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Sermon preached by Pastor J.W.Tyler
on Sunday Morning,
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Lesson 1 Samuel 7.

He causeth it to come, whether for correction, or for his land, or for mercy. Job 37.13.

Elihu here by the Holy Ghost leads our thoughts and spirits to the great, supreme Ruler of the universe, the King of kings and Lord of lords, to Jehovah Himself, and in relation to His kingship of the universe and as relating especially to the inhabitants at any time of this planet. It is a remarkable word because it is so highly relevant in the present calamitous situation of the world. It applies largely to the Western world, our own beloved land and the inhabitants thereof,

You notice how he introduces the word, - "He causeth it to come, whether for correction, -" If it ^{is} so at present all our ills are great blessings because correction is in mercy and love. It does not proceed from fiery, vindictive wrath and anger. It is to put us on the right course to God, to honour Him, serve Him, love Him, so all blessings flow to us through Jehovah Jesus.

There are three categories; "whether for correction, or for his land, or for mercy." I seek your prayers (and a volume of prayer for all the ministers of Jesus Christ) that I may be given wisdom to expound the word for our profit, and what is more important, to the glory of Jehovah, that His great Name be magnified. I will begin at this point, and it will be current and topical. It is largely recognised already that only an almighty power and a supreme Being could have brought the nation to the brink of economic disaster in a few weeks. For the time being forget the coal miners, the railwaymen and the electricity workers. We see to day a confluence of vital things which have brought us to the edge of a precipice in a short time. So forget all the secondary part of it. Already a number of thinking people who would not term themselves

Christians are recognising an almighty Being and a supreme influence could alone produce such an effect in so short a time. So what we face in the Western world is the hand of the Almighty. "He causeth it to come!" We are beginning to hear the voice of God speaking to us loudly. We have those circumstances and conditions in the mineral resources of this planet and in the rapidly increasing population of the world that constitute a menace to our survival on the earth, and added to this a confluence of trouble.

This is, therefore, expounded by our text; "He causeth it to come." It means, to spell it out, that we are in, and likely to come into a greater measure of adversity. For instance, people who were wealthy six months ago face bankruptcy. "Riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven." (~~the~~ Proverbs 23.5) They find themselves in a trade that has been almost wrecked by trouble in a few weeks. So we are in and likely to come into a time of serious adversity.

"He causeth it to come." It is the hand of God: it is the voice of the Almighty speaking to mankind, to this nation, to the Western nations. God is speaking. Take one thing: we have been wasting that finite mineral oil, throwing it away in places. Now God has placed His hands on the jugular vein of the West. "He causeth it to come." None of us can escape; we must all feel it. If it is for correction it will prove to be in the long run one of the biggest blessings the human race has known. It could well prove to be a wonderful thing to Great Britain.

Let me remind you of one truth. What is the reaction of your mind, being, spirit to the difficulties that surround us on this planet? If we begin to feel the pinch what is our reaction? All through the history of mankind empires have ^{been} built up and have fallen. People have been rich and have lost their riches. The high and mighty have been brought down. According to the decree of God

"He raises monarchs to their thrones,
And sinks them if He please." (63)

Some have said; "It can never come to me." Some have begun to realise it is an almighty hand and it can come quickly. It is not a question of governments or human sagacity. It is the hand of God. It is not a

matter of the best brains in the world getting together; they will never solve their problems. It is the hand of God. You will never solve your problems on a human level. This is Humanism; a false, erroneous doctrine. I shall speak bluntly and affectionately. What is our reaction? What was the reaction of Job, the richest man of the East, the greatest prince of all? One day in rapid succession he received information that he had lost everything. It did not stop at his earthly substance; he lost his family, then his health: he had no comfort anywhere. This will bring you back,- I want you to follow as closely as you can.- it will bring you back to basic things. What does God mean to you? or is your religion a matter of window dressing? Is God everything to you? If He is you are capable by grace of bearing the loss of almost everything else. These people, if they do lose all that perisheth, still have their God and they will still be happy and rejoice. This will analyse the basic things in us.

What was Job's reaction? He went back to his nativity, and forward to his death. He rent his mantle, showing his heart was rent; his glory had departed, his family was dead. He prostrated himself before God. What did he do? Did he start rebelling? repining? No; he worshipped God. He said; "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave," I am sure you are listening to this. "and the Lord hath taken away." Not easy to say, is it? only as you have the Lord. He did not mention the fire, the wind, the Chaldeans, or any secondary cause. He said; "It is the Lord. He causeth it to come. All I see is God." He did not refer to the Chaldeans, the Sabeans, the fire or the wind. "It is the Lord." This is the position we are in to day. It is not the sheiks or sections of industry,- before God we stand and He is our Judge; - but it is the hand of God.

"He causeth it to come." This is my stance as I begin. Are we where blessed Job was? Are we looking away from and beyond all created means? all material things, all complicated developments and up to God and His Throne? "The Lord reigneth." Are we desirous of saying; "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken ~~was~~ away; blessed be the name of the Lord."? "He causeth it to come."

The next step is to examine the word following. I want to stop before I

go further. Not only in our comforts and blessings but in adversity, let us pause and seek to worship God. Let us worship Him now, saying; "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Are we in that spirit? That is the right spirit; that is the right way. "Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flocks shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls; Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation." (Hab. 3. 17&18) Therefore now may this congregation worship God in the beauties of holiness.

