

INTERFERE, INTERFERING, INTERMEDDLE, INTERMEDDLETH, INTERVENE, INTERVENED, INTERVENES, INTERVENTION, INTRUDING, MEDDLE, MEDDLED, MEDDLETH, MEDDLING

The only thing that stopped Laban from violently attacking Jacob and his family was divine **intervention**. After God appeared to Laban in a dream and commanded him to leave Jacob alone, he reluctantly decided to not attack them (although he clearly still wanted to).

- **Genesis 31:29:** "It is in the power of my hand to do you hurt: but the God of your father spake unto me yesternight, saying, Take thou heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad."

The reason Jacob left without warning was to protect his family from Laban. (However, it didn't work. The only reason he survived was because God **intervened** and saved him and his family.)

- **Genesis 31:31:** "And Jacob answered and said to Laban, Because I was afraid: for I said, Peradventure thou wouldest take by force thy daughters from me."

The reason Laban chased after Jacob was because he intended to kill Jacob and take everything he owned. Only the **intervention** of God stopped him from carrying out his plan.

- **Genesis 31:43:** "And Laban answered and said unto Jacob, These daughters are my daughters, and these children are my children, and these cattle are my cattle, and all that thou seest is mine: and what can I do this day unto these my daughters, or unto their children which they have born?"

When Joseph told his brothers that Benjamin would become his servant and the rest of them could return home, Judah **intervened** to save Benjamin.

- **Genesis 44:18, 33:** "Then Judah came near unto him, and said, Oh my lord, let thy servant, I pray thee, speak a word in my lord's ears, and let not thine anger burn against thy servant: for thou art even as Pharaoh. ... Now therefore, I pray thee, let thy servant abide instead of the lad a bondman to my lord; and let the lad go up with his brethren."

God commanded the Israelites to not **meddle** with the Edomites. (This is because He wasn't giving Israel any of their land.)

- **Deuteronomy 2:4-5:** "And command thou the people, saying, Ye are to pass through the coast of your brethren the children of Esau, which dwell in Seir; and they shall be afraid of you: take ye good heed unto yourselves therefore: Meddle not with them; for I will not give you of their land, no, not so much as a foot breadth; because I have given mount Seir unto Esau for a possession."

God forbade the Israelites from **meddling** with the Ammonites. (This is because He wasn't giving Israel any of

their land.)

- **Deuteronomy 2:19:** "And when thou comest nigh over against the children of Ammon, distress them not, nor meddle with them: for I will not give thee of the land of the children of Ammon any possession; because I have given it unto the children of Lot for a possession."

When the men of Judah fought with the men of Israel over who brought David back across the Jordan river (after he fled from Absalom), it seems that David didn't **intervene** to stop the fight. (As a result, a civil war broke out.)

- **2 Samuel 19:43:** "And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said, We have ten parts in the king, and we have also more right in David than ye: why then did ye despise us, that our advice should not be first had in bringing back our king? And the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel."

When Nathan sent Bathsheba to speak to David about the fact that Adonijah had declared himself to be king, Bathsheba told David that if he didn't **intervene** then after he died, she and Solomon would be put to death.

- **1 Kings 1:21:** "Otherwise it shall come to pass, when my lord the king shall sleep with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon shall be counted offenders."

When Ahab arrested the prophet Micaiah and ordered that he be imprisoned and tortured, Jehoshaphat (who was present at the time) did nothing to **intervene** or save Micaiah. Instead he sat by and allowed it to happen. (This is in spite of the fact

that Jehoshaphat was the one who asked for Micaiah to be brought out to speak to them.)

- **1 Kings 22:26-27:** "And the king of Israel said, Take Micaiah, and carry him back unto Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son; And say, Thus saith the king, Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace."
- **2 Chronicles 18:25-26:** "Then the king of Israel said, Take ye Micaiah, and carry him back to Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son; And say, Thus saith the king, Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I return in peace."

Pharaohnechoh warned that if Josiah fought against him then God might destroy him for **meddling** with God. (That's exactly what happened.)

- **2 Chronicles 35:21:** "But he sent ambassadors to him, saying, What have I to do with thee, thou king of Judah? I come not against thee this day, but against the house wherewith I have war: for God commanded me to make haste: forbear thee from meddling with God, who is with me, that he destroy thee not."

When Pharaohnechoh warned that if Josiah fought against him then God might destroy him for **meddling** with God, Josiah refused to listen. (In the end, Josiah was killed because he intervened in a war that had nothing to do with him, which God didn't tell him to fight.)

- **2 Chronicles 35:22:** "Nevertheless Josiah would not turn

his face from him, but disguised himself, that he might fight with him, and hearkened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of God, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo."

- **2 Kings 23:29:** "In his days Pharaohnechoh king of Egypt went up against the king of Assyria to the river Euphrates: and king Josiah went against him; and he slew him at Megiddo, when he had seen him."

Darius didn't want anyone to **interfere** with the construction of the second temple (under penalty of death).

- **Ezra 6:1, 7:** "Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in the house of the rolls, where the treasures were laid up in Babylon. ... Let the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in his place."
- **Ezra 6:11:** "Also I have made a decree, that whosoever shall alter this word, let timber be pulled down from his house, and being set up, let him be hanged thereon; and let his house be made a dunghill for this."

