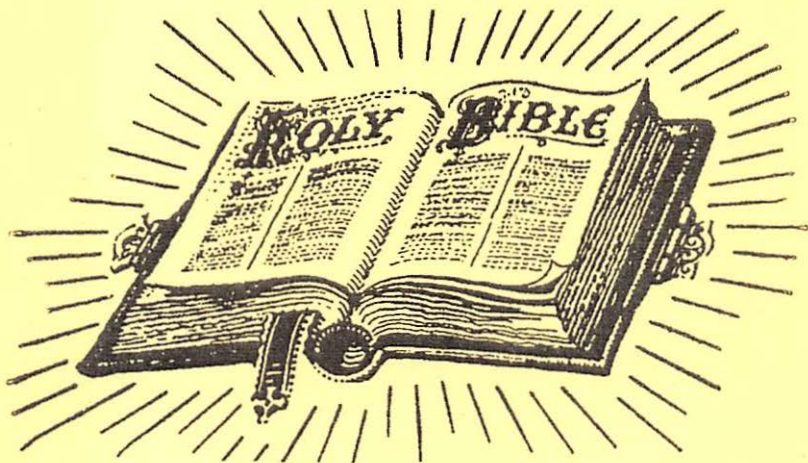


# Bible Lessons



For the word of God is quick, and powerful,  
and sharper than any two-edged sword

**Volume 45, No 4**  
**October • November • December**  
**2013**

*Quarterly Bible Lessons for Adults and Young People*  
Faith Publishing House • Guthrie, Oklahoma

**Bible Lessons for Adults and Young People**  
**(USPS054-680)**

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**Volume 45    October    November    December    No 4**

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Publishing the Bible truths in the interest of  
Jesus Christ and His Church  
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Subscription Price - \$2.00 a copy for quarter of year, or  
\$7.00 per year, issued quarterly.

Periodical postage paid at Guthrie, Oklahoma

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Published Quarterly By:  
FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE  
4318 S. Division  
Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044

Postmaster: Please send address corrections  
to above address

# BIBLE LESSONS, FOURTH QUARTER, 2013

## THEME FOR THE QUARTER

For our Bible Lessons this quarter we will go to the Book of Job. We will study this man, what God in His wisdom allowed to come his way, what his reaction and attitude was and the way that God dealt with him through it all. This study will not be a complete coverage of every scripture contained in its account, but rather the main highlights and important lessons contained therein.

We have referred to the Commentary of Adam Clarke several times, as I have found his observations very inspiring and enlightening. I would refer the student to his writings as a very wholesome and edifying source of knowledge. The book of Job is the first book of the Books of Poetry section of the Bible. And it is a poetical masterpiece so deep and full of meaning. It has been an enjoyable as well as a challenging study for my soul, and I do hope and trust God that He will make it a blessing for each and everyone who has a part in this wonderful study.

--Bro. Leslie Busbee

**October 6, 2013**

## THE PATIENCE OF JOB

Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

2 And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters.

3 His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

4 And his sons went and feasted *in their* houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them.

5 And it was so, when the days of *their* feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the

morning, and offered burnt offerings *according* to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.

6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

7 And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

8 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that *there is* none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

9 Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

12 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath *is* in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

9 Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

II Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

II Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

**MEMORY VERSE:** I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil. And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen. Romans 16:19, 20

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Satan is an adversary that God permits to come against His children in this world. We must resist his temptations and not allow our hearts to be discouraged or fearful regardless of the many different devices he may use against us.

### **WORD DEFINITIONS**

Job 1:1, "*eschewed*": Shunned and kept unstained from.

Ver. 3, "*substance*": Possessions.

Ver. 5, "*gone about*": Taking place. "*sanctified*": Held in earnest prayer before God. "*cursed God*": Failed to honor and worship God rightfully.

Ver. 6, "*Satan*": The adversary; the devil.

Ver. 9, "*for nought*": Without expecting a reward.

Ver. 10, "*hedge*": Shield of protection.

II Corinthians 11:3, "*beguiled*": Deceived. "*minds*": Thoughts and things one is persuaded of. "*corrupted*": Spoiled and led astray. "*simplicity*": Sincerity and holy purpose of heart.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

Although the word "Satan" is used but one time in the Scriptures before this, we know that in the beginning of creation it was Satan that influenced our fore parents, Adam and Eve, to sin against God, bringing guilt and condemnation to their souls. In I Chronicles 21:1 it states that "Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel." We are certain that Satan has been around ever since he beguiled Adam and Eve, seeking for every opportunity to bring trouble upon the souls of men.

In our lesson today we have pictured a man that was perfect and upright, who feared God and refused to participate in any kind of evil. We see him blessed of God with great material wealth. And in our next lesson we will see how God allowed this godly man to be tempted and put to the test. Satan was given permission to put forth his hand and touch everything that Job had. Upon Job himself Satan was not given any permit to lay his hand on. In connection with this, we have included three different New Testament Scriptures concerning Satan's influence and working against us today. It is godly wisdom in a person's

heart and mind to be aware of the danger that exists by the influence and temptations of Satan against us today. We want to take warning and be on our guard, as Peter put it, against Satan, the devil, who is in the world going about seeking who he can trouble and lead astray from the grace of God. We are to be on our guard and resist the devil steadfastly in the faith and bear in mind that all of our fellow servants of God and Christ are facing the same awful opposition.

In the next lesson we are going to see how Job endured and was faithful to God in all that Satan brought against him. Let us never fail to be aware of the woe that will come upon us if we fail to resist the devil and stand fast for God. And let us remember that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ met the devil in His sojourn on earth and was victorious over all of the temptations that were put before Him. Let us seek wisdom and guidance from our God that we be not ignorant of Satan's devices. --Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What kind of man is Job pictured to be?
2. Where did Job get all the material wealth that he possessed?
3. Why did Job offer burnt offerings to God on his children's behalf?
4. What did Satan say that Job would do if God touched all he had?
5. What did God give permission to Satan to do to Job?
6. Why did God permit Satan to bring loss and sorrow to Job?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. He created man and gave him and the woman the beautiful Garden of Eden and all the luscious fruits and things to be enjoyed. But with the many blessings, God added one requirement: one tree in the midst of the garden Adam and Eve were forbidden to partake of. But we find another influence working through the serpent that sought to tempt the woman to disregard what God had commanded. It is still an influence that we have in the world

today. It is the same influence that is still working to get mankind to do and participate in things that are forbidden and not the will of God to do. The world is full of temptations and allurements to partake of--things that are contrary to the holiness that God wants to be the law and guide mark of our lives. Satan is filled with evil and sneaky devices. He is out to allure and influence every human being to go after the world and all the evils therein. Oh, how we need to be aware of the devices of Satan! How we need to watch and pray earnestly and live close to God! Perhaps Job was not aware of the working of Satan. But he proved to have a mind and purpose to be faithful to God regardless of what would come to him. It is a lesson for us to learn and remember still today. Let us notice what James 4:7, 8 says: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double-minded." Let us take notice in the following lesson how Job overcame and was victorious in the awful trial and loss that he suffered from Satan. --Bro. Leslie Busbee

## REFLECTIONS

The hedge that God had put about Job, Satan contended, was what made Job serve his God so faithfully and perfectly. He insisted that if God would remove that protection, Job would curse God to His face. And so God, in order to prove Job's faithfulness, allowed Satan to touch Job's family, his possessions, and his body. This hedge--what is it? Was it only around Job? The Lord speaks about each of his children as being like a vineyard around which He had put a fence (Isaiah 5:2) and over which He guarded with tenderest care. "I the Lord do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day." (Isaiah 27:3) "The Lord is thy keeper," David said, in the 121st Psalm. This word *keep* means, in the Hebrew, "To hedge about; to guard; to attend." To understand the significance of this hedge, we must begin to comprehend the danger--who would "hurt it"? What are the plans and designs of the enemy? Satan told the Lord that he had been walking to and fro about the earth. Peter tells us that Satan walks about

"*seeking whom he may devour.*" (I Peter 5:8). Peter was echoing the words of Jesus, who had told him, "Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat." (Luke 22:31). In Psalm 37:32 David says, "The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him." Paul tells us that the devil has wiles, and fiery darts. (Eph. 6:11, 16).

Praise God, the hedge of God's power and grace is sufficient to keep us from the hurt of the wicked one, to preserve our souls, and to foil his plans and schemes. If in a season of tribulation the hedge is opened to permit Satan to open fire on us, NO HARM can he bring to our souls, because it's then that we can hold up the shield of FAITH that will quench every fiery dart. That shield is a full-body shield--a buckler--and we are still safe.

--Sis. Angela Gellenbeck

**October 13, 2013**

### **JOB'S FAITH IN GOD TESTED BY ADVERSITY**

Job 1:13 And there was a day when his sons and his daughters *were* eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:

14 And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them:

15 And the Sabeans fell *upon them*, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

16 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

17 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

18 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:



19 And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,

21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

I Peter 1:6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

9 Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls.

4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy *are* ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified

**MEMORY VERSE:** But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. I Peter 4:15, 16.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** The trials, difficulties, and adversities of life, though they be hard and very distressing, are permitted by

God to prove and make manifest our faith and integrity with Him, which are as a testimony to the world around us.

## WORD DEFINITIONS

Job 1:20, "*worshipped*": Bowed down in honor, respect, and submission to God.

Ver. 22, "*charged*": Accused. "*foolishly*": Without true wisdom and understanding.

I Peter 1:6, "*in heaviness*": Greatly burdened with grief. "*manifold*": Many different kinds.

Ver. 9, "*end*": Outcome and result.

I Peter 4:15, "*busybody*": One who meddles in other people's affairs

Ver. 16, "*on this behalf*": Concerning this trial of faith.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

Job, a faithful, perfect, and upright man who walked and lived in godly fear, keeping himself from the evils of the world, was permitted of God to be put to the test. Satan was allowed to bring sorrow, adversity, loss, and great distress upon him. In our lesson today we see described the awful woes that came upon Job all of a sudden. Scarcely one horrible report reached his ears before another one came. Let us bear in mind, in all of this sorrow and loss that came to him, God permitted it as a proof of the faithfulness of His precious servant. From the first epistle of our dear brother Peter we find the admonition and encouraging counsel concerning the trials and tribulations that will come to us for the same purpose that God permitted them to come to Job. Peter began his epistle to the faithful saints and brethren of his day, blessing God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for His abundant mercy and the living hope brought by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. He declares it all to be pointing to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that will never fade away, reserved in heaven for us. In this blessed hope we can and do greatly rejoice. But then Peter adds that at the present time we may be in heaviness in a great weight of various temptations. But let us notice what he says it is all for: in labeling our trials and hard places as being more precious than

all the vain riches of earth, he says that it will be found unto praise, honor, and glory when Jesus comes again.

So we can readily see that the trials and losses and sorrows that Job suffered can be greatly similar to those that we meet today. James 5:11 wisely puts it: "Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end [or purpose] of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." Let us notice especially in our lesson the reaction that Job had in the face of all the sorrows that were heaped upon him: "The LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." Oh, what a comfort these words have been to God's holy saints down through the ages of time!

--Bro. Leslie Busbee

### QUESTIONS:

1. What was the first report of sorrow and loss coming to Job?
2. What report to Job followed immediately after the first one?
3. And then what awful sorrow was contained in the third one?
4. What reaction did Job have in heart and mind to all of this?
5. What counsel does Peter give to us concerning our trials of faith?

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

It has been a proven fact and testified of over and over down through the years of time that to be a faithful and blessed child of God one must brace himself (or herself) to meet hardship, difficulties, suffering, sorrow, pain, losses, and many other kinds of heartache and disappointment in this fleeting earthly sojourn. Yes, that is what this life is. We are pilgrims and strangers on this earth. This is not our final home. It is just as Psalm 39:12 and 13 put it: "Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears: for I *am* a stranger with thee, *and* a sojourner, as all my fathers *were*. O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more." Yes, we

will go from here and be no more a part of earth's activity and business. But as the precious message of our Lord Jesus and the writers of the New Testament declare, we are comforted and inspired with the blessed hope of something worth far more in value than all of this fleeting earthly life. Our hopes are on eternal things in a brighter world than all of this pain and misery that we are meeting down here. Job lost a great part of his earthly possessions and treasured acquaintances. But he retained and held on to the greatest and most precious treasure he had, and that was his faith and favor with God. God saw with great pleasure and joy Job's submission and consecrated attitude to Him and to His good will and blessings. May this testimony of the patience and faith of this perfect and upright child of God be an uplift and strength to our faith to endure and suffer whatever we are called upon to bear in this life!

--Bro. Leslie Busbee

## REFLECTIONS

Isaiah 55:8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Jeremiah 29:11 " For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

Despite all of the reverses experienced by Job, the Lord had an expectation of just how he wanted the end of Job's life to be. While we have a desire to go from point "A" to point "B" in our lives without disruption, God has another plan for each one of us -- an expected end. Since his ways are higher than our ways, he knows just how he wants each of our stories to conclude. He is interested in everything involved in between the first breath and the last breath to bring us to His successful end.

Think about the process within the earth that makes up gold, silver, and other precious minerals. These elements go through intense pressure, heat and a duration of time to become the valuable materials that they are. When these minerals are found, they are then mined, sifted, refined and cut to make into useful gems.

Many times we ask for the jewels of God's grace without the process, i.e. "Lord please give me patience and give it to me now." This, however, is not possible. Gold and silver must be refined by fire. The light of a diamond gleams only when it has been cut into many facets. Rather than praying for a quick end to our battles, let us each one be challenged to ask and seek to gain the valuable treasures that God has in store for us. And then may the end of our life be as Job's: "So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning . . ."

--Sis. LaDawna Adams

**October 20, 2013**

### **JOB BEING TESTED THE SECOND TIME**

Job 2:1 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.

2 And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

3 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that *there is* none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

4 And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.

5 But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

6 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold he is in thine hand; but save his life.

7 So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.

8 And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes.

9 Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.

10 But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came every one from his own place; Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite: for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him.

12 And when they lifted up their eyes afar off, and knew him not, they lifted up their voice, and wept; and they rent every one his mantle, and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven.

13 So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and none spake a word unto him: for they saw that *his* grief was very great.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy. James 5:11

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Satan was given another place to afflict Job, the servant of God. He caused awful painful boils to cover all of Job's body. And to top it all off, Job was assailed by his wife's suggestion that he ought to just curse God and die. But Job counted her words to be foolish, stating firmly that we must take evil in unmoveable faith as well as taking good.

## WORD DEFINITIONS

Job 2:3, "*integrity*": Complete and perfect innocence, never yielding to temptation to do wrong.

Ver. 7, "*sore boils*": Inflaming ulcers.

Ver. 8, "*potsherd*": A broken piece of pottery.

Ver. 12, "*mantle*": A robe or garment.

James 5:11, "*endure*": To remain faithful and steadfast under great adversity. "*the end of the Lord*": The result of being faithful and true to Him. "*very pitiful*": Of great compassion.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

As we see in our study of the account of Job and what he suffered and went through, it is very evident that God has a purpose and reason for allowing adversity and hardships to come to those who are endeavoring to serve Him. When God made Adam and Eve and placed them in the beautiful garden of Eden with its many wonderful fruits and blessings, He also placed the forbidden tree within their easy access and reach. And for reasons that are easily discerned, God still allows His children to have cause to be tempted and to be disobedient and unfaithful to Him. Adversities, hardships, disappointments, afflictions, and other obstacles are permitted to come to His children as tests and means of proving their faithfulness to Him. In our previous lessons, we have had the counsel of Simon Peter along with the account of Job and his sufferings. And we have as our Memory Verse the expression from James 5:11 concerning Job and what is shown in his account of the purpose of God in permitting His children to suffer adversity and sorrow.

The first test that was given Job was the loss of his material possessions and the lives of his ten children. Now that was a great and difficult sorrow and loss to suffer. Losing one child in death, as we have so experienced, is enough grief to weigh the spirit down in deep sorrow. But Job lost all ten of his children in one awful blow of grief and painful sorrow. This, along with the loss of everything else, was enough to cause him to rend his clothes, shave his head, and fall down upon the ground. But along with this, we see Job worshipping and blessing the name of his LORD God. It all hurt and caused him great pain and sorrow, but he did not allow grief and loss to make him angry and bitter against God, as we have known and heard of people doing. Let us keep in mind the counsel brother Simon Peter gave about thinking it not strange because of the fiery trials of life. Let us count it all as being a partaker of Christ's sufferings and that, when His glory is revealed, we will be glad also with exceeding joy.

--Bro. Leslie Busbee

### QUESTIONS:

1. What testimony did God have of Job before Satan?

2. Why did Satan think that physical suffering would turn Job's mind?
3. Why did Job's wife think that Job should curse God and die?
4. What was Job's attitude toward what was taking place with him?
5. What does God show in all of Job's experience about Himself?

## COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our Lord Jesus Christ made a statement of counsel for us that should not be taken lightly. We have recorded in John 12:25 His words: "He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal." This term "hateth" here does not mean bitter hatred and murderous anger, but rather it means to love less. In Luke 14:26 it is recorded that Jesus said, "If any *man* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." This is the same thought. It means that everything else in life is second place and that the will of God is to be first and above all in importance and value to us, yea, even above our life. The same sentiment was voiced in Matthew 16:25, Mark 8:34, and Luke 17:33. Jesus was of this purpose and decision and did not seek to save His life, but rather allowed those evil men to condemn Him to death and to have it carried out on the cross of Calvary. We are to love God more than this earthly life. Job showed by his reaction to all that he suffered and lost by the providence of his God that he loved and counted God's will and doings as more important than any other thing in his life. And that is the example for us to follow in our attitudes and dispositions before God. He deserves us to love Him with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Nothing in this physical and material life must be held in our hearts and affections above the will and good pleasure of our Creator. Jesus proved it, the apostle Paul proved it, and many down through the ages of this New Testament era have proved that they love God and His Son Jesus Christ over and above all this fleshly, earthly, and material



life. It is all going to be taken from us anyway, no matter how much we contend and hold on to it. Let us accept this word of counsel and set our affections fully on God and His eternal blessings!  
--Bro. Leslie Busbee

## REFLECTIONS

Job experienced pain on so many different levels to the point he longed for an escape from it. Do we really blame him? Have we not felt that same desire to escape emotional, physical, or spiritual pain at one time or another?

Does a place exist where there is no pain? One might say that place exists only in Heaven. Surprisingly, that place does exist here on earth -- at least in a physical sense and to some degree. One such place is a colony for lepers in Southern India, a world where people with leprosy literally feel no physical pain due to the nerve damage this disease causes. One man in particular was born of an artistic, high-caste family. He was educated and refined, but leprosy had made him an outcast. Passersby on the street would notice his sores and would call him names, shrinking from him in disgust. Cafes would not serve him; buses would not admit him. Why? Because he did not have the ability to feel pain; his body was not warned of the possible consequences of walking too long on his feet or working too hard with his hands. The gradual loss of pain in this disease leads to misuse of the body parts most dependent on pain's protection. A person uses a splintery hammer, does not feel the pain, sores erupt, and infection ensues. Another steps off a curb spraining an ankle, but oblivious to the pain, walks on. Oh how those with leprosy actually desire to feel pain!

Pain and suffering are truly a gift. The truth is, Job was blessed to be able to feel the pain he felt! God knows what our pain tolerances are. He said He would never give us more than we could bear. He also knows that if we were to live our lives in a utopian-like, pain-free world we would become selfish and corrupt, following every desire of the flesh, which would lead us away from Him and destroy our souls. Let us be so very grateful for the gifts of pain that God allows us to experience. The pain

we shrink away from at times might be the very means of protecting us from spiritual harm. –Sis. Julie Elwell

**October 27, 2013**

### **JOB'S AGONY OF SPIRIT**

Job 3:1 After this opened Job his mouth, and cursed his day.

2 And Job spake, and said,

3 Let the day perish wherein I was born, and the night *in which* it was said, There is a man child conceived.

25 For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.

6:2 Oh, that my grief were throughly weighed, and my calamity laid in the balances together!

3 For now it would be heavier than the sand of the sea: therefore my words are swallowed up.

4 For the arrows of the Almighty *are* within me, the poison whereof drinketh up my spirit: the terrors of God do set themselves in array against me.

8 Oh that I might have my request; and that God would grant *me* the thing that I long for!

7:2 As a servant earnestly desireth the shadow, and as an hireling looketh for *the reward of* his work:

3 So am I made to possess months of vanity, and wearisome nights are appointed to me.

4 When I lie down, I say, When shall I arise, and the night be gone? and I am full of tossings to and fro unto the dawning of the day.

5 My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of dust; my skin is broken, and become loathsome.

6 My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope.

13 When I say, My bed shall comfort me, my couch shall ease my complaint;

14 Then thou scarest me with dreams, and terrifiest me through visions:

15 So that my soul chooseth strangling, *and* death rather than my life.

16 I loathe *it*; I would not live alway: let me alone; for my days are vanity.

17 What *is* man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him?

18 And *that* thou shouldest visit him every morning, *and* try him every moment?

20 I have sinned; what shall I do unto thee, O thou preserver of men? why hast thou set me as a mark against thee, so that I am a burden to myself?

**MEMORY VERSE:** What *is* man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him? and *that* thou shouldest visit him every morning, *and* try him every moment? Job 7:17, 18

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** God allows the soul of man to pass through agonizing and distressful seasons of sorrow and pain and also prolonged mental anguish to bring him to a place of humility and brokenness where he can sense the wisdom and majesty of the Lord.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

Job 3:1, "*cursed his day*": Esteemed his mortal time to be light, of no value, trifling, and vain.

Job 6:2, "*calamity*": Ruin and unexpected sorrow and trouble.

Ver. 3, "*My words are swallowed up*": I have spoken rashly and harshly.

Ver. 4, "*the poison*": The fury of God's arrows breaketh down my spirit.

Job 7:2, "*the reward of his work*": His wages.

Ver. 5, "*my skin is broken, and become loathsome*": This meant that, because of its running puss and corruption, his flesh was a thing to be shunned or kept away from.

Ver. 20, "*Why hast thou set me as a mark against thee?*" The Hebrew text says, "Why have you made me your target?"

## LESSON BACKGROUND

From the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> chapters of Job we have gathered various expressions of Job's grief and agony of spirit. It is good to study these and know what they mean, because more than likely we will experience these very things sometime in our lives. The three friends of Job had come to try to help and comfort him. They had sat down with him for seven days without uttering a word. They saw that his sorrow was so very great, and they were at a loss to know what to say. It is better to say little or nothing to the weary heart than to speak words of no profit. One brother's son was very ill with typhoid fever, and some of those who came told about different people they knew who had suffered many days of the typhoid fever and had finally died. Such stories spoken to such who are in such trouble are not edifying. We need to weigh our words when we go to visit the ill and distressed. We must not be quick to scold or reprove if they express their dark feelings. Instead we must try to understand and express sympathy with cheerfulness. Their feelings are real, and sometimes it is good to let them express themselves without fear of being reprovved. It is easy in the time of distress and sorrow to speak rashly. Job should not have counted his birth so lightly, but he felt low down and of no value. God was not really doing to Job what it seemed to him that He was doing. But Job was passing through the deep waters, and everything was weighing down upon him. It can happen to the strongest and most spiritual person. So let us be compassionate and patient, for who knows when it will be our turn to go through the deep waters.

--Bro. Leslie Busbee

### QUESTIONS:

1. How heavy did Job's grief seem to be to him?
2. Does godliness give assurance that we will not suffer grief and sorrow?
3. What is God's purpose in allowing us to suffer affliction and pain?
4. Why is God so interested in putting our faith to the test?
5. What was God's purpose in setting Job as His mark?

## COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Job's expression of grief and suffering in spirit is not a pleasant thing to behold. But it is good for us to look into it, especially if we will realize that we are apt to meet some of these very things ourselves. Satan is going to try to break us down, either by pressure or by the alluring powers of sin. If he can't entice us with his pretty allurements, he may well try to crush us with adversity. Let us watch for either one of these tactics. There are people who have endured great hardship and trial and are overcome when things lighten up for them. And it is possible for a man to resist temptation of great magnitude and be overcome in loss and sorrow. One of the greatest of mortal suffering has to do with skin problems. The devil said, "Skin for skin!" Job's physical suffering was in his skin. There was a disease years ago which was called "the itch." They say it was a terrible thing. I had a patch of poison ivy on my wrist that gave me misery that I had not known for quite a while. There is also depression of spirit and old Giant Despair who would imprison us in Doubting Castle and tell us that we will never get out. This is pictured in "Pilgrim's Progress" written by John Bunyan. But we have some very precious promises in God's Word that we can call to mind that will help us get out of old Giant Despair's trap. Let us also notice that Job always reckoned that it was God dealing with him. He never gave the devil credit for anything. It was all the Almighty's doings, and as we shall see, Job nourished hopes that God would eventually bring him out to a wealthy place.

---Bro. Leslie Busbee

## REFLECTIONS

During over twenty years of illness and pain, Amy Carmichael received comments or letters from well people who had good intentions, but were "downright irritating". She writes, "One day, after weeks of nights when . . . sleep refused to come . . . the mail brought a letter which discoursed with what sounded like pleasure on this 'enforced rest,' and the silly phrase rankled like a thorn. I was far too tired to laugh it off as one can laugh off things when one is well. So *this* was supposed to be rest? and

was the Father breaking, crushing, 'forcing,' by weight of sheer physical misery, a child who only longed to obey His lightest wish? This word had what I now know was an absurd power to distress . . . I had no peace till I had heard deep within me soft and soothing words such as a mother uses: 'Let not your heart be troubled; do I not understand? What do such words matter to Me or to thee?' And I knew that the Father understood His child, and the child her Father, and all was peace again. . . .

"And I wanted to share my crumb of comfort at once and tell [those who suffer] not to 'weigh flying words', or let their 'peace be in the mouths of men', or allow ignorant stock phrases of the well to the ill to penetrate their shield. 'For no man can tell what in that combat attends us but he that hath been in the battle himself'; so how can they, the unwounded, know anything about the matter? But the Lord our Creator knows, (and all who have ever suffered know) that pain and helplessness are not rest, and never can be; nor is the weakness that follows acute pain, nor the tiredness that is so tired of being tired that it is poles apart from *rest*. If He remembers, what does it matter that others forget?" (From *Rose From Brier* by Amy Carmichael)

--Sis. Angela Gellenbeck

**November 3, 2013**

## **GOD'S MERCY TO THE POOR AND AFFLICTED**

Job 5:6 Although affliction cometh not forth of the dust,  
neither doth trouble spring out of the ground;

7 Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.

8 I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my  
cause:

9 Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous  
things without number:

10 Who giveth rain upon the earth, and sendeth waters upon  
the fields:

11 To set up on high those that be low; that those which  
mourn may be exalted to safety.

12 He disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that their  
hands cannot perform *their* enterprise.

13 He taketh the wise in their own craftiness: and the counsel of the froward is carried headlong.

14 They meet with darkness in the daytime, and grope in the noonday as in the night.

15 But he saveth the poor from the sword, from their mouth, and from the hand of the mighty.

16 So the poor hath hope, and iniquity stoppeth her mouth.

Job 29:12 I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and *him that had* none to help him.

16 I *was* a father to the poor: and the cause *which* I knew not I searched out.

36:6 He [God] preserveth not the life of the wicked: but giveth right to the poor.

Psalms 34:6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

35:10 LORD, *who* is like unto thee, which deliverest the poor from him that is too strong for him, yea, the poor and the needy from him that spoileth him?

72:1 Give the king thy judgments, O God, and thy righteousness unto the king's son.

2 He shall judge thy people with righteousness, and thy poor with judgment.

4 He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor.

12 For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and *him* that hath no helper.

13 He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy.

Psalms 112:1 Praise ye the LORD. Blessed *is* the man *that* feareth the LORD, *that* delighteth greatly in his commandments.

7 He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD.

9 He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *When* the poor and needy seek water, and *there* is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, / the LORD

will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. Isaiah 41:17

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** The Almighty Creator of the heavens and the earth and all mankind is a gracious Father with a great loving heart of compassion for those who are poor and needy of His help, grace, mercy, and love. And He is pleased if His children will also be merciful and kind to the poor and needy around them.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

Job 5:7, "*born unto trouble*": Difficulty and adversity is part of earthly life. "*as sparks fly upward*": Just as fire goes upward, so troubles and adversities will come our way.

Ver. 8, "*seek unto God*": Diligently follow after and set our affections and worship unto Him in whom we live and move and have our being. Acts 17:28 "*commit my cause*": Trust each matter concerning me to His control.

Ver. 11, "*exalted to safety*": Shielded and protected from harm.

Ver. 12, "*disappointeth*": Frustrates and brings to nothing.

Ver. 13, "*taketh the wise*": Entraps the worldly wise in a snare. "*froward*": One who seeks in his worldly wisdom to cause trouble. "*carried headlong*": Brings trouble quickly on themselves.

Ver. 15, "*from their mouth*": From their threats of harm and evil.

Ver. 16, "*iniquity stoppeth her mouth*": Sin and ungodliness is brought to silence.

Psalm 35:10, "*spoileth*": Robs or takes away.

Psalm 112:9, "*dispersed*": Hath given liberally to others.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

Our lesson today is partly from the discourse and speech to Job by Eliphaz, the Temanite, one of the three friends who, having heard of all the evil that was come upon Job, came to mourn with him and to comfort him. These three men, when they beheld the awful troubles that had come upon Job, lifted up their voices and wept, rending their mantles, and sprinkling dust upon their heads. They sat down with him on the ground for seven days and nights without saying a word.

Then Job opened his mouth and poured out the anguish and sorrow that was filling his mind, feeling that it would have been



better for him never to have been born. Then Eliphaz, desiring to speak words of comfort and wisdom to Job, endeavored to point him to God as the Wise and Just Creator and Giver of life and being. We have included in our lesson some wise and encouraging words he spoke. Verse 13 in our lesson is quoted by the apostle Paul in I Corinthians 3:19 where he stated: "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness."

So, surveying this counsel and words of encouragement by Eliphaz to Job, we can take it all as good counsel for us today. It all adds up to us as encouragement in the times of difficulty, affliction, and hard trials and tests of our faith. We have also included several scriptures from the Psalms that speak of the poor and needy and how it pleases the Lord for us to help them in their troubles and needs. God has great and certain mercy and compassion toward the poor and needy, and we should share that same spirit and feeling. --Bro. Leslie Busbee

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What does our lesson say about troubles that come to us in life?
2. How does God feel toward us mortals in the sorrows of this life?
3. How should we feel toward our fellow creatures of earth?
4. What is God's feeling toward generous and loving people?
5. Was Job kind and merciful and helpful to the poor and needy?

#### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

Job 14:1 says, "Man *that is* born of a woman *is* of few days, and full of trouble." Trouble, sorrow, difficulties, disappointments, pain, suffering, anguish, and other kinds of adversity and problems are all a very true and accurate part of our life in this time world. Man has sought through the ages to make life easier and more enjoyable. Doctors and medical science have sought through the years--and are still seeking for--

solutions to sickness, disease, and ease from pain and suffering. But when we sum it all up and behold what is taking place in the realm of humanity and earthly life, we are going to have to acknowledge that man's endeavors and inventions have not solved the woe and turmoil of this earthly existence.

The Holy Bible has the answer that people really need to understand and get a hold of. Faith in the Almighty God and obedience to His law of holiness will do more to help us meet and endure the adversities and troubles of life than all the medicines and surgeries that man can produce. When Jesus was here as the Blessed Son of the Living God, He "went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil, for God was with him." Acts 10:38 He even raised people from the dead on various occasions. He defied the laws of nature, even walking on the water of the Sea of Galilee. He stilled the storm winds and tossing waves of the sea. He healed a man that had thousands of devils in him and made him normal and active to go out and tell what the Lord had done for him. He allowed wicked men to take Him out and hang Him on the cross, where He died and was taken down and buried in the tomb. But He came forth alive forevermore. He ascended up to the right hand of God to appear in our stead and to intercede for us before the Almighty. We are still going to suffer and go through sorrows and afflictions and pain. But we can look to Him in prayer, trusting and obeying His word and teachings of holiness, faith, meekness, patience and unfailing submission to His will. Job loved and obeyed the Almighty God and was put to the test of affliction, adversity, loss, and sorrow. And we have his account and testimony of faithfulness and obedience to the will of God. The same God that permitted Job to suffer and be tempted can and will work with His children today in troubles and burdens of life. As Job was steadfast in the time of affliction and difficulty, so can we be likewise. And we can leave behind a testimony, even as Job did, of the grace and goodness of the Almighty God and the blessing of trusting and obeying Him all the years of our life's journey here below.

--Bro. Leslie Busbee

## REFLECTIONS

Years ago, three of my children simultaneously became sick with the chicken pox. We were in a convalescent state for about seven weeks. During this time I appreciated the opportunity to hold them, hug them, read to them, talk to them and generally comfort them during their distress. While the sickness was not very comfortable for them and I did not delight in their suffering, I did enjoy getting to be their nurse.

Somehow this reminds me of how I picture our Lord in his care for us. In our time of trials and tribulations, how he loves to hold us, comfort us, talk to us and succor us. He wants to be our everything, especially in distress. When things in life are running along smoothly, we do not necessarily feel the need to lean hard on the Lord. But in those times of deepest heartache and pain, it is then that we run to the Savior and his everlasting arms of comfort.

For too well thy Savior loves thee  
For thy life to always be  
One long calm unbroken summer  
One unruffled stormless sea  
He would have thee fondly nestle  
Closer to his peaceful breast  
He would have that world seem brighter  
Where alone is perfect rest.

--Sis. LaDowna Adams

**NOVEMBER 10, 2013**

### **A BLESSED HOPE IN FACING DEATH**

Job 14:1 Man *that is* born of a woman *is* of few days, and full of trouble.

2 He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

3 And dost thou open thine eyes upon such an one, and bringest me into judgment with thee?

4 Who can bring a clean *thing* out of an unclean? not one.

5 Seeing his days *are* determined, the number of his months *are* with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass.

6 Turn from him, that he may rest, till he shall accomplish, as an hireling, his day.

7 For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease.

8 Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground;

9 Yet through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant.

10 But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where *is* he?

11 As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up:

12 So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens *be* no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.

13 O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me!

14 If a man die, shall he live *again*? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

15 Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.

16 For now thou numberest my steps: dost thou not watch over my sin?

17 My transgression *is* sealed up in a bag, and thou sewest up mine iniquity.

**MEMORY VERSE:** But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Psalm 49:15

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Because man sinned and transgressed the holy law of God, his Creator, death passed upon all men. His mortal days are few and full of trouble, and death will come and take him away. But God has worked out a plan to save man from sin and disobedience. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, gave His life on Calvary's cross to give us victory

over sin and opened up the door to eternal life for us if we will believe and trust in Him and be obedient to His Word.

## WORD DEFINITIONS

Job 14:2, "*continueth not*": Man's mortal days are ended.

Ver. 3, "*dost thou bringest me into judgment with thee?*": We need to submit our hearts and lives NOW to the judgment of God, and this will help to prepare us for the final judgment. "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Hebrews 9:27

Ver. 4, "*a clean thing out of an unclean?*": Through the grace of Jesus Christ and His precious blood this can be.

Ver. 5, "*the number of his months are with thee*": "My times are in thy hand". Psalm 31:15. God guides and orders His will for our earthly sojourn.

Ver. 10, "*giveth up the ghost*": "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." Ecclesiastes 12:7

Ver. 13, "*remember me*": "The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance." Psalm 112:6

Ver. 14, "*my change*": In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." I Corinthians 15:52

Ver. 15, "*I will answer thee*": The dead shall come forth at the final call on that last great day. "*desire to the work of thine hands*": God will fulfill His eternal purpose for the eternal reurrection of all who have faithfully served Him in this earthly life.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

Our lesson today is ascribed to be the words spoken by Job in response to the words spoken by the friends who had come to him in his trouble and suffering. These words by Job are backed by godly wisdom and knowledge. We could say that they are very good and worthy prophecies of the great resurrection from the dead that the New Testament so plainly foretells. Job declares that man born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He is like a flower that comes forth and blossoms and is soon cut down. Job surely knew that this was to be his lot as well as all other of mankind. He shows that God has the reins of control on the length of man's mortal days. A tree can be cut

down but can and will sprout up again because there is still life in the roots that are in the ground. But a man when he is cut down does not have that possibility. Man dies and breathes out his last breath, and where is he? He speaks of man in his mortal ability as having no means to come back to life again. "They shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep." Ver. 12 But then he shows that God can and will hide man in the grave until His wrath is past, and He would remember all the godly and faithful and bring them back again!

"If a man die, shall he live *again*?" This is the question. But then he answers it by saying, "All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come." Verse 14. Then he follows in Verse 15: "Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee!"

What a blessed hope is forecast here by Job! It is taught more clearly and with great authority by Christ and His apostles. The New Testament teaches us that this is to be our great joy and rapturous anticipation. Over and over it is mentioned. It is to be the chief desire of the heart of man as he lives here in this fleeting world of sorrow and trouble. What the apostle Paul said in II Timothy 4:6-8 is so sweetly expressed: "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

--Bro. Leslie Busbee

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What does Job picture the life of man to be in this world?
2. Why is it not like the tree when it is cut down and can sprout again?
3. What is the hope that Job had concerning his future state?
4. What did he look for God to do in remembrance of him?
5. What does the New Testament have to say about all of this?

## COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The words of Job in our lesson today have inspired many people down through the years. Yes, he recognized and acknowledged that this earthly life was of few days and full of trouble. But because of his faith and confidence in God and His great power, Job believed that he had a bright future beyond this fleeting vale of tears. He expressed the confidence and hope that God would keep him hidden in His grace and goodness after he had died and was laid in the grave. He knew that God would appoint him a set time and remember him. And also he declared that all the days of his appointed time he would wait (with steadfast hope) until his change came. He knew that God would call him forth from the grave and that he, personally, would respond and answer Him. He was fully persuaded that God would bring to pass the resurrection of his mortal body. This is the hope that is so fully declared and brought out in the New Testament. The resurrection of Christ from the dead is a vital part of the basis of our faith. They took Christ down from the cross where they had nailed him and where He had breathed out his last breath. They buried Him, put a guard of soldiers at His tomb, but He arose from the grave and showed Himself alive to His disciples. He ascended up to the right hand of God and has since then been our great High Priest and intercessor. He left the promise that He would come again and receive all who are ready to be with Him in that eternal world to come. Praise the Lord for our bright hope and future with Him!

--Bro. Leslie Busbee

## REFLECTIONS

Job's musings, "If a man die, shall he live again?" is a question that has perplexed mankind for centuries. Have you ever noticed that many of the great monuments in our world are dedicated to death? The Pyramids, the great mausoleums, even the huge cathedrals are often burial places for kings. In our own country we have the Jefferson Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington monument--all dedicated in the memory of those who are dead.

Jesus, through the glorious message of the gospel, has forever changed the defeat and tears of death. "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." John 11:25, 26. The seed of a flower may be just a dull brown kernel but when planted in the earth, it grows to be a plant of exquisite fragrance and beauty.

As I sat by the bedside of my dying father, I Corinthians 15 inspired and comforted me. I was not witnessing just death but rather the transformation of my godly Father from a mortal man to one who was putting on immortality and the corruptible putting on incorruption. "O death, where is thy sting?" Death may appear as "sunset," but to the righteous soul, it is "sunrise" to an eternal day. From death to life, oh what a thought!

--Sis. Patsy Smith

**November 17, 2013**

### **DESPISE NOT THE CHASTENING OF THE ALMIGHTY**

Job 4:1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said,

2 *If we assay to commune with thee, wilt thou be grieved? but who can withhold himself from speaking?*

3 Behold, thou hast instructed many, and thou has strengthened the weak hands.

4 Thy words have upholden him that was falling, and thou hast strengthened the feeble knees.

5 But now it is come upon thee, and thou faintest; it toucheth thee, and thou art troubled.

17 Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his Maker?

Job 5:3 I have seen the foolish taking root: but suddenly I cursed his habitation.

4 His children are far from safety, and they are crushed in the gate, neither is *there* any to deliver *them*.

6 Although affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground;

7 Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.



8 I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause:

9 Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous things without number:

12 He disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform *their* enterprise.

13 He taketh the wise in their own craftiness: and the counsel of the froward is carried headlong.

17 Behold, happy *is* the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:

18 For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole.

19 He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee.

24 And thou shalt know that thy tabernacle *shall be* in peace; and thou shalt visit thy habitation, and shalt not sin.

25 Thou shalt know also that thy seed *shall be* great, and thine offspring as the grass of the earth.

26 Thou shalt come to *thy* grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Behold, happy *is* the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty. Job 5:17

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** The chastening and correction of our heavenly Father is not enjoyable, but if we will submit to it, it will better our lives for the glory of God and will bring us happiness and success in this life and forever.

## WORD DEFINITIONS

Job 4:2, “*assay*”: Try. “*Wilt thou be grieved?*” The Hebrew text says, “You are weary.” These men had sat with Job for seven days without saying a word. They had just heard Job’s bitter and sad complaint of his sorrows. They saw that he was weary and pressed sore, yet they yearned to speak in an effort to help their friend.

Job 5:7, “*Man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward*”: The Hebrew text says: “For man is born to toil and wearying effort, and the sons of the live coal rise flying”. Adam Clarke comments on this verse

thus: "Man must toil and be careful, and if in the course of his labor he meets with trials and afflictions, he should rise superior to them. Who are the sons of the live coal? Are they not bold and fearless men, who rise superior to all their trials, combat chance and occurrence; yield to no difficulties; and rise superior to time, tide, fate, and fortune?"

Ver. 13, "*He taketh the wise in their own craftiness*": This is quoted in 1 Corinthians 3:19 by Paul along with his statement: "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God." God causes men's feet to be caught in their own snares and their evil dealings to fall back upon their own heads. He who digs a pit shall fall into it himself. Ecclesiastes 10:8 Force and wrong will ensnare the man who uses them.

Ver. 24, "*Thou shalt know that thy tabernacle shall be in peace*": When one fears the Lord and seeks peace with God and man, his chances of peace and safety will be much greater. He can trust God to preserve his house and goods while he is away. "*shalt not sin*": God will guide our decisions and moves of life and keep us from error and mistakes that could multiply our troubles.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

In our lesson today, Eliphaz carefully endeavors to respond to Job's expressions of sorrow. Although it proves out in the end that he misses the mark in Job's case, yet his sayings are good and worthy of our attention. His words are generally accepted as wise counsel, even as we have already brought out that Paul quoted from him in 1 Cor. 3:19. Adam Clarke observes that though Eliphaz failed to apply his knowledge accurately to Job's case and character, his words contain many wholesome truths of which the wise in heart may make a very advantageous and practical use. We can glean from his sayings (even though it is proven later that he and his friends misjudged Job) and find some wholesome counsels that will help us even today. It is a wise person who, in the time of being misjudged and misunderstood, can get good counsel from those who are addressing his situation. We find that God works that way, using those who seemingly injure us to bring us profit and help.

--Bro. Leslie Busbee

### QUESTIONS:

1. In what way can a man think himself more just and pure than God?

2. What does a godly man have in trouble that the wicked does not have?
3. Why is correction and chastisement part of God's plan for man?
4. What are some of the means that God uses to chasten us?
5. Why is it best not to murmur, but rather hold to faith in God?

## **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

One of the mistakes that the three friends of Job made in their dealings with him was that they reckoned that the misfortunes and sorrows that had befallen Job were on account of sin and transgression in his life. And this is a mistake that is often made today. It is true that God uses adversity and pain to punish man for his sin. But in the matter of discipline and chastisement there may not be sin involved as much as a matter of overall improvement and progress that God is wanting to see in His dear child's life and experience. God sends adversity and trouble for a means of our spiritual betterment. Job was a perfect and upright man, but God allowed Satan to tempt and try him. In tempting and trying Job, God was bringing out his faithfulness and at the same time improving his character and relationship with God. Eliphaz gave Job some good counsel, counsel that would be worthwhile for us to consider today. Whether we have failed, come short, or missed the mark, or whether we have not done such, we still need discipline, chastisement, and correction. It is a continual process. This life of serving God is a progressive and learning way. Many times it takes the whole of a man's life to finally get him to where God really wants him. The Lord is so patient and longsuffering about it. He works persistently and patiently to accomplish His divine ends. He wants us all to experience the joy of a successful life and a triumphant end. If we will but submit to His dealings and humble ourselves to the depth of lowliness and meekness that we see in Christ our blessed Savior, we can experience that joy that comes with being faithful to Him.

--Bro. Leslie Busbee

## REFLECTIONS

". . . sons of the live coal rise flying." (From our *Word Definitions*, Job 5:7). There is something in this phrase that thrills my soul and quickens my spirit. It was the live coal from off the altar that was placed on Isaiah's lips after he had seen the Lord and realized his own woeful and undone condition. We have heard a song in years past, "Touch our lips today with the living coal," and as joyfully and earnestly we sang it, did we realize just what it would mean? Did we know, as we said "Yes" to the Spirit and consecrated our all for His infilling, just how He would work His refining, melting, burning, purging process in all of our body, soul and spirit? We had no clue, but just a heart-felt, total and complete abandonment to His will.

The years have unfolded, and now we know a little of the process: to teach humility--ugly trials, humiliation, rejection, misunderstandings, physical weakness; to build our faith--knocking out our selfish props, letting us sit in darkness, causing us to walk the unknown path; to cause us to Love as He loved--the bitter cup, the prolonged antagonism, the difficult person to deal with.

". . . rise flying. . . ." How does God teach us to use eagles' wings? "He stirs up your nest. He disappoints your hopes. He brings down your confidence. He makes you fear and tremble, as all your strength fails, and you feel utterly weary and helpless. And all the while He is spreading His strong wings for you to rest your weakness on, and offering His everlasting Creator-strength to work in you." (Andrew Murray, in *Waiting on God*). Sons of the live coal, let us rise, flying!  
--Sis. Angela Gellenbeck

November 24, 2013

### WHERE IS TRUE WISDOM TO BE FOUND?

Job 28:1 Surely there is a vein for the silver, and a place for gold *where they fine it*.

2 Iron is taken out of the earth, and brass *is molten out of the stone*.

7 *There* is a path which no fowl knoweth, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen:

8 The lion's whelps have not trodden it, nor the fierce lion passed by it.

12 But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding?

13 Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living.

14 The depth saith, *It is* not in me: and the sea saith, *It is* not with me.

15 It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed *for* the price thereof.

17 The gold and the crystal cannot equal it: and the exchange of it *shall not be for* jewels of fine gold.

20 Whence then cometh wisdom? And where *is* the place of understanding?

21 Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept close from the fowls of the air.

22 Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears.

23 God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof.

24 For he looketh to the ends of the earth, *and* seeth under the whole heaven;

25 To make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measure.

26 When he made a decree for the rain, and a way for the lightning of the thunder:

27 Then did he see it, and declare it; he prepared it, yea, and searched it out.

28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that *is* wisdom; and to depart from evil *is* understanding.

**MEMORY VERSE:** The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding. Proverbs 9:10

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** True wisdom that will make known to and guide the soul of man to the way of salvation and fellowship

with Almighty God is not found in the earthly and material elements but in having a heart of reverence and earnest respect, honor, and submission to the LORD and walking in obedience and faithful submission to His holiness.

## WORD DEFINITIONS

Job 28:1, "*vein*": Mine or place where it is found. "*fine*": Refine or take out foreign matter.

Ver. 2, "*molten*": Melted out of stone by great heat.

Ver. 7, "*fowl or vulture*": Hawk or other birds who capture and kill animals for food.

Ver. 8, "*whelps*": Sons or offspring.

Ver.12, "*wisdom*": True, righteous, and godly purpose and endeavor. "*understanding*": It is very interesting to note that the word "understanding" in the Hebrew language is defined as "to be able to distinguish and separate," while in the Greek language it means to "be able to put together."

Ver. 13, "*land of the living*": This fleshly mortal life. It can be found while we are here in this fleshly mortal life, but it must come from God and heaven above.

Ver. 14, "*the depth*": The great deep parts of the ocean.

Ver. 17, "*exchange*": Something of equal value.

Ver. 24, "*the ends of the earth*": All over and to the farthest bounds.

Ver. 28, "*the fear of the Lord*": The reverence, honor, respect, and loving worship that we owe to our Almighty Heavenly Father, God the Creator. "*depart from evil*": Turn away from and be separate and unstained by sin and wrong.

Proverbs 9:10, "*beginning*": Opening and start. "*holy*": Sacred and wholly dedicated to God.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

Our lesson today is part of the address Job made to the men who had come to comfort and to deal with him in the time of his great adversity and loss. Job did very well in speaking of the real need of every human being. If we can but realize and be totally conscious of the fact that we are not here in this short earthly life on our own doings, but rather that we are the work and creation of a great and wonderful Creator. As Psalm 139:14 states, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made: marvellous

are thy works; and *that* my soul knoweth right well.” We did not just happen to be. We are created by a great and wonderful God. We owe Him everything. Our being and the air that we breath for life and its preservation all come from Him. All the things that Job makes mention of are the handiwork of this great and wonderful Creator. The earth and all of its elements-- stones, metals, waters, mountains, animals, fowls and birds of the air, rivers, and the many rich and valuable elements---they all are the work of His almighty Hand. We as mortal beings owe Him all of our reverence, respect, worship, adoration, love, devotion, praise, thanksgiving, and above all, our complete self and being. In this wicked and lustful worldly society the main attitude of mankind is selfish pleasure and gratification of fleshly lusts and desires, wealth, fleshly appetites, and worldly honor. Job declares, along with much of the Holy Scriptures, that the fear of God is the wisdom we should seek to have in our hearts, and to depart from evil and all that is foreign and displeasing to God is the wise counsel and understanding that we should seek after and endeavor to discipline our hearts and minds to.

As Job declares, all the wealth and riches of the earth are not worthy to be compared as equal and worth what the fear and obedience to God should be in our hearts and minds. God had this in mind when He created the world and all of its wonderful and beautiful contents. The flowers, the trees, the sun, the moon, the stars all, as Psalm 19:1, 2 points out, declare the glory of God and uttereth speech day after day and night after night. Truly the fear of God IS wisdom, and to depart from evil IS understanding!  
--Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Where is true wisdom and understanding to be found?
2. Why is it not to be found in things of earth?
3. What testimony of God's greatness is seen in earthly things?
4. Why should we honor, respect, and fear our great Creator?
5. Why is it so important for us to depart from sin and evil?

## COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

What dear Brother Job stated in our lesson concerning wisdom and understanding is surely a correct declaration that every one surely needs to take diligent heed to. And he said in verse 28 that God said this unto man: "...Behold, the fear of the Lord, that *is* wisdom; and to depart from evil *is* understanding." Is there not an example portrayed in the Scriptures of this truth! Let us take note of what is spoken of Solomon, the son of David. In 1 Kings 3:1-15 we have recorded how God spoke to him in a dream and said, "Ask what I shall give thee." And Solomon responded by acknowledging his need of an understanding heart that he would be able to discern between good and bad. And the speech pleased the Lord, and He said, "Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; behold, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart." And he said that He would give Solomon riches and honor also. That was a wise and good choice that Solomon made before God.

But, sad to say, Solomon did not go with this wisdom and understanding all the way. In 1 Kings 11:1-6 we read that "Solomon loved many strange women," over a thousand in all, and "his wives turned away his heart after other gods." What a sad thing that such a man so blessed as he was to allow the fear of God to depart from his heart and life! As far as we can read, there is no record that Solomon ever turned back away from his lust and evil desires to seek the blessing of God again.

It is surely the same today and so has it been down through the ages. The fear of God is wisdom and to depart from evil is understanding. The New Testament is very plain about the requirement given to us who believe and follow after Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. In the epistles of Paul we find several injunctions given on this order. Notice what Paul said in Ephesians 5:1-7, "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us....But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness [love of money], let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, ....For



this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."

Let us take this matter seriously in our hearts and lives. Satan has deceived many people by getting them to come short of this serious matter. We need to have godly fear in our hearts that will restrain and keep us from partaking of unrighteous and unholy actions and ways. There will be temptations, but we must resist the devil and cleave to the holy and righteous standard of God's precious Word. As it is written in Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil."

--Bro. Leslie Busbee

## REFLECTIONS

It is interesting to note the profound wisdom found in the book of Job. The many insights and philosophies in this Book let us know that these were wise and intelligent men. It is also interesting to note many other examples of the Lord imparting his wisdom in his servants: Moses, Daniel, the three Hebrew children, Peter, Paul, John the Revelator just to name a few.

The Lord still desires to impart His truth and wisdom to the minds and hearts of human minds. I am reminded of the great scientist, botanist, and servant of God, George Washington Carver. Not only did he have an insatiable thirst for knowledge, he also had a desire for the wisdom of God. His approach to science was based on his belief and great faith in God whom he referred to as the Great Creator. One day while working in his lab (that he called "God's Little Workshop") he asked the Lord, "Great Creator, help me to understand the universe." The Lord answered, "The universe is too much for you to understand. Let me tell you about the peanut." Mr. Carver developed over 300 uses for the peanut as well as over 100 uses for the sweet potato, soy bean and pecan. Thomas Edison offered George Washington Carver a six-figure salary and said, "together we can remake the world." Henry Ford also offered unlimited lab

facilities as well as assistants for research on the soy bean. He refused these, as his desire was to be of help to his people. He took no credit for the wisdom the Lord imparted to him. When people would approach him with questions, he would simply say, "If I know the answer, you can have it for the price of a postage stamp. The Lord charges me nothing for knowledge and I will charge the same."

The Lord still desires to impart himself to his people. Just think-- what can he do through you? —Sis LaDawna Adams

**December 1, 2013**

**"I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH"**

Job 16:11 God hath delivered me to the ungodly, and turned me over into the hands of the wicked.

12 I was at ease, but he hath broken me asunder: he hath also taken *me* by my neck, and shaken me to pieces, and set me up for his mark.

16 My face is foul with weeping, and on my eyelids *is* the shadow of death:

17 Not for *any* injustice in mine hands: also my prayer is pure.

19 Also now, behold, my witness *is* in heaven, and my record *is* on high.

17:9 The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger.

13 If I wait, the grave *is* mine house: I have made my bed in the darkness.

14 I have said to corruption, Thou *art* my father: to the worm, *Thou art* my mother, and my sister.

15 And where *is* now my hope? as for my hope, who shall see it?

16 They shall go down to the bars of the pit, when *our* rest together *is* in the dust.

19:20 My bone cleaveth to my skin and to my flesh, and I am escaped with the skin of my teeth.

21 Have pity upon me, have pity upon me, O ye my friends; for the hand of God hath touched me.

23 Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book!

24 That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever!

25 For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth.

26 And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; *though* my reins be consumed within me.

**MEMORY VERSE:** For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth. Job 19:25

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** This natural life in the flesh is subject to adversity, sorrow, decay, and death; but if we will hold fast our integrity with God, we will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into eternal life with our Redeemer, Jesus Christ the Eternal Son of God.

## WORD DEFINITIONS

Job 16:12, "*set me up for his mark*": Made me a target to aim His wise workings upon.

Ver. 16, "*foul with weeping*": Reddened by abundant tears. Ver.

Ver. 23, "*oh, That they were printed in a book!*": Praise the Lord that they have been printed in a Book, the Holy Bible!

Ver. 25, "*redeemer*": The Hebrew meaning for this word is "next of kin," or nearest relative of kinsman. This opens up a wonderful truth about Christ. There was a statute in the law of Moses that charged a man to buy or take over his dead brother's property and marry his widow. We have it beautifully illustrated in the story of Ruth and Boaz. Christ is our kinsman. Adam brought us to death, but Christ, as the Son of God, is our near kinsman and He redeems our lost estate and marries us. Oh, praise the Lord! "*he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth*": The Hebrew says, "And at last on the dust he shall stand."

Ver. 27, "*though my reins be consumed*": though this mortal flesh goes back to the dust. This foretells the glorious resurrection of all the redeemed and saved in Christ Jesus on that last great day of His wonderful appearing.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

In one of our previous lessons we had Job's precious testimony of his hope of triumphing from his troubles, yes, even from death and the grave. This was followed by a speech from Eliphaz in which he accused Job of speaking iniquity and turning his spirit against God. He also spoke some true and wise things concerning the wicked in their affront against God. Job followed this first by calling them miserable comforters (Job 16:2). From chapters 16, 17, and 19 we have gleaned various expressions of Job concerning his troubles and concerning the hope that he was maintaining in God. In chapter 18 we find one of the other of the three friends of Job, Bildad, speaking about the curse of God on the dwellings of the wicked, feeling as the other two friends did, that Job had some wickedness about him. Included in our lesson is Job's pitiful plea to his friends for pity and compassion. "For", he said, "The hand of God hath touched me." He was longing for a true friend, one who would understand and not accuse him. He said that his kinsfolk had failed, his familiar friends had forgotten him, his children despised him, and his breath was strange, or repulsive, to his wife. He said also that he was escaped with the skin of his teeth. His troubles were great indeed. He longed to be heard and remembered. Yes, he was remembered and his words were recorded in the greatest Book ever written, all preserved for us to read and benefit from!

--Bro. Leslie Busbee

### QUESTIONS:

1. For what purpose did God set up Job for His mark, or target?
2. Is his witness in heaven and record on high part of the Book of life?
3. How is Christ our kinsman and what property has He redeemed for us?
4. How can we see God in our flesh even though worms destroy this body?
5. What is it going to take for us to get to see our Redeemer?

6. Why is it so vital that we live so that we can see Christ for ourselves?

## **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

We have in our lesson today the expressions of the depths of Job's suffering and dark shadow, but we have also the heights of his joyous anticipation and hope. We who are endeavoring to follow the Lord today will also share in that suffering and hope. Job's sufferings were so greatly similar to the sufferings of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. He suffered the depths of despair and anguish when He cried as He hung upon the cross (as recorded in Matthew 27:46) "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me!" These words were also prophesied to be spoken by Him in Psalm 22:1. In fact, Job, in his sufferings, was a type of Christ. Bearing the reproaches of his near kinsmen of the flesh, Jesus held fast to His faithfulness to God even as Job did. He knew that being true and obedient to God would bring Him out in the end. He looked beyond the cross and saw the glittering crown of eternal life that He would gain for Himself and make it possible for others to gain also. We can have that same hope today. We can endure the cross and the things that we suffer on account of our faith with respect to that recompense of reward that God has promised. Our witness also is in heaven and our record is on high. High up in heaven's Book of Life our names can be written. We also will go down to the pit and sleep in the dust of the earth. But in that resurrection morning we can sing with the redeemed of all ages the songs of eternal life. Oh, let us cling to this hope! It was the hope of Job, the hope of Jesus Christ our Saviour, and it is our hope still today!

--Bro. Leslie Busbee

## **REFLECTIONS**

The account of Job's suffering has been a comfort too many down thru the ages! Job's severe trials remind us that the righteous will suffer in this present life; but through it all we can hold fast to faith, knowing that it will be better farther on.

I am reminded of Paul's words in Romans 8, "For I reckon that

the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Verse 28 says, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." And again, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

Have you ever asked, "Why ME?" in the face of difficulty or hardship? We should turn that around and say, "why NOT me?" I am a chosen vessel, refined in the furnace, called to suffer, called to the cross, called to be conformed to the image of our Savior, called to bring glory and honor to his name. Jesus learned obedience and was perfected through his sufferings. So will we.

So, let us chin up through life's hardships and heartaches, be faithful, and hold fast to faith in the Lord; for we know and are persuaded there is a purpose. --Bro. Bob Wilson

**December 8, 2013**

### **"HE KNOWETH THE WAY THAT I TAKE"**

Job 23:1 Then Job answered and said,

2 Even today *is* my complaint bitter: my stroke is heavier than my groaning.

3 Oh, that I knew where I might find him! *that* I might come *even* to his seat!

4 I would order *my* cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments.

5 I would know the words *which* he would answer me, and understand what he would say unto me.

6 Will he plead against me with *his* great power? No; but he would put *strength* in me.

7 There the righteous might dispute with him; so should I be delivered for ever from my judge.

8 Behold, I go forward, but he is not *there*; and backward, but I cannot perceive him:

9 On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold *him*: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see *him*:

10 But he knoweth the way that I take: *when* he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

11 My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined.

12 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary *food*.

13 But he *is* in one *mind*, and who can turn him? and *what* his soul desireth, even *that* he doeth.

14 For he performeth *the thing that is* appointed for me: and many such *things are* with him.

15 Therefore am I troubled at his presence: when I consider, I am afraid of him.

16 For God maketh my heart soft, and the Almighty troubleth me:

17 Because I was not cut off before the darkness, *neither* hath he covered the darkness from my face.

**MEMORY VERSE:** But he knoweth the way that I take: *when* he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. Job 23:10

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Although we cannot always feel God's presence or blessings, yet we know that He is near, beholding us in the times of our trials and that if we will but cling unto Him and be faithful, we will come forth to a large place with victory, refined in our spirits as pure gold.

## WORD DEFINITIONS

Job 23:2 "*My stroke is heavier than my groaning:*" The Hebrew says, "My hand is heavy on my groaning". The meaning is obvious: Job's stroke and suffering is much heavier than what his groanings reveal.

Ver. 7, "*delivered for ever from my judge*": Delivered from his judgment and condemnation.

Ver. 12, "*more than my necessary food*": The word "food" is an added word, and the Hebrew says simply, "More than my share I have treasured the words of His mouth."

Ver. 16, "*The Almighty troubleth me*": Adam Clarke gives this sense to the last two verses: "The Lord hath beaten down my strength,

and my soul has been terrified by His fear. For it is not this deep night in which I have been enveloped, nor the evils which I suffer, that have overwhelmed me; I sink only through the fear which His majesty inspires. This is my greatest affliction; sufferings, diseases, yea, even death itself, are nothing in comparison of the terror which my soul feels in the presence of His tremendous holiness and justice.” And Clarke further observes: “Nothing can humble a godly mind so much as visions of the majesty of God. It is easy to see His goodness, lovingkindness, and mercy; and from them we expect the greatest good. But to consider His holiness and justice, the infinite righteousness of His nature under the conviction that we have sinned and broken the laws prescribed by His sovereign Majesty and to feel ourselves brought into the presence of His judgment seat—who can bear the thought? How, without such a Mediator and Sacrifice as Jesus Christ is, can any human spirit come into the presence of this Judge? Those who suppose they can approach Him without fear know little of His justice and nothing of their sin. When we approach Him in prayer, should we not feel more reverence than we generally do?” Oh, let us consider diligently these words!

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

In our lesson today both Zophar and Eliphaz had spoken again to Job previous to his expression of faith. Both uttered very good and profitable things even though they were still missing the mark as far as Job was concerned. There are many good things found in their words which we will not cover in this series of lessons. But we see that Job is still clinging to his confidence that God is going to bring him out. In our lesson today are words that have cheered the hearts of the faithful through the ages. It seems to be the way that the Lord leads the earnest soul who is seeking to follow Him. He leads them through dark times when His presence seems to be so far withdrawn. The blessings that they so earnestly desire have vanished. Hanging on by sheer faith and determination, they utter these words from the heart: “He knoweth the way that I take.” Oh, how great and powerful and Almighty He is, and how little and insignificant we are! God wants us to sense these things, but will also in those times reveal His tenderness as we cleave with purpose of heart to Him.

Job holds to his purpose and desire to please God and be accepted of Him, even if He feels unworthy. He declares that he



has not declined from keeping God's way, neither has gone back from keeping His commandments. But he also acknowledges that God is going to work His work that He has appointed for him. Though he was troubled at His presence and afraid of Him, yet he sees the good in it all, making his heart soft despite all the trouble. He held fast to the persuasion that God knew the way he was taking; and when the trials are past, he will come forth as gold! This brings to our mind what Peter said in 1 Peter 1:6 and 7: "Now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness (weighty sorrow and tints of despair) through manifold temptations: that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ". Being faithful in the adverse and disheartening scenes of this mortal life will bring great reward for us in that blessed realm of eternal life and glory!

--Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS;**

1. Could we learn from the lesson of Job that it is best not to complain?
2. Will there be times when God seems very far away?
3. Should we examine ourselves very closely in those times?
4. Why should we fear and tremble before God?
5. How can we be sure that He will work it all out for our good?
6. Can we expect God to work for us if we do not esteem His Word?
7. What is the thing that God desires to come of all our trials?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

"God is one mind, and who can turn Him? Many such things are with Him, for He performeth the thing that His wisdom has appointed for me". God is working in the lives of His children today much like He worked in the life of Job. His mind and purpose is to perfect us and have us complete in His perfect will. But we are free moral agents, and He cannot accomplish His

pleasure in us without our cooperation and consent. So He works gradually, little by little, slowly and surely, as we are able to handle it. He is patient and also persistent. How such a mighty God can work so tenderly with such tiny creatures as we are is a wonder. As He worked with Job, He would also work in the life of every soul if they will give Him a chance. If we would exercise ourselves to be submissive to Him regardless of the cost or suffering, it will work so much better. Sometimes we resist His will when we are not aware of what we are doing. But if we will diligently pursue the course of obedience and look to His divine Spirit to assist us with His warmth and comfort and power, we will be successful. We need to love God's dealings with our souls. To think that the Almighty God would have anything to do with us, even if it is severe and hard, ought to inspire us to warm up to Him and be just submissive and cooperative as we can be. We can be cheered with the hope of what the outcome of our tests and trials will be. There is victory ahead and deliverance just as sure as God is real for the submissive soul.

--Bro. Leslie Busbee

## REFLECTIONS

"For some there must often be a closing in of earthly walls as they look forward, not to autumn with its golden glow, but to winter, stark winter. . . [for them] a word came which I believe can console not only the single prod of the harrow-tooth (the passing illness), but the multiple pains of the whole harrow; this is the word: 'He knoweth the way that I take.' 'Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising. Thou compasses my path and my lying down.'

"Has the day to be spent in bed? or in a chair? or partly in both? Think of the Lord our God our Father, being about our lying down. Does it not seem as though He were searching for a word to tell us how near He is? And if He be so near as that, what can we have to fear? *Our God is a God at hand*, and 'To Him who is everywhere, men come not by traveling but by loving.' Is not this good for us who cannot travel?

"He Who compasses our lying down today will compass our lying down tomorrow; our falling leaves will fall into His hand.

'Thou hast made summer *and* winter.' "How, then, can winter hurt us? It is for help, not hurt, a gentle preparation for a divine surprise. There is a brightness that our eyes could not bear to look upon now; they are too dim and tired. There are harmonies too ravishing, raptures too enchanting for ear and heart today. Flowers of eternal wonder, snowdrops of God, are folded in the coverlet of snow. And He Who compasses our lying down shall encompass our uprising; so shall we ever be with the Lord."

--From *Rose From Brier* by Amy Carmichael

**December 15, 2013**

**"I HAVE FOUND A RANSOM"**

Job 33:13 Why dost thou strive against him? for he giveth not account of any of his matters.

14 For God speaketh once, yea, twice, *yet man* perceiveth it not.

15 In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed;

16 Then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction,

17 That he may withdraw man *from his* purpose, and hide pride from man.

18 He keepeth back his soul from the pit, and his life from perishing by the sword.

19 He is chastened also with pain upon his bed, and the multitude of his bones with strong pain:

20 So that his life abhorreth bread, and his soul dainty meat.

21 His flesh is consumed away, that it cannot be seen; and his bones *that* were not seen stick out.

22 Yea, his soul draweth near unto the grave, and his life to the destroyers.

23 If there be a messenger with him, an interpreter, one among a thousand, to shew unto man his uprightness:

24 Then he is gracious unto him, and saith, Deliver him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom.

25 His flesh shall be fresher than a child's: he shall return to the days of his youth:

26 He shall pray unto God, and he will be favourable unto him: and he shall see his face with joy: and he will render unto man his righteousness.

27 He looketh upon men, and *if any* say, I have sinned, and perverted *that which* was right, and it profited me not;

28 He will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light.

29 Lo, all these *things* worketh God oftentimes with man,

30 To bring back his soul from the pit, to be enlightened with the light of the living.

1 Timothy 2:5 For *there* is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

**MEMORY VERSE:** The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. Matthew 20:28

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** God was not willing to let man go his downward way to the pit of eternal destruction, so He has dealt with man to turn him from his wicked way, and has provided a ransom to atone for his sin in the sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ.

## WORD DEFINITIONS

Job 33:16, "*sealeth their instruction*": So vividly does God deal in His power of conviction upon a soul that it is sealed upon the heart that man cannot escape from it and has no excuse.

Ver. 23, "*interpreter*": The Hebrew text renders this as mediator, or one who goes between God and man, just as Jesus Christ has done.

Ver. 24, "*ransom*": The price to be paid to redeem or restore to liberty. The sin of mankind called for recompence and justice. This could only be provided savingly for man by means of an innocent victim who would bear man's punishment for his sins. And this is what our blessed Saviour Jesus did for us in offering Himself on Calvary.

Ver. 25, "*return to the days of his youth*": This is referring to the spiritual transformation of the soul from the degradation of sin to the newness of life and joy in fellowship with God.

Ver. 26, "*render unto man his righteousness*": This means that through faith in Christ man can be accounted to have true righteousness that avails with God.

Ver. 27, "*if any say, I have sinned*": This is referring to true confession of guilt and transgression against the law of God.

Ver. 28, "*his life shall see the light*": The light of the gospel of Christ will shine upon the truly repentant soul who is willing to walk and obey the truth.

1 Timothy 2:5, "*mediator*": A go-between power that can reconcile and bring back to fellowship two divided parties.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

After Job had finished his plea, the first three friends were at a loss to know what more to say. Then a young man by the name of Elihu stepped forward. He had not felt free to speak, as the others were all older men. But when they were silent, and Job had finished his testimony, Elihu spoke. He was displeased with Job because he felt that Job had justified himself rather than God. He was displeased with Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar because they had found no answer, yet they had condemned Job. Elihu was burning with desire to speak, for he believed that the Spirit of God had inspired him. And he did speak many wonderful things; but it is very evident that in his wrath and zeal, he failed to properly judge Job even, as the others had failed.

We are not going into an extensive study of the speech of Elihu, but one part of his speech contains a treatise of God's dealings with fallen man in rescuing him from the pit of corruption by means of His severe chastisements and the provision of a ransom for man to be justified and redeemed. This is our lesson for today. This precious thought is beautiful and very well expressed here. Let us consider it in study today, and let us rejoice in Christ as never before as we see what it meant for Him to offer Himself as a ransom to save us from eternal ruin.

--Bro. Leslie Busbee

### QUESTIONS:

1. Is it possible that the Almighty God is speaking to people today?
2. Why does man perceive it not?

3. What is God wanting to keep back and save a man from?
4. Why does God want to withdraw man from his purpose?
5. What did God need as a means to rescue man from going to the pit?
6. Has there been such a ransom found, and what is that ransom?
7. What must a man say in his heart to obtain redemption?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

What a wonderful vision is presented in our lesson today of God reaching out to save the soul of man from going down into the pit of eternal destruction! God is calling and God is speaking to souls today. Though so many do not perceive the call of God and do not hear His voice, yet still He is calling. He seeks to awaken man out of his sleep of sin. He sends dreams. He lets calamities take place. He sends affliction and sickness. He works in many ways to withdraw man from his erring purposes. He seeks to offset the tendency in man to pride. He causes his beauty to fade away and his abilities to be frustrated. Man is so ignorant of God's designs and intentions. Man seeks to drown the voice of conviction, not realizing what he could be enjoying if he would yield. Medicines and drugs today assuage the pains and troubles of affliction and darkens man's heart all the more to the workings of God's Spirit. In the meantime, God has provided a ransom. No one else could do it. They searched heaven, earth, and under the earth (Rev. 5:3). But no one was found worthy to be a redemptive price for the salvation of man. But a ransom WAS found! Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came from heaven and took upon Himself a human form so that he could then to take upon Himself our sins and sorrows, to bear them as a ransom so that we could be set free! Thank God, we do not have to go down to the pit of destruction! We can be saved from the awful burnings of hell and separation from God. We can be born again by the Spirit of God and made a new creature in Christ Jesus. We can have fellowship with God in prayer and a

holy life. We can be made aware that sin is an unprofitable thing, and we can turn to the Lord with all of our hearts and be saved. We can be redeemed by the blood of the Lamb and be enlightened with the light of the living. All praise, honor, and worship be to our God for ever and ever! Amen!

--Bro. Leslie Busbee

## REFLECTIONS

The verse "God speaketh once, yea twice..." is very inspiring because it reminds us that God still speaks with man and that He cares and is trying to deal with us in our lives. Verse 29, "...worketh God oftentimes with man" also brings out that He is continuing to deal with us, not just once! God deals with us because He wants us to take advantage of the ransom that He has provided for us.

This lesson brings out that God speaks to man through different ways. Some people have dreams or visions through which God speaks to them. Others may see or hear an angel that God has sent. It is wonderful to see the different ways that God communicates with us. He knows us and knows our need, and He knows all the people in the world. I believe He is faithful to deal with any open heart that He finds.

The sad part is that many times when God is speaking to us, we do not hear or understand-- "...yet man perceiveth it not." This is why the people in the world continue to go their way without God, because they have not paid attention to what He was trying to say to them. If they truly knew God's love and redemption for them, surely they would run right to Him! But the devil is able to convince them of lies about God when they do not open their hearts to Him.

To be able to hear or perceive the voice of God is a wonderful thing! As Christians, we also must make sure that we are listening to Him and are open to His voice that we might have His guidance in our lives. Let us be a friend of Jesus everyday and take time for Him and open our eyes to all the things around us, little or great, through which God may be speaking to us!

--Sis. Lucinda Wilson

**December 22, 2013**

**GOD'S QUESTIONS TO JOB AND TO US**

Job 38:1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said,

2 Who *is* this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?

3 Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.

4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;

7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

12 Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; *and* caused the dayspring to know his place;

13 That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it?

16 Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth?

17 Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death?

18 Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth? declare if thou knowest it all.

33 Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth?

34 Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee?

35 Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we *are*?

36 Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart?

39:1 Knowest thou the time when the wild goats of the rock bring forth? or canst thou mark when the hinds do calve?



13 Gavest *thou* the goodly wings unto the peacocks, or wings and feathers unto the ostrich?

14 Which leaveth her eggs in the earth, and warmeth them in dust?

26 Doth the hawk fly by thy wisdom, and stretch her wings toward the south?

27 Doth the eagle mount up at thy command, and maker her nest on high?

40:7 Gird up thy loins now like a man: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.

8 Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous?

41:1 Canst thou draw out leviathan with an hook? or his tongue with a cord *which* thou lettest down?

2 Canst thou put a hook into his nose? or bore his jaw through with a thorn?

10 None *is* so fierce that dare stir him up: who then is able to stand before me?

11 Who hath prevented me, that I should repay him? *whatsoever is* under the whole heaven is mine.

13 Who can discover the face of his garment? or who can come to *him* with his double bridle?

14 Who can open the doors of his face? his teeth *are* terrible round about.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. Psalm 104:1, 24

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; *that* I may know how frail I *am*. Behold, thou hast made my days as an hand breadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state *is* altogether vanity. Psalm 39:4, 5

## WORD DEFINITIONS

Job 38:3, "*Gird up now thy loins*": Bring the functions of your mind into control and wise thinking.

Ver. 4, "*laid the foundations of the earth*": Set up the basis of all nature.

Ver. 5 "*laid the measures*": Set up and established measurements and sizes. "*stretched the line*": gave everything its size.

Ver. 7, "*morning stars and sons of God*": Holy angels and heavenly beings before the creation of the world.

Ver. 12, "*commanded the morning*": Controlled the dawning of the sun. "*day spring*": The beautiful rise of the sun. "*know his place*": Function properly.

Ver. 13, "*take hold of the ends of the earth*": Control all parts of the world.

Ver. 16, "*springs of the sea*": Currents of the oceans. "*search out the depth*": Measure the depths of the oceans.

Ver. 17, "*gates of death*": Where man's spirit goes when he dies.

Ver. 33, "*ordinances of heaven*": The rule and authority of the eternal realm. "*the dominion thereof*": Who is in full and complete control.

Ver. 36, "*inward parts*": The mind and spirit.

Job 39:1 "*hinds*": Deer-like creatures.

Job 40:8, "*disannul*": Make of no effect.

Job 41:1, "*leviathan*": A great large creature of the ocean, like the whale.

Ver. 11, "*prevented*": Got ahead of.

Ver. 13, "*double bridle*": Rope or device to take hold of and control.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

For our lesson today we will survey the great and challenging answer that the Almighty God gave to Job and his companions, those who had sought to line Job up. It seems that humanity, with whom the power of speech and utterance that God has invested, is ready to pour out and declare the thoughts and ideas that throng the mind in the face of problems, perplexities, disappointments, and difficult situations that are faced in this life. Each one of these men and Job himself have had their say. I am sure, in surveying the course of our study in the story of Job, that all of these men meant well and were trying to express what they truly believed was right and true. But in our lesson today, we

have gathered several things that God put before the men (and before us today) about the wonders of the heavens and the earth and all things therein. We can list them thus: how the earth was made, what it was built upon, its measurements, any beings that existed beforehand, the sun and its bright glory, the earth and its composition, the sea and what all it contains, death to this mortal phase and what is beyond, how big and wide the earth is, the movements of the heavenly lights and objects, the inward mind and heart, the various animals and birds, the many different creatures of the oceans great and small, and other things that God wants us to consider and be impressed by. Personally, I would mention something that I have recently been so greatly inspired with. And that is the beauty and wonder of the many different kinds of trees. I have marveled to see and know of the growth and function of the trees, rooted in the soil that contains the minerals needed for growth and production. It is overwhelming to behold how trees live and function the way they do.

It all will help us to realize how great and wise and gracious our Creator has been and still is. Questions, wonderments, and puzzling thoughts can be all answered and solved by recognizing the reality and truth of the LORD God Almighty who created the heavens and the earth and ALL the wonderful, beautiful, and beneficial blessings He placed therein! --Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Did God need any of man's advice in His creation of the world?
2. Does God need any of our advise in matters we face now?
3. How is the realm beyond this present life open to us?
4. Do you marvel in wonder at the many flowers and trees?
5. What can we render to God for all of His great creation?

## COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Oh, how great is the LORD our God! In awesome wonder we look upon the great hosts of stars and the amazing lovely moon and its monthly cycle! And then the sun in all of its dazzling splendor captivates our admiration and overwhelming gratitude to our Creator! "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handiwork. Day unto day [day after day] uttereth speech, and night unto night [night after night] sheweth knowledge. *There is* no speech nor language *where* their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world." Psalm 19:1-4. Paul quotes from verse 4 in Romans 10:17, 18, declaring that faith cometh by hearing and this hearing of the heart comes through beholding and considering the wonders of God's creation. Oh, we have His evidence all around us! God, in His message to Job, points out several examples of God's majesty and power in His creative works. He asks, "Where were you when I did all of this and did I need your advice and counsel"? Oh, we must acknowledge that God is all-wise and all-powerful. He needs none of our thoughts or counsel. He wants us to look on His creative works with wonder and adoration for Him in His great wisdom and power. Let us offer praise and worship to God for all of His great works in the creation of the heavens and the earth. The grass we admire and enjoy, the many different fruits that are so delicious and beneficial, the many different kinds of majestic and beautiful trees: all of these portray the wonderful goodness and wisdom of our God and Almighty Creator! Oh, let us worship and serve Him faithfully all the days of our mortal journey!

--Bro. Leslie Busbee

## REFLECTIONS

We see in this lesson that Job came face to face with the Almighty God and found no answers to refute and defend his case. He recognized that God truly is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He served the mighty Creator who knows everything.

Paul preached a message to the people on Mars' Hill of this same God. The people of that time period and culture had many

gods. There were the gods of health, gods of fertility, gods of harvest, gods of safety, gods of fate and so on. But Paul preached to them the living God. "Him declare I unto you. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things." Acts 17:23

Our society seems to face a different set of gods: the gods of wealth, fame, earth preservation, intellect, and philosophy. Sometimes we think we know more than the Lord by putting him into a box, telling him what to do or completely acting as though he does not exist. We would do well to follow Job's example of covering our mouths when acknowledging the greatness of God. Once again, we serve the God that knows everything! Let us worship him for the Supreme Deity that he is and not a superficial image we have created in our minds.

–Sis LaDawna Adams

**December 29, 2013**

## **JOB'S REPENTANCE AND REWARD**

Job 42:1 Then Job answered the Lord, and said,

2 I know that thou canst do every *thing*, and *that* no thought can be withholden from thee.

3 Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.

4 Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.

5 I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.

6 Wherefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes.

7 And it was so, that after the Lord had spoken these words unto Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me *the thing that is right*, as my servant Job *hath*.

8 Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you *after your* folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the *thing which is* right, like my servant Job.

9 So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite *and* Zophar the Naamathite went, and did according as the Lord commanded them: the Lord also accepted Job.

10 And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.

11 Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold.

12 So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.

13 He had also seven sons and three daughters.

14 And he called the name of the first, Jemima; and the name of the second, Kezia; and the name of the third, Kerenhappuch.

15 And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren..

16 After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, *even* four generations.

17 So Job died, *being* old and full of days.

**MEMORY VERSE:** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose. Romans 8:28

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Just as God brought Job out of his sorrows and afflictions, we can be assured that God will bring us through any trouble that may come if we will humble ourselves and submit fully to Him.

## WORD DEFINITIONS

Job 42:3, "*hideth counsel without knowledge*": Conceals and covers up righteous counsel being ignorant of true knowledge and understanding. God asked this question at the start of his words out of the whirlwind. Man does this many times. He covers over the counsel of the Lord by his own foolish words of pride and error. Job confesses here that he had done this. What human being has not done it? It could be that we have all been guilty of doing this.

Ver. 4, "*Hear, I beseech thee*": The Hebrew expression has a more humble and subdued sound: "Listen, I pray, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You will cause me to know."

Ver. 6, "*I abhor myself, and repent*": I despise myself, and whether I have done anything wrong or not, I still repent and humble myself before God.

Ver. 11 "*earring of gold*": The Hebrew says simply, "a ring of gold". The Septuagint Greek text says "four measures of uncoined gold."

Ver. 14, "*Jemima*": This name means warm and affectionate. "*Kezia*": Thi name means cassia, which is a herb, the bark of which is similar to cinnamon. "*Keren-happuch*": This name means "horn of color, beauty, or plenty". This word is similar to the word, Cornacopia, or horn of plenty.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

In our lesson today we see Job humbling himself in repentance and the dust of self abasement. We see the displeasure of God against his three friends, and we see their repentance. We see Job delivered of his sorrows and losses and given of God twice as much as he had before. We see the reward of humility and submission to God. We see God exalted as God and man humbled as man and blessed as faithful man. God works thus oftentimes with man. His purpose is to bring man to a wealthy place in Him. How happy and sweet were Job's years after all of this that he had suffered and been through! God gave him back everything double and blessed him with seven sons and three lovely daughters again. He lived a good many years and came to his grave as Eliphaz said he would in Job 5:26, "...in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season." I remember going with Brother Fred Pruitt and others to help sing at a funeral in Missouri back in the early

spring of 1957. Brother Pruitt read this scripture at the graveside service of the departed Brother S. W. Middleton of El Dorado Springs, Missouri. He had passed away at the ripe old age of 84. He had been saved for many years and was very zealous in obeying the commandments of God. --Bro. Leslie Busbee

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Why did Job feel in his heart to repent in dust and ashes?
2. Why was God's wrath kindled against Job's three friends?
3. What did Job and his three friends do in response to God's word?
4. What did God do for Job after he had prayed for his friends?
5. What is the most important lesson brought out for us in Job?

**COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

We now come to the final chapter in our study of the book of Job. One thing I have observed in this study is that God is so great and powerful that we need to humble ourselves before Him in submission, confidence, worship, and devotion; for He is worthy of all we can give to Him. Our ideas and feelings are vanity, and we need to yield all to Him alone. Even in the hard and bitter sufferings that we meet on life's road, we need to praise Him and trust His faithfulness to bring us through with joys to spare. He is a faithful God. It is overwhelming to behold and consider all the things that He innumeraed to Job of what He was doing in the realm of creation. These are things far beyond our reach and power. But God performs them every day with graceful ease. Oh, what a mighty God we serve! I am encouraged to live for Him and trust Him with my life and everything! Let us remember again what James 5:11 says about Him: "Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." Oh, how blessed to live for God! It surely pays to be humble and



submissive to Him, to never murmur or doubt His providence. He wants to better our lives; and if He lets some adverse sorrow or affliction to prey upon us for awhile, He has a reason or He would not have permitted it. Instead of being under a strain and trying to pray the thing away, it would be best to humble ourselves in true submission to Him, trust Him all the way, and let Him work out His sovereign will in our lives. There will be times when you will call to remembrance the lessons of Job, and it will be a fruitful tree for you to partake of. And as we are faithful to God in our trials and battles, we can be a fruitful tree for others also.

--Bro. Leslie Busbee

## REFLECTIONS

Job's reaction when he *saw the Lord* was very much like Isaiah's reaction to his *vision of the Lord* in the 6th chapter of Isaiah: "Woe is me! for I am undone. . ." And Daniel's was the same: ". . . I saw *this great vision* and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength." (Daniel 10:8). John the Apostle also "fell at his feet as dead" when he, in the Spirit, *saw the glorified Christ*. Jacob, when he realized that the "man" who had wrestled him all night was the LORD, and that, having *seen the Lord*, his life had been spared, underwent a great change, not only from the touch from the hand of the Lord that crippled him for the rest of his days but also a change in name and nature. Joshua, *seeing the Lord* as Captain of the Host, fell on his face to the earth. When Saul of Tarsus *saw the heavenly vision* and heard the voice, he fell to the earth, blind and weak, and completely surrendered. Only when we have *seen the Lord* can we truly see ourselves for the weak, undone, unholy and helpless creatures we are. Only then can we properly repent in true humility. Only then can we be truly changed in nature and begin to take on the nature of Christ. Only then can we truly serve and be used as a vessel of honor, fitted for the Master's use.

Oh, may each of us seek earnestly that we might *see His face*--that we might catch *THE VISION!*      --Sis. Angela Gellenbeck

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