



“THINGS THOUGHT IMPOSSIBLE!”

By Mary Mayko

Gen.18:14 “Is anything too hard for the LORD?”

Jeremiah 32:17 “Ah Lord God! Behold, thou hast made the heavens and the earth by Thy great power and by Thine outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for Thee.”

There are times in our lives when something occurs so difficult, we think it is simply too impossible to deal with! People down through the Ages have faced dilemmas in which they needed supernatural help! When this happens to us or someone we know, it is often said, “What did I/they do wrong?” or perhaps, “Surely, they did not deserve that kind of treatment!” Another common comment is, “No one seems to be able to help or understand me! They have no answers for my hard questions!”

The Bible presents many questions the saints of old asked God about. Abram had a promise from God about a multitude of descendants, yet he and Sarai did not have even *one child!* How could this promise ever be fulfilled? When all human possibilities had been exhausted, Abram had a visitation from the Lord and was reassured that God would surely do the thing thought impossible! He changed their names to Abraham and Sarah. When God gives us a New Name something important, something supernatural has occurred! Abraham laughed at the idea they could have a son! Why, he was almost a 100 years old, and Sarah nearly ninety! [Gen 17]

Sometimes we have to hear the same message from the Lord more than once! Abraham and Sarah were no different! [Gen.18] This time, it was Sarah who laughed at the thought! How hilarious! Surely this was impossible! Of course, when God makes a promise He will see that it does come to pass! [Gen 18:14] **“Is anything too hard for the Lord?”** They certainly did have a son and they named him Isaac, which means Laughter! Once they had laughed in disbelief that they could ever have a natural born son, now they laughed with delight as God’s promise was fulfilled right before their eyes! Each time Sarah called Isaac’s name, she must have laughed again as she recalled how God did what she considered impossible in their lives!

In the promise and actual event of Isaac's birth, we see God doing a physical miracle! Many people struggle today with physical needs that are beyond a doctor's ability to heal. Prayers are offered up for these hopeless conditions. At times we hear of some "impossible" case suddenly healed! No plausible answers, but God can and often does the totally unexpected! We need to believe God for miracles, for He is able to do so much more than we can even think to ask for!

Eph. 3:20-21 "Now unto Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout the ages, without end, amen."

Our minds become weary with emotional or mental stress because of some difficulty we are faced with or going through. Not all struggles are from natural sources, there are evil forces out there that desire to destroy our faith in God! God has not left us helpless! [Mark9:17-29] verse 23b "Everything is possible for him who believes." Will we trust Him for the answers? We overcome the enemy by the Word and faith in God's promises! Jesus gave us a clear example of dealing with spiritual attacks when He faced the temptations in the Wilderness!

Matt. 4:1-11. Jesus quoted Scriptures and defeated the Devil! We too, are empowered to stand our ground! 1 John 4:4 "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the One in you is greater than the one who is in the world." [The Devil!]

Eph.6:10-18 tells us to wear the whole armor of God! We need to be reminded that many of our emotional troubles and mental stresses are actually spiritual battles! Are you wearing your warfare gear?

"POSSIBILITIES WITH GOD!"

When life seems so impossible and we don't know how to pray,
It appears God has forsaken us and turned His face away!
We struggle with tiresome problems or some deadly disease.
Wondering why all this! As we tried so hard to please!

When we are so weary in spirit and troubled in our mind,
Turn to the Bible for help, and God's promises you will find!
"Lo, I am with you always, even to the End!"
Though it seems impossible right now, He's still your best Friend!

The possibilities of God are far beyond our comprehension,
But when we face our daily battles, He does pay attention!
We aren't promised a carefree life, but his Spirit to help us!
He'll guide us safely through our journey as in him we fully trust!

Mary Mayko



THE LORD, MY SHEPHERD!

By Mary Mayko

Psalm 23:1 CEV “You, LORD, are my shepherd. I will never be in need.”

This is truly an amazing statement especially in this day and age and with the economic disaster that is occurring! **Never** be in need? **Are You sure, LORD?**

Do we actually trust You to provide for us during these depressive days? Have we put our hope in our banks accounts or investments, and when they start to diminish, our faith begins to drain as quickly as our accounts do? What does God mean when He says we will never be in need or want? Many people have suffered from various conditions they find themselves in! The Bible tells us that **Jesus is our Good Shepherd**. In the Old Testament, David as a shepherd boy, He knew it was his responsibility to take proper care of all his sheep! **Would God our Father and Jesus our Shepherd do anything less?**

Since both David and Jesus used a shepherd and his sheep as an illustration or parable, perhaps a look at both a shepherd and sheep would help us understand His words better. In today's society, most of us are not really familiar with shepherds and sheep! A shepherd/owner was very careful in the management and care of his sheep. He made sure they recognized his voice and would not follow a stranger! If one were lost, the shepherd would not rest until he found it. **Each one was special to him! Follow His leading!** {Ps.23:2-3}

The shepherd would search out the best grazing lands for their nourishment and safety. Sheep would eat any plants or grasses, even poisonous ones! The shepherd would remove the poison plants from the pastures. Old Testament prophets, as well as Jesus and New Testament writers, **all warned against poisonous teaching and actions!** Today, we must be very careful to check out what we hear with the Scriptures! Shepherds kept an eye out for predators such as wolves, cougars, coyotes or snakes. Today we need protection from the dangers that would try to poison our minds or destroy our souls! A gentle reminder! **God does not always keep us out of dangerous places, but is always with us, so it is vital we stay near Him!** [Ps.23:4}

Shepherds would make sure the sheep had **living waters**! Living waters are not found in shallow ponds or cisterns, living waters come from running streams or spring fed wells! Early morning dew was also a source of fresh waters for sheep. [Only found in early morning hours!] **Jesus declared himself to be Living Water!** We know that people and animals will die from lack of good water! If sheep drank from polluted waters, worms could enter their nostrils and lay eggs! That would drive a sheep crazy! The shepherd had to lift the wool up from their eyes daily to examine for any pestilence. [That is where the saying, “Pulling the wool over ones’ eyes originated, which meant deceiving and damaging someone!] The Bible tells us that we are washed and cleansed by the waters of the Word. He has provided that cleansing waters for us! [Ps.23:2 Ps.63:1 John 10:4] **“The LORD, My Shepherd!”** **Mary Mayko**

A sheep or a person will be unable to rest and sleep if any of the following problems are present:

1. **Fear.** If anything causes a sheep to be afraid, he cannot rest. The presence of a good shepherd would comfort him and cause him to relax and sleep!
2. **Friction or conflict.** Sometimes older ewes are arrogant, domineering and butt or drive the younger sheep away! Friction causes the flock to stand ill at ease until the shepherd comes to stop the conflicts!
3. **Parasites-cuts-bites etc.** The shepherd uses anointing oil to cleanse and heal them. Thank God, His anointing heals us too!
4. **Hunger and thirst.** This will keep the sheep awake and uncomfortable and makes them weak and vulnerable to dangers! Ps.23:5 The LORD provides food and water for us!

The only defensive weapon a sheep has is to run! That can present a problem, for if a sheep should fall and roll over on his back, he could not get up without help! This was called a “cast sheep”. No wonder David cried out to himself when he was in trouble! “Why art thou cast down, O my soul!” [Ps. 42:11] **Only the shepherd** can provide for the sheep’s needs! When the wool on sheep gets too long it gets matted, heavy and dirty! Wool in the Bible represents the worldly life! The High Priest could not wear wool when entering the most Holy Place, as no wool permitted in God’s Presence! Careful how we treat Holy things of God!

The shepherd carried a rod and staff. They were customs made to fit his hands and were the main weapons the shepherds used. They were also symbols of strength, power and authority. The term “gun” is known in today’s society as a “rod”! Ps 23:4 For the shepherd, they were used to defend and correct the sheep! Only a shepherd carried a staff! It is a symbol for compassion and concern! When the staff touched a sheep, he had a sense of belonging to that shepherd! We are Believers are often called His sheep! We belong to Him!

A word about anointing oil should be noted. Just as the oil was used to “debug” sheep, we too, need an anointing, a cleansing and refreshing or renewing of our minds to keep from going crazy in the world today! We can lose our peace of mind, joy, patience, etc when we can’t get relief from whatever is “bugging” us! Careful of damaging attitudes

and “butting heads” with others! We need the anointing to break down those strongholds that try to take control of our minds!

Psalm 23:6 “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I shall dwell in the House of the LORD forever!”

Will God really take care of all my needs! Yes, indeed! The problem we usually have is in defining our needs! He is our Provider! He goes before us, and knows what lies ahead! Surely, His goodness and mercy are our companions!

Mary Mayko



“WHAT AILETH THEE?”

Rev. J Kehl Gelding

Luke 21:28 “When these things begin to come to pass, then look up and lift your heads; for your REDEMPTION draweth nigh.”

“Financial security collapsing- retirement gone!”

“Jobless!”

“Teenage behavior unacceptable!”

“Child abandonment!”

“Husband demands separation!”

“Homeless!”

“Jealousy root of domestic dispute!”

