

Superstition And Reality

Ponder: What really produces good or bad results?

Scripture: “Just as I have brought all this great disaster upon this people, so I will bring upon them all the good that I promise them” (Jeremiah 32:42, ESV).

Why don't hotels have thirteenth floors? Actually they do, but what is really the thirteenth floor is labeled the fourteenth because some consider thirteen to be unlucky. A silly superstition, right?

I once knew a brother who scrupulously avoided placing anything atop a Bible. If so much as a pencil was there, he would remove it. “Nothing is above (i.e. more important than) the Bible!” He truly believed that if any object were on top of a Bible, God would send trouble his way. However, he virtually never attended Bible class and was far from regular in the worship assembly. His behavior indicated that many things were more important to him than the Bible. His allegiance to paper and ink greatly surpassed his loyalty to the message printed on those pages and to the God who revealed that message.

The same brother had a profound aversion to the number 666 (see Rev. 13:8). When his car's new license plates contained 666, he insisted that he be given different plates! To his relief, the folks at the tag office complied. He feared that the “beast's” number on his car would bring disaster. But did he foster safety by obeying traffic laws like the speed limit? (Nope!)

When Jesus was born, reverence for God's name had morphed into superstition. The third commandment forbade taking God's name in vain (Exod. 20:7). It focused on forbidding perjury; calling upon God to bear witness to a lie would impugn His righteousness. But the Jews feared that mispronouncing His name (“Yahweh” or something similar) would be taking it in vain, so they stopped saying it altogether, substituting “Lord” in its place. How ironic, then, that the Jewish leaders actually sought out false witnesses against Jesus (Matt. 26:59). To them, mispronouncing the sacred name would be terrible, but perjury was fine!

I don't know many superstitious Christians today. If you are, please know that neither “luck” nor “fate” is in control; God is. Let's show our trust in him by obedience to His word!

Song: Trust and Obey”

Prayer: Mighty Father, Your power and goodness cannot be measured. Help us to trust You, putting no confidence in “luck,” “fate,” or any other such thing. In Jesus' name, Amen.