

A Christian's Responsibility to Business

taken from James 5:3

Tonight we're in James, chapter 5 verse 3. The thrust of this particular passage starts here with the fact that your gold and your silver have been tarnished. The word "cankered," here is a perfect, passive, indicative. It looks like this: KATIOO. It means to be corroded or tarnished. It's a perfect tense ... consummated perfect, which indicates it's in the process, and it's in the soul and this is describing negative volition. Whenever this soul reaches out and touches anything, it tarnishes it, it rots, it corrodes, it corrupts ... motheaten.

So the principle is prosperity, whatever it is that you have, equals capacity + whatever the object is. You can have all of the objects, but if you don't have the capacity, you've had it. So your gold and silver have been tarnished. (PROSPERITY = CAPACITY + WHATEVER THE OBJECT IS).

Possession of wealth is not the issue in this passage. Again, this is talking about capacity in the soul to possess wealth. It's not what you have that counts, it's what your soul contains by way of the Word. Gold provides wealth, but the Word provides **capacity** for wealth.

Gold has intrinsic value. Wherever you find it, it's valuable. Gold comes in many forms. When one has capacity for these things based on the Word, then you can enjoy what you have. But wealth is not happiness. The possession of things is not happiness. It's merely a means by which one expresses his capacity. The true issue is really the Word in the soul.

The next phrase says, "and the rust of them shall be a witness against you." Now, rust here is incorrect because you know and I know that gold and silver do not rust. You know that the translator is wrong. You know that without even studying the Word. They tarnish, they don't rust. Rust here is the word, "HOIOS," and it is poison. That's the word for venom. This is the venom of negative volition.

This again is in the soul. The venom isn't on the gold or silver. The venom is in negative volition and it should be translated, "and the venom shall be ..." That's a future active indicative of the word, "EIMI," which is status quo. This is a statement of fact. This can be expected if you are negative. Active voice, the venom of negative volition produces an action of the verb in the soul. The indicative mood is the reality of the person being negative.

Now notice, we started out with rottenness in the soul in verse one. Now we've come all the way down to venom, or poison. This venom of soul is evident because it says here "evidence against you." Evidence against you is the fact that in your soul is the venom of negative volition. Your silver and gold have been tarnished. You have no capacity. The venom of negative volition shall always exist as evidence against you.

In other words, when a believer is negative to the Word of God, he accumulates his own evidence, his own witness, which leads to his own persecution and punishment. The venom in your soul today leads to Divine Discipline tomorrow. That's the principle. You can be disciplined by being negative and having all the things in life. In fact, we're going to see some horrible discipline in this passage.

How do you get venom or poison in the soul? Very simple. It's the easiest thing in the world. It's easier than reaching maturity. **You just neglect the Word.** When you do that, you get to the situation where you're past feeling. You become apathetic. When you become past feeling, the next thing that you do is search for happiness. That's Ecclesiastes.

The Lord guides through His Word and tells you you can have happiness, His happiness. But you don't want that, so you become past feeling, insensitive. You start your own search for happiness. This is Solomon's life and we'll see it also in Abraham's life.

Whatever you use for your frantic search for happiness, there's possibly eight, nine, or 10 different systems for a frantic search for happiness in Ecclesiastes. Whichever one you use, this means putting venom poison in your soul. Venom in the soul is then the evidence that you are negative. The evidence is used to convict you and lead you to Divine Discipline, which will be first of all, in our passage, illness, and then the sin unto death.

Then it says, "shall eat your flesh." "Shall eat your pieces of flesh," literally. "Pieces of flesh" refer to the objects of prosperity. Prosperity, again, refers to capacity + an object. "Pieces of flesh" here means anything. It could be money, Right-Man or Right-Woman, power, success, clothes, whatever. Whatever it is, the venom, as a result of being negative to the Word, eats up or destroys these things and/or the flesh. So this says, "and it shall eat your pieces of flesh."

