INTRODUCTION:

A.-Our World:

1-"This toy looks very complicated for a child," said a mother to a salesman in a store.
"It is an educational toy, designed to adjust a child to live in the world today," the clerk explained. "Any way you put it together, IT'S WRONG."!

Many today do not know what to think of life. Any way it is put together, it seems wrong. THRILLS do not answer the inner longing of the soul. THINGS do not satisfy. The THEORIES of man do not meet the inner need.

2-Ernest Hemmingway, a suicide, said:
"Life is just a dirty trick, a short journey from nothingness to nothingness. There is no remedy for anything in life. Man's destiny in the universe is like a colony of ants on a burning log."

3-Trials and unresolved troubles are all around us in others

4-WE, professed Christians, face them also!!

B.-Our Responses:

1-What are our responses??--Victory ?
--"More than conquerors"?
--Discouragement ?
--Defeat ? ?!

2-What should our responses be ??
--Rom. 5:3--"And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience."
---When the Confederate army retreated after Gettysburg, Gen. Lee wrote to Jefferson Davis a remarkable letter in which he said:
"We must expect reverses, even defeats. They are sent to teach us wisdom & prudence, to call forth greater energies, & to prevent our falling into greater disasters".

True of a nation's life, this is also profoundly true of the life of the individual. And what shall we say of sickness, sorrow, & affliction? Shall these things overwhelm us, or shall we be able to say, with that great apostle Paul who kept both his soul and his body under the dominion of a great and holy purpose, "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us." (Rom. 8:37)?

Q- 3-But what do we do when discouragement comes??
--It has come in the PAST
--It is here in the PRESENT
--It will come again in the FUTURE

4-We need to know how to react
=WHEN WE FEEL DISCOURAGED

5-PROP: Nothing more effectually cripples achievement than discouragement, but God has an effective cure for discouragement !! (2)

6-INT: What is God's effective cure for discouragement ??

7-Trans: Let's look first at...

I.-JOB'S TIME OF DISCOURAGEMENT:

A.-What Were Job's Problems??:

1-Source was from Satan, as a "target" of his accusations
2-Allower--God let Satan attack WITHIN LIMITS
--God supervised this whole scene, though this was not seen or understood by Job
--Nothing occurred beyond the limitations imposed by our Sovereign God
--Remember, it was God who drew attention to His righteous servant, Job, in the first place
3-Details of Job's problems:
(a) Satan's accusations before God--Job is a "HIRELING"
(b) Circumstances of family & fortune destroyed
(c) Job's body diseased
(d) Job's wife fails to encourage as a helpmeet should
(e) Friends prove to be "miserable comforters"
4-Edward B. Pusey--"God does not take away trials or carry us over them, but strengthens us through them."
5-Before we "THROW IN THE TOWEL" at such overwhelming problems, perhaps we need to remember Bernard Gilpin....

Englishman * Bernard Gilpin, accused of heresy before Bishop Bonner, set out for London for trial. His favorite maxim was, "ALL THINGS ARE FOR THE BEST." On his journey, he broke his leg. "Is all for the best now?" jested a scorner. "I still believe so," replied Gilpin.
And so it proved, for before he was able to resume his journey to London, Queen Mary died. And instead of going to London to be tried and burned at the stake, he returned home in triumph.

B.-What Was Job's Perdicament?:

1-Aftermath of "all Job's problems" was DISCOURAGEMENT !
2-Despondency due to circumstances
--Read Job 2:11-13 — "SLOW to speak"
--Note "AFTER THIS" of Job 3:1
--Read Job 3:1-26
--No wonder Job was dejected
3-Job asks W H Y??--Knows his times are in God's hands,
--B U T.....
--He can't understand W H Y the righteous suffer
--Fear of the unknown future presses him
--Curses the day of his birth and all the days thereafter
** --BUT he does not speak against God

5-These reactions are not rational, but they may be looked at as being "N O R M A L", for many a person has experienced the "down" of discouragement when it was not expected.
6-BEWARE of great successes, for discouragement may not be very long in arriving.

