

# BIBLE LESSONS

for the FAITH & VICTORY

August, 1959

## BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll, \$1.50: Lesson cards, 10¢

August 2, 1959

### THE TESTING OF FAITH (JOB)

Printed Portion .....Job 19:19-25; 42:1-6

19 All my inward friends abhorred me: and they whom I loved are turned against me.

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.

22 Why do ye persecute me as God, and are not satisfied with my flesh?

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.

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.

**Memory Verse:** I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Job 42:5.

**Practical Truth:** Afflictions suffered in this life are no proof that one is being punished for sin.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The first two chapters of Job reveal to us some heavenly scenes which is the reason for Job's suffering. This was hidden from Job. The sudden happenings were severe but Job was not moved away from his trust in God. We hear him saying, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." These words spoken by one in deep suffering makes a lasting impression upon us. Could we stand the test?

The one great lesson taught us in the book of Job is that human afflictions are not proof of sin. Suffering is one of the conditions common to mankind. People of the world, who do not know God, do not have any one to give them comfort and grace while they suffer. They do not have Jesus to bear those burdens for them, but have to carry them alone.

Job learned many lessons in his affliction. He could not feel the Lord on the right, left, behind or before him. But he was comforted with the thought that God could see right down in to his heart and he said, "He knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." (Job 23:10.) Job did not walk by feelings

but by faith. Then he goes on to say, "He maketh my heart soft."

Our lesson brings out one of the things he was suffering. It is very grievous to put trust in a person as a friend and then have them to turn against you. You feel that your friends understand you at all times, then for them to begin to criticize and find fault, you feel they suddenly become a stranger to you. Job felt that very keenly. In his condition he should have received pity and understanding instead of persecutions.

Job received comfort by a knowledge of God's existence and His never-failing eye which watches over His children. In the end of Job's afflictions he received more than he had in the beginning. This should encourage us to know that God will bring us forth with victory as we hold that steady faith and confidence in God.

August 9, 1959

### LIFE—VANITY OR VICTORY?

Printed Portion .....Ecclesiastes 5:1-2, 4-12, 18-19

1 Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.

2 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.

5:4 When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

5 Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.

6 Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?

7 For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God.

8 If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for he that is higher than the highest regardeth; and there be higher than they.

9 Moreover the profit of the earth is for all: the king himself is served by the field.

10 He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.

11 When goods increase, they are increased that eat them; and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes?

12 The sleep of a laboring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.

5:18 Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion.

19 Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God.

**Memory Verse:** Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the Lord all the day long. Proverbs 23:17.

**Practical Truth:** The truest values in life are obtained by always putting God first.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We have some good instructions in our lessons today. We will take the verses one at a time.

Verse 1. When we go to God's house we should be in an attitude to hear and receive help from God's Word. Listen with an open heart. When a person speaks they should speak under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Verse 2. Speak thoughtfully. Because we have to give an account of every idle word. (Matt. 12:36).

Verses 4, 5. We make the Lord some promises when He saves us. We need to keep those vows. Often we pray and ask for something, and then add that we will never cease to praise the Lord. Are we paying that vow? Hannah gave her son to God after he granted her request. Ananias and Sapphira were punished because they made a vow and pretended to carry it out, but did not. Verse 6. Angel would be a messenger—priest in that day, or a minister today.

Verse 7. Fear to say God is in multitudes of dreams and words. God does give dreams but be sure they are from God.

Verse 8. If officials oppress, take comfort in the thought that one that is "higher than the highest" is regarding the matter.

Verse 9. God made all things to grow for the good of mankind.

Verse 10. "The love of money is the root of all evil." (1 Timothy 6:10.)

Verse 12. A man that works, sleeps well; but the rich idler will lie awake. Some rich are afraid of their lives or riches being taken, if they sleep.

Verse 18. The preacher observes that it is good for a person to enjoy the fruits of his labors in a sensible way.

Verse 19. The rich can enjoy life and be content if they are using their riches to the glory of God and promoting the kingdom of God.

August 16, 1959

#### GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE

Printed Portion ..... Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-40

22 It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

24 The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

25 The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.

26 It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.

31 For the Lord will not cast off for ever:

32 But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies.

33 For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.

34 To crush under his feet all the prisoners of the earth,

35 To turn aside the right of a man before the face of the most High,

36 To subvert a man in his cause, the Lord approveth not.

37 Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not?

38 Out of the mouth of the most High proceedeth not evil and good?

39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

40 Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord.

**Memory Verse:** It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. Lamentations 3:22.

**Practical Truth:** Punishment of evil-doing comes from the Lord, sometimes in this life; but He will have mercy upon those who repent and turn to Him.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The book of Lamentations was written by Jeremiah, the prophet. The five chapters are the lamentations concerning the destruction of Jerusalem by the Chaldeans in the year of 587 B. C. The people had sinned and after rejecting again and again the pleadings of the prophets to turn from their sins, they were punished. The dreadful sufferings of the people, the sword, famine, and other catastrophes, caused them to mourn. The siege on Jerusalem continued for a year and one half and the famine became so severe that mothers boiled and ate their own children. (Lam. 4:10; 2:20)

Our lesson brings out the fact that through all the miseries there is hope in the soul of those who look to the Lord and have Him as their portion. His mercies are renewed every morning. They are new and freshen the inner man, giving new grace for each day. He is faithful to every soul that seeks after Him and waits for Him to bless them. So along with the calamity and sorrow there is a hope of relief in God's mercy.

The question is asked, "Why should a man complain about the punishment of his sins?" Instead of complaining, men would do well to examine their ways and turn again to the Lord. Verse 40. God does not cast off forever and does not afflict willingly. We know God is wanting to take every soul to heaven who will let Him. Through the taking of a child some parents have given their hearts to God. A person became awakened to His need of God and repented after being in a car accident. For a soul to thus be awakened and seek after God shows the mercy of God to care enough for that person to permit something to happen to keep them out of hell.

The destruction of Jerusalem is a grim reminder to us that cities can be destroyed. We should not set our affections upon things of this earth because they can be destroyed. We need to keep our affections on things above, which are eternal. "Things that are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." (2 Cor. 4:18.) If the city that you live in is attacked, where would you look for comfort?

August 23, 1959

#### PLEADING FOR FORGIVENESS

Printed Portion ..... Daniel 9:4-10, 17-19

4 And I prayed unto the Lord my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;

5 We have sinned and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments:

6 Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

7 O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.

8 O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee.

9 To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against him;

10 Neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

9:17 Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake.

18 O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousness, but for thy great mercies.

19 O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.

**Memory Verse:** If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14.

**Practical Truth:** Intercessory prayer is of great value both to ourselves and to those for whom we pray.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Daniel was a prayer warrior. Even though one time he knew he faced death if he continued to pray, yet he prayed. God honored his determination and delivered him out of the lion's den by shutting the lion's mouths. Daniel believed God to be a God of power and he had confidence in that power to overrule the powers of darkness and the plots of the devil.

Our lesson is a prayer that Daniel prayed for the children of Israel while they were in captivity. He did not excuse them but came right out and told the Lord that he knew the people had sinned. He was specific in his praying. People who try to justify themselves in their deeds and are hazy in their asking will not receive from the Lord. People who pray in a sort of general way for God to save sinners and do not have a real soul burden cannot expect much to be accomplished through their praying. When Zion travails, she will bring forth. Praying means more than just saying words. It isn't the amount of words spoken but it is what our words are accompanied with. Paul tells us in the 8th chapter of Romans and verses 26 and 27 that we know not how to pray as we ought. We do not know all the right words to say but it is the groanings of the inner man that cannot be uttered that the Holy Spirit uses to make intercession to God for us according to the will of God. Jesus commended the man who prayed and said, "God be merciful to me a sinner," while hitting his breast. He was in earnest.

Daniel wanted God to influence the hearts of the pagan rulers that they would bring about a restoration

of the temple and worship to God in Jerusalem. Today we have some great national problems to pray about. The United States needs to return to God.

August 30, 1959

#### A NEW SPIRIT RENEWS PEOPLE

Printed Portion ..... Joel 1:15-20; 2:12-13, 21-23, 28-29

1:15 Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.

16 Is not the meat cut off before our eyes, yea, joy and gladness from the house of our God?

17 The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered.

18 How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate.

19 O Lord, to thee will I cry: for the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field.

20 The beasts of the field cry also unto thee: for the rivers of waters are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness.

2:12 Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

21 Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things.

22 Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength.

23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

**Memory Verse:** Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things. Joel 2:21.

**Practical Truth:** God can work in men a vital, spiritual transformation through the power of His Holy Spirit.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lesson is found in Joel today. He is a prophet that very little is known about except his name, which means "Jehovah is God." The first part of the book consists of a description of a terrible tragedy which had come upon Palestine through a plague of locust in connection with a severe drought. In two passages, Joel gives a description of the locusts in four stages of their development, chapter 1:4, and 2:25. In the latter passage God speaks of them as "my great army which I sent among you." Today they say in Palestine vast hordes of locusts will come from the north or northeast with a great destruction. A great destruction came in 1915. The fields were stripped and even Arab babies who were left out in the open air had their faces devoured before their

screams were heard. The sun was even darkened by the hordes.

Knowing the awfulness of this tragedy we can understand what the prophet means when he starts our lesson out with the words, "A destruction from the Almighty." The plague was interpreted as a judgment of God. He tells the people to repent and to turn to the Lord with fasting and weeping. The priests were told to weep and intercede in prayer for the people so they would not be a reproach among nations. (Joel 2:17.)

Joel is always remembered by New Testament readers because a part of it is quoted by Peter in his sermon on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:17-21) as being fulfilled that day. And today we find the same thing being fulfilled upon all those who will come with faith and ask for the Holy Spirit, and are ready for his entrance by having had their sins forgiven. Also in Joel 2:32 we receive from his lips, as we do from Jesus in John 3:16 that great word, "whosoever." Peter, quoting Joel, said, "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

—Sister Marie Miles.

### TOO LATE

A number of years ago, in the midst of a powerful revival, the preacher observed a young lady under deep conviction. He was moved by the Spirit of God to urge her to give her heart to God at once. He plead with her and urged her not to grieve the Holy Spirit, but she replied, "Not tonight." As she started for home, the man of God followed her to the door of the church, and urged her again not to leave the church without salvation. Again she replied, "not tonight." He had a strange feeling in regard to the destiny of this young lady and was strangely moved to follow her out on the street and plead with her not to go home without giving her heart to God, but she again replied, "Some other time, not now." She went home under deep conviction and told her parents what a feeling she had, and how she had been halting between two opinions — that she had never felt such concern for her soul before and had never realized her danger of being lost at any period during her life so much as she had realized it that night.

Her father and mother were unsaved people. Their minds were planted in sin and unbelief and they had no sympathy with their daughter's interest in religion. She asked their opinion about becoming a Christian. In reply they said, "You are young, and will have plenty of time when you settle down in life to think about your preparation for eternity. Why not enjoy life while you are young and not cut yourself off from society and other young people."

With a sad heart she listened to their advice, and the enemy of her soul whispered, "Some other time will do just as well; you will have plenty of time to seek religion when your surroundings are more favorable."

She yielded to the advice of her ungodly parents and the devil and decided to wait awhile. A great struggle had been going on in her mind — Satan struggling with her and showing her the pleasures of sin on one side, and the Spirit of God revealing the Kingdom of Heaven and everlasting life on the other.

How sad that she should turn away from the Spirit of God and her prospects of heaven in order to please her ungodly parents and to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. The revival meetings closed and her interest in religion was soon gone.

In a short time she was taken very sick. After every effort to restore her to health had failed, and she continued to grow worse, and all human effort and hope were at an end, her parents realized that they could only have her with them for a few hours longer. They went to the bedside of their dying daughter and informed her that she had but a short time to live. They told her that if she wished to be a Christian they were willing, in fact they advised her that it was time now to make preparations for eternity. She looked up at her parents and her face was the very picture of despair. She said, "Father and Mother, you remember that during the recent revival I was greatly interested in the salvation of my soul. The Spirit of God was striving with me, and I felt my need of God as I had never felt it before. I asked your advice and you discouraged me. You advised me to wait until some other opportunity. I listened to your council, and now it is too late. My heart is as hard as a stone. I have no feeling. The Spirit of God has left me."

Her parents urged her, and to please them she consented to have them send for the minister. He came at once and plead with her and tried to show her that God was a merciful God, but her mind was full of unbelief, and she insisted she could not repent before she died. She was in great distress of mind and body, and as a last resort she requested that her coffin be sent for. It was brought and placed by the side of the bed. With her own hands she rapped upon the coffin and cried, "Oh, for feeling! Oh, for feeling!" but no feeling came. Then she sent for her shroud, and as she looked upon it and held it up before her she said, as only a dying person could say, "Oh, for feeling! Oh, for feeling! But her cry was in vain. The presence of a coffin and a shroud could not awaken her slumbering conscience or bring back the Holy Spirit, and she died in despair.

We pray that our readers may take warning by this sad experience for God says, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man." Therefore, "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God for He will abundantly pardon."

—A true testimony by S. B. Shaw.

### Too Late To Pray

You have no promise of your life, But death is on his way;  
How sad 'twill be when Jesus says,

'Twill be too late to pray.

We pray you now to heaven start; Let Jesus lead your way.  
Don't wait 'till death is on your brow —

'Tis then too late to pray.

Cho.—Too late, too late, 'Twill be too late to pray.

Too late, too late When life has passed away.