

God's Final Say

How many times have we had a problem or any type of situation where we felt that the situation was beyond our control? Sometimes this happens more than we would like. Or situations where things may be going in one direction and we find that we are moving in the opposite direction that we had thought? It is reassuring that we are able to find our answers in the scriptures and in life circumstances which help us to see that God alone is in control.

Key Verse: Prov. 19:21 “Many plans are in a man’s heart, but the counsel of the LORD will stand.”

Approach: We are going to look at a few instances in which the scriptures tell us “But the LORD” and “But God”, and “But Jesus,” in order to see the ultimate authority of God in the scriptures and our lives.

Conjunction Junction What’s Your Function?

“And”, “But” and” Or”

“And” is a connector between two items or thoughts, joining them together. “Or offers an alternative between two items. “But” is used to contrast two alternative thoughts, phrases or ideas.

Why is this important? We have to approach bible study like CSI Miami. A quick glance may be acceptable sometimes, but in 2 Timothy 2:15, we are encouraged to “study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.) (KJV)

“God” is translated from the Hebrew word “Elohim” which is derived from the root “El”, which means strength, might or power.

LORD is derived from Yahweh/ Jehovah, which reflects God’s covenant keeping name.

But the LORD

I. First appearance is in Genesis 3:9 (NIV) “But the LORD God called to the man, ‘Where are you?’”

Step 1: Context: God speaking to Adam in the garden of Eden.

Step 2: What happened before this? Verse 8 “Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.”

Step 3: What if... would have happened if there were no verse 9?

Step 4. Application. How can I apply this? What does this mean?

II. Psalm 34:19 “But the LORD delivers him out of them all.”

Step 1. Context: Psalm of David when he feigned madness before Abimelech

Step 2. What happened before this” “Many are the afflictions of the righteous,...

Step 3. What if... What if there were no verse 19?

Step 4. Application.

III. Psalm 94:22 “ But the LORD has been my stronghold, and my God the rock of my refuge.”

Step 1. Context: Psalm. WE do not know the writer or his or her circumstances.

Step 2. What happened before this? Psalm 34:19-21

Step 3. What if...?

Step 4. Application.

But God

I. Genesis 8:1 “But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the cattle that were with him in the ark; and God caused a wind to pass over the earth, and the water subsided.”

Step 1: Context: Noah in the ark after the Great Flood.

Step 2. What happened before this verse? Genesis 7:24 “The water prevailed upon the earth one hundred and fifty days.”

Step 3: What would have happened if there were no verse 1?

Step 4: Application.

II. Genesis 50:20 “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.”

Step 1. Context: Joseph speaking to his brothers about why he had not been killed in their plans.

Step 2. What happened before this verse? “Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in God’s place?” verses 18 & 19

Step 3. What if ...?

Step 4. Application

III. Acts 13:30 “But God raised Him from the dead;”

Step 1. Context: Part of Paul’s first missionary journey, speaking to the synagogue official and the people in the synagogue about the history of the Israelites, God’s promise to bring Israel a Savior: Jesus, and their crucifixion of Christ.

Step 2. What happened before this before this verse: Act 13:29 “Act 13:29 “When they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb.” Acts 13:29

Step 3. What if ... What would have happened if there were no verse 30?

Step 4. Application

But Jesus

I. Christ’s Actions:

Matthew 8:22 “...but Jesus Himself was asleep.”

1. Context: Jesus is travelling with his disciples in a boat.

2. What happened before this verse: Verses 23-24?

3. What if ... What if there were no second part of Verse 24?

4. Application.

II. Christ Perceives

“But Jesus, aware of this, said, “you men of little faith, why do you discuss among yourselves that you have no bread?” Matt. 16:8

“But Jesus perceived their malice, and said, “Why are you testing Me, you hypocrites? Matt. 22:18

“But Jesus, aware of their reasonings, answered and said to them, “Why are you reasoning in your hearts?” Luke 5:22

“But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, “Does this cause you to stumble?” John 6:61

“But Jesus, knowing what they were thinking in their heart, took a child and stood him by His side, and said to them, “Whoever receives this child in My name receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me, for the one who is least among you, this is the one who is great.” Luke 9:47-48

Christ consistently saw through people’s words and actions, and saw what was behind the words into their hearts, motives and minds. He saw their true intentions, even though they thought they were cleverly concealed, Christ saw it and then consistently addressed it. “He perceived” was in almost all instances followed by “He said.” There is a revealing nature to Christ. There was an honesty in his interactions where He wanted the people to know that He knew the truth. Is this still true?

III. Christ Rebukes

Mar 9:27 But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him; and he got up.

Step 1. Context: Jesus heals the boy with unclean spirits

Step 2: What happened before the verse? Mark 9:26 “After crying out and throwing him into terrible convulsions, it came out; and the boy became so much like a corpse that most of them said, “He is dead!”

Step 3: What if... What would have happened if there were no verse 27?

Step 4: What’s the application to you, us?

IV. Christ Encourages

Mat 9:22 “ But Jesus turning and seeing her said, “Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well.” At once the woman was made well.

Step 1. Context: Christ is walking with a crowd around Him and He perceives that someone has touched Him. It was the woman with the issue of blood.

Step 2. What happened before the verse? Verses 20-21

Step 3. What if ...?

Step 4. Application.

Conclusion:

We may be assured that no matter what plans are made for us, God has the final word in all matters. He even has the ability to divinely see what is behind the motives and intentions of those who may seek to hide their secret thoughts behind their words as actions. So we must: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” Prov. 3:5-6 (ESV)