

The Thorn in the flesh is not in the flesh

Let's first go over the text, in context, in 2 Corinthians 12:6-7.

“and because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations. Wherefore, lest I should be exceedingly uplifted/ to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of satan, in order that he might buffet me, lest I should be exceedingly uplifted.”

Many have had trouble with this verse, suggesting a wide variety of possibilities: eye-trouble, epilepsy, insomnia, malaria, migraine, etc. Adam Clark in his commentary on the thorn in the flesh notes that Tertullian thought it to be an earache, Chrysostom, the headache, and Cyprian, many and grievous bodily torments. Adam Clark is far more along the right track by stating,

“I believe the apostle to refer simply to the distresses he had endured through the opposition he met at Corinth.”

Remember, Paul is the apostle of THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (2 Corinthians 1:1) to the church of GOD in Corinth and all the saints who are in Achaia. Here, in chapter 12, we see him being opposed and buffeted (continuously) by a messenger of satan. Let us first state categorically that it is not a physical malady. Not at all, it never was, and it never will be in truth. The text clearly states in context, that it is a messenger of satan,

“there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of satan.”

It is a demonic attack, due to a potential of pride that was a real issue and concern for/to Paul that posed a danger for him that he would exalt himself due to the exceedingly great revelations that he received from GOD. Satan has no right to attack but he is allowed to go after that which is like-minded to his, all the sins of the flesh, including pride. Thus, his attack against a weakness in Paul,

“lest I should be exceedingly uplifted”

This phrase is at the beginning and end of this thorn in the flesh, a messenger of satan issue, forming a stylistic focus on the fact that it was due to an issue with self exaltation,

“lest I should be exceedingly uplifted”

that this attack occurred here.

Next, we need to look to GOD's DIVINE WORD, THE HOLY BIBLE, for how this expression is used elsewhere, and lo and behold we find two exciting references, : in Numbers 33:55, and Joshua 23:13, that shed so much GOD-LIGHT on this issue that here should not now or ever be any confusion. Let's read them.

Please note, that the word for thorn in the following:

- qots קוץ (2 Corinthians 12:7)
- tseneneem צנינים = thorns (Numbers 33:55 - in the expression about the inhabitants of the land that they allowed to remain, that the inhabitants shall be thorns in your sides)
- tseneneem צנינים = thorns (Joshua 23:13 - in the expression that the nations, due to their sins, shall be thorns in your eyes)!!

Also remember our own idioms that are fairly reminiscent of the same:

- he/she is a pain in my butt/rear.
- They/re a pain in the neck.
- They get on my nerves (they're not standing on your nerve tissue are they?)

Read more carefully; be more discerning. Paul is a Jew, a Rabbi being very eloquent, and tremendously deep in his thinking. Enter the world he lives/lived in and use THE MIND of the MESSIAH clearly to understand THE THOUGHTS of GOD that HE would have us know conveyed by The Faithful Jew, The Apostle Paul.

Please remember, this was a satanic attack that was relentless. It could well have expressed itself in the demonic persecutions and attacks of people, in the form of insults, persecutions, and difficulties, as the apostle outlines in 2 Corinthians 12:10, through people all too willing to be used of satan and all too willing to attack God's people in every way possible. Some things haven't yet changed enough, Hebrews 2:8. One day they fully will. HalleluYAH