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**TEXT: Ephesians 6:18** Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

19 And for me, **that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,**

20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: **that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.**

**Jude 1:9** Yet Michael the archangel, when **contending** with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

**Proverbs 28:4** They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law **contend** with them.

**2 Peter 2:11** Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not **railing accusation** against them before the Lord.

"The object, by the reference to angels here, is to show that they, even when manifesting **the greatest zeal in a righteous cause, and even when opposing others**, did not make use of reproachful terms, or of harsh and violent language...they simply state matters as they are..."

(Barnes)

"They are eminently [above us] with respect to the government of their passions; when they contend with devils themselves, it is without disturbance, without railing accusations."

(Burkitt)

**Numbers 12:8**...wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

**John 7:7** The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.

**Exodus 5:1** And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, **Thus saith the LORD** God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.

**Exodus 11:4** And Moses said, **Thus saith the LORD**, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt:

5 And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die...

8 And all these thy servants shall come down unto me, and bow down themselves unto me, saying, Get thee out, and all the people that follow thee: and after that I will go out. **And he went out from Pharaoh in a great anger.**

"The calm firmness of Moses provoked the tyrant."

*(JFB Commentary)*

**Exodus 22:28** Thou shalt not revile the gods, nor curse the ruler of thy people.

**Acts 23:2** And the high priest Ananias commanded them that stood by him to smite him on the mouth.

3 Then said Paul unto him, **God shall smite thee, thou whited wall:** for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law?

4 And they that stood by said, **Revilest** thou God's high priest?

5 Then said Paul, I wist not, brethren, that he was the high priest: for **it is written, Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people.**

"Thence learn, That profane sinners look upon the faithful reproofs which the ministers of God give them for their lewdness, to be no better than revilings; they think we revile them, if we do but rebuke them; whereas, though we chasten sinners with the rod of reproof, we dare not sting them with the scorpion of reproach."

*(Burkitt)*

**1 Kings 12:11** And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, **but I will chastise you with scorpions.**

13 And the king **answered the people roughly,** and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him;

**Numbers 16:8** And Moses said unto Korah, **Hear, I pray you,** ye sons of Levi...

15 And Moses was very wroth...

**Ephesians 6:19** And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, **that I may open my mouth boldly,** to make known the mystery of the gospel,

**Psalms 141:3** Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.

**Proverbs 26:4** **Answer not** a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.

5 **Answer** a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.

**Proverbs 29:5** A man that **flattereth** his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet.

11 A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till **afterwards.**

20 Seest thou a man that is **hasty** in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

22 An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.

27 An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked.