three quarks each.
- ii. Every intricate part of the material world from the smallest quark to the unmeasurable vastness of outer space is there because God put it there after He created "THERE" as a place from nothing!
- iii. All of it **every quark** is doing what it was designed to do! What is that? Make up the material universe!
- iv. *And it does what it does every day!*

God has Keep the Physical Universe running since the moment He created it!

- d. The history of man's part of the universe is the same. Created by God, For God, and the cycle of life goes on and on!
 - i. God put His human creation in a perfect environment, provided everything necessary for his life and to do what he was created to do!
 - ii. But Man rebelled against his benevolent creator and the cycle of sin we face today is the continuing result.
 - iii. By observing man's history through God's eyes we discover EVERYTHING GOD CAN DO through man!**

- b. **Psalm 78 continues to reveal what God has done and is so doing He shows us what Man's part is in the eternal work of God.**

*(5) For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, **which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:** (6) That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: (7) **That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:***

- a. In these verses 6 or 7 generations are show to be the revelation of what God CAN DO!

- b. And each generation is the means God uses to show the coming generations that there is nothing that God cannot do except SIN.
 - c. Each of us beloved are a part of that what God is doing and can do!
- c.** Not only has God chosen His human creation to carry forth His plan and message He also has chosen to bring forth **the delivered, the savior, the messiah** through this line of humanity!
- a. Through this piece of history we see that those who choose to walk with God and carry forth His message are not only chosen for that purpose **but they are protected while they are fulfilling that purpose!**
 - i. God **delivered** Adam and Eve from the disastrous failure in the Garden to populate the world with people!
 - ii. When Adam's race became so corrupt that God Himself declared Gen 6:6 **And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.**
 - iii. So bad had the race become that God said; Gen 6:7 **And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.**
 - iv. But this we learn also in the vilest of conditions **God has His man!** Gen 6:8 **But Noah found grace in the eyes of the**

LORD. Through this we discover something else God Can Do! He can save the entire human race with only one Godly man!

v. Thing about what God can Do with You?

vi. When the nation of Israel and the line of Messiah faced destruction in Egypt WE LEARN WHAT GOD CAN DO WITH ONLY ONE LOVING MOTHER!

1. *When Pharaoh ordered all male Hebrew baby boys to be killed God preserved the line of Messiah when Moses mother set her infant boy adrift to protect him from the evil pharaoh's decree!*

2. Jochebed had done what she could then God did what only God Can Do! **Direct the reed boat into the hand of Pharaoh's where not only was his life spared but God made it so Jochebed Moses mom became his nurse maid! THAT'S WHAT GOD CAN DO WITH ONE LOVING MOTHER!**

vii. Later when Moses was grown he rejected the family that had raised him for God and God used him to deliver the Hebrew nation from Egyptian slavery. **THAT'S WHAT GOD CAN DO!**

viii. Even though Jesus Christ, the Jewish Messiah, has already come and Satan knows it's only a matter of time until he's consigned forever to Hell, *his attempts to harass and destroy the Jewish people have not yet subsided.*

1. Even at this very hour in history Satanic efforts seek to turn hearts and minds from the Biblical Messiah through **denying His deity** with the multiplied “Modern Translations.”
2. In addition to those who use these modern deity denying translations there are Cults like the very popular Latter Day Saints who say that Jesus and Satan were brothers!
3. **Another is the door knocking literature toting “Jehovah’s Witnesses”** who have their own exclusive ungodly bible called the “New World Translation” in which Jesus is called **“A god!” and not the one true God.**
4. **God’s answer is the King James Bible which I believe is the bible God preserved bible for the English speaking people.**

- d. The questioning of God's word and the plan it reveals has been propagated by Satan and his forces seen and unseen from the beginning of time!
- i. Genesis 3 reveals Satan's first attempt on earth; Gen 3:1 *Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*
 - ii. *Even in the modern age of technology the attack on what God has said is still Satan's choicest weapon!*
 - 1. *In the face of rejection, attempted destruction, and multiplied translations the King James Bible is still the most popular translation!*
WHAT GOD CAN DO?
 - 2. *Stand with god in promoting the Most Popular and Fastest Growing Bible Translation! Isn't the NIV or The NKJV it is the KING JAMES BIBLE! THAT'S*
WHAT GOD CAN DO!

Let me now personalize my question;

II. What Can God Do For you?

1. The answer is whatever He Whatever you need Him to do!
2. But you must as the song writer says “Trust and Obey for there no other way!”
3. Jack asked is there anyone else there? The answer is no!

III. What Can God Do With You?

1. **First He can use you to perpetuate the faith once delivered to the Saints.**
 - a. This isn't a new challenge! Jude recognized it while the human caretakers of the Church could still hear the Challenge they were given!
 - b. Jesus had told peter **Mat 16:18** And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.***
 - c. Yet Jude writes only a few years later; Jud 1:3-5 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. (4) For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men,***

turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Today we have entered another period that the gates of hell is using to threatening the New Testament Church it is called “Post-modern Christianity.”

i. It is in this contemporary environment that once good churches and strong pastors are being lead into a philosophy that is replacing the eternal truth of God’s word with unstable speculation of experience.

ii. The reason is that they are being lead away from an absolute standard!

1. It is about experience over reason,
2. subjectivity over objectivity,
3. spirituality over religion,
4. images over words,
5. outward over inward.

iii. For time sake let’s just consider the first one on the list; experience over reason; truth becomes relative.

a. This opens up all kinds of problems, as this lessens the standard that the Bible contains absolute truth, and even disqualifies biblical truth as being absolute in many cases.

- b. If the Bible is not our source for absolute truth, and personal experience is allowed to define and interpret what truth actually is, ***The result is that a saving faith in Jesus Christ is rendered meaningless.***
- c. A church sign I read recently invites people to “Come Experience Worship.”
- d. That’s not what the bible teaches; worship is not something we experience it is something we are commanded to do so God can experience it!

b. Our church and churches like ours are being attacked by hell!

i. Every time an old hymn that is God honoring is replaced by one we are asked to experience Satan is chipping away at the Faith once delivered to the saints.

ii. Everytime the message is delivered through experience instead of PREACHING THE SIMPLE TRUTH OF THE BIBLE Satan is taking another shot at the faith once delivered to the saints!

b. God uses each of you every time you contend for the faith of the bible because it is the only one upon which Christianity was founded!

- i. *We contend for the faith because we are still using the God preserved Bible for the English speaking people!*
- ii. *We contend for the faith because we believe the pulpit is a sacred desk from which men called of God preach the truth!*

1Co 1:18-21 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. (19) For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. (20) Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? (21) For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

Conclusion:

Christian Counselor David Powlison has written that *"the only way we ever sin is by suppressing God, by forgetting, by tuning out his voice, switching channels, and listening to other voices. When you actually remember, you actually change. In fact, remembering is the first change."*

In order to keep us from forgetting and to insure that God's truth, His work, His power, His Love, and His moral laws are not forgotten is to publish them regularly in our daily lives and pass them on to future generations!

THE CHALLENGE FOR TODAY

- Have Confidence In God (Trust) –

- Call To Mind His Past Works (Remember) –
 - i. Think of the times He has delivered you,
 - ii. Remember His power and all that He has done.
 - iii. Let His past works remind you that He is able, no matter what you face in life.
 - iv. God is able and He will come through for you, every time.
 - v. Let the past be your reminder and learn to trust Him no matter what!

- Carry Out His Commandments (Obey)

As I close, let me leave this thought in your minds, GOD CAN!!

I submit to you beloved that together as those who know the truth we will continue to say that Our God Can Do What Needs To Be Done. THAT GOD CAN DO EVERYTHING THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE THROUGH HIS INFALLIBLE WORD AND FUNDAMENTAL CHURCH!

Invitation:

Everything God CAN DO FOR YOU begins with salvation provided you by BY WHAT GOD HAS DONE THROUGH JESUS! WILL YOU LET HIS SAVE YOU!