

PLEASE HAS - CALGARY OCT 17/65 DED. OF RED DEER CHURCH - JAN. 9/66  
GIDEON CONF. - BANFF - OCT 1/67 (REP. FROM CALG. EDM. INNIS - LES. ETC.)  
Kethbridge - Jan 7/68 - 4/12/70  
Striking a Bargain with God". II Jan 2:15  
4:1-8

Introd:- (1). January is named after Janus..a mythical Greek god with two faces..looking both ways.. Thus marking end and beginning of year. Today..ANNIVERSARY. "Annus"..verto"..the turn of the year. Not trying insinuate you all two-faced! But we do look both ways..backward with thanks to God for these good years..for hard days..trials of faith for all He has sent..TOTALLY FOR OUR GOOD..Rom. 8:28.

(2).And forward with anticipation...AND WHAT ELSE? ANYTHING??? Unless spiritual growth stopped..soul petrified..spirit dull..SOMETHING! Surely new contract with God. New striking of hands with Jesus X. New infilling of His Spirit. New holy desire for effective living and service in this new year..our Rosh Hashana. Jewish New Year is ushered in by splendid, remarkable action. It is actually old Levit. Feast of Trumpets..and priest still blows the Shofar..Ram's Horn..heralding new year..AND CALLING PEOPLE AS SOLDIERS TO MARCH..TO WAR..TO SERVE CAPTAIN ANEW. May God thus stir all our hearts today..for this church. Let me suggest we do it..by TOPIC.

I. Don't let that seem irreverant to you. God does this.

(a). No..I don't bel. He BARGAINS with men..in sense of bickering and dickering. God holds no auction sales..or even anniversary sales! Price+lists in Bible are most inflexible..arbitrary. "Wages of sin..death". "Without shedding of blood..no remission". "What profit a man..." Matt. 19:29. Great bal. sheet..Rev.1:5b.

(b).Yet God will strike a bargain with a man or woman. Not like bargaining in Hong Kong!..Or two Scbts on raft..! And this one of best times make true bargain with God... set out terms on both sides..and then carry it out daily. What say you? What terms will you make with God? What will you undertake? What expect God to do on His part? Take time with me..set out the contract..then SIGN IT. Toda

II. Let me suggest that men do this in four diff. ways.

(a). FIRST TYPE. Called this the False Retreat. God keep you from it. This is ostensible bargain..made for show. Pious appearance. External whitewash..cover up for life not given to God..His work. May be striking of hands in church membership..for business reasons..social acceptance ..personal aggrandisement. c/f II Sam. 15:7-9: It's done.

(b). TYPE NO. TWO. is very common one in evangelical churches. Often done. Called this "The Fair Resolve".

Bel. that describes exactly. Let me illus:- 3 of many examples  
JACOB. Gen. 28:20-22. Fair resolve. BUT this type always  
 puts first onus on God. "You do this. IF you do..I will".  
 Bargain! Signif. that God took him up..even reminded him about  
 it! Gen. 31:13. Why? Had Jacob started to slip?

JEPHTHAH Judges 11:30-31. Again..God met, agreed..and when  
 time came asked J to meet his end of bargain. He did,  
 thank God..left us eternally good example.

HANNAH. I Sam. 1:11. Again..IF God will..I will. And here is  
 best example..for Hannah voluntarily fulfilled vow..no prompting  
 WHAT THINK OF SUCH BARGAINING? Good? Bad? Well, God agreed  
 to them. Good enough. Let's not find fault with this. These  
 people RESOLVED..set goal..pressed towards it. Some reached.  
 THERE IS HOWEVER..INHERENT DANGER. See it? When God fulfills  
 His part, in good faith...MEN SOMETIMES WELCH ON THEIR PART.  
 DANGER..warning ~~Exodus~~ Some forgot. Psalm 78:10-11. Some  
 refused keep bargain..Eccles.5:4-6. At least 19 times in Bible  
 God warns men about failing to pay or perform their vows to God.  
 Such bargains are GOOD..if kept..but they are not the BEST.

(c). TYPE THREE. I call this "The Fitting Request". Type two  
 is fair enough. This one is more fitting. It reverses the  
 order..and sets out man's part ahead of God's, as to action.  
 Striking example is wise man, Solomon, during wisest time of  
 his life..bef. got all those wives!..As fin. building Temp. to  
 and stood to dedicate it to God. I Kings 8:35-36. This is just  
 one part..Many times in this chapter. This puts responsibility  
 on man to act..Then makes "Fitting Request" to God. I LIKE THIS  
 BETTER. It moves us on! Like so many promises of God "Call  
 on me, and I will ans.thee..." "YOU DO IT..I will not fail."  
 Ah, that is beauty of this bargain. God will NEVER WELCH ON  
 BARGAIN..FAIL HIS PART! True? TRUE! c/f Josh.23:14. Type  
 two leaves us resting on the premises. Type ~~three~~ brings us to  
 place of standing on the promises! Believe God! Count on Him!  
 "I will serve God this year..and depend on Him to provide way".

(d). TYPE FOUR...Best of all..better yet! Called it "The Faith-  
 ful Renunciation". And I have just one great example to give  
 you. Scarce..Rare..Job 13:15a. "Though he slay me, yet will  
 I trust him". This is the bargain that so dedicates a man to  
 God that he refuses to bind God to any part..Leaves whole issue  
 to His supreme, sublime wisdom. "I WILL TRUST..SERVE..LIVE  
 FOR HIM..NO MATTER WHAT". Highest dedication. c/f Stephen  
 Stoned..c/f Paul.."What have me to do?" No setting of price..  
 This is true MARRIAGE..to our heavenly Bridegroom. Wholly trust

" " Rom. 12:1-2

Conclus:-xl. Strike a bargain. Which will you choose? Barak  
 said to Deb.."If thou wilt go..I will go". Isaiah said: "Here  
 am I; send me". This is complete surrender..at God's disposal.  
 c/f Girl who sold herself into slavery..for God's work.