

When We See Need

We are bombarded with media – needs

- television presentation of need
- mail arriving at our homes
- internet asking for help
- church presentations – groups
- radio programs

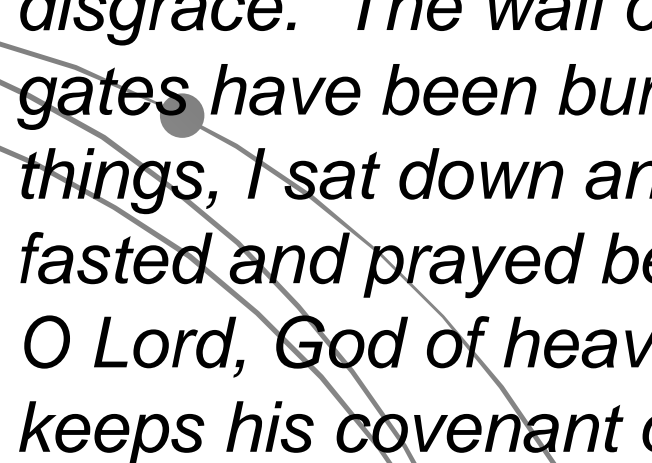
All good things – hard to know God things for You

Is there a pattern for discerning this?

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When We See Need

“In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. They said to me, ‘Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.’ When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. Then I said, O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and

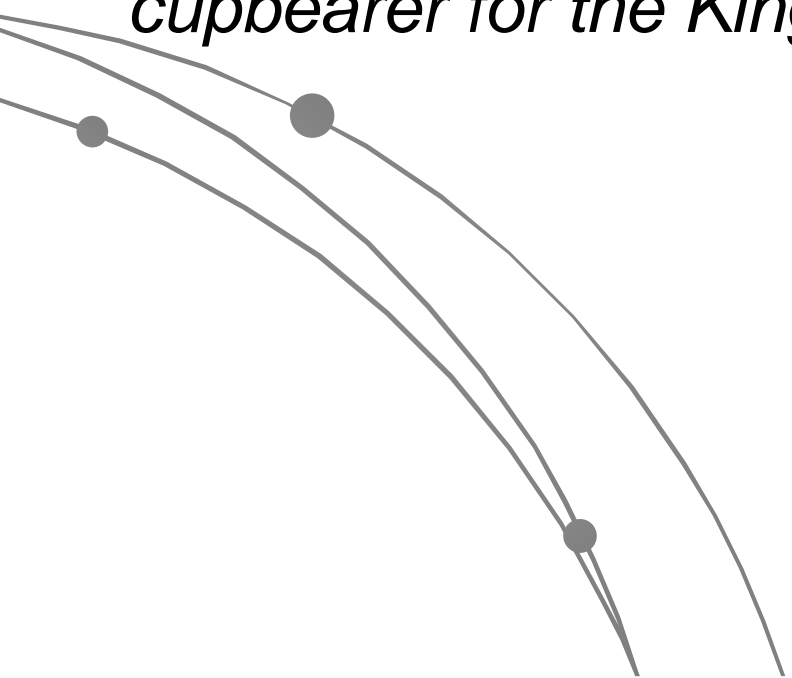


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“obey his commands, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s house have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses. Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, if you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, but if you return to me and obey my commands then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my name.”

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“They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presences of this man. I was cupbearer for the King.” Neh. 1:1-11



When We See Need

1. Burdened By A Need

- interested – questioned them
- listened and allowed the response to burden him
- concerned for those he did not know personally
- check out the impact – weeping, fasting, praying

*Interesting Note – asked the question what will God do before the question what can I do!

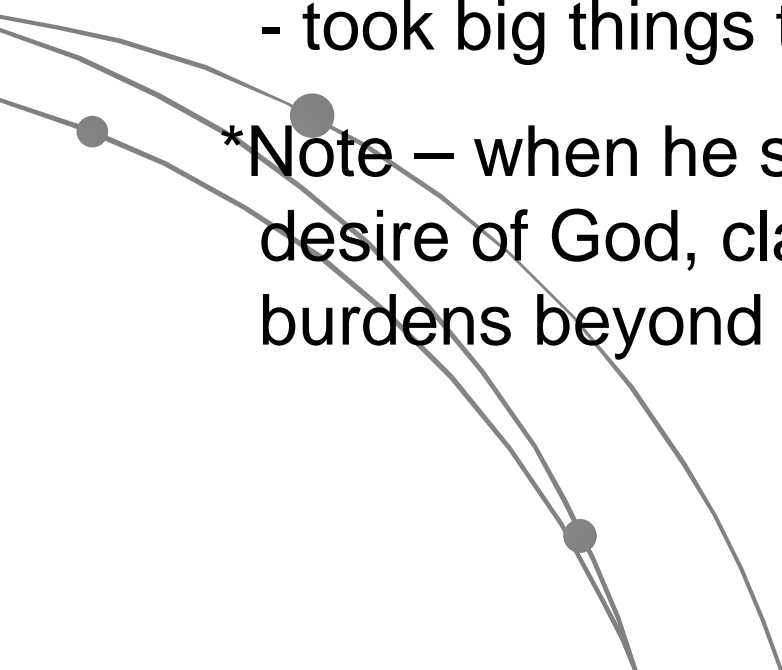
- recounts God's stated will for His children – asks to participate in what God wants to do!

When We See Need

2. Burdened Beyond His Means

- this problem was beyond imagining a solution
- did not have resources, connections etc
- did not abandon burden when seemed impossible
- took big things to a big God

*Note – when he spent time with God, seeking the desire of God, clarity on his role arrived! No fast fix for burdens beyond our means.

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When We See Need

3. Bringing Burdens to a Big God

- four months of prayer, fasting, seeking, - action
- time to clarify – what is God wanting for this
- time to covenant – confession of sin, recounting the covenant of God, committing to be used

● - Time to Commence – chapter 2 – speaks to king.

* Note – there is clarity of call and purpose – and definition of role once one spends enough time with God. Remember this seeking was intense, emotional, upsetting life's apple cart.

When We See Need

So What

1. Can You Be Burdened?

- could the things that break God's heart bring you to tears, cause your life upheaval?
- are you willing to allow burdens to rearrange you life?
- there are needs – can God use you?

2. Can You See Beyond Your Means?

- are you prepared to ask what God wants
- do you jump in and do what you think you can?

When We See Need

3. When We Take Need to God

- clarify – what is God’s heart here? What does He want me to participate in? Is my burden confirmed by others?

- covenant – confession of sin, renewal of what God promises, building a foundation of prayer people

- Commence – there will be a scary step of faith required. It is where the real journey begins!