C-Discouragement In Times Of Fatigue:

1-Fatigue--Of body
--Of mind
--Of ability to sustain yourself under the continuing pressures
2-Few people are always "UP"
3-It is doubtful that any of us is "TOTALLY SANE". Are we not all a little "off balance" at some times ??
--Cycles have their "up" times
--Cycles have their "down" times
--Our attitudes vary from day to day----and even from hour to hour !!
4-Tired bodies and minds are especially vulnerable
5-ILLUS--Elijah after victory on Mt Carmel (1 Kings 18) and his run to Samaria (1 Kings 19), and he is then "WIPED OUT" by a threat from Queen Jezebel, though it had no immediate reality.
6-EugeneFields, considered to be one of America's greatest columnists, told about a dark hour in his life. That morning he stepped into the Editor's office. "There will be no column this morning: **I'm quitting**."
The Editor studied him a moment, and then bracing himself, said quite casually. "Gene, "I've got a printer downstairs who three months ago lost his wife and this morning he has three children down with scarlet fever, and he's not quitting."
EUGENE FIELDS STAYED on the job.
7-Though we do tire of our tasks, let us not quit----even when we face...

D-DISCOURAGEMENT IN TIMES OF UNBROKEN LABOR:

1-Long-Haul experiences--**Care** for a sick or aged one
--Job with no days off (farmer; railroad
--**Rescue operations** as with Jessica MacClure in a Texas well for 58 hours.
--Much overtime required for a rush job
--**Church building** program that goes on "forever"
--Stress
2-We can take only SO MUCH !!
3-Then the accumulation can bring a breakdown
--Physically
--Emotionally
--Interpersonally
--ILLUS--Lou with Mrs. K. MANY TRIALS. "What's that I hear ?" Lou replied, "It's just me banging my head against the wall."------"I'm not surprised", replied Mrs. K.

8-Spurgeon: "However cheerful we may be, we are at times cast down. The strong are not always vigourous, the wise are not always ready, the brave not always courageous the joyous not always happy. Here and there men of iron may exist, to whom wear & tear work no perceptible detriment, but surely the rust frets even them. And as for ordinary men. the Lord knows----and causes them to know---that they are dust." (Sermon on Discouragement)

9-ILLUS--During W. W. II there was one of the strangest incidents of war that I have ever heard about. A serviceman was arrested, tried and imprisoned for being a DISCOURAGER He struck no blow for the enemy; he was not disloyal to the country; he was just a DISCOURAGER at a very critical time.

The fate of his company hung in the balance. He would go along the lines and say discouraging words to the men on duty. His court martial adjudged it A CRIME to speak disheartening words in a time of crisis, and so he was sentenced to a years imprisonment.

10-That reminds me of an old allegory about the devil once deciding to go out of business, so he sold all his tools. They were all attractively displayed--TRICKERY, Hatred, envy, JEALOUSY, Malice, deceit, SENSUALITY, and many other evil tools----each marked with a price.

But in the center was a wedge-shaped, much-worn tool, priced much higher than all the others. "What is that?" Satan was asked. "THAT IS DISCOURAGEMENT" he replied.

"But why is it so costly?" And Satan replied, "Because it can do all my evil work so much better than all the other tools combined. With it I can make the lives of many of God's choice people of no worth whatever. I can make them lie down and just "GIVE UP" completely, and when DISCOURAGEMENT IS WEDGED INTO their lives, they become useless ------and they don't even stop to realize that I AM THE ONE who has used this tool so effectively on them."

11-As Job's discouragement crippled his effectiveness, so does discouragement tend to cripple us also.

II.-OUR TIMES OF DISCOURAGEMENT:

A.-Discouragement In Times Of Success:

1-Cherished dreams fulfilled--A