

CONTINUAL ALLOWANCE

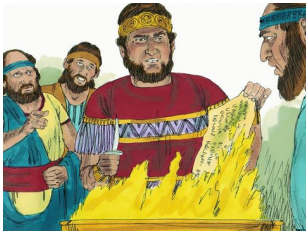
TEXT

1 Kings 20:40: And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone [escaped]. And the king of Israel said unto him, So shall thy judgment be; thyself hast decided it.

This is one of the most surprising Scriptures in the Old Testament. The story behind it is even more astonishing, by far!

The Bible is true to the “-enth” degree. The man who says its words are contradictory betrays ignorance of its contents, which is inexcusable.

I know of no better illustration of this than the life story of Jehoiakim, king of Judah. His son who succeeded him to the throne is the one mentioned in our text. But it was

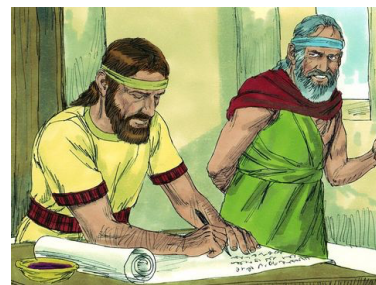


Jehoiakim who was sitting in his winter house when Jehudi came for the purpose of reading the Word of God. As he read the scroll, the king became very angry. He took out his penknife, pen-knifed its pages, and cast them into the fire.



We can safely call him a destructive critic of the early school. He was like those of our modern preachers who seem to think that because they cut away the Scriptures, the Bible shall be overthrown.

It certainly would be fair to see what really followed. After the scroll was destroyed, the prophet Jeremiah had only to call Baruch, the scribe. He dictated the whole thing to him again, and with even more severe warnings of judgment.



This king was a tyrant of the worst sort. Notice what Jeremiah had to say about him:

Jeremiah 22:13-17:

13 Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; that useth his neighbour's service without wages, and giveth him not for his work;

14 That saith, I will build me a wide house and large chambers, and

cutteth him out windows; and it is cieled with cedar, and painted with vermilion.

15 Shalt thou reign, because thou closest thyself in cedar? did not thy father eat and drink, and do judgment and justice, and then it was well with him?

16 He [Joshua] judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well with him: was not this to know Me? saith the LORD.

17 But thine eyes and thine heart are not but for thy covetousness, and for to shed innocent blood, and for oppression, and for violence, to do it.

People cannot sin without their sins finding them out. God will reckon IN TIME with them when the oppressor shall meet the one whom he has oppressed. The thief shall stand before the one from whom he has stolen. The deceiver shall come face to face with the one upon whom he has practiced deception. Then the Books SHALL be opened. Line upon line, sin upon sin SHALL stare him in the face. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God.

People cannot sin without their sins finding them out.

Hebrews 10:31: It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

There are, even in this story, some awful judgments pronounced on “Mr. Penknife” — King Jehoiakim.

Jeremiah 22:19: He shall be buried with the burial of an ass, drawn and cast forth beyond the gates of Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 22:30: Thus saith the LORD, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah.

Jeremiah 36:30: Therefore thus saith the LORD of Jehoiakim king of Judah; He shall have none to sit upon the throne of David: and his dead body shall be cast out in the day to the heat, and in the night to the frost.

In the face of all this wrath, his son, Jehoiachin, comes upon the scene. He was made king of the people of Judah. I can hear the enemies of God rejoicing. They are scoffing when it seems as if God’s curse was a pile of nothing. But just wait.

Ecclesiastes 8:11: Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is

fully set in them to do evil.

You may think it is in vain to stand before God's prophecies. The Bible says,

Proverbs 26:2b: so the curse causeless shall not come.

You might as well take your place in front of an avalanche on a mountainside to retard its progress, as to try to hinder the fulfillment of the Word of the Lord.

In 13 short weeks, Jehoiachin was dethroned. The time was really too short to be counted. The land was invaded by the king of Babylon. The king — his dad — lost his life, and his son was taken captive and sent away to Babylon into exile.

Now we have a picture of the dethroned king — as bad as it can be — behind him, along with the memory of his father. He had cursed God and had murdered Uriah, the prophet, and now this horrible death. Instead of succeeding his father to the throne, we find him now in the Babylonian dungeon.

2 Kings 25:27: And it came to pass in the seven and thirtieth year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, that Evilmerodach king of Babylon in the year that he began to reign did lift up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah out of prison;

For nearly 3/8 of a century, Jehoiachin had not seen the sun rise nor had he seen it set. All the time he had waked and slept, bound with the clanking of chains. Little children became men and women, and still he suffered on. Old men passed away and were forgotten, and he was in the darkness. God pity the man who has been in prison for 37 years.

