

God's Unwilling Slaves

"I am going to send for all the peoples of the north – declares the LORD – and for My slave, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, and bring them against this land and its inhabitants, and against all those nations roundabout. I will exterminate them and make them a desolation, an object of hissing – ruins for all time." Jeremiah 25:9

Jeremiah prophesied that God would use Babylon – “My slave” – to bring retribution on Judah and her neighbors because of their iniquity. Later, the prophet promised, “after seventy years are completed, I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity, says the LORD, making the land an everlasting waste.”¹ God used Babylon to accomplish His purpose and then held her accountable for doing His will.

You will frequently find God using those who violate His commandments to accomplish great and mighty things for Him. **Never confuse God using a person with God blessing that person.** Don't suppose that because God does great things through you that He is pleased with you or that He will not judge you for your deeds. Only those dedicated to doing His will can stand in the Day of Judgment.

Remember, there is no necessary relationship between God using a person and His condoning that person's thoughts, motives, or behavior.

¹ Jeremiah 25:12

God Is Sovereign and Man Is Responsible

"...His works were finished from the foundation of the world." Hebrews 4:3

God reveals in His Word, “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: having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.”¹ Again His Word says, “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”²

These two seemingly irreconcilable truths are anchors in every believer's life. No one understands how both can be true, but all of Christ's followers should be grateful that both are true.

The responsibility of man means that you can decide to love God and be His obedient slave. God did not make you His robot; you are free to accept or reject His offer to become His.

The sovereignty of God means you can have a relationship with the Creator God of the universe and live with Him throughout eternity. Because of your depravity, without His taking the initiative and electing you, you would surely go to hell.

As an anonymous hymn writer stated it: **“I sought the Lord, and afterwards I knew, He moved my soul to seek Him seeking me. It was not I that sought Thee Savior true; I was sought of Thee.”**

¹ Ephesians 1:4-5 ² II Peter 3:9