

God, His Gauntlet, the Switch and Our Shift *Part III*

By Christine Meier



” God, His Gauntlet, the Switch and Our Shift”

Over the last two months we have been talking about God raising up a group of common, ordinary people that are willing to go through tremendous hardships in order to see Christ exalted. We talked about God preparing these people to be thrown down as a gauntlet to say, “Take That, devil!” And that as God does so, a switch is turned in the spiritual realm that shifts events into God’s plan for eternity. We looked at how they challenge the religious as well as the secular world around them. We looked at the tests they must go through in order to remove any

and all areas of rebellion, control or manipulation in their lives (which reveals those same areas in those they are called to). Finally, we looked at the historical climate that this situation can take place in.

In this final installment I would like to look at the “switch.” I explain the switch as a situation or series of events that requires actions that go totally beyond human reasoning. Some would say that takes faith. What I’m talking about takes no ordinary faith, but a consuming and passionate belief that says, “God said so. I know you say He couldn’t. I know you say it violates His Word, but you don’t see or hear His Word any longer the way He intends for it to be seen and heard.” (See last month’s article). Jesus did the exact same thing when He came the first time. After that, these ‘gauntlet’ folks are used by God to show those around them what God sees and God hears. Before I go into specific biblical situations, Isaiah 58 comes to mind. Isaiah is not talking to the heathen, but God’s people. He says, “Declare to my people their rebellion . . . For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them. ‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves and you have not noticed?’ ” I’m always amazed at how God views us. Isaiah says these folks were actually asking for God. They were crying out to Him and fasting before Him. But they still were not

ready yet to loose those they had oppressed and restore those they had broken. So God sent a ‘switch’ that shifted the people Isaiah was speaking to right out of their own country. It brings to my remembrance all the religions of the world that fast and cry out to the God they understand as God, including Christianity, but they can be blind to seeing what God really requires. Let’s look at this ‘switch’ situation from the bible.

There are so many stories that exemplify this situation in the Scriptures. When Joshua and Caleb are sent with the spies to view this new land God is giving Israel, the other spies made the people afraid (See Numbers 13 & 14). Caleb stands up immediately in front of Moses and the people and encourages them to take possession. The bible says that the other spies sent a bad report among the camp. This gets two plus million people all stirred up in discouragement. It gets so bad that Moses and Aaron fall face down before the Lord. At this point Joshua and Caleb do an interesting thing. They stand up as a riot is beginning to foment and they tell the people to believe and trust in God to do this thing. They encourage them in the ability of God. So God throws down Joshua and Caleb as examples. They could have entered into substitution instead—they could have come in agreement with the other spies to avoid being stoned to death (See Numbers 14:10). Their agreement with God in the face of severe adversity pulls a switch which shifts a nation.



"Substitution"

When little David went down to bring food to his brothers, they accuse him of self-promotion. (See 1 Samuel 17:28) Because the situation looked so impossible to the family of David, how could God use him to actually mess with a giant? But when David challenges their understanding of him by ignoring them and talking to others in the camp (See 1 Samuel 17:30-32) and eventually talks to Saul, he is up against another problem—substitution. At the top of this article you saw two separate drawings. (You can click on them to enlarge. For the story of these two drawings, you can go to the Art of Worship link.) The first one you have been seeing over the last few months is titled, "God, His Gauntlet, the Switch, Our

Shift." The second one we put up is titled "Substitution." They both look good, but if you view them closely, you can see the gauntlet on "Substitution" has some different looking armor. It also creates a shadow on the land, but it does turn a switch. The substitution in David's story is Saul's armor. David had his own weapons that were not of this world. Let's face it, five small stones are not going to cut it against a giant—unless God shoots those stones. (See 1 Samuel 17:37,40-51) If David had taken Saul's armor (See 1 Samuel 17:38, 39) he would have bowed to a religious and secular understanding of the situation, not how God Almighty viewed this situation. We all know the outcome. When David obeys God, the enemy is defeated and the nation starts its journey toward walking in God's heart by introducing a man who would follow God's heart. (1 Samuel 13:14).

This did not produce this total change immediately. It would take approximately 21 years of running, hiding and hardship for David to learn how to be a better king than Saul. God saw all the damage that Saul's regime had caused. God did not want David to become the same tyrant. David would need to understand the pain and anguish of running from such a king. He would need to see it from God's perspective. It reminds me of some ministry situations we see in different organizations and many churches. I watch people learn the system and then go on up the line in these endeavors to be blessed. But unfortunately God is not always doing the blessing. In David's case he was primed as the son-in-law of the king. In this

closed environment he would never have understood the pain in God's heart (See 1 Samuel 15:10, 11) that these systems caused. So God allows an evil spirit (See 1 Samuel 16:14) to descend on Saul. Eventually it causes Saul to think evil of David. One minute Saul likes him, the next minute Saul wants David dead. This sends David out into God's learning field so that David functions in God's ways, not Saul's and his system's ways. Since David was a younger man and the price was the kingship, this took a longer time. The eventual shift turns the nation toward God, not away from Him. It also makes Israel one of the most prosperous nations of its time. Once Samuel is gone as the judge and prophet over Israel, Saul was to take the lead and institute both priests and prophets according to God's design. (See Exodus 19:6; Deuteronomy 18:15, 18) God sees in Saul's heart that he has no intention of instituting any system that could possibly challenge his kingship. But David's heart would be different. Not only would he allow the priests to function, he would create an environment that would cause them to prosper. And as for the prophets, he would not only do the same for them, but at their word he would institute such a system—and allow them oversight in setting up God's system (See 2 Chronicles 29:25).

The next biblical example is Esther. If you are not familiar with the story, please turn to the book of Esther and start reading. Most folks would think that the 'switch' is when she goes to King Xerxes unannounced, which could cause her death. Esther is a

woman that I love to read about. For me the real switch is when she willingly goes into a system that is a stench in the nostrils of her upbringing and her God. Some would think that for a young woman to be picked to be in the king's harem would be an honor and would also come without a choice. The Jews were granted their freedom under Cyrus. Babylonian law gave freed slaves rights. While the king's decree was final, had she made known her Jewish heritage, she may not have been chosen for the harem. Once Esther entered into the harem that was it; her life as a Jew with the possibility of marrying freely were over. She gambled greatly. For one night with the king she prepares for one year (See Esther 2:12). If the king was not pleased or did not choose her as queen, she went into the harem as one of many, never being seen by the king again. This is for life. There was no leaving the harem or finding marriage elsewhere. If I were living during Esther's time, I might have been one of those sweet saints who would have told her she was crazy and going against all that was God and all that God had commanded her people not to do. All along the way, she could have substituted human reasoning and what we would call accepted practice and common sense. But she never does, not even in beauty treatments or dress. (See Esther 2:15) She relies on a wisdom that is certainly beyond her years and could have only come from God above. Not only does she challenge her religious upbringing, but after she becomes queen and her uncle Mordecai exposes Haman's plot to her, she challenges the law of her land and risks the possibility of death in addition to

challenging her husband's good nature (See Esther 4:11). When she allows God to use her to throw a switch, her people are shifted from certain death to life.

There are so many other biblical characters that we could talk about. But the last one must be Jesus. Some may not appreciate this characterization, but Jesus entered into a system just like Esther did—a system that had become a stench in the nostrils of God Almighty—all in order to deliver His people. The bible tells us that Jesus became sin for us so that we might be the righteousness of God in Christ (See 2 Corinthians 5:21). The disciples are rational minded men. They see their duty to protect their asset in Jesus as long as it takes. When Jesus tells the disciples He must go to the cross (See Matthew 16:21-24), Peter protests. Jesus recognizes satan in the words of Peter and rebukes any and all kingdoms that would violate what God is intending to do by sending the Christ to the cross. Human reasoning, at that time, could not possibly understand this. Jesus does not take the substitution of the devil (See Luke 4:1-14). He does not take the easy road. He allows His Father in heaven to make Him a 'switch' that will shift every life that calls upon His name for all eternity (See Philippians 2:8-11). When we as human beings decide to switch our allegiance from our own way of running our lives to Christ's way of running our lives, we are shifted right into God's plan forever.

A question could be asked, why does God do this? While I don't pretend to know all

the reasons why God does a certain thing, three possibilities come to mind as I have experienced this situation. One is obvious and it's to shift us back onto God's plan instead of our own plans. The next one is to shift His leadership or to change leadership. Both these are evidenced by the lives of the biblical characters we have talked about. But the last reason may be better evidenced by the life of Daniel, Isaiah or Jeremiah. Instead of looking at their lives individually, I felt as if the Lord gave me a Scripture verse instead. "When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will raise up a standard against him." Let me share a possible transliteration of this verse from Isaiah 59:19 (See page 256 from "Beyond Strongholds"): "For [because] Tyre [a distressing enemy] enters by [within] a flood, the Spirit [wind-breath] 'driven' – [behold], even Yahweh with a beacon [flag fluttering] shall raise up a Standard Bearer." In this portion of exact word for word understanding of Isaiah, it seems that the flood might not always come from the enemy. Sometimes it might as in Revelation 12:15, and in other cases it might not; it might be natural or it might even be Godly, but in any case the enemy is hiding in it. At that point the Spirit of the Lord—even Yahweh has a beacon which raises up a Standard Bearer. I was amazed as I started to think about this for our time and season, especially in light of the vision the Lord had given me on February 5th (See the Current Events link). Our only Standard Bearer is Jesus Christ—King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The Old Testament city of Tyre eventually became part of the old

Babylonian empire (it was always a part of Sumeria and Akkadea). Throughout Israel's later history it was always a distressing enemy, hence its name became known as enemy. This is the literal word used in this portion of Isaiah for enemy, tyre. But every time I looked at this in the Hebrew, it always seemed to me that the beacon or flag was different than the Standard Bearer.

What I felt the Holy Spirit say to me recently truly amazed me. If the devil is hiding in a situation, you would like a flag waving over his head saying, "He's right here!" Preferably with an arrow pointing down on his head! Well, sometimes that's exactly what gauntlet people are. They have an eyesight that can tell the difference between the waters that sometimes get mixed (clean and unclean) as the devil spews forth. Instead of backing off, they jump right in to these 'shark infested' waters and hold up the flag of the Holy Spirit. Since Jesus is living on the inside of them through the precious Holy Spirit, they invite Him into the situation—and He is raised up—Jesus is exalted. Because they have already gone to the cross in their lives—and with each test God takes them through--when God does use them in this way, there is no crying and complaining about the water. They learn how to allow God's Word to keep them from being devoured by shark attacks while swimming. While in the water, they expose where the devil is hiding so the rest of the body of Christ can pray and see his attacks nullified by God. These saints delineate the devil water from holy water and lift Jesus up to show the world. That's

how God uses them to switch and shift nations and events. Now, the devil needs to get them out of the water because they are wrecking havoc on his schemes. As they swim with devils, the enemy tries to swallow them up (See Revelation 12:15). But these saints have learned valuable lessons and the devils learn they cannot kill them (they're crucified with Christ already, Galatians 2:20). Because they're dead in Christ, the devil has no real power to do this. He needs the church and other humans on earth to help him. So he'll convince people to substitute some portion of how God wants to bring deliverance. Or substitute the Word of God for 'another gospel' (See Galatians 1:6-10). In my experience this is what causes so much trouble in the world.

Let me share some examples of this. When people get involved in cults and false religion, God will always raise up someone to go to these people to open their eyes to see and hear the true word of God, the bible. In some dangerous situations these saints have been martyred. In other cases, they have escaped danger and have been set free while leading others to Christ. Another example of this goes on in Christian churches today, but from a different vantage point. We talked about this briefly in last month's article. When God is getting ready to send a new wave of Himself in glory, our understanding and practices usually have to go up to new levels of repentance, grace, wisdom and revelation in Christ. Sometimes this change can look like the devil (See Matthew 12:24). That's because God is doing something new in the Spirit and the

devil can see some area of radical change is coming (he can never forget the pronouncement of judgment over him by God in Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 14:12-20). So he tries to get people to think that the new is bad and cannot be of God, and these 'gauntlet' people must be from the devil. But these people are sent by God as a flag or beacon so everyone can see the Standard Bearer, Christ. Unfortunately, in many historical revivals the old always persecutes the new because the old misses the beacons or markers God places. They have lost their spiritual eyesight and hearing.

We are facing some interesting challenges in the world today. Since Christ has been offered up, war is never God's total and desired plan. Bringing souls to the cross of Christ is always the way to avert war. War is always a substitution because mankind will not bow at the cross of Christ and do what is right. As a result, some wars become unavoidable. But it is always God's desire to bring peace, health and healing when His people pray (See 2 Chronicles 7:13, 14). It will take special eyesight and hearing to pray in advance of the enemy's tactics in the days and weeks ahead so that we avert war or avert infiltration by enemy forces. I pray all of you that have read these articles will be able to recognize the gauntlet people in your midst. I pray that you don't follow down the road of substitution by other voices that distract the body of Christ from doing her job. There is still a great ingathering of souls, not just to pray in, but to go out to the fields to bring in. If we do not pray and go, God will use whatever

means necessary to bring them in. As Mordecai said to Esther, “And who knows that you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” My prayer is that these articles will help to bring God’s word to life in the days and situations that may arise in the future. As we see some of these things played out in the world and even in our churches, we can find rest and security in God’s Word, knowing that nothing takes Him by surprise. (See Revelation 21:6, 7)



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