

IS THE LORD'S ARM TOO SHORT?

(A term under discussion)

“The Lord answered Moses, “Is the Lord’s arm too short? You will now see whether or not what I say will come true for you.” (Numbers 11:23)

In the midst of life, there are situations that we want certain thing but we cannot offer it for ourselves. Or we desire something to happen but it is not achieved. Sometimes a need is raised up but we do not know how it will be satisfied, and we even cannot imagine how it will be solved.

The reaction of man to any atmosphere or situation is a two-dimensional reaction- man and nature. However, three-dimension is to be acknowledged to resolve uncertainties; the presence of God in every circumstance who can put all things in the right path or place. Why to involve God? Because God created the heaven and the earth and everything, including you and me. And even though we went away from God, He brought us back to Him when He sent His son Jesus to die for us. Jesus took our sins and died for us on the cross and rose up on the third day so that whoever believes and follows Him will have eternal life and be restored in the proper position where God has placed us.

The background story of the chosen passage above is about the people of God who were living as slaves under the hand of Pharaoh. God ultimately freed them. He brought them out with victory from that place. God opened the Red Sea in front of them; they crossed safely while all the army of Pharaoh who pursued them were drowned. After that God led them in the desert of Sinai. They became hungry and He rained on them the manna from heaven. They became thirsty and He ordered Moses to strike the rock and water came out of it, they drank and were filled.

But, in spite of all what God had done the people were accusing the Lord that He is not hearing them: **“Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the Lord, and when He heard them His anger was aroused. Then fire from the Lord burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp.” (Numbers 11:1)** The people were forwarding to God their requests and needs but the answer was delayed. And when He heard them, the answer of God was accompanied by some anger. “Why?” Was He not God who is so loving and can provide all things? Were His hands short to reach them?

The people of God craved other food so they began to grumble and complain to God. **“The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again they started wailing and said, ‘If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost-also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!’” (Numbers 11:4-6)** The manna was the provision from God to save his people from hunger in the desert. But for the sake of their stomach they wanted to go back to Egypt even as slaves and servants; just for the sake of eating fish, meat, melons, vegetables, etc. They were controlled by their body’s desires. It is not wrong to desire to eat certain foods or to want certain things in life. But to allow the body’s desire to replace God’s glory or God’s presence in our life is

grievous. We should not let our wishes replace God’s provision, **“Food for the stomach and the stomach for food but God will destroy them both.” (1 Corinthians 6:13a)** What would God feel when He hears His people grumbling and complaining about His provision and they even want to go back to the prison of sin, to the area of darkness just to satisfy their desire?

Moses, the leader of God’s people, was surrounded by two million who focused on requesting God meat to eat. In front of such dilemma Moses had no other option than to face God saying to Him, **“Where can I get meat for all these people? I cannot carry all these people myself; the burden is too heavy for me.” (Number 11:13-14)** God heard Moses and answered: **“Tell the people; consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow, when you will eat meat.” (Number 11:18)** But Moses did not understand nor came to imagine how God would feed such a big crowd in the desert and said to God: **“Would they have enough if flocks and herds were slaughtered for them? Would they have enough if all the fish in the sea were caught for them?” (Numbers 11:22)** The Lord answered Moses, **“Is the Lord’s arm too short?”**

1. The Lord’s arm is never short to provide for us: And the Lord fed his people with meat when he brought quail from the sea down all around the camp to about three feet above the ground and the people went out and gathered the quails. Most of the time God never relies on our suggestions about how to answer our request to Him. He does it in His ways, through His channels. We don’t need to understand how God will answer, but only to believe that His arm is not short. **“Jesus looked at them and said, With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26)**

2. The Lord’s arm is not short to rebuke us: The people of God grumbled and forced Moses to present their request for the meat. God answered their request, **“But while the meal was still between their teeth and before it could be consumed, the anger of the Lord burned against the people, and He struck them with a severe plague.” (Numbers 11:33)** God gave the meat that the people desired but the barbeque that He offered was given with a discipline, they deserved it, and they were in need for it. Many times we do not know how to speak to God and how to request to Him. Our prayers are the desires of our bodies and flesh. They are just mere purchasing list of meat and grocery. God for us becomes only a supermarket. We ask for the desires of our sinful nature, and far beyond God’s will. In such situation, God will bring us to our consciousness by a rebuke from Him to make us understand His plan and His will. **“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)**

My dear and beloved: The above situation is very common for everyone of us to how we understand God and how He deals perfectly with us. Therefore, **“When we are judged by God, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.” (1 Corinthians 11:32)** Let us therefore draw closer to God through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to know Him more and to experience His mighty hands. God’s blessing is always abundant! Amen.