Now, the next phrase, "as it were fire," goes with the next sentence. After the word "flesh," you have a period, and now we have a new sentence starting. "Like fire, you have heaped together treasures for the last days." This is negative volition perpetuated to the maximum. Literally, it says, "you have accumulated treasure," which means to accumulate. In other words, whatever the object, whatever objects you acquire, whatever you acquire, they produce a reaction in your soul. There's no Word, no basis for capacity. Instead of capacity, you have rottenness, tarnish, motheaten and venom. All these things rot, tarnish, are motheaten, or produce venom. All of these things cause a fire in the soul that burns you up. You self-destruct.

Negative volition causes you to self-destruct as a believer, while you're still alive. It's like suicide.

You know there are many forms of suicide. I was talking to a guy today about suicide. He asked me if I thought if a person committed suicide, they still had eternal life. I said, "You already said it." "No, I didn't." "Yes, you did. You said **eternal life**. Eternal life is *eternal* life. What does suicide have to do with it?" "Huh?" I said, "You're committing suicide

right now ... negative to the Word. You're committing suicide. You shorten your life. You're still alive, but you're still burning." In other words, you're a walking self-destruction as far as the plan of God is concerned.

So this says, "Like fire you have accumulated treasure." The accumulation of treasure is you trying to get those things on your own, apart from the Lord. That's Ecclesiastes — Solomon looking for happiness apart from the Lord. If you push the Lord off as a believer, you can never answer anything in life.

Let me make an application. A man comes in and says that he has a problem. He says he wants an answer, but "Don't give me any of this God stuff." I said, "If you push God out of the question, then there's no answer."

The same thing here. The accumulation of treasure is trying to get those things that you think will make you happy on your own, apart from the Word. Like fire, you have accumulated treasure, which means you accumulate these things and you're accumulating fire. The fire eventually destroys you.

So the fire then refers to a believer who is negative to the Word for a long period of time and is in the bracket of the sin unto death. Self-destruction. The active voice says the accumulation of wealth is like saving a fire to burn yourself up with. In other words, you burn yourself. You've heard that phrase, "I've been really burned." Well, this is you doing it yourself. All negative believers get burnt. This is the verse that says that. They set themselves on fire. God doesn't have to do anything. The indicative mood is the reality of the negative volition of the believer trying to solve his problems with objects, with things. You need capacity plus the objects for happiness and/or prosperity.

The negative believer uses objects to try to solve his problems. That is really a problem. What is really a believer's problem? Trying to solve his own problem. Isn't that interesting? He's using an object ... money ... a woman ..., a man ... "Oh, if I could just be successful." Power ... approbation. He's using that to solve his problem. Dope, whiskey, social life. He's using an object to solve his problems. The only solution

to problems in life is the Lord and His Word applied. The Word of God in your soul solves problems, not money in the bank.

Some girl or some guy won't solve your problem. Some success won't do it. Not some particular power that you've gained. You never solve problems with money. You never solve problems with sex. Sex gets you into more trouble than solving a problem. You never solve problems with success. You never solve problems with gaining power. You only solve problems with having the Word of God in your soul. So in this formula, remember the emphasis is on capacity, that's the Word, not on the objects of prosperity.

James has taken a number of objects of prosperity, for example he has taken wealth, garments, silver, gold, money. He's taken all of these objects of prosperity. This is showing how the negative believer emphasizes these things. These things become a fire that burns him up. The verse says, "Like fire you have accumulated treasure for the last days." In other words, when you are in this hopeless situation, you're dying, and you turn to your money. Your money won't help you to get out of the sin unto death. Or you turn to some man. Well, the man won't help you to get out of the sin unto death. You turn to some woman. That won't do it either. It just won't help. Or you're under the sin unto death and you turn to success. That won't help. Or, you turn to whatever it is. It won't help you. It will not keep you alive if you're in the sphere of the sin unto death. You're dying and you're going out negative. The only thing that can help you, this is in anticipation of what's coming up, is the pastor which has communicated the Word, from which you've turned away. You've rejected the Word and then he comes and does something that will probably embarrass you. He prays for you. He won't hit you over the head with oil, like this passage in James says. We'll get to that.

