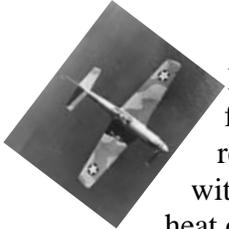


## Protection in the rocks – June 15, 2015

The Battle with poison oak continues. The Poison oak on my property has survived by rooting itself into the rock piles – where an old fence line once stood. Its roots were protected from attack as it extends its runners under the rock heap allowing it to surface unhindered at various points in the pile.



For years it had safely relied on its impregnable stone fortress. It was safe from any lethal attack from the lawn mower and weed whacker. The lawn mower avoided for fear of damaging the blade and the weed eater only chopped down the vine that stretched higher than the protection of the rocks but the roots remained safe and secure without worry or care – sure it got knocked back here and there but it was marching forward despite of the temporary setback.



This weekend the battle was on. The attack formation was set in motion. Air Power was launched as the weed eater moved in, laying down a suppressing cover of high speed chops from above. The infantry closely followed along with the core of engineers which removed the rock protection. The roots that could be discovered were viciously and without remorse plucked up and laid naked on the earth to shrivel and die under the scorching heat of the Texas sun.

Edom dwells in the cliffs of the rocks (Ob1:1,3) but Edom's rock is not the rock of Jesus Christ which Christians dwell (Dt32:31). Edom may say they will build but Jesus Christ says that He will tear down (Mal1:4).

RSV Obadiah 1:1,3

1 THE VISION of Obadiah. **Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom:** We have heard tidings from the Lord, and a messenger has been sent among the nations: "Rise up! let us rise against her for battle!"

3 The pride of your heart has deceived you, **you who live in the clefts of the rock, whose dwelling is high**, who say in your heart, "Who will bring me down to the ground?"

RSV Deuteronomy 32:31 **For their rock is not as our Rock...**

RSV Malachi 1:4 If Edom says, "We are shattered but we will rebuild the ruins," the Lord of hosts says, "**They may build, but I will tear down**, till they are called the wicked country, the people with whom the Lord is angry for ever."

Jesus Christ is the rock for baptized believers and while Christians dwells in the rock then they are safe. Israel has chosen time after time to leave the rock of protection and dwell in the wicked plains of Sodom and Gomorrah. They select evil instead of good, pleasure over modesty and drunkenness over soberness.

Jesus must respond not wanting the wicked to suffer but to come to repentance – Ez33:11.

RSV Ezekiel 33:11 Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, **I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live**; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Jesus will pull down the proud, the rich, the wicked down to the dirt. To push their uplifted nose into the pig pen like the prodigal son. Then and only then it seems that some of Israel repents and turns back to Jesus. Repentance doesn't last. Once Israel has had its dung laded clothes washed and life returns to prosperity, safety and comfort then the cycle of rebellion returns.



Why? Many reasons but primarily evil companions corrupt good morals -1Cor15:33

RSV 1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."

Not everyone desires or chooses the narrow road which leads to salvation but lustfully run to the wide road heading to destruction. As long as the wicked are among the good then evil will remain rooted and the corruption process continues – eventually corrupting the entire society.

Jesus has a plan for those wicked persons – it's called judgment day and the lake of fire awaits them that don't repent.

Evil remains for our testing, to teach us warfare. Evil forces us to fight and overcome and evil persecution and gives us a reason to repent.

The battle between the poison oak and me left the ground free of rocks. Any new poison oak shoots will be quickly dealt by lawn mower or weed eater. I did get smacked by the oil yet again – both arms from wrist to elbow covered in poison oak.

I've been trying different remedies (in addition to prayers) with each poison oak hit. This time I'm using Lye soap (lard and lye soap). So far it appears this combination of relief appears to be eliminating the redness, blisters and itchiness in about 2-3 days. The quickest recovery so far – praise Jesus!

Regards,

Called/Chosen + Hear + Believe + Repent + Confess + Baptize + Abide = Salvation -> Proclaim  
Mt22:14 + Lk11:28 + Jn3:16 + Mk6:12 +Rm10:9 +Acts2:38 + Heb10:26 = 1 Pt 3:21 -> Mt28:19-20

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