

A PIECE OF WOOD

We don't think much of a piece of wood. It gets thrown away or burned up. A stick of wood is ignored by people but when it is in the hands of the man of God, God can use it for His glory. Here are some examples...

A piece of wood causes bitter water to become sweet

Exodus 15:25, *"Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet."*

A stick of wood causes steel to float

2 Kings 6:3-7, *Then one of them said, "Won't you please come with your servants?" "I will," Elisha replied. And he went with them. They went to the Jordan and began to cut down trees. As one of them was cutting down a tree, the iron ax head fell into the water. "Oh, my lord", he cried out, "it was borrowed!" The man of God asked, "Where did it fall?" When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick and threw it there, and made the iron float. "Lift it out," he said. Then the man reached out his hand and took it."*

The devil also uses a piece of wood

Hosea 4:12, *"They consult a wooden idol and are answered by a stick of wood."*

Habakkuk 2:16-19, *Woe to him who says to wood, 'Come to life!' Or to lifeless stone, 'Wake up!' Can it give guidance? It is covered with gold and silver; there is no breath in it."*

A stick of wood used by God to explain the future of Israel

Ezekiel 37:16-21 *"Son of man, take a stick of wood and write on it, 'Belonging to Judah and the Israelites associated with him.' Then take another stick of wood, and write on it, 'Ephraim's stick, belonging to Joseph and all the house of Israel associated with him.' Join them together into one stick so that they will become one in your hand. "When your countrymen ask you, 'Won't you tell us what you mean by this?' say to them,*

'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am going to take the stick of Joseph--which is in Ephraim's hand--and of the Israelite tribes associated with him, and join it to Judah's stick, making them a single stick of wood, and they will become one in my hand.' Hold before their eyes the sticks you have written on and say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land.'"

The same is true of man. Some don't think much of man. Some don't think much of themselves. Who am I? What can I do? What value do I have?

The picture totally changes when man submits himself or herself to God almighty.

What does God think of man?

Job 7:17 *"What is man that you make so much of him, that you give him so much attention, that you examine him every morning and test him every moment? Will you never look away from me, or let me alone even for an instant?"*

Why does God pay so much attention to man?

The answer to this question is found in Genesis 1:27, *"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that move on the ground."*

Man is the crown of God's creation.

Deuteronomy 4:32, *"Ask now about the former days, long before your time, from the day God created man on the earth; ask from one end of the heavens to the other. Has anything so great as this ever happened, or has anything like it ever been heard of?"*

God has prepared a body for all of us

Hebrews 10:5-7, *"Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, 'Here I am--it is written about me in the scroll--I have come to do your will, O God.'"*

Doing God's will must be the goal of each believer.

Matthew 7:21-23 *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from Me, you evildoers!"*

God is requesting our body for His use

Romans 12:1-2, *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--His good, pleasing and perfect will."*

A piece of wood or a stick of wood in the hand of God performs miracles. But a piece of wood in the hand of the devil becomes a dead idol, meaningless and of no value.

Man in the hand of God also becomes an instrument of God to bring glory to His name and to be used by Him for the extension of His kingdom here on earth. Man in the hand of the devil becomes his instrument to advance his kingdom of darkness with destination hell. Shall we surrender all to Jesus.