

Enduring Wisdom: NOT Losing Sight of the Whole

It's crucial we keep the BIG PICTURE immediately before us. *Story time ...*

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S1

The story of Israel's defeat by the Philistines – I Samuel 4, 5

God's people had been defeated by their enemies, even to the extent of the capturing of the ark of the covenant. I Samuel 4:12-22 HOW SAD!
But the story doesn't stop there – it continues ...

The *BUT GOD* conclusion of this chapter in the history of Israel is miraculous. Take a moment to read the full story in I Samuel 5.

S3

And what of **current** cultural affairs? The story of God's people's recent defeat in the spiritual war against **secular** socialism (It's now quite clear that God's people in Jesus Christ here in the *United* [right!] States will now face a new wave of anti-God, socialistic advance this next decade.) HOW SAD!
But the story doesn't stop with our present *chapter* – it continues ...

The *BUT GOD* finale is amazing. The reading of Bible passages which highlight our great יהוה God's ability to redeem even circumstances of growing darkness will serve as an encouragement to us if we but take the time to reassure ourselves that we do indeed, by the mercy and grace of God, remain safe in God's powerful hands. May we go back to His word for great insight!

Space does not allow me to tell of and develop other stories ...



Emmaus Road comment: "We hoped He would ..." Luke 24:21 HOW SAD, *BUT GOD* ...

Despairing disciples at the cross when their hopes for *King Jesus* were dashed HOW SAD, *BUT GOD* ...

Mary's and Martha's disappointment in their brother's death HOW SAD, *BUT GOD* ...

Polycarp's martyrdom HOW SAD, *BUT GOD* ... And there are so many others!

S5 The supreme story (example) of Jesus Christ

His enduring faithfulness to God's assignment presents a glorious example of keeping the whole picture in mind. Father God assigned His Son to make atonement for the sins of mankind. Jesus Christ sacrificed His life on the cross for our behalf. He died. HOW SAD (in one sense)! But the story didn't stop with His final breath – it continues ... The *BUT GOD* eternity brought victory over death three days later. Jesus Christ rose, defeating death. He continues to reign.

Lord God, Your *BUT GOD* things continue. In response, we praise and thank You oh glorious יהוה God Most High. THANK YOU for gracing us with Your Big-Picture perspective. Help us – Your people in Christ – to abide therein! Thank You for Your Son and His supreme example to us. That He, for the JOY that was set before Him, endured the cross is **a m a z i n g** to us. Lord Jesus, Your example continues to help us press on, like You did – in Your resolve to obey Your Father's bidding – as You paid for the sins of mankind on the cross. Thank You. In Your mercy and grace, help us in our commitment to Your Commission task. As darkness seems overwhelming at times these days, may we *look to Jesus* in light of what's coming. May we **thrive** in the fact You exploit darkness for Your rightful praise. Lord, may we **rejoice** as we further prepare to incur the *sufferings of Christ* which are coming to Your people soon. May we take encouragement that we are counted worthy to suffer shame for His name's sake. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Glory to Your holy, matchless name!

In response to the above, how then should we NOW be living? God has been clear on His people *enduring to the end* during the *end of days*. We will find strength for the days ahead if we but go back to His precious Word, experience His PEACE, LOVE and JOY, and thus press on in His mighty empowering – as we abide in His Vine and walk in His Spirit – whereby we prove to be His overcomers. All praise and glory alone be to our Holy, Creator and **Eternal-Life giving** God.

One final warning based on future possibilities ... (see Mark 8:34-38 and related passages)

Whoever loses his life [HOW SAD, *BUT GOD* :] will find it!

Whoever saves his life (and *falls away* due to deception, persecution, and/or personal idolatry and goes on to yield to the antichrist's mark so as to avoid temporary persecution from the final world system), will lose it! [HOW SAD! NO "BUT GOD" hope in this future example if one falls away and becomes lukewarm.]

S2

The story of Haman's attack on Mordecai and the Jews – Esther

God's people were about to be destroyed as a result of the hateful intentions and actions of Haman the Agagite. HOW SAD!
But the story doesn't stop there – it continues ...

The *BUT GOD* ending of this story is insightful. Read the rest of the story – Esther 5 – 9. The principles speak for themselves.

S4

And what of **future** cultural affairs? The story of God's true people in Jesus Christ suffering persecution during the period of time the Bible calls the *War Against The Saints* – when the world *goes after* God's people as it follows the spirit of antichrist HOW SAD!
But the story won't stop there – it will continue ...

The *BUT GOD* conclusion is pertinent to those who wish to be on the winning side. After the final wave of the *war against the Saints* is supernaturally stopped – Mt. 24:22 ; Rev. 6:12a – God's master **Chess Plan** will see His people rapture-gathered at the **Final Trumpet** of Revelation 11 – also see I Corinthians 15:51, 52.