My pledge was to look at the second word, causeth, and to examine it because it is the great key to the subject. The first thing to say is the obvious meaning is, it is an exhibition or demonstration of divine power. He causeth. God is almighty, omnipotent. He causeth. "None can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" (Dan. 4. 35) He causeth. Arms, armaments, statesmen, money, influence cannot in any way affect it. He causeth. It is God's power: He is supreme. If we use the couplet in the hymn;

"He that can dash whole worlds to death,

And make them when He please." (14)

this is a terrifying thought. If you do not know Jesus Christ you think of the awful danger you are in, - terrible danger. There is no refuge, only the Lord. Are you exposed to danger or in a place of safety?

"Causeth. It is an exercise of His omnipotence. He is almighty, so He causeth it to come, and it does come; the very thing He has decreed; sees fit. "He causeth it to come, whether for correction, or for mercy." It. He causeth what I have been naming; the troubles we are in in the Western world and perhaps the whole human race, because it is not only the reduction of the flow of oil, there is also a serious shortage of food so while many people are surfeiting, eating perhaps ~~more~~ three times more than they should, there is an enormous part of the world population with hardly enough to keep them alive. We are looking on what? Effects. There can be no effect without a cause.

Let us go back basically in doctrine to the fall of man.

"Sin is the cause of all the woes
The world has felt or seen." (646)

I want to underline for a moment this facet of 'cause'. There are effects we are conversant with in the world to day affecting this dear nation. There is a cause for effects. Of course, this not only relates to the nation but to every man, woman, or child; to all in this Sanctuary; to the whole Church of God as well as those at present in a state of death to God. Think of it in this way. What is the cause to produce certain effects on this planet by way of God's judgments, calamitous dispensations that topple kingdoms, powers, people, riches. What am I to say concerning the cause? God's character, He is holy, righteous, just, good, and jealous, and He has His law and His laws govern the human race and His laws are a manifestation of His character, and all through the Bible you have those laws. There are the ten commandments and many laws of God through the New Testament, teaching us what to say and do and how to live, and basic of all is, God tells us He is first, and our lives must be moulded around this, to put God and His things first and our souls and eternity and treasure in heaven, and all the things that perish well down on the list. What has happened? There is a cause. God has been looking on us and on the human race and Great Britain and the Western world, and on the Christian Church and Strict Baptists and we who worship here. He has been looking at our lives, motives, thoughts, and what has He seen? I would solemnly suggest to you He has seen three things among others, namely; we in varying degrees have given ourselves almost over to ^{the} idol gods of money, greed, pleasure and licentiousness. We have thought we could flout His laws and get away with it. No. I do not mind, when I say the Christian Church we can come to this tiny denomination. We are not immune. We have followed the idol gods of money and pleasure and now we have the effects. What are you saying? Through every strata of society there is the same ugly scene, - enormous idols, people can never have enough money. They are living for it; they are never satisfied. It would be a different scene if God had the firstfruits and a tenth of all out of a pure motive to honour Him. Has He? No! it is all self, self, self, more or less. What a god! what an idol! money! I do not hesitate to say it. God tells us that the

love of money is the root of all evil. (1 Tim.6.10) It is called the 'deceitfulness of riches.' (Matt,13.22) It wraps round the mind of a human being and he does not realise what bondage and idolatry he lives in, - money and pleasure. I know there are lawful pleasures. God is not unmindful to give us pleasures;- one day of rest in seven, and the night for sleep, and the beauties of the firmament and the earth to look on. With myself many of you have looked on the enormously increasing flow of traffic on the Lord's Day, pleasure seekers; and you have felt in your very being a certain persuasion that this must stop. It cannot go on at this pace. You have said to yourself; "What will God do? Will it be sudden destruction?" Already He has known where to touch us. O this god of sensual carnal pleasure! So because of the cause in Himself, God being holy, just, faithful, we have the effect. "He causeth it to come." The god of licentiousness is another great idol. We have thought to sweep aside all the ethics of the Bible and now He has caused it to come. Undoubtedly, as I said earlier, some who would not call themselves Christians acknowledge that they are persuaded that it is a supreme Being and power, and they also acknowledge it may well be we shall go much lower before we rise again.

What I want to say to you this morning is, What is your reaction? Are you saying; "Lord, take away these afflictions and ills so we can get back to where we were twenty five years ago."? That is not the right way. The right response to God is; "Help me to hear the rod and who hath appointed it. (Micah 6.9) Favour me to hear the voice of God, to recognise the hand of God and the cause, God is holy and I have sinned. I have not lived as I should. I have carried in my breast these idols for so long. Lord, bring me to Thy feet, give me repentance, grant me cleansing of my life and amendment of my ways so I may live according to Thy holy ordinances." When we are favoured to get to His feet, and to cast our idols to the moles and to the bats, (Isa.2.20) and break off our sins by righteousness (Dan.4.27), and God is first and our pleasure is chiefly in Him, and there is a frugal use of legitimate joys, and God has the firstfruits and the tenth, and we are helped to amend our lives; to see there is something more important than the perishing things of time, we may fall on our knees and sue through Jesus's Name for pardon, peace, healing and the restoration of blessings and mercies. AMEN.