

Are Yahweh's Eyes Upon You?

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In America during the very late 60's the police went on strike. An article a few years later in TIME magazine described some of the actions and effects of this strike. One of the most interesting parts of the article was the comment that many of the ordinary people went to the extreme and became criminals. They looted the shops for material benefit.

The reason given:-

Because no one was watching them!

The genuine Christian would apply this to God. However most people think that there is no one watching them, and certainly not a supernatural Almighty Power to whom the whole universe is subject to.

Unfortunately many worldly Christians also think like this, assuming this God takes no record of what they do.

Psalm 11v4-5 The Lord is in his holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven; his eyes behold, his eyelids test, the children of men. The Lord tests the righteous and the wicked, and his soul hates him that loves violence.

Clearly God is looking over us! But we can ask ourselves these questions:-

Does He really care and what is He going to do?

Does God see everything?

Some people would suggest that it would be like living in a police state if God were watching every move that we make!

What does the Bible say on these points?

Prov. 15v3 The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.

God wants us to give our very best.

1Pet. 3v12 For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those that do evil.

This serves as a warning because not only can God see what we are doing but also He is actively against those who do evil. Hence we must be careful and do God's will.

Thieves do their work in the dark so they are able to hide their deeds. This is just like the evil/harmful/hurtful people; they too, like to hide their deeds from other people. They think that they can hide from everyone, but little do they realise that they cannot hide from God!

Hebrews 4v13 And before Him no creature is hidden, but all are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

Must serve God for the correct reasons. He is watching and we have to account for everything that we do!

1. Is God watching over us?

Biblical examples:

John 3v19-20 And this is the judgement (= crisis/decision time), that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

Achan did a foolish thing and thought that he could keep it a secret!

Let us see:-

Joshua 7v11-12 Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant which I commanded them; they have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen and lied, and put them among their own stuff. Therefore the people of Israel cannot stand before their enemies; they turn their backs before their enemies, because they have become a thing for destruction. I will be with you no more, unless you destroy the devoted things from among you.

Joshua 7v19 Then Joshua said to Achan: My son, give glory to the Lord God of Israel, and render praise to him; and tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me.

Achan now tells Joshua what he stole and that he hid this spoil under his tent.

And later the Biblical text tells us that Achan and his family and all his produce was set to fire and all were put to death!

We see in the text that God knew precisely what Achan did even though Joshua originally didn't!

This is something that we may have to face in the day of Judgement if we do not accept God's word as final.

Another example on stealing is the Flying scroll in:-

Zech. 5v1-4 Again I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, a flying scroll! This is the curse that goes out over the face of the whole land; for every one who steals shall be cut off henceforth according to it, and every one who swears falsely shall be cut off henceforth according to it.

Again we are able to see that God is quite able to see our deliberate acts of evil and will be punished accordingly.

2. The Proud Person:

Our first example is the king Uzziah who reigned for 52 years and did what God wanted by removing the alters to Baal. However:-

2Chron. 26v16 But when he was strong he grew proud, to his destruction. For he was false to the Lord his God, and entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the alter of incense.

This is something that only priests were allowed to do!

The priests tried to stop him but he grew angry and continued. God then struck him with leprosy. He remained a leper to the day he died!

Clearly power had gone to this king's head!

He thought too much of himself - he was haughty, thinking that he was better than he really was.

As Christians, Jesus taught us to be humble. He set the example by the washing of his disciple's feet.

3. Speaking a lie.

Prov. 19v5 A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who utters lies will not escape.

This sets the standard of God.

An example (*below*) in the Old Testament was the healing of Naaman by Elisha of leprosy. Gehazi (*Elisha's servant*) then received leprosy because of his lying to obtain financial gain.

2Kings 5v22 All is well. My master has sent me to say, There have just now come to me from the hill country of Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: pray, give them a talent of silver and two festal garments.

When Gehazi returns with his 'booty'. He is accosted by Elisha:-

2Kings 5v25-27 He went in, and stood before his master, and Elisha said to him: Where have you been, Gehazi? And he said: Your servant went nowhere. But Elisha said to him: Did I not go with you in spirit when the man turned from his chariot to meet you? Was it a time to accept money and garments, olive orchards and vineyards, sheep and oxen, menservants and maidservants? Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cleave to you, and to your descendants for ever. So Gehazi went out from his presence a leper, as white as snow.

Note in the above text how one lie has to be supported by another, and then another and so on. Do not start lying; be truthful and faithful particularly to a Godly master. God will also repay deceit.

4. Harsh and unkind attitudes.

There is an episode in David's life when he requested a return of a favour that he had showed to the workers of Nabal, a very rich man in the land of Carmel. However Nabal arrogantly and defiantly answered the representatives of David:-

1Sam. 25v10 And Nabal answered David's servants: Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants nowadays who are breaking away from their masters.

These servants reported back and David was furious! He mustered up his best fighters and was about to attack, but Nabal's wife, Abigail came to the camp with food (two hundred bread loaves, two skins of wine, five dressed sheep, etc) and asked David to excuse her churlish and ill-behaved husband (who was perfectly aware who David was)!

