

## God's Help in Trials

Fred R. Coulter—August 2, 2014

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services!

Remember when you were first being called, understood the Truth, began to find out things concerning the ways of God? For many people, the first thing that happened was they began to understand that out of the pulpit there were lies coming when there shouldn't be lies.

You finally find the Truth, and you understand that there is a Church of God, and they keep the Sabbath, and they do the things of God. Then when you finally come to the point of being baptized and receiving the Holy Spirit of God, the first thing you have in mind is that everything is going to be lovely, good, beautiful. 'All my troubles are behind.' We find out a little differently

God spares us from a lot of troubles to begin with, but then we have many tests of faith. Many things come along that are also promises of God:

- He promises blessings
- He promises His help
- He keeps His Truth
- He loves us

But remember what Jesus said just before He was arrested: '*In the world you will have tribulation.*' I don't think the apostles really understood what it was saying. Think of when He said that in 30<sub>A.D.</sub> on the Passover night and carry that clear down to the end of their lives and the destruction of Jerusalem. From where they began, they had no idea what it was going to be down the road. But Jesus said, 'Be of good courage; I have overcome the world.'

In the things that we do, we're faced with that, too. Especially because we live in the world, but we are not of the world. There are some very interesting things that the Bible tells us. We're going to look at several Psalms.

Think about the Apostle Paul when he was Saul. Boy! He was doing the Lord's work and was he doing it well; with all authority and all power and persecuting the Christians, causing some to die. Getting the orders from the high priest and he was probably one of the high priest's favorite henchmen. Remember how God called him, on his way to Damascus, BOOM!

Then He said, 'I'm going to send you to the children of Israel and to the Gentiles, and you will suffer for Me.' Did the Apostle Paul suffer? *Yes, many trials!* I don't think that the Apostle Paul had

very many days where he could say, 'Oh, Lord, thank you, there was no difficulty today.' You read what he went through. Why? *Because there always comes a time when these things happen, so that we can understand the love and Truth of God even more!*

Psalm 25:17: "The troubles of my heart are enlarged... [overwhelmed, worry, doubt, depression, anxiety] ...O bring me out of my distresses." Not distress, but *distresses*, problems. There are some days when nothing goes right. There are some days when everything goes right and at the end of the day it's pretty good. You wake up in the morning and it begins again. Sometimes it's that way. Notice what David did here, and what we need to do.

Verse 18: "Look upon my affliction..." Whatever it is. We all have afflictions. Many of them, not from what we have caused, but from what other people have caused. In today's world, with children growing up, the parents have a lot of afflictions, worries, doubts, wonderings. Look at what this young generation does; *distresses!*

"...and my pain... [some of it's really painful] ...and forgive all my sins" (v 18). Part of it is, we still have sins within we need to repent of: anger, bitterness, all of that sort of thing that comes along.

Verse 19: "Consider my enemies..." Enemies may be a problem. It may be a person: a relative, a husband/wife, a son/daughter; maybe even the minister in the pulpit, because sometimes that is that way, too.

"...for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred" (v 19). These are part of the thoughts of Christ during His life in the flesh.

Verse 20: "O keep my soul and deliver me; let me not be ashamed, for I take refuge in You." There is a good lesson for us. You have to take refuge in God. If you take refuge in your pity-party and your bad feelings—whatever the difficulty is—or the unfairness of it, and don't take refuge in God, then it will be difficult in solving the problem.

Verse 21: "Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait on You." In other words, whenever a trial and affliction comes along, we need to look at what we need to do to get ourselves right with God, whatever it may be.

Verse 22: "Redeem Israel... [you put your name there; redeem *me*] ...O God, out of all his... [my] ...troubles."

Here's how David came to God, Psalm 31:1 "In You, O LORD, have I taken refuge..." When the world is crashing in on you, and there's nothing else left to do, ***just leave the world as it is and go pray!*** Go study God's Word. Lay it out before God. Let Him know how difficult it is and He will give you the strength.

"...let me never be ashamed; deliver me in Your righteousness... [not my righteousness] ...Bow down Your ear to me; deliver me quickly; be my strong Rock, a fortress of defense to save me; for You are my Rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your name's sake lead me and guide me. Pull me up out of the net that they have hidden for me..." (vs 1-4). You ever felt trapped in something, caught in something? No way out of something?

"...for You are my strength... [notice the very words of Christ]: ...Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD God of Truth" (vs 4-5). Last words of Christ on the cross.

Here's what we need to do. Also, keep this in mind with everything. Even the good and the bad and the ugly, ***'all things work together for good to those who love God and to those who are called according to His purpose!'*** Because out of these things that are trials, afflictions, distresses and depressions, we can learn the love and character of God.

Psalm 34:14: "Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it." Never forget this. When you say, 'O Lord, look down upon me,' if you have the Spirit of God in you, He's right there with you in your troubles.

Verse 15: "The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of **all** their troubles" (vs 15-17). Not necessarily all at once. Doesn't say all at once. Some of your troubles are delivered later. Some of them you pray about a long time—over and over and over again. The thing is, you keep praying until the answer comes. Never give up praying. Then all of a sudden one day—BING!—you think, *God answered!* "...all their **troubles**" Doesn't say trouble, but troubles.

Verse 18: "The LORD is near to the brokenhearted... [that is those who repent] ...and saves those who are of a contrite spirit."

I'm sure that Paul read this over and over again. You want to know what Paul went through, read 2-Cor. 11. I wondered what he thought. The two things I always wonder: God promised Paul and God promised Jeremiah. Jeremiah was one man

against the whole nation. I've mentioned this before, but I always keep this in mind and ask yourself: Has your trial or problem been any greater than this? *Thrown into the sewer pot below the street!* There you are, and you think, 'But, God, you promised.' Then, lo and behold, here comes a rope down to help you out, and Jeremiah was pulled out. I bet he was thanking God over and over for that, especially when he went to bathe. 'Thank You, God!'

Then the other one I think about is Paul when he was a night and a day in the deep. Probably clinging to some wood from a ship wreck and wondering, 'God, You made the heavens and the earth and here I am in the middle of nowhere. There are no boats. There's no one around. Everyone else has died, and here I am hanging to this piece of wood. O Lord, keep the sharks away, please.'

Verse 19: "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all. He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken. Evil shall slay the wicked; and those who hate the righteous shall be condemned. The LORD redeems the soul of His servants; and none of them who take refuge in Him shall be condemned" (vs 19-22).

Here's how to pray:

- you don't know what to do
- it's beyond your help
- you have no one you can go to
- you don't understand why it's coming. you've shed a lot of tears
- your emotions are torn apart
- you're weak
- you're near sick

Do this: Instead of you fighting the battle in your mind... That's where most people fight their battles, in their mind. They get emotionally involved in it. Then they get soured and they don't pray and they don't study. *Turn it around the other way!*

Psalm 35:1: "Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me... [let God fight your battles; He can do it] ...Take hold of shield and buckler, and stand up for my help" (vs 1-2).

There's one Psalm there, it starts out, 'HELP!' Sometimes you feel that way. Sometimes you don't feel that God is helping you. Sometimes you don't feel that God is comforting you because you are so miserable. I've gone through that. Everyone goes through that. Why? *So we can learn to love God!*

Verse 3: "Also draw out the spear and the lance against those who pursue me; say to my soul, 'I am your salvation.' Let them be ashamed and

brought to confusion, those who seek after my soul; let them be turned back and humiliated those who devise evil against me. Let them be as chaff before the wind; and let the angel of the LORD drive them away. Let their way be dark and slippery; and let the angel of the LORD pursue them” (vs 3-6).

Isn't it interesting how these flow along like this.

Psalm 36:1: “The wicked utters transgression in his heart. There is no fear of God before his eyes, for he flatters himself in his own eyes until his iniquity is found to be hateful” (vs 1-2). Sound like some politicians we can recognize today? *Yes, indeed!* Sound like some of the criminals and drug lords and all of those who are scheming? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 3: “The words of his mouth are iniquity and deceit; he has stopped acting wise and doing good. He plots iniquity upon his bed; he sets himself in a way that is not good; he does not hate evil” (vs 3-4).

When you list all of those things, like he did, then list some of the things of God, especially if you feel persecuted; if you feel put-upon; if you feel drug down by something which pulls you away. That's why we have the series:

- *Obsessed With Sex* (churchathome.org)
- *The Addicted Society*
- *The Love of God*
- *The Grace of God*

All of those are to help give you the spiritual strength to be pulled out of these things.

- Did Jesus say that there would be troubles in the end-time? *Yes, He did!*
- Did He say that the righteous would be saved with difficulty? *Yes, He did!*
- Did He say that the one who endures to the end, the same shall be saved?
- Is that endurance, enduring things that are not good?
- Enduring things that are evil?

or is that:

- ‘I'm enduring all the good times; look at me.’

Listen! Stop and think about this: Tell me one person in the world who does not have any problems. And *the person who thinks he doesn't, is probably in trouble and doesn't know it!*

After you see what the wicked have done, look at what God has done, v 5: “Your loving kindness, O LORD, is in the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Your righteousness is like the great mountains...” (vs 5-6).

You ever been inspired when you see television or a movie where they are flying over the mountains and they are way up there. You look at the top of those rocky mountains that look like they are sharp as a razor at 14,000 feet. You think: ***God has made those!*** He has confounded men with the Grand Canyon. They haven't figured it out *ever*. It didn't take millions of years to wear down.

I don't have time to explain it all, but shortly after the Flood, when everything was wet and soggy, and there was this big lake that was up where the Midwest is now, and up where the Rocky Mountains are now, that God lifted that part of the earth up and all the water ran down and washed out the whole Grand Canyon, except for the last little bit in the bottom, nearly all at once.

The next time there's a heavy rain and there's a flood that comes along, and there's a pile of sand that is backed up along the road, you will see that the water comes along, and here's the little ridge just like along the edge of the Grand Canyon. So God does great things! mammoth things!

“...Your judgments are like the great deep; O LORD, You preserve man and beast. How precious is Your loving kindness, O God! Therefore, the children of men take refuge under the shadow of Your wings” (vs 6-7).