Headliner-Local Paper- 2008??

No! Not really! All the above happened to a woman several thousand years ago! Her name was Hagar, the father of her child was Abraham!

Hagar was the handmaid of Sarah, Abraham’s wife. God had promised them an heir, one to be the father of many people. They had waited patiently until now, and they were getting very old!

Sarah grew impatient and decided to help God, [you ever done that?] with dire consequences, of course! She insisted on giving her handmaid [personal slave] to Abraham, so she could bear the long awaited child.

But! Read what happens in Genesis 16:4. “And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.” And so the trouble grew between the two women. Sarah deateth hardly with her [v.6] and Hagar ran away.

A fugitive in the desert!!

An angel of the Lord found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness and comforted her by telling her she will indeed have a son, and should call him Ishmael, and he will grow up to be a great nation of fighting men. [16:12] In the meantime she was to return to Sarah, and to submit to Sarah. [16:9]

All went seemingly well for several years. BUT! God made it clear to all, Ishmael was NOT the chosen heir!

Finally, God's promise was fulfilled to Abraham, and Sarah bare him the promised child- Isaac.

As siblings do, Ishmael, now a teenager, began to tease and torment little Isaac. It was more than Sarah could stand, and in a jealous rage she insisted on Abraham-casting Hagar, and the child out into the desert wilderness!!

Her home gone, her job gone, no income! Remember she was the servant in a wealthy household! There was raiment, shelter and food! Now, no man to provide for her and her child! Not even a drink of water! She laid down to die!

She forgot about the promises of the angel. She forgot about God—the Living God! BUT! He had not forgotten her! “And the angel of God called to Hagar out of Heaven, and said unto her. “WHAT AILETH THEE, HAGAR?”

God see and hears your prayers and those of your child. Open your eyes and see the well of water, and know all God is going to do for you! [You can read all of this, with its' many details in Gen. 16:1- 18:15; and 21:1-21]

About nine hundred years later we find David being relentlessly pursued by jealous King Saul. David had made a home with the Philistines for some peace. There Achish, son of King Maorh gave him some land, called Ziklag to live in. In return David went to war for Achish, and served him.

In time, David and his men went to war again, and this time the Amalekites invaded the land and Ziklag. They burned it with fire, and killed all about them the women and children. They took also, David's two wives Ahinoam and Abigail.

In 1Samuel 30:6 we read, “And David was greatly distressed; for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved [bitter] every man for his sons, and for his daughters; but DAVID ENCOURAGED HIMSELF IN THE LORD HIS GOD.”

Picture David sitting on a rock, reaching back to the base of his skull, and putting out his soul, and holding it before his eyes, saying, “Soul what is wrong with you? God is alive! He's the great I AM! Nothing is impossible with Him!! Think of ALL His promises to you, He's God, HE CANNOT LIE!!”

What a picture! Verse four tells us, “David and the people with him, lifted up their voices and wept until they had no power to weep.” Amid this, David sat down to talk it over with the Lord! “What shall I do? Shall I pursue them? We’re outnumbered, they are powerful, circumstances seem impossible , what shall I do?”

God said, “Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them and without fail, RECOVER ALL.” 1 Sam.30:8 In verse 18- “David recovered all that the Amalikites had carried away: David rescued his two wives.”

What does all this have to do with us today? Space does not permit, but read carefully Matthew chapter 24 and Luke chapter 21. Jesus makes it clear to His disciples, before the Kingdom of God comes to pass, wars will take place, false christs and teachings will abound. There will be famines, diseases, earthquakes, strange weather in various places, Christians will be hated, rebellions, iniquity will abound [murders, greed and hatred] all these things bring about money problems BIG TIME!!

And you will see Jerusalem hated like no one else, in fact, surrounded by her enemies! These will be the days of vengeance, [Divine vengeance] that ALL things which are written may be fulfilled. [GOD’S WORD IS SURE!] What are we to do? How are we to react?

“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh.”

“And He spoke to them a parable: “Behold the FIG Tree, and ALL the trees: when they now shoot forth, ye see, and know ye that the Kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass away ‘til all be fulfilled.”
Luke 21:28-32

Israel [the Fig Tree] became a Nation May 14, 1948 and one after another areas began to declare themselves nations, one after another declared themselves as the “United Nations” with certain rights.

All if that SIXTY YEARS AGO!! How much closer are we to the Coming of the LORD!

Beloved don’t PANIC or become FEARFUL or think it strange at what is happening.

WHAT AILETH THEE? Your REDEMPTION draweth NIGH!

Keep looking up and walk close to Him!
Rev. J Kehl Golding