The doctor has come and gone, having anointed you with oil. This is strictly medicinal, physician type. The doctor has come and examined you and said terminal, hopeless, and he leaves. That's James 5. That's medicine and that's it. What's left? The pastor comes to

visit you and you have to change your mind about the Word of God as a believer. You come to that. You follow the principle of getting back and getting out from the sin unto death.

In verse 4, we show three ways in which a believer, who has his emphasis on money, can wreck three things with money. Suppose you are very wealthy and you're a believer (you have eternal life), but you're depending on your money for your happiness. I'll show you how you can wreck three things in life, coming up in this passage. 1. Business, whatever business you're in, whether you're an employer or an employee. 2. Social life, you'll destroy that. And 3. the functions of law and order. In that order.

James 5:4-6 is still talking about a person who has money, is a believer, and is negative. Remember you have freedom to make a decision which way you are going to go in life. There's no disagreement between you and God when it comes to happiness. You want to be happy and God wants you to be happy. God has many wonderful things for you. He has to hold up giving you certain things because you don't have the capacity to appreciate them. So the moment you accepted Christ as Saviour, you're on one of two roads. The road that leads to maturity or the road that leads unto the sin unto death. You're either progressing or retrogressing. You can't stand still in the Christian way of life. The road to maturity is a GRACE road. "Grow in GRACE by the knowledge of our Saviour Jesus Christ." The road to the sin unto death is simply the "I'm going to do it myself" kit. Therefore, that comes under the principle of legalism. So then legalism will kill you, no matter what type of negative attitude you enter.

We're studying, as an illustration, a negative believer, a rich negative believer. God wanted this man to have money, and in maturity he would have had capacity for money. But he decided to go all out for money and he neglected the Word of God, and therefore, he has arrived at the point of much money, but no capacity for it.

Now we're about to begin a study of what happens to a believer who gets whatever he wants. What about the man who has everything? What do you give the man who has everything? He acquires that with which he associates happiness, but because of the fact that he is negative to the Word, he has no capacity for it and can't enjoy it. Instead of happiness, which he is pursuing, he ends up with misery. The very thing, money, which would have been something great, fantastic, wonderful in life, becomes absolutely nothing, emptiness, vanity, vexation of spirit, striving after the wind, because of his negative attitude.

Now we have in verses 4-6 three areas of negative volition in a believer's life with emphasis on monetary things: 1. How does it affect his business life? 2. How does it affect his social life? 3. How does it affect the laws of establishment?

Some people marry guys like this. We have just seen silver and gold tarnished, lack of capacity for life. We've seen the venom of negative volition shall be evidence against you. It shall eat your pieces of flesh. Pieces of flesh, of course, are whatever you associate with happiness, whatever it is that you use for your frantic search for happiness.

Then the second sentence, "Like a fire you have accumulated treasures for the crisis days." Capacity for life doesn't depend on how much money you possess, but on the amount of the Word of God that you have in your soul. Money cannot solve the problems of life, nor can it give you capacity for life. Money is a detail. The Word is what's important.

In James 5 verse 4 and following, notice this: "Behold, the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. You have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; you have nourished your hearts as in the days of slaughter. You have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you." These are three separate distortions. Remember, the same believer with the same amount of money could have, in GRACE, the greatest hap-

piness in the world. GRACE is the bracket by which he can have capacity for freedom, life, love, happiness, and prosperity. That's the GRACE way. All of these capacities are there. This man could have had the basis for happiness, but when he's negative, the very thing that would have been a basis for happiness becomes a curse, a source of misery. He distorts money and he abuses money, which ordinarily would have been a source of happiness.

We start out with the word "behold." It's actually a particle taken from an aorist, middle, imperative. It means to see, to look, or to behold. This is called a demonstrative particle. It is designed to focus attention. It is very similar to an English particle that we have where we say now see here, now hear this or observe this.

The **real** rich man, as a believer here on this earth, is a person who is growing in GRACE. Here is a negative believer whose wealth is measured in terms of large accumulations of money. He has none of the Word. He is a believer. And he does have a great deal of money.

The GRACE believer uses the Word under the concept of patience, and we'll see this in verses 7 and 8. But the believer in this passage is very rich, very negative, and he practices and lives in his negative volition in his business life. It affects his business life. If you go to work for him, you're going to be in serious trouble. What about a Christian businessman that you go to work for, who makes money or details the object of his happiness, and you go to work for him? What does he do to you? He doesn't pay you. That's what's coming up.

Undoubtedly this man, in our passage, associated himself with a local church. People know that he is a Christian. He even uses that as a front to make deals and sometimes to skin people. That's exactly what he did with part of his payroll. For we read here, "Behold, the hire of the laborers." The word for hire is wages, salary ... MISTHOS. That's the word for hire and it means wages.

So this is a boss. This believer cheats his employees of their wages. Now you haven't been skinned until you've been skinned by a

Christian. You say, why do Christians do that? Here answers the question.

His happiness is dependent upon money and he is not going to pay people so he can have more "happiness." He's making a great deal out of money. When God provides money for a believer, there is no cheating involved. This man has cheated. This man has chiseled. This man has made money by depriving those who work for him of legitimate wages. "A laborer is worthy of his hire," Luke 10:7.

It says here, "Behold, the wages of the workers who have reaped down ..." This is an aorist, active, participle from the word "harvest." He hired these people for a harvest and after they harvested, he refused to pay them. Therefore, he made more money out of the harvest.

The verse says, literally, "the ones having harvested your fields." Fields, of course, refer to industry as it existed in the ancient world. In the ancient world we have an agricultural economy. Hundreds and often thousands of people were hired, if the farm system was big enough.

Here is a man, he is a believer, he's a boss, he's negative to the Word of God, he's making a lot of money, and the way he makes it is by defrauding people of their wages. So literally, "Behold, the wages of the workers who have harvested your field."

Now, why did these people go to this man to work? Because he said he would pay them. "If you come to work for me then I will give you X number of dollars at the end of the harvest, when the crops are harvested." But he lied. They assumed that because he was a believer, he would keep his word. Most people assume that because a person is a Christian, they're going to be honest with them. That's where they miss the boat, because if he's negative to the Word, he'll cheat you out of your hide. Here it is. Be careful. **Just being a Christian isn't enough.**

Perhaps these people had contact with other believers and they kept their word. He doesn't know the difference now between a believer who keeps his word, positive type, growing in GRACE, and honorable, and a negative, dishonorable, disgraceful believer.

See, they can't tell the difference from the outside. They know they say the same thing, "Praise the Lord. Praise God." How can you tell the difference? They both say the same thing. They both go to the Umpty-Ump church. But the honorable believer is growing in GRACE. He's on the GRACE road heading towards maturity. He's honorable. They may have had some experience with an honorable believer. But the dishonorable believer is on the road to negative volition and he's heading towards the sin unto death. This man was making money out of using Christianity as a front to defraud. Did you get that clearly???? There are pastors who use Christianity to defraud people.

"Behold, the wages of the workers, the ones having harvested your field." Now remember, in context, his soul is rotten, not the money. Here we have not the wages crying, but the souls of the ones who have been defrauded. Those wages mean privation and starvation.

Notice it says, "which is of you kept back." Here's the word: a perfect, passive, participle of kept back, an English translation, but it's APHUSTERO, which means to defraud. Perfect tense which means he habitually defrauded his laborers. This wasn't an aorist tense. It is a perfect tense, always did this. It was a practice with him. He habitually defrauded people of their wages. This was habitual with him as a negative believer.