1Sam. 25v32-33 And David said to Abigail: Blessed be the Lord, The God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! Blessed be your discretion, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodguilt and from avenging myself with my own hand!

Abigail went home and waited for her husband to recover after his excessive feast the night before. In the morning she told him of the events.

1Sam. 25v37-38 And in the morning, when the wine had gone out of Nabal, his wife told him these things, and his heart died within him, and he became as a stone. And about ten days later the Lord smote Nabal; and he died.

5. Murder:

The first murder was that of Abel by his brother Cain, the first children of Adam and Eve. The curse of God was placed upon Cain for the rest of his life.

Another very serious event recorded in the Bible, was the murder of 70 brothers by one of their brothers called Abimelech (the youngest - Jotham escaped). These were the sons of the famous leader Gideon (also called Jerubbaal, that is to say: Baal contended against him - see Judges 6v32). When Abimelech was leader, God caused him to fall out with his evil compatriots - the men of Shechem who had helped him three years earlier to murder his 70 brothers (Jud. 9v23). During much fighting with these compatriots and goaded on with success he laid siege to a tower containing all the inhabitants of the city called Thebez. A certain woman threw a millstone out and it crushed his skull.

Judges 9v55-57 And when the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they departed every man to his home.

Thus God requited the crime of Abimelech, which he committed against his father in killing his 70 brothers; and God also made all the wickedness of the men of Shechem fall back upon their heads, and upon them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal.

6. Immorality:

This often breaks up marriages, leads to much suffering within this world, and those not married many divers problems through the fornication between many partners.

Gen. 39v7-9 And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph, and said: Lie with me. But he refused and said to his master's wife: Lo having me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my hand; he is not greater in this house than I am; nor has he kept back anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife; how can I do this great wickedness, and a sin against God? Joseph knew what was right and what was wrong. He also knew that lying with another man's wife was a sin against God.

Another example in the Bible was Eli's (the high priest) two sons. They did not behave correctly; they were a very bad example to the priestly line. However it was compounded because Eli had no control over their immorality, they had lost their respect of him.

1Samuel 2v22 Now Eli was very old, and he heard all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

The text says that they ignored him, God knew that they would soon be slain. The Israelites now proceeded to loose battles against the Philistines and then they lost the Ark of the Covenant to their arch enemies!

1Samuel 4v11 And the ark of God was captured; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas were slain.

It then relates how the news was reported back to Eli.

1Samuel 4v18 When he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell over backward from his seat by the side of the gate; and his neck was broken and he died, for he was an old man, and heavy. He judged Israel forty years.

Further in the Bible we have a comment from Jeremiah:-

Jer. 29v22-23 Because of them this curse shall be used by all the exiles from Judah in Babylon: The Lord make you like Zedekiah and Ahab whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire. Because they have committed adultery with their neighbours' wives, and they have spoken in my name lying words which I did not command them. I am the one who knows, and I am witness, says the Lord.

However God does not just: 'observes and then destroys'!

God also watches over the good people to whom he rewards. Some others, He feels that He must reprove like a Father does to a son whom He loves. These people are disciplined to strengthen their faith and to bring them within the fold of Christ.

Jer. 45v1-5 The word that Jeremiah the prophet spoke to Baruch the son of Neriah, when he wrote these words in a book at the direction of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah: Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, to you, Baruch: You said: Woe is me! For the Lord has added sorrow to my pain: I am weary with my groaning, and I find no rest. Thus shall you say to him: Thus says the Lord: Behold, what I have built I am breaking down, and what I have planted I am plucking up - that is, the whole land. And do you seek great things for yourself? Seek them not; for, behold, I am bringing evil upon all flesh, says the Lord; but I will give you your life as a prize of war in all places to which you may go.

We also have an example in the New Testament of Cornelius a Roman Governor whose reward was to be the first Gentile Baptised.

Acts 10v22 And they said: Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house, and to hear what you have to say.

Acts 10v31 Saying: Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.

Acts 10v47 Then Peter declared: Can any one forbid water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have? And he commanded, them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ.

In the Old Testament we have an example were Abijah, the young son of Jeroboam would be the only one to be given a decent burial, the rest would be eaten by animals in the street. Only because God saw something good in him.

1Kings 14v13 And all Israel shall mourn for him, and bury him; for he only of Jeroboam shall come to the grave, because in him there is found something pleasing to the Lord.

How do we take instruction?

God has to be **Real** to us. If we hold Him as being real to us, then we automatically wish to fulfil His Desire of us.

In us responding to fulfil His desire of us then, God will respond kindly to us.

Psalms 11v4 The Lord is in his holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven; his eyes behold, his eyelids examine the children of men.

1Tim. 5v24 Some men's sins are open beforehand, and lead directly to judgement; and to others it follows later.

Psalms 18v20 The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me.

In the book of Job, one thing that it teaches us is that no human is exempt from Satan's attacks. The righteous people however are rewarded in the end, even if we believe that at the time of Satan's persecution, God's eyes are not upon us!