

## **BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY DR. AYODEJI AWE**

**QUESTION-69 - DOES GOD REALLY SEND EVIL SPIRITS TO PEOPLE? I READ THIS STORY OUT OF 1 SAMUEL CHAPTER 16, AND IT APPEARS I CAN JUSTIFIABLY COME TO THIS CONCLUSION. DO YOU THINK THIS IS A VALID CONCLUSION? WHAT IS YOUR TAKE ON THIS, PASTOR?**

### **ANSWER-**

Of a few versions that I looked up(NKJ, NIV, NLT, KJ,HB), only the Holman Bible (HB) inserted the word 'sent' in that potent verse (14) of 1Samuel chapter 16. Most others, and in particular King James (KJ) simply states –“But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him”. Good, simple narrative inclines that either would be approved, which then suggests that there won't be much of a difference if at all there is any, between adding the word 'sent' or not. Nonetheless, answering your question demands that I delve into some certain doctrines and theologies like of angels (angelology), demons (demonology), God (divinity) and Satan (Satanism). All these theories have gained prominence in theology because of their relativity to man who is at the center of spirit interaction.

The baseline for this story here in 1Samuel 16 is that there was the nation of God's special people, Israel, who was ruled by God himself through chosen people comprising mostly prophets. At the era, Samuel was like prophet-judge-leader in charge until the people, wanting to be like other heathen nations, demanded that God gave them a king to lead them. With pressure applied God acquiesced and asked Samuel to anoint Saul as king. But no sooner than he entered the scene as the first king that appeared the first problem: a king does not lead but rule. Whatever was the gain envisaged by the nation was short-lived as the king fell out with God, unable to streamline monarchy with theocracy. The grace to obey was lacking and God would withdraw His spirit from Saul.

But bear in mind that the life as we live does not operate in a vacuum. As a man you are open to be inhabited by a spirit since a part of you is spirit. Man typically will live under the control and influence of either God the father creator or Satan the impostor and destroyer. The way man lives, especially who we choose to listen to and obey will ultimately draw the line of our lives. Following the insurrection of Satan at the beginning of times, the third of the original band of Angels created by God followed Satan when he was thrown out of heaven (cf. Rev.12:7-10). With him (Satan) they roam the cosmos and

the heavens and their major ministry is to kill, steal and destroy. We know this when Jesus – leaked their secret (John 10:10a). These angels that followed Satan are referred to as demons. They are under the control of their leader – master Satan and are available to him for representation whenever he has assignments to carry out. They are available for execution of mischief.

These demons in addition to carrying out the orders of Satan, also freelance. They do mischief as they find opportunities. No wonder the Lord warns, “Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion prowls around seeking whom he may devour (1Peter 5:8). Ultimately they wreck havoc. They roam around like their master Satan (Job 2). Because their master Satan unlike God is not omnipresent the availability of the demons as his representatives is very crucial to the success of satanic kingdom. They’ve got to be available to be in places where he cannot be. The freelancing makes the impact of the overall operation extremely potent.

There is also another attribute going well for them; they can appear anywhere in person or in disguise. They cannot be stopped, but a place can be made uncomfortable for them. Apostle James and Peter teach us to resist him and he will flee from our place (Jam. 4:7; 1 Pet.5:9). This particular attribute is what usually allows them to sometimes come into God's presence. They may pose as angels of light and as God’s servants (2Cor.11:14) with intent to deceive people especially those in God’s camp. The two thirds of the angels created who stayed loyal to God at Satan's monumental insurrection are the ones referred to as angels of light. Unlike Satan's cronies, they do not roam the cosmos. They are around and in the vicinity of God to attend to Him. This job-duty earns them the name ministering angels. When God has work to be done, they are available. For instance, Gabriel was sent to Zacharias, Mary and Daniel (Luke 1:19, 26; Dan.9:16, 20-21). Michael, highly valiant and commander in battles and wars was sent to assist Gabriel when the Prince of air railroaded him; was in charge at the crushing of Satan’s rebellion and will be in charge of the battles to end this age (Dan. 10:13,21; 12:1; Rev. 12:7-10, *ibid.*).

As aforesaid, satanic angels are fond of crashing God's presence. But even more so, when God is about to judge the wicked, they love to present themselves as tools of divine justice. Such was the case when God had enough of Ahab, one with the dubious honor of tops among those who their wives instigated to flagrantly do evil. Therefore in 1 Kings 22, God would move to take down Ahab. He threw it open to all in His vicinity as He always would. And one says this and others said. However, one of Satan's cohorts (as an attaché of Satan in God's presence) came to the forefront and offered to

become a lying spirit in the mouth of the prophets of Ahab. Sounding like an unbeatable ploy, God agreed and okayed the operation. Indeed, he proceeded and executed his plans. Result: Ahab and the assisting commanders drowned in a waterloo!

Whenever they access an opportunity, they would execute convincingly. Such is the case here in 1 Samuel 16. Even though the full details were not released, we need not labor to know the way it went. The demon in question was steadfast. He had many trips to make because though Saul, in the spirit realm, would immediately be dethroned, however his successor, who was to be immediately anointed, would not be physically enthroned until about 12 years later. In the interim, a demon possessed Saul would remain the king with all satanically inspired and sponsored activities and pastimes rife. In that period of time, he pursued David the length and breadth of the land to take him out; confident that was the solution to his own errancy and the resultant verdict. The evil spirit (demon) having entered him would not let go in ministry assigned him by the grandmaster. 'Kill, steal, and destroy' was the mandate; Satan and his proxies are masters of the art.

Therefore we must conclude and exonerate our Father God, who is an awesome initiator of all that is good. In his image, man was made to be a pleasure as he lives for Him under His guidance and leading. At the fullness of time when Jesus came, he was anointed to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, save to the uttermost and empower by the shedding of the precious blood of the covenant. At his departure to heaven, he pledged the Holy Ghost; the inseparable spirit of the Father assigned to be with man 24/7 supplying all that is needed for success in life and fulfillment of purpose. That pretty much summarizes the awesomeness and goodness of God- He established and gave to every child of his great and abundant life. He will not give evil spirits to people. Jesus attests- if human fathers will not give scorpions to children who ask for egg, nor give snake to the ones who ask for fish, in spite of the evil tendencies in their nature, how much more will the good heavenly Father give Holy Ghost (the best gift) to the ones who ask from Him? (Luke 11:11-12). It is only when people become enticed by evil, refusing the grace and mercy of God that He withdraws. The vacuum thus created becomes an invitation for the devil and his protégés.

Therefore, the word 'sent' (looking from the highest degree of concern) or 'from' (from the least) in the highlighted verse simply indicates that what happened were allowed by God in the sense that the initiation was edged by the withdrawal of His spirit which led to a capitalization by the evil one. The fact that God did not stop the onslaught upon the life of a man He once chose,

anointed to rule his people, to some may seem like an indictment, but in stark reality, God is not an initiator of evil nor does He tempt any, man is tempted and sucked into the pit when he is drawn away and enticed by this own evil desires (James 1:13). Case closed.

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