There's nothing worse, there is nothing lower, than a man who is doing well under a free enterprise system and yet he cheats those that have a legitimate right to a livelihood. He deprives them of their living so that he can accumulate more and more wealth. He doesn't need this extra money. But because he's negative to the Word and the Lord, he's in a fantastic, frantic search for happiness and he's therefore, trying to accumulate an abnormal amount of money.

It says, literally, the ones having been defrauded. Then you notice the phrase, "of you" which is from the source of you, "APO." It refers to the wealthy, negative believer. It's not

the money that is crying or screaming. It's the one that has been cheated.

Here is where we meet a victim of a believer who has money and is negative to the Word of God and is using money as his happiness. We'll meet other victims later on. Here is a victim of cheating in business by a Christian. The victim in this case is a worker, lots of workers. We'll see another victim later on and that will be a person who is teaching the Word and he'll be maligned by this negative believer. Here we have the victim as a worker and it's the victim that is screaming because his living is gone. He's been deprived of his living.

It says, "Behold, the wages of the workers who have harvested your field, the ones having been defrauded from the source of you, crieth ..." Well, they're not crying, that's for sure. KRATSO, that's screaming! If someone defrauded you of your wages, would you cry? No, you would scream because this is a cry of desperation. To cry is to scream. It's a truly desperate situation.

You work for someone, they don't pay you and you can't eat. This is actually a reference to Deuteronomy 24:14-15, which, as a part of the laws of Divine Establishment, deals with economy. You never muzzle the ox which treads out the corn, which is an idiom. If you have an ox working for you, you don't muzzle him so that he can't eat the corn.

Same way with people. If they work for you, "a laborer is worthy of his hire." Don't cheat him. The principle is this: People have a right to wages under the principles of establishment. The more money a man makes in business under free enterprise, and under the GRACE of God (because the laws of establishment are an extension of the GRACE of God), the greater becomes his responsibility to the system under which he became wealthy. He has a fantastic responsibility.

I want to tell you that once, because that is what happened to our country. We have had wealthy men who have made a lot of money under the free enterprise system. The greater becomes his responsibility to the system under which he became wealthy. "To whom much is

given, much is required." He has a responsibility to continue to create, to perpetuate business systems under a free enterprise system, so that in the generation to come, as well as in other generations, there will be prosperity.

When a man of great ability in business becomes negative to the Word of God, he becomes **anti-establishment**. Establishment makes the money for him. He then becomes anti-establishment, and when he does so, he destroys the very thing that made him successful. In so doing, he causes a reaction.

The reaction can be revolution, that's the extreme one. Or the reaction could be curtailment on free enterprise. **That's what we're facing right now.** Because men who have made a lot of money under the free enterprise system haven't taken the responsibility of perpetuating it and have destroyed it, now free enterprise has been curtailed. This curtailment happens because of abuse of wealth.

There is no greater responsibility than the person who has acquired great wealth under free enterprise. This person has a tremendous responsibility because just as under the laws of establishment, the military provides the freedom for free enterprise. So a concentration of wealth in those who are successful in putting together a business package, provides prosperity and the two go together. The military has the responsibility to defend freedom, but the business interest has the responsibility of protecting the prosperity. It's not the job of the government to protect prosperity, rather, it's business's responsibility. It's the responsibility of those who have been prosperous under free enterprise.

This may be a little technical for some of you because you're not familiar with the principle of free enterprise as a true principle, as a Biblical doctrine of economy. Instead, many of you have been born since the days of Franklin D. Roosevelt. There's no way through the ordinary system of education that you could ever understand what I'm saying. You're not going to get it in the newspapers, or in school. But as a believer, you can understand this much.

Now, I'm relying on the Holy Spirit to activate this principle for you. If a person is saved

by GRACE, and every one is, why would he then turn and reject the very principle that gives him eternal salvation? Why are people so stupid as having been saved by GRACE through faith, who suddenly turn to a system of human works, or human good? Why do people suddenly become do-gooders?

The same thing happens in government. The same thing happens under the laws of establishment. Those who have profited the most from free enterprise have turned against free enterprise. That's why you have unions and the government involved. They cheat those who work for them out of a bona fide true profit. As a result of cheating them, they destroy true prosperity, except for themselves. But, you cannot isolate prosperity. When you seek to isolate prosperity by making more money at the expense of those who work for you, inevitably you not only destroy their prosperity first, but you also destroy yours as well and the result is revolution, which destroys everyone's prosperity.

See, your boss comes along and doesn't pay you and destroys you. But his is going to be destroyed. You'll have a revolution. You'll have a military invasion. And he'll be out of business. He'll get his.

Here's a man who should, from two viewpoints, be able to handle this. **1.** He can say to himself before the Lord, "I am a believer and therefore, if I function under GRACE, I would never cheat anyone of wages." 1 Timothy 6:1-3 says that about a boss. **2.** He can say to himself, "I have become successful under the free enterprise system." But now, using the very system that made him successful, he's trying to be a tyrant to destroy others. In so doing, he will destroy himself. Already he's miserable. Shortly he'll be under the sin unto death in this very passage.

So, it says, "Behold, the wages of the workers who have harvested your fields, the ones having been defrauded from the source of you, keep screaming," (present, active, indicative). They keep screaming. Why? Because they have been deprived of a living, when in reality, they would be sharing in the prosperity. The man who made all this money has a re-

sponsibility to his workers. He has responsibility for their prosperity. He has a responsibility to allow his prosperity to overflow to others as stewardship. He's in full-time Christian service. In this way he's blessed and others are blessed. That's the way that the laws of Divine Establishment work.

Not only that, but if any of his workers, for some reason become disabled, they don't have to go to the government for help. They go to him for help. From his business and from his profit he provides for them, so that it's not the business of government, but it's the business of those who have succeeded under free enterprise to carry along those who have been disabled in helping them. Their responsibility is to carry along those who have been faithful in helping them, so that the profit is shared. That is the principle and we've lost that. When that principle is ignored by too many, then it's a sign of negative volition.

Then what happens? The government steps in, tries to legislate to negative volition and you can't. They try to legislate against negative volition and all they've done is to create new forms of negative volition and loopholes for cheaters. Instead of producing nobility, the legislation of our government has created more dishonesty in business.

Legislation can do certain things, but legislation is also limited. Here we have the limitations of legislation. **Only the Word can change the soul.** Legislation is not a panacea. Legislation cannot solve the problems of economy.

Right now we're suffering from the fact that this country has enslaved more people than Lincoln ever liberated. Right now, through legislation. We have a brand new type of slavery today. We are slaves to legislative negative volition which comes from religion. Religion causes even those who have made money not to take their responsibility, but to have a guilt complex.

Now, the men who have succeeded under free enterprise are going along with the government, outside of those who are being bribed, and of course, you realize that big business is now under a great attack. Someone

discovered the air above and the factories and they figured out a way that they can use it against big business. So people hate big business. They're jealous of big business. They're bitter towards big business because they're mediocre in their thinking and they're ignorant. Therefore, they legislate against big business.

Throughout this country today, people who have factories do not know from one day to the next, whether it will cost them a billion dollars or just a couple million to retool so as to make the air as bad as it appears to be. What these people are doing is that they're leaving this country with their businesses and they are going to Mexico, and other places. They just pick up their whole business and their factories and move out. Why? Because of ecology. It's an attack. It's a conspiracy.

Dopes are used. They have nothing to do so they go around and sniff the air. But it takes a man of genius to put together a great factory and to hire 3000 workers and to keep them going in wages and in profit. It takes a man of genius to do that. It doesn't take much intelligence to sniff the air and say it's bad and attack big business.

But the government has another attack. Government contracts have become a big thing in our day. So they say now, we're going to give you a contract with the following provision: You must hire so many of this type, and so many of that type and if they're not capable, you've got to keep them anyway or else you won't get the contract. You can't fire them. You have to hire so many of the group and that group. You have to do this and you have to do that. In fact we'll hire for you, says the government. Certain people. We'll send them into your factories. Otherwise you can't have our contract. The people, in order to get a contract, have now put themselves into slavery in business. And when big business goes into slavery, everyone goes into slavery.

A lot of people have been trained in the home and in the school to hate big business. Some of them have been trained by religion, National Council of Churches. The National Council of Churches despises big business

and yet, it's interesting, the National Council of Churches has provided weapons for revolutionary groups.

The World Council of Churches, in one of its latest meetings, made some very interesting pronouncements. While they don't believe in violence, they believe that "revolutionists have a right to use violence to get their way." Often at the heart of the whole thing is religion.

In our text, we have a Christian businessman and he's negative to the Word. His emphasis on happiness is money and he cheats his employees. He has cheated them because he is negative to the Word and out of fellowship. There is no restraint on his area of weakness in his old sin nature. Under negative volition, this man's frantic search for happiness is centered in money and when he's out of fellowship, it's full throttle old sin nature. He has to have money. He has to have more money than he can ever use or even dream of. He wants money for money's sake. It's become a type of pathological thing with him and to get it, he'll do everything, including cheating those who work for him.

So this says, "Behold, the wages of the workers who have harvested your field, the ones having been defrauded of wages from you, keep screaming and the cries, the screams (plural), of the ones having harvested" (in other words, they did their job). The action of the aorist participle precedes the action of the main verb, which means they did their job. They harvested their field. They did legitimate work. They were not paid for the legitimate work that they did. In other words, the rich man broke his contract to make more money in a frantic search for happiness. Undoubtedly his contract was verbal, and he lied. But a negative believer will lie and deceive. He will steal from those who are dependent on the wages from him for a living.

It says, "the screams of those having harvested, have entered ..." EIS ERCHOMAI, which means to enter into. It's a perfect tense, which means entered into in the past with a result that God will do something about it. "Into the ears ..." This is an anthropomorphism. God doesn't have ears, but in fact, the screams of

the people suffering, starving, of those who have been deprived of their homes because their wages are not forthcoming.

You see, the workers waited until the harvest was in. The man who owned the farm, the man who was the boss, and owned the agricultural system, waited until he was paid for the harvest and then he was supposed to pay them their wages. While they are waiting, he said, "Well, I didn't make enough." He withheld wages, so he cheated them. And now they're starving. Now they're hungry. Now they're sick. Now they're deprived of shelter. Now they're deprived of everything in life and many of them are in a very serious condition. So they're screaming.

The screaming of these people that have been cheated has entered into the ears of the Lord. But He's called the Lord, here, and there's a reason, the Lord of Sabaoth. It's KURIOS for Lord, which is definitely Lord. Then the word that you have for Sabaoth is SBATO, taken from the Hebrew word, ADONAI SABIO. In other words, we would say Jehovah Sabaoth and it means the Lord of the Armies. That's the word armies.

This implies that when those who are capitalistic, under free enterprise, a law of Divine Establishment, when those people go negative to the Word, they begin to cheat in business, they themselves will suffer from violence. The violence will either be regular, military warfare, which will kill the free enterprise system, or revolution.

That's what happened in Russia in 1917. That's what happened to some degree with the French Revolution, although there was a different type of a situation.

The discipline of a negative believer through national military defeat or revolution will deprive them of their wealth and their freedom. They'll get theirs. In negative volition, in a frantic search for happiness, they went all out to make money. In doing so, they cheated those who worked for them. As a result, the screams of those who have suffered from the tyranny of this negative, wealthy believer, have gone up into the ears of the Lord of the Armies and there will be national catastrophe. This man will lose everything, all his money, all his details. He will lose the thing that is most precious to him, his wealth. But more important, **his freedom by which he made his wealth.**

Now the scene changes. In verse 5 we have negative volition in social life. This can be the same man or it can be another man. But the principle remains the same. We'll see the same attitude when it comes to social life and we'll see it when it comes to laws of justice and order. He mistreats people there also.

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