Not only did Darius command Tatnai to not **interfere** with the construction of the second temple, but he also commanded him to help the effort by paying for its expenses out of the king's tribute money.

- **Ezra 6:8:** "Moreover I make a decree what ye shall do to the elders of these Jews for the building of this house of God: that of the king's goods, even of the tribute beyond the river, forthwith expenses be given unto these men, that they be not hindered."

Bildad mocked Job for wanting God to **intervene** on his behalf.

- **Job 18:4:** "He teareth himself in his anger: shall the earth be forsaken for thee? and shall the rock be removed out of his place?"

Job said that the wicked get away with all sorts of terrible things. Even though their victims cry out to God, He often doesn't **intervene**.

- **Job 24:12:** "Men groan from out of the city, and the soul of the wounded crieth out: yet God layeth not folly to them."

It seems that no one had any pity on Job. Instead they mocked him, spit on him, and assaulted him. No one **intervened** to save him (including his friends).

- **Job 30:12:** "Upon my right hand rise the youth; they push away my feet, and they raise up against me the ways of their destruction."

It's foolish to **meddle** in things and stir up a fight.

- **Proverbs 20:3:** "It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling."

The dead are incapable of **interfering** with the events of this world. Once a person dies, their ability to impact this world is over.

- **Ecclesiastes 9:5-6:** "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun."

Jeremiah compared God to a man who was astonished and couldn't save anyone. (In other words, he wanted God to rise up and **intervene** to save the Jews. However, the reason God wasn't saving them was because they were wicked and refused to repent, and the time of their judgment had come.)

- **Jeremiah 14:8-9:** "O the hope of Israel, the saviour thereof in time of trouble, why shouldest thou be as a stranger in the land, and as a wayfaring man that turneth aside to tarry for a night? Why shouldest thou be as a man astonished, as a mighty man that cannot save? yet thou, O LORD, art in the midst of us, and we are called by thy name; leave us not."

God told Ebedmelech the reason He was going to save him was because he put his trust in God. (His faith can be seen by the fact he **intervened** to save Jeremiah's life.)

- **Jeremiah 39:16-18:** "Go and speak to Ebedmelech the Ethiopian, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring my words upon this city for evil, and not for good; and they shall be accomplished in that day before thee. But I will deliver thee in that day, saith the Lord: and thou shalt not be given into the hand of the men of whom thou art afraid. For I will surely deliver thee, and thou shalt not fall by the sword, but thy life

shall be for a prey unto thee: because thou hast put thy trust in me, saith the LORD."

The people who accused Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to Nebuchadnezzar were Chaldeans. (Nebuchadnezzar would have put the Chaldeans in his government to death for failing to interpret his dream, but Daniel **intervened** and saved them.)

- **Daniel 3:8:** "Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews."

Demons can **interfere** with our answers to prayer. They can delay that answer from coming.

- **Daniel 10:12-13:** "Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia."

Angels actively **intervene** in the lives of kingdoms and kings. They take actions which influence political power.

- **Daniel 11:1:** "Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, even I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him."

The master of the ship that Jonah was on believed that only divine **intervention** could save them from the storm.

- **Jonah 1:6:** "So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not."

God doesn't sit by and watch the nations do whatever they want. Instead He **intervenes** in history and punishes nations.

- **Habakkuk 3:12:** "Thou didst march through the land in indignation, thou didst thresh the heathen in anger."

God is angry with those who claim that He doesn't **intervene** in history. The day is coming when He will punish them by taking away their possessions and making their households desolate.

- **Zephaniah 1:12-13:** "And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil. Therefore their goods shall become a booty, and their houses a desolation: they shall also build houses, but not inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, but not drink the wine thereof."

God actively **intervenes** in history and determines the fate of nations.

- **Haggai 2:22:** "And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother."

There are times when God **intervenes** in battle.

- **Zechariah 12:4:** "In that day, saith the LORD, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness."

The period when the abomination of desolation appears (the tribulation) is going to be so terrible that if God didn't **intervene**, it would kill *every living thing in the entire world*.

- **Mark 13:20:** "And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days."

When Moses saw some Hebrews oppressing one another in Egypt, he tried to **intervene** and make peace with them.

- **Acts 7:26:** "And the next day he shewed himself unto them as they strove, and would have set them at one again, saying, Sirs, ye are brethren; why do ye wrong one to another?"

God didn't **intervene** to save Peter until the night before he was going to be brought out and killed.

- **Acts 12:6-7:** "And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. And, behold, the angel of the

Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands."

God promised that He would return and give Sarah a son, and He did. It took direct **intervention** from God to bring that child (Isaac) to pass.

- **Romans 9:9:** "For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sarah shall have a son."

The church must not **intervene** when it comes to personal convictions, except to stop people from fighting with one another. It's fine for Christians to take different positions in those areas.

- **Romans 14:5:** "One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."

Paul said that couples should limit the time they spend in fasting and prayer so it doesn't **interfere** too much with having sex and therefore tempt the couple to sin. (Sexual sin is that serious. It's destroyed lives, families, and entire nations.)

- **1 Corinthians 7:5:** "Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency."

We must be careful about what we eat and drink, if our diet could cause offense and make it more difficult to share the

gospel. We must not allow our diet to ever **interfere** with the spreading of the gospel. (In other words, when we eat or drink we must keep the glory of God in mind.)

- **1 Corinthians 10:31-33:** "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved."