

Tuesday

June 9

LESSON 11 - SETBACKS

Job

When we think of setbacks in the Bible, Job is perhaps the person who first comes to mind. Not only did he lose all his wealth (*Job 1:14-17*), but he also lost his children (*Job 1:18, 19*) and his health (*Job 2:7*). His wife then tried to convince IN A MOMENT OF EMOTIONAL TRAUMA AND UTTER DESPAIR VOICED THE WORDS TO him to curse God and die (*Job 2:9*).

After some time, three friends came to sit with Job. They were so shocked at his appearance

that they sat with him, speechless, for seven days (*Job 2:13*). Eventually, when they spoke, they tried to offer human reasons for why such misfortune had come to Job, but in doing so, they only increased his suffering. Three friends blamed him, saying he must have some hidden sin in his life to repent of (*Job 8, 11, 15*), even saying, " 'Surely such are the dwellings of the wicked, and this is the place of him who does not know God' " (*Job 18:21, NKJV*).

How did Job respond?

Read Job 19:23-27 I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED

and Job 23:8-12. 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*.

ADD MORE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN JOB AND HIS 3
FRIENDS

No matter the tragic events that surrounded him, and the fact that he didn't understand

them, Job remained faithful. He held fast. He didn't blame God or curse Him. Instead, when tempted to blame God, he declared: " 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord' " (*Job 1:21, NKJV*).

YET JOB DID QUESTION GOD AND ASKED FOR ANSWERS TO HIS DILEMA. JOB EXPRESSED IN CLEAR LANGUAGE HIS COMPLETE DISAGREEMENT WITH WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM AND JOB INSISTED ON ANSWERS. AND SO CAN WE. GOD DOES NOT APPRECIATE OR CONDONE IN ANY WAY THE EVIL THAT THE DEVIL HAS BROUGHT TO OUR WORLD, YET GOD HAS TO ALLOW EVIL FOR A TIME IN ORDER TO PRESERVE FREEDOM OF CHOICE AS THIS IS THE FOUNDATION OF HIS GOVERNMENT OF LOVE. JOB'S ABSOLUTE OUTRAGE WITH EVIL MADE HIM A MAN THAT GOD COULD POINT TO AND SAY TO THE DEVIL HAVE YOU CONSIDERED MY SERVANT JOB - PLANET EARTH DOES NOT BELONG TO YOU AS LONG AS THERE ARE MEN AND

WOMEN LIKE JOB WHO FEAR ME AND HATE EVIL. JOB

1:1

We, too, live in the middle of this same battle. Satan afflicts us with pain, suffering, loss, and hardship as part of his plan to distort our picture of a loving God. In such time, we can respond in one of two ways: blame and reject God or cling SURRENDER to Him with all our might. Although the battle rages around us, we must remember that, in light of eternity, our momentary troubles are but temporary trials (*2 Cor. 4:16-18*). There is so much more to the picture than what we see here and now, and one of the great challenges for a believer is to trust God even in the darkest times. God has, in many ways, revealed to us the reality of His love. We must cling to this crucial truth—that of God's love—even when we might not at the moment sense it.

CLOSING THOUGHT

If you are in the middle of a difficult time right now, run to God. Take your Bible and a notebook and be with God outside in nature. Copy down Romans 5:3-5 and reflect on the different messages in this passage, believing that God's love and care for you is the surest and most stable factor in your life.

Job-Prophetic Parallels

1. Job means hated -Strong's #H347; Matthew 24:9.
2. Job is perfect - Job 1:1; Revelation 10:7 mystery of God finished
3. Job does not see himself as perfect - Job 9:20; Daniel 10:8.
4. Job is a prayer warrior - Job 1:5; Daniel 6.
5. Job is the only one on planet earth who truly represents God - Job 1:7, 8; Revelation 14:12; 17:1.
6. Job is accused by the devil - Job 1:9-11; Revelation 12:10.
7. Job is called and chosen to faithfully vindicate Gods character - Job 1:12; Revelation 17:14.
8. Job loses his economic security - Job 1:14-17; Revelation 13:16, 17.
9. Job's life is impacted by the devil's use of natural disasters - Job 1:16; Luke 21:11.
10. Job's life is impacted by the three-fold attack of the Chaldeans (Babylonians) - Job 1:17; Revelation 16:13, 19.
11. Job's life is threatened - Job 2:3, 4; Revelation 13:15.
12. Job has to hold unto the faith of Jesus - Job 1:21, 22; Revelation 14:12.
13. Job's wife is called out of confusion - Job 2:10; Revelation 18:1-4.

14. Job's friends become his worst enemies - Job 13:4; 16:2; Matthew 24:10-12.
15. Job gains a clearer understanding of righteousness by faith - Job 40:4, 5; 42:4, 5; Revelation 14:6-12.
16. Job is delivered from a sea beast and a land beast- Job 41:1; 40:15; Revelation 15:2-4.
17. Job is given an inspired messenger to help him - Job 32:8; Revelation 12:17; 19:10.
18. Job sees a fuller Revelation of God's glory - Job 38-42; Revelation 1:10-18.
19. Job has everything he lost restored to him - Job 42:11-17; Revelation 21:1-5.