

12

Amazonian Slave Ants

How Amazonian slave ants best illustrate Satan's world and our predicament

In 1965, a British rock group called the "Animals" came out with their big hit; "It's my life." Living in Trail, B.C. at the time, I do remember that this was my rebellious anthem song I used to sing to along with many others in those days. The lyrics went something like this: "It's my life. Let me do what I want. Don't tell me." I think some of you might remember the song.

Anyway, all of us have times when we'd like to be completely free to do whatever we want. We long to break out of our restricting circumstances. But total freedom or complete independence is never an option for us. The Bible declares that we are servants by nature, even though we might not realize it.

A number of years ago, I read about some slave ants from the Amazon that I think illustrates man's predicament on earth. Thousands of these ants periodically swarm out of their nest to capture neighbouring colonies of weaker ants. After destroying resisting defenders, they carry off cocoons containing the larvae of worker ants. When these "captured children" hatch they assume that they are part of the family and launch into the tasks they were born to do. They never realize that they are forced-labour victims of the enemy.

These little creatures are captives from the time of their birth as we are, when we enter this world at birth enslaved to sin and to Satan. Every one of us at birth is born into Satan's world. We're like puppets and Satan is pulling the strings. We are born into this world and he is the "god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4)." We didn't know that when Satan

deceived our grandparents into following him and disobeying God, Satan legally took over from Adam and Eve and he is now the rightful ruler of this world. The phrase "god of this world" indicates that Satan is the major influence on the ideals, opinions, goals, hopes and views of the majority of people. Your thinking reflects his thoughts and ideas he puts into your head. You think you are independent, thinking your thoughts, but that is not the case. They are thoughts he puts in your mind. Satan's scheme includes promoting false philosophies in the world – philosophies that blind the unbeliever to the truth of the gospel. Satan's philosophies are the fortresses in which people are imprisoned, and they must be set free by Christ. It's his world and we're oblivious to what's happening around us; spiritually. We just go about our daily life not knowing that we're slaves in bondage to Satan's sinful world.

We didn't know that we were originally children of God; that our grandparents, Adam and Eve were created by a loving God who wanted to have fellowship and a love relationship with us. We didn't know that Satan deceived our grandparents and tricked them into disobeying God. We didn't know that this is when sin entered into the human race and that Satan took over rulership from Adam and Eve and that we are now being held hostage; born into Satan's world. We are not aware of our sin nature when we're born. We were not aware of how each and every one of us was born spiritually dead as we came into this world; separated from our Creator. We were not aware of our condition or destination at birth. Now, if we just went about our life from day-to-day and we did nothing in this world to change or repent of our sins, we'd be on the same road as Satan and his demonic beings – thrown into the lake of fire.

Let me explain: the greatest tragedy of human history took place in the Garden of Eden. Deceived and tricked by Satan, Adam and Eve traded their God-given inheritance for a piece of fruit. Their disobedience (sin) affected every part of Adam and our own triune nature; body, soul and spirit. In his *God-given spirit* he was cut off and separated from God. In his *soul* he became a rebel, henceforth at war with his Creator. In his *body* he became subject to sickness, aging, decay and ultimately physical death.

That's why Jesus came down to earth to reveal to mankind our true sinful nature and His plan to set the captives free. If you let Him, He

will free you from your slavery or bondage to sin and your enslavement to Satan when you put your total faith and trust in Him. Christ came down to earth to free us from sin and spiritual death. Yes, God came down in the Person of Jesus Christ, laying down His life for us and becoming the atoning sacrifice for our sins and paying the sin debt penalty for us that we were not able to pay as we were dead in our transgressions.

Jesus came to tell us what our true condition is when we are born and who we really are. He came to tell us that we are sinners and in need of salvation. He came to tell us that God loves us and is willing to forgive us and also that God is willing to heal us from our sinful condition. He came to tell us that God wants to bring us back to a loving relationship with Him just like He had in the beginning with Adam and Eve. He wants us to know that we can be reconciled to God through faith in His Son Christ Jesus and what He accomplished for us on Calvary's cross, taking away our sins; past, present, and future, never to be seen again before the eyes of God.

It doesn't matter how intellectual those slave ants might be, or you and I for that matter; they could not know where they came from. They just went about doing their business thinking, well that's life, that's the way it is. If God didn't send down His only begotten Son to reveal Himself to man and man's condition, we would be in the same boat as those slave ants and no wiser about our predicament when we are born into this world.

We're like pawns in a spiritual war; the conflict of the ages between God and Satan. It's reassuring to know that when we read the last pages of the book of Revelation, we find out that we, as believers, win and Satan is destroyed. My question to you is: "Whose camp are you in; God's or Satan's?" Why would you want to play into the hands of your enemy, Satan; the one who is trying to destroy you by taking away your eternal salvation? In the end he is going to take all unbelievers with him; like sheep to the slaughter house. Why would you let him do this to you?

Imagine being separated from God; being all alone and consciously tormented night and day for all eternity in a place that was not originally reserved for you, but for God's adversary Satan and his demons. Think about it seriously; is that really where you want to go?

God has given you a free will to choose to either follow Him or reject Him and be condemned with Satan and thrown into the lake of fire. The book of Revelation clearly tells us that unbelievers will be judged and *"anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the Lake of fire (Rev. 20:15)."*

I know that some of you may say, "Oscar, are you not being kind of harsh?" Yes, I am but I'm only the messenger and that is the reality according to Scripture. Would you prefer that I sugarcoat this message and lie to you and have you ending up in the lake of fire? Would that make you happy? You see, God never forces anyone because if that is your choice, He will abide by it. By procrastinating and not making a decision; it is a "no" decision.

If this all makes you uncomfortable then maybe it's a good thing because it made me very uncomfortable. I had to swallow my pride as I read the Bible with the Holy Spirit convicting me that I am a sinner in need of salvation and in need of Christ Jesus. I was born into this world serving Satan, who is the ruler of this world, and I didn't know it. I was a slave to my sinful nature and I didn't know it, if God's Holy Spirit hadn't convicted me.

The truth of the matter is that we are all born into this world and on that road that leads to spiritual death and destruction until we make that 180° turn of repentance and being reconciled to God through His Son Christ Jesus. If you do nothing, while you're still alive, to change the direction of the road you're on then your destiny will be sealed as it is with Satan. You will be thrown into the lake of fire and separated from God for all eternity. You have a choice to make while you're still alive.

Every evening in my prayers I thank my Heavenly Father for His only begotten Son, Christ Jesus, who left His royal robes of heaven, to come down to earth to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins and to offer us hope, salvation, reconciliation and life eternal.