Those who have been in prison this long often care less about getting outside, for most of their friends and companions are now gone from life's scene. Jehoiachin must have been like that.

It was a terrible nightmare, and yet not more terrible than what may be seen in many homes today. There are men who walk among us who are bound with chains that are just as real. Sin is an awful taskmaster. Satan is a cruel and terrible slave master.

Satan is a cruel
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master.

But in all this wretchedness of the king, suddenly Evilmerodach, king of Babylon, came upon the scene. What he said and did for Jehoiachin is found in my previous text.

2 Kings 25:27b: that Evilmerodach king of Babylon in the year that he began to reign did lift up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah

out of prison.

We might be at a loss to understand the meaning of this verse were it not that the Holy Spirit had recorded in **Genesis 40:20** the same phrase. Pharaoh's birthday was being celebrated. He made a feast unto all his servants. He "*lifted up the head*" of the chief butler. This meant Pharaoh restored him to his former position.



Genesis 40:20: And it came to pass the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast unto all his servants: and he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants.

There must have been in the work of this Babylonian king the thought of restoration. It is with this thought in mind of making up all that which had been lost that David said:

Psalms 23:3a: He restoreth my soul.

It is heartbreaking to think of the penalty of sinning and of its consequences. No less is it heartbreaking to think of the miserable condition in which it places the family and loved ones. Yet, in the special mercy of God — in Christ — there is made a wonderful provision for our restoration. In Jesus' atonement, He answers before God all the demands of the law. He makes it possible for God to be the Just God, and then the Justifier of all them that believe.

He will look upon us thru the Blood of Jesus' cleansing power as though we never have done any wrong.

1 John 1:9: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

He will look upon us thru the Blood of Jesus' cleansing power as though we never have done any wrong. More than that, He will also lift us up until we stand before God as "heirs and joint-heirs with Christ".

Romans 8:17: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together.

Romans 5:11: And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom we have now received the atonement.

We may, in our own thoughts, bear the marks of our transgressions of the past; yet we are told in:

Jude 1:24: Now unto Him Who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the Presence of His Glory with exceeding joy,

You might well recall, in **Luke 15**, Jesus told the Parable of the Prodigal Son. He had gone into deep sin, was far from God, and was exiled to a pigpen by his transgressions. But THEN



SOMETHING HAPPENED in his heart.

He began to repent. Forsaking his sinful living, he arose and came back home — repentant — and was restored by his father to the high position of the son of the King. All this is what Christ has for us!



Ephesians 1:4: According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be Holy and without blame before Him in Love:

I like to think on the fact that I was chosen in Him before the foundation of the world. Jesus had me in mind when He suffered and died on the Cross, and by His death has reconciled me back to God and made me accepted in the Beloved. So, when I stand before Him, it will be as if I had never sinned in all my life. Praise the Lord for His unspeakable gift!

The king spoke kindly to Jehoiachin, the dethroned king of Judah. He set his throne above the throne of the kings that were with him in Babylon.

2 Kings 25:20: And Nebuzaradan captain of the guard took these, and brought them to the king of Babylon to Riblah:

It must have been a great surprise to Jehoiachin to hear those kindly words. He had been accustomed only to the clanking of his chains and the oaths of his companions in misery.

But this is the way my Master works, too. You remember the woman caught in the very act of adultery. The heartless religious leaders were quick to condemn her. Jesus watched them hurriedly bring her and throw her at His feet. That is not the proper way to bring a soul to Christ; but God meant it for good in the end.



Their evil intentions were to kill her, and to trap Him. Both plans failed, as Jesus said,

John 8:7b: and [Jesus] said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

That was severe. When they slunk away from Him and His words, Jesus turned to her and said,



John 8:10b-11:

10b Woman, where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee?

11 She said, No man, Lord

Jesus spake kindly and said:

John 8:11b: Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more

This is always Jesus' way with the sinner that is sorry for sin and repents.

Now, let us look again back to the yesterdays to the land of Babylon. See what the king did for the undeserving prisoner? Not far from the king's restoration comes these heartwarming words in:

2 Kings 25:29: And changed his prison garments: and he did eat bread continually before him all the days of his life.

From this Scripture, there are several ways of benefiting. The change from filthy prison garments to a new robe of righteousness is part of the plan of the saving Gospel of Christ.

Isaiah 61:10: (Speaking of Christ and His ornamentation by the Father) I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in My God; for He hath clothed Me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered Me with the Robe of Righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

Then there is the truth here which tells us that we are not obligated to change our way of life, our worldly clothes, and those vulgar outfits and unsightly garments which many sinners wear before they come to Christ. But when we truly get saved, the change in clothing is part of the Lord's work. A fiery temper and a vile mouth that may have been part of our old life will change when we get saved and restored to the fellowship with the King, for there is a change in our conduct and in our language, too. We see many examples of this in the Scripture:

- **Peter cursed and swore when following Jesus afar off, but when he was converted, he strengthened his brethren.**

Luke 22:31-34:

31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, satan hath

desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

33 And he said unto Him, Lord, I am ready to go with Thee, both into prison, and to death.

34 And He said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest Me.



- **When David put Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, at his table, all signs of Mephibosheth's lameness were hidden.**

2 Samuel 9:11b, 13:

11b As for Mephibosheth, said the king, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons.

13 So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet.

- **When God delivered the Children of Israel from the bondage of the Egyptians, they left with great wealth.**

Exodus 12:35-36:



35 And the Children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment:

36 And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians.

When God clothes us with the robe of Christ's Righteousness, He truly covers all the marks of our past life of shame and weaknesses.

I know that many of you have understood what I have said and are perfectly sure of everything that has been said up to this point. Now — how about our future?

After we are saved, God becomes even more wonderful to us. God has made great provision for you, even to the day of your death, or of Jesus' Return.

If any child of His is weak or hungry, it is because he has not appropriated what God intended he should have.

Jesus told us to pray:

Matthew 6:11: Give us this day our daily bread.

“He DAILY loads us with benefits. For we are to exhort one another DAILY, for we need help DAILY.

Hebrews 3:13: But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.



It was a Daily Rate that the king gave Jehoiachin. This was continually — all the days of his life.

Jeremiah 52:31-34:

31 And it came to pass in the seven and thirtieth year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, in the five and twentieth day of the month, that Evilmerodach king of Babylon in the first year of his reign lifted up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah, and brought him forth out of prison,

32 And spake kindly unto him, and set his throne above the throne of the kings that were with him in Babylon,

33 And changed his prison garments: and he did continually eat bread before him all the days of his life.

34 And for his diet, there was a continual diet given him of the king of Babylon, every day a portion until the day of his death, all the days of his life.

God will send you no more than you need, and will send you no more than you can bear. How many times have we been shortchanged by looking in the wrong direction. David said,

Psalms 121:2: My help cometh from the Lord, Who made Heaven and earth.

He sends an ALLOWANCE of strength and spiritual food. We can truly say, with David,

Psalms 23:1: The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not [be in] want.

Psalms 37:25b: Yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

Why? Because I have a continual allowance DAILY, all the days of my life.

Matthew 6:11: Give us this day our daily bread.

There is the story of a man who died in the County Home for the aged and poor.



He had owned a little estate, but counted it as worthless or next to nothing. The one who inherited the estate is today many times a millionaire, for upon the estate was a copper mine. It had been there all the time, but it had not been discovered by the original owner.

This is like our inheritance in Christ. It has been available all this time, but some are just now discovering the riches

of His grace.

It is said that some years ago in 1868, the king of Abyssinia took a British subject by the name of Campbell as a prisoner. They carried him to the fortress of Magdala, and in the heights of the mountains, put him in a dungeon. They kept him there with no charges assigned against him. It was six months before Great Britain found it out. Then they demanded Campbell's immediate release. King Theodore refused. In less than ten days, there were 10,000 soldiers on a ship bound for Abyssinia.

They sailed down the coast. They disembarked. They marched 700 miles under the burning sun, up the mountain to the very dungeon where this prisoner was being held. There they gave battle. The gates were torn down. Presently, the prisoner was lifted upon their shoulders, and carried down the mountain. They placed him upon the white winged ship and sped him in safety to his home. It cost the English government 25 million dollars to release that man.



I belong to Jesus today, because 2,000 years ago God sent Jesus from Heaven. He paid the full ransom for my release from the prison of Satan. He conquered the devil. He now has the keys of Hell and Death. He set me free, and He continually keeps me free. And besides that – He raised me up to a kingly position in Christ, making me sit together in heavenly places in Christ.

Ephesians 2:6: And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

He also gives me a CONTINUAL allowance for my spirit, soul, and body. He supplies all my needs, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19: But my God shall supply all your need according

to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

This ALLOWANCE is given to me EVERY DAY. And it shall be ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE THROUGHOUT ETERNITY.

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