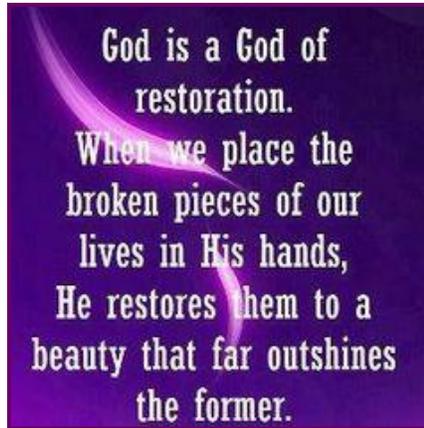


FALL QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2014

THEME: DISPLACED BUT NOT MISPLACED THROUGH TRUSTING THE IMMUTABLE GOD

Unit II – Dark Nights of the Soul

“TRUSTING GOD IN DARK TIMES... THE TESTIMONY OF JOB (PART III)”



Sunday School Lesson No. VIII - October 26, 2014 Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III

Lesson Text: Job 42:1-17

Motto Text: Job 42:2, *"I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee."*

Required Reading: Job 38 – 42

Reliable Resources: Preaching from the Prophets (Kyle Yates); Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Nelson's Illustrated Manners and Customs of the Bible (1980); Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament (1993); The Message (translation); Children's Ministry Resource Bible; The Outline Study Bible by H. L. Willmington

LESSON INTRODUCTION

Beloved, we have come to the final lesson from the book of Job. These lessons have focused on God's choice servant who was being literally put to the ultimate test of faithfulness, which turned the light of a sunshiny life into what appeared to be the gloom and doom of a stormy life. God allowed Satan to test Job's faith or, as the modern saint would say, "tested his last nerve." To further complicate the matter, Job not only lost the things in life that mattered greatly including family, wealth and health, but he lost the compassion and trust of his closest friends, and it even appeared that he lost the listening ear of Jehovah! When all earthly hope seemed lost, Job cried for a meeting with God that he might be vindicated. (Read Job 13:22; 23:3).

Through Job's trial by fire, we come to the final lesson of this quarter relating to Job. God prepares to reveal Himself to Job and challenge Job's audacity to question Him, by asking Job about 77 questions about nature that left Job speechless and totally humble and repentant. Job, like us, only had a glimpse of God's glory; the greater part has not yet been revealed. But when God speaks and begins to reveal His will, it leaves us very limited and most humble. Job 40:4-5 (NLT) says *"I am nothing—how could I ever find the answers? I will cover my mouth with my hand. I have said too much already. I have nothing more to say."*

Nevertheless, Job's trust in the Lord alone in the dark times of his life will now see the light of a gleaming dawning of a new day. As repentance moved his heart, God was now ready to reveal His doings after asking Job two more questions that completely humbled him concerning two great creatures (40:6–41:34). This leads us to our lesson for today: **"Trusting God in Dark Times...The Testimony of Job (Part III)."**

Anticipated Power Points:

- **Job's Total Humiliation before God. Job 42:1-6**
- **Job's Friends' Total Humiliation before God. Job 42:7-9**
- **Job and His Friends are Restored. Job 42:10-17**

LESSON OUTLINE

“Trusting God in Dark Times, the Testimony of Job (Part III)”

I. Job’s Total Humiliation Before God. Job 42:1-6

As we wrote, Job had asked to see God and sought to be vindicated from the accusations of friends. God’s response to Job had finally come, but not as Job had anticipated. There was never any focus on why Job suffered but as life should be, the focus of all things should be on the Sovereign God. Notice God’s response to Job from the Children’s Ministry Resource Bible (chapters 38-41):

- “God used questions to show Job His great power as Creator of all things (38:4-5).
- God asked questions that would help Job to think about His control over the universe and all life (38:6 – 39:30).
- God demanded an answer from Job (40:1-2).
- As Job saw God’s purity and power, he confessed his own sinfulness (40:3-4).
- Job quietly listened as God continued to speak to him (40:5).
- God asked Job if he had the power to control the universe (40:6-21).
- God reminded Job that only He had power to control nature and animal life (41:1-34). [Some identify Leviathan as a dinosaur; others think he was a great crocodile].”

After God’s divine interrogation, Job was humble and ready to receive God’s findings... *“Thy will, O Lord, not mine.”*

A. The futility of Job’s ability. vs. 1-2

It is only after one comes to the end of himself that he could fully appreciate the omnipotence of the Almighty God.

B. The failure of Job to acknowledge the Lord’s omniscience. vs. 3

Remember God’s question of Job in 38:2, *“Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge?”*

C. The focus of Job on the amazement of the Lord’s awesomeness. vs. 4-5

Like Job we sometimes become overly familiar with God and fail to see Him in all His awesome splendor! Psalm 19:1-3, *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.”*

D. The fact: Job must admit and repent. vs. 6

Job admits his failure in not seeing life from God’s perspective and he repents! Even good men sometimes make mistakes, so thank God for His patience with Job and with us. And be careful of all types of pride.

II. Job’s Friends’ Total Humiliation before God. Job 42:7-9

“The Lord rebukes the three friends for their false accusations of Job. He instructs them to make a sacrifice and says that Job will pray for them.” (Willmington). Job’s three friends had spoken erroneously concerning the Almighty. They spoke of the letter of His law, but not according to knowledge. They therefore had to repent and bring an offering before God and have Job to pray for their sins. This fulfills Matthew 5:44, which declares that the falsely accused must pray for his wrongful accusers!

III. Job and his Friends are Restored by God. Job 42:10-17

According to Willmington, “After Job prays for his friends, the Lord restores his fortune to him, giving him twice as much as he had before. He blesses Job with seven more sons and three more daughters. Job lives 140 more years!”

CLOSING

Job trusted God in the dark times of his life. Even when he was at his “wits end,” he never failed God’s test. Remember I Corinthians 10:13 and keep on trusting God, *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”* The hymn writer says, *“If you trust and never doubt, He will surely bring you out. Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.”*

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TV Broadcasts: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.



Looking Ahead:

November 2, 2014

Ezekiel 43:1-12

You are invited to attend Noon Bible Study every Wednesday as Pastor Davis teaches the lesson at Bibleway.