What is that? One person explained it. It's kind of like a bubble. God protects you. God watches over you. Or kind of like a duck's back. Dives down in the water, comes up and all the water comes off. It doesn't mean that problems don't exist. It means that *with your mind focused on God instead of the problem, then you can handle it!*

Let's come to the person who didn't deserve anything, but *got everything that was evil thrown against him*. That's man's name was Job. You can come to Job 3 and look at what he was. He was one of the richest men of the east, living in the land of Uz.

- he was righteous
- he was blameless
- he had sons and daughters

He was so righteous that he knew his sons and daughters weren't doing really what they should, so every day he would offer up offerings and prayers for them, because he didn't want anything to happen to them.

One day Satan came along with the other angels that come before God. God said to Satan, ‘You look at My servant, Job, down there, how righteous he is, how faithful he is.’ Satan said, ‘Yeah, You put a hedge around him. Take away the

hedge and he will curse You to Your face.' So, God said, 'All right, he is your hand, but spare his life.'

So BAM! Here came the whirlwind and fire from Satan the devil, destroyed the houses of the sons and each time a servant came and told Job what happened, he was just overwhelmed with grief. He tore his clothes, threw on ashes and sackcloth and sat down to moan. Satan came back to God. God said to Satan, 'Look, you did all of this to My servant, Job, and he hasn't cursed Me.' Satan said, 'Yeah, skin for skin. All that a man has he will give for his life.'

Sidebar: I think that's what the healthcare bill is all about.

God said, 'All right, you can afflict him again, but you can't take his life.' Satan really did a number on him. Came along, boils from head to toe all over his body. So bad that his wife said, 'Curse God and die.' *Thank you, my wife!* Then he sat there seven days and seven nights. Even after three friends came to be with him to comfort him, it was so astonishingly bad that they all sat there and looked at each other and looked at Job and wondered, 'Should I say anything?' *No, don't you dare say anything to him. Seven days and seven nights!*

Here he is with boils, scraping with potsherds, blood, flies, maggots, pain, rotten flesh. Talk about a trial! Don't all of our trials look like light afflictions compared to this?

Job 3:1: "After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his *birth*. And Job spoke and said, 'Let the day perish in which I was born, and the night in which it was said, "A man child is brought forth." Let that day be darkness. Let not God look upon it from above, neither let the light shine upon it. Let darkness and the shadow of death claim it. Let a cloud dwell upon it; let the blackness of the day terrify it. *As for* that night, let darkness seize upon it. Let it not rejoice among the days of the year. Let it not come into the number of the months. Lo, let that night be barren; let no joyful voice come in it'" (vs 1-7).

You talk about an answer, so here are his three friends out there and they're all sitting out there thinking: 'I know what he did.' The other one says, 'I know what he did.' So, they all had their chance to talk to him, so you'll have to read the whole book of Job for that. Isn't that true when something comes along, you think, 'I know why.' Really? Can you read minds?

Sometime when people do that, they make it worse than it really is. That's precisely what his three friends did. Made it worse! Remember, his trial was *long and sore*, and *it's here for us to learn so we don't have to go through it the same way!*

Verse 21: "Who is waiting for death—but it comes not... [He's talking about himself] ...and digs for it more than *for* hidden treasures? They are rejoicing to exultation. They are glad when they can find the grave. *Why is light given* to a man whose way is hidden, and whom God has made a hedge about. For my sighing comes instead of my food, and my groaning are poured out like the waters. For **the thing which I greatly feared has come upon me, and that which I was afraid of has come to me**" (vs 21-25). Who are you going to trust in when it comes to that?

Verse 26: "I was in safety, I have no rest, neither was I quiet; yet, trouble comes." *I didn't do it!* However, one key. *He was afraid!*

Here's one of his friends, Job 4:1: "And Eliphaz the Temanite answered: 'Shall one try to speak a word with you, *or* will you grow weary? But who can hold back himself from speaking? Behold you have instructed many, and you have made the weak hands strong. Your words have upheld him who was falling, and you have made strong the feeble knees. But **now it has come upon you, and you faint. It touches you, and you are troubled**"' (vs 1-5). Nothing like throwing daggers at him.

Verse 6: "Is not your fear *of God* your confidence, and the uprightness of your ways your hope? Remember now who *ever* perished being innocent?... [Yes, Job, what sin do you have secretly dwelling in the depths of your heart?] ...Or where were the righteous ever cut off?" (vs 6-7). *Why are you going through this, Job? Come on, admit it!*

Verse 8: "Even as I have seen, the ones who plow iniquity and sow wickedness reap the same. By the blast of God they perish, and by the breath of His nostrils they are destroyed" (vs 8-9). *Job, that's coming on you!*

Job 5:6: "For affliction does not come forth from the dust, nor does trouble spring up out of the ground; yet, man is born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward. But as for me, I would seek to God, and to God I would commit my cause" (vs 6-8). Job, why aren't you doing that? That's the implication here.

Verse 9: "*Who is* doing great things, even beyond searching; marvelous things without number."

Verse 16: "So then, there is hope for the weak, and iniquity shuts her mouth.... [if you turn to God] ...Behold..." (vs 16-17). What a lovely statement here. When you're in the middle of a trial, this is the last thing you want to hear, especially when you are so bad, every emotion, you don't even have any water in your tear ducts left to cry. You don't have anything left in you.

But here Eliphaz the Temanite says. "...**happy is the man whom God corrects.** Therefore, do not despise the chastening of the Almighty. For He makes sore, and binds up; He wounds, and His hands make whole. He will deliver you in six troubles; yea, in seven no evil shall touch you" (vs 17-19). Job, you really have been doing wrong.

Verse 20: "In famine He shall redeem you from death; and in war from the power of the sword. You shall be hidden from the scourge of the tongue; neither shall you be afraid of destruction when it comes. At destruction and famine you shall laugh; neither shall you be afraid of the beasts of the earth" (vs 20-22). Boy, what a comfort!

Job 6:1: "And Job answered and said, 'Oh, that my grief were but weighed, and my calamity laid in the balances together! For now, it would be heavier than the sand of the sea; therefore, my words have been rash. For the arrows of the Almighty *are* within me, my spirit is drinking up their poison. The terrors of God do set themselves against me. Does the wild donkey bray *when he has* grass? Or does the ox low over his fodder? Can that which has no taste be eaten without salt? Or is there taste in the white of an egg? My soul refuses to touch them; they *are* sickening food to me" (vs 1-7). Couldn't even eat.

Verse 8: "Oh, that I might have my desire, and that God would grant the thing that I long for! Even that it would please God to destroy me; that He would loose His hand and cut me off!" (vs 8-9). *I'm just ready to die*! Yes, well God said he wouldn't die, which means, he really suffered, and it's here for us to learn from.

Verse 10: "'Then I would yet have my comfort..." Yes, I would be covered in death, all the pain would be gone. There would be no more sorrow, no more emotion.

"...yea, I would rejoice in pain, though He did not spare me; for I have not denied the words of the Holy One. What *is* my strength, that I should hope? And what *is* my end, that I should prolong my life? *Is* my strength the strength of stones? Or is my flesh bronze? *Is* there no help within me? And is wisdom fully driven away from me?" (vs 10-13). What a thing he went through.

Verse 24: "Teach me, and I will be silent; and cause me to understand where I have gone astray"—because he didn't. What was Job's sin? It was more than self-righteousness. ***He worshiped himself more than God!***

Verse 25: "'Right words are powerful, but what does your arguing prove? Do you intend to criticize words, and the speeches of one who is hopeless, *that are* as wind?" (vs 25-26). You're

going to criticize me when you see me in this bad shape? *Scrape off the pus.* I don't know if he threw it at him, or whatever, but I think in his attitude he would have been inclined to.

Verse 27: "Yea, you overwhelm the fatherless, and you dig *a pit* for your friend. And now, please look upon me; for if I lie, *it is* evident to you. Relent, I pray you, let there be no iniquity; yea, acknowledge, my righteousness yet stands. Is there iniquity in my tongue? Cannot my taste discern perverse things?" (vs 17-30). Boy, oh, boy!

Job 7:3: "So, I am made to possess months of vanity, and weary nights are appointed to me. When I lie down, I say, 'When shall I rise?' But the night is long, and I am full of tossing to and fro until the dawning of the day" (vs 3-4). Couldn't find a place to relax. Couldn't find a place to rest, just lying out there on the ground, his three friends looking at him. This was really something!

Notice his condition, v 5: "My flesh is clothed with maggots and dusty scabs; my skin cracks open and runs *with pus.* My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope. O remember that my life *is* a breath; my eye shall no more see good" (vs 5-7).

Verse 11: "Therefore, I will not refrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul." Only God can take that away. Anger doesn't take away bitterness. Hatred against an enemy or situation doesn't solve it. Sometimes the only thing you can do is just say, 'God, it's in Your hands,' and turn around and walk away from it and get your mind off it.

Verse 12: "Am I like the sea, or a whale, that You set a watch over me? When I say, 'My bed shall comfort me, my couch shall ease my complaint,' Then You scare me with dreams, and terrify me with visions; So that my soul chooses strangling, *and* death rather than my life. I despise my life; I will not live forever; let me alone, for my days *are* vanity" (vs 12-16). He's getting close to seeing what his circumstances really were. I'll leave it up to you to read the whole book of Job.

Remember this: ***Every philosophical argument that men have*** concerning religion, concerning troubles, concerning trials, concerning all the difficulties in life—look at it today; look at what is happening in the Middle East—nothing but:

- turmoil
- war
- depravation
- killing
- hatred
- bitterness

Has it solved anything? *No!*

The Palestinians are so evil today that even the Turks—who is Esau, and Saudi Arabia—who is Ishmael, have silently sided with the Jews against them. They know, because they are bloody people by nature, that perhaps the only thing that can keep it from flowing to the rest of the Arab world is that every one of them perish.

There were times when God said, 'Go in and get rid of them all,' even the babies. Why would God do that? *God has a little secret over here; it's called **the second resurrection!*** They will have a better life resurrected from the dead when God gets ready to save them.

(go to the next track)

Job is looking at everything and justifying himself. We're going to see how he looked at these things to justify his own way and what he asked to be done, and God did it.

He's talking about all of those people that were really beneath him, Job 30:8: "*They were children of fools, yea, children of base men; they were scourged out of the land. And now I am their song...*" (vs 8-9). *They're singing about me.* When I read that I can think of these country-westerns and they have the western band.

"...yea, I am their byword. They despise me, and they flee far from me; they do not spare spitting in my face.... [quite a thing; he really had it there] ...Because He has loosed my cord and afflicted me, they have also cast off restraint before me" (vs 9-11).

They were accusing him: 'Maybe you had a woman on the side and you haven't been telling anybody about this.' So Job says, Job 31:1: "I made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I look upon a virgin?"

Verse 9: "If my heart has been enticed by a woman, or I have laid wait at my neighbor's door, *then* let my wife grind for another, and let others bow down upon her" (vs 9-10).

Verse 14: "What then shall I do when God rises up? And when He calls me to account, what shall I answer Him? Did not He who made me in the womb make him *also*? And did not one fashion us in the womb?" (vs 14-15).

If he didn't help the poor, and all that sort of thing, v 22. "*Then* let my arm fall from the shoulder blade... ['I am so righteous.' He's daring God. 'Let it fall off.'] ...and let my arm be broken from the elbow. For calamity *from* God is a terror to me, and by reason of His majesty I could do nothing" (vs 22-23).

Verse 33: "If I covered my transgressions like Adam, by hiding my iniquity in my bosom, Then let me tremble before a great multitude, and be terrified by the scorn of families; *and* I will be silent *and* not go out the door. Oh, that I had one to hear me!... [You guys aren't listening to me.] ...Behold, my desire is *that* the Almighty would answer me... [Hold on, Job, it's coming.] ...and the indictment *that* my adversary had written. Surely I would carry it on my shoulder... ['If you can find anything wrong with me..'] ...*and* bind it *like* a crown *upon* my head. I would declare to Him [God] the number of my steps; like a prince I would come before Him" (vs 33-37). *I'm not going to come as nothing before God. I'm going to come like a prince.*

Verse 38: "If my land cry against me, or its furrows weep together; if I have eaten its strength without paying for it, or have caused its owners to lose their life, let thorns come forth instead of wheat, and weeds instead of barley.' The words of Job are ended" (vs 38-40).

Here they are, all three of them out there listening to all of this, and arguing back and forth; Job 32:1: "And these three men ceased to answer Job, because he *was* righteous in his own eyes." Actually, **he thought his righteousness was greater than God's!**

Then the answer came from someone least expected, v 2: "Then was kindled the anger of Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram. His wrath burned against Job, because he had justified himself rather than God. Also his wrath was kindled against his three friends, because they had kindled no answer and *yet* had condemned Job. Now Elihu had waited to speak to Job, because they *were* older than he in days. When Elihu saw that there *was* no answer in the mouth of these three men, then his wrath was kindled" (vs 2-5).

Verse 6: "And Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said, 'I *am* young, and you *are* very old; therefore, I was afraid, and dared not show you my opinion. I said, "The aged should speak, and the multitude of years should teach wisdom." But *there is* a spirit in man and the inspiration of the Almighty gives them understanding. Great men are not *always* wise; neither do the aged understand justice. Therefore, I say, "Hearken to me. I also will declare my opinion"'" (vs 6-10). Then he goes through and he brings out his opinion, and he says, 'Where were you?' Elihu continued all the way through.

Job 34:35: "Job has spoken without knowledge, and his words *were* without wisdom.' My desire... [Elihu says] ...is *that* Job may be tried unto the end because *his* answers *are* like those of

wicked men. For he adds rebellion to his sin..." (vs 35-37).

Rebelling against God, worshiping himself, and all the things that he did. Remember this. Every good thing that he did was what God commanded. What does God say when you do every good thing that He commands? He says, 'Call yourself unprofitable servants, for you have done that which is commanded.'

"...he claps *his* hands among us, and multiplies his words against God" (v 37).

Job 35:1: "And Elihu answered and said." Looking Job right in the eye. I imagine that was a horrible sight. I imagine his eyes were sunken deep into his head. I imagine his beard was miserable, the way he was with everything. And his clothes were a total mess.

So, he looked him right in the eye and said, v 2: "Do you think this to *be* right, you *that* say, 'My righteousness is more than God's?' For you say, 'What advantage will it be to You? What profit shall I have, more than *if* I had sinned? I will answer your words, and your companions with you. Look to the heavens..." (vs 2-5).

- look at something big
- look at God
- look at what He has made

"...and see; and behold the clouds; they are higher than you. If you sin, what do you do against Him? Or *if* your transgressions are multiplied, what do you do to Him? If you are righteous, what do you give Him? Or what does He receive from your hand? Your wickedness *may hurt* a man like yourself; and your righteousness *may profit* the son of man. By reason of the multitude of oppressions they cry out; they cry out because of the *powerful* arm of the mighty. But none says, 'Where *is* God my Maker..." (vs 5-10). *You have to turn it over to God—everything!*

"...Who gives songs in the night; Who teaches us more than the animals of the earth, and makes us wiser than the birds of heaven?" There they cry, but He gives no answer, because of the pride of evildoers. Surely God will not hear vanity, neither will the Almighty regard it" (vs 10-13). When you come with your own reasons, and you come with your own hostility to God, that in itself is vanity.

Verse 14: "How *much less* when you say you do not see Him! The cause is before Him; you must wait for Him. And now because it does not so, He has visited in anger yet he does not understand even his great extremity... [that is Job] ...Therefore, does

Job open his mouth in vain; he multiplies *his* words without knowledge" (vs 14-16).

Job said, 'Oh, that I would God would answer me.' So, God did! What we will see in the end is that through all the trials and difficulties God blessed him abundantly even much more. God wants us to

- learn to love Him
- learn His character
- learn His way
- understand what He does

I was given a wonderful magazine and I probably need to subscribe to it: *Astronomy*. There are a lot of wonderful pictures here concerning the things in the heavens.

God was generous to Job. He didn't come in a flash. He didn't come with lightning. *He came in a whirlwind* (Job 38:1).

So, God asked, Job 38:2: "Who *is* this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?" Everything he said, because he missed the first basic point: ***everything comes from God!***

Verse 3: "Now gird up your loins like a man; for I will demand of you, and you shall answer Me." 'You think you've done good things, Job? You think all your works were great and you claim they were greater than Me? And you said that you wanted Me to answer you, so let Me ask you a question?':

Verse 4: "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare it, if you have understanding! Who has determined its measurements, if you know? Or who has stretched the line upon it? On what are the foundations fastened to? Or who laid its cornerstone" (vs 4-6).

Job 40 is very instructive. After God explained everything the best He could about His creation and why it works the way that it did, this is the lesson:

Job 40:1: "And the LORD answered Job and said, 'Shall he who contends with the Almighty instruct *Him?*...." (vs 1-2). Are we going to instruct God? Can a man—who is totally imperfect—instruct God, Who is perfect and the work of His hands? ***NO!***

"...He who reproves God, let him answer it.'.... [even though it comes] ...And Job answered the LORD and said, 'Behold, I am vile! What shall I answer You? I will lay my hand on my mouth. Once I have spoken; but I will not answer; yea, twice, but I will proceed no further'" (vs 2-5).

So then God settled the issue, v 6: "And the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said,

'Gird up your loins now like a man. I will demand of you...' (vs 6-7). *You have been demanding of Me, I'll demand of you!*

"...and you declare unto Me. Will you even annul My judgment? Will you condemn Me so that you may be righteous?" (vs 6-8). God is perfect. God wants to show the love, but He also has to correct when there is not the love given.

Verse 9: "And *have* you an arm like God? Or can you thunder with a voice like His?" Then He says, *Now, Job, I'll tell you what you do. Let's see how you do at this:*

Verse 10: "Deck yourself now with majesty and excellency, and array yourself with glory and beauty." In other words, 'make yourself God like Me.'

Verse 11: "Cast abroad the rage of your wrath; and behold everyone who is proud, and abase him. Look on everyone *who is* proud, *and* bring him low; and tread down the wicked in their place. Hide them in the dust together; *and* bind their faces in darkness. Then I will also confess to you that your own right hand can save you" (vs 11-14).

I wonder what those atheists are going to do. Can you imagine? I wonder what those who say, 'We want freedom from religion,' when they stand before God and He says, 'I am here' will do? *They will do like Job did:*

Job 42:1: "And Job answered the LORD and said, 'I know that You can do all things, and *that* no thought can be withheld from You. *You asked, 'Who is he who hides counsel without knowledge?'* Therefore, I have spoken that which I did not understand; *things* too wonderful for me; yea, which I did not know'" (vs 1-3). Compared to God, all the knowledge of man is nothing. It's like a little whiff of vapor that's gone.

Verse 4: "Hear, I beseech You, and I will speak; *You said, 'I will ask of you, and you will declare to Me.'*.... [now he's declaring to God] ...I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear... [There are a lot of people out there, 'I know there's a God.'] ...but **now my eye sees You**" (vs 4-5). In other words, he finally had the proper perspective of understanding about God.

What did he do? Verse 6: "Therefore, I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes." That's what we need to do. You don't necessarily have to get sackcloth and ashes, because you have to have a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

- God will hear
- God will help
- God is there

I imagine that through it all that Job was saying, 'Where is God? He doesn't comfort me. He doesn't help me. He hasn't done anything for me.' There was something for him to learn in it. After all, isn't salvation what we want? Isn't salvation what God grants us? Will there be anything to be compared to it?

- God will deliver us
- He will comfort us
- He will help us

✓ **comfort comes from God**, but you have to ask for it

✓ **help comes from God**, but you have to ask for it

Psalms 119:49: "Remember the word to Your servant upon which You have caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, that Your Word has given me life" (vs 49-50). That's why ***you need to take all your troubles and problems to God in prayer on your knees***, asking God to help you. It's like Asaph in Psa. 37:

- he couldn't figure out why the wicked prospered
- he couldn't figure out why they didn't have troubles like he had
- he couldn't figure out why their children were blessed so much, and he was overburdened with anxiety and depression.

*Until* he went into the sanctuary and prayed! ***Then God gave him understanding!*** When we pray, our prayers go right to the sanctuary of God in heaven above. "...Your Word has given me life."

Verse 76: "I beseech You, let Your steadfast love comfort me, according to Your promise to Your servant. Let your tender mercies come to me so that I may live, for Your Law is my delight" (vs 76-77).

Verse 81: "My soul faints for Your salvation; I hope in Your Word. My eyes fail for Your Word, saying, 'When will You comfort me?'" (vs 81-82).

- God promises comfort
- God promises help
- God promises relief
- He will give it, *His* way

We need to understand what we need to do, and we do that through prayer. God will put it in our minds and hearts.

Verse 83: "For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke... [all empty, the wine is all gone] ...yet, I do not forget Your statutes. How many are the days of Your servant? When will You execute judgment on those who persecute me?" (vs 83-84). Or all the troubles I go through.



Verse 85: "The proud have dug pits for me, men who do not act according to Your Law. All Your commandments are faithful..." (vs 85-86). What I want you to see is how he was thinking, going from what his perceived trouble was to what he knew what was right and coming to God.

"...they persecute me wrongfully; help me! They had almost consumed me upon earth, but I did not forsake Your precepts. Give me life according to Your loving kindness; so shall I keep the testimony of Your mouth" (vs 86-88).

Let's come to the New Testament and see some things here that are important for us. Think about this: The apostles, when they first began preaching and teaching, after Jesus ascended into heaven, they didn't know how it was going to end.

Do you think that they really understood when Jesus told them on that day on the Mount of Olives, as they were looking at the temple and everything there, the beautiful temple, He said, 'The day's coming when there won't be one stone left upon another.' Really? How's that going to happen?

He told them that they would have persecution, but they didn't know how bad it was going to be. After all of this, Peter says:

1-Peter 5:6: "Be humbled, therefore, under the mighty hand of God... [as God did to Job] ...so that He may exalt you in *due* time; casting **all** your cares upon Him, because He cares for you. Be sober! Be vigilant!.... [because there is an adversary out there, Satan the devil] ...For your adversary *the* devil is prowling about as a roaring lion, seeking anyone he may devour. Whom resist, steadfast in the faith..." (vs 6-9). Don't let him come and overwhelm you with

- grief
- depression
- anxiety
- wondering

Why is this happening. If that is happening,

- ask Him on your knees
- pray for understanding
- ask for God's protection
- ask Him for the strength that you cannot get so emotionally involved in the things that you are going through

Even like Job said, 'I can't even sleep. I toss to and fro.' No, don't let it come to that. Ask God to help you, *He will!*

"...steadfast in the faith, knowing *that* the same afflictions are being fulfilled among your brethren who *are* in *the* world" (v 9). Look out beyond you.

Here's a promise; claim this promise! Go to 1-Pet. 5, open up your Bible while you are praying and read this, and claim this promise:

v 10: "Now may the God of all grace... [all grace, all mercy, all goodness, all love, all righteousness] ...Who has called us unto His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after *you* have suffered a little while, Himself... [God is working with you] ...perfect you, establish, strengthen, *and* settle *you*." In time that will come.

Verse 11: "To Him *be* the glory and the power into the ages of eternity. Amen."

Now let's see what this does. What we are going through, and what we are experiencing, and all of these trials that come upon us—*and they do*—God leads us out of it. What does that do?

- that helps us to have understanding
- God grants us mercy
- *we are merciful to others*
- God grants us His love
- *we love others*

Romans 5:1: "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Part of the problem was with Job, he was fighting God all the way. That's the opposite of peace.

Verse 2: "Through Whom we also have access by faith into this grace..." One of the things that comes along when you have troubles and difficulties, you know you should pray, but you don't pray. Somehow many people figure they can work it out in their mind. That's what Job was doing. Did he work it out in his mind, even as good as he was? *No, God had to work it out.*

"...into this grace in which we stand..." (v 2). What is that grace? ***Direct access to God the Father and Jesus Christ in heaven above when we pray!*** Like I've said many, many times, how close is God to you? *As close as the floor is to your knees.*

Paul learned something that very few of us will ever, ever learn, but we need to be about learning how.

"...we ourselves boast in *the* hope of the glory of God.... [keep looking to the goal] ...And not only this, but we also **boast in tribulations...**" (vs 2-3). Oh, goody, I have another trial. I myself have not come to that, yet. I suppose what Paul went through, he finally came to it. 'Yes, Lord, you told me I was going to suffer.'

Here's why, this I am learning: "...realizing that tribulation brings forth endurance... [you can't give up] ...and endurance *brings forth* character... [Why? *Because you stuck with God in spite of*

*everything!]* ...and character *brings forth* hope” (vs 3-4). You can see that through it all that God is going to work it out.

Verse 5: “And the hope of God never makes us ashamed because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, which has been given to us.” That’s what God wants.

As I’ve said here recently, remember this: ***God loves you as He loved Jesus Christ!*** Think on that. What did Jesus go through? You can read about everything that happened on that Passover Day, and He did it willingly.

Paul gives us some perspective on how these things come, 2-Corinthians 1:1: “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by *the* will of God, and Timothy *our* brother, to the Church of God that is in Corinth, with all the saints who are in *the* entire region of Achaia: Grace and peace *be* to you from God our Father and *the* Lord Jesus Christ” (vs 1-2).

Remember that every epistle starts out that way. That grace and peace is available to us all the time *when we get on our knees and claim it and ask God to help us.*

Verse 3: “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and *the* God of all comfort. Who comforts us in all our tribulation... [he went through a lot of them] ...in order that...” (vs 3-4). Here’s the reason. We learn the lessons. We understand what it’s like to be miserable, wretched, wondering where God is and how things are going to come out. With the things that are coming on in the world, there are going to be times like that.

“...we may be able to comfort those who are in any trial, through, the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God” (v 4).

- God will *comfort* us
- God will *help* us

Notice how Paul was able to write such inspiring words. Why? *Because he suffered so much and understood what God was doing!* He understood that eternal life is absolutely going to be such a marvelous thing.

2-Thessalonians 2:13: “Now, we are duty-bound to give thanks to God always concerning you, brethren, who are beloved by *the* Lord, because God from *the* beginning has called you unto salvation through sanctification of *the* Spirit and belief of *the* Truth.”

Look at the calling. Don’t look at the problem. Ask God to help you solve the problem. If you can’t solve it, put it in God’s hands; if there are

people involved in causing the problem, ask Him to work with them, to intervene and change their minds.

- Can God change minds?
- Can God make people do things that they don’t even know that God is making them do it?

Always remember the soldiers sitting down and watching Christ die on the cross. They cast lots for his vesture, prophesied in Psa. 22. God made them do it. Did they know that God made them do it? They didn’t say, ‘Oh, yes, Lord.’ No, they were carnal Italian soldiers, having nothing to do with the Word of God.

Remember that! Claim that promise! If there’s another person involved, who is recalcitrant, then you *ask God to change their minds*, and do the best you can.

Verse 15: “So then, brethren, stand firm, and hold fast the ordinances that you were taught, whether by word or by our epistle.”

And claim this: Paul has written as promises from God to you, v 16: “Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself... [If God’s Spirit is in you, *He’s in you*; Christ is in you; the Father is in you.] ...and God—even our Father, Who loved us and gave *us* eternal encouragement and good hope through grace. Encourage your hearts and establish you in every good word and work” (vs 16-17). God will do it. He says He will. Will we believe the words of God?

We will claim this promise, Hebrews 13:5: “*Do not allow the* love of money to influence your behavior, *but be* satisfied with what you have; for He has said...” There is no comparison to the promises of God and wealth of this world. “...for He has said...”

You can claim this promise, “...‘In no way will I ever leave you; no—I will never forsake you in any way.’ So then, let us boldly say, ‘*The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?*’” (vs 5-6).

If ISIS comes here and they have their swords and they whack off our head, we’ve made it. Doesn’t matter! ***It doesn’t matter!*** Can you save yourself? *No!*

Here are some Scriptures that you can always go to, to rely upon, and ask God to help you:

Psalms 20:1: “May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble, the name of the God of Jacob set you on high, May He send you help from the sanctuary... [directly from God] ...and strengthen you out of Zion. May He remember all your

offerings and accept your burnt sacrifice. Selah.” (vs 1-3). We can equate that to our prayers today.

Verse 4: “May He grant you according to your own heart and fulfill all your plans. We will shout for joy in your victory, and in the name of our God we will set up banners. May the LORD fulfill all your prayers” (vs 4-5).

I want you to write this down. I haven't covered this for quite a while, but these are the four things we need to remember and keep in mind:

1. *we stand in grace*
2. *we walk by faith*
3. *we believe in hope*
4. *we live in love*

This is how we can face the things that we are going through, and also be prepared for what may come down the road in the future.

Remember, Jesus said, ***‘I will not ever, ever leave you.’***

Scriptural References:

- 1) Psalm 25:17-22
- 2) Psalm 31:1-5
- 3) Psalm 34:14-22
- 4) Psalm 35:1-6
- 5) Psalm 36:1-7
- 6) Job 3:1-7, 21-26
- 7) Job 4:1-9
- 8) Job 5:6-9, 16-22
- 9) Job 6:1-13, 24-30
- 10) Job 7:3-7, 11-16
- 11) Job 30:8-11
- 12) Job 31:1, 9-10, 14-15, 22-23, 33-40
- 13) Job 32:1-10
- 14) Job 34:35-37
- 15) Job 35:1-16
- 16) Job 38:2-6
- 17) Job 40:1-14
- 18) Job 42:1-6
- 19) Psalm 119:49-50, 76-77, 81-88
- 20) 1-Peter 5:6-11
- 21) Romans 5:1-5
- 22) 2-Corinthians 1:1-4
- 23) 2-Thessalonians 2:13, 15-17
- 24) Hebrews 13:5-6
- 25) Psalm 20:1-5

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- 2-Corinthians 11
- Psalms 37, 22

Also referenced: Sermon Series:

- *Obsessed with Sex* (churchathome.org)
- *The Addicted Society*

- *The Love of God*
- *The Grace of God*

FRC:lp  
 Transcribed:8-16-14  
 Formatted: 8-17-14

Copyright 2014—All rights reserved. Except for brief excerpts for review purposes, no part of this publication may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means without the written permission of the copyright owner. This includes electronic and mechanical photocopying or recording, as well as the use of information storage and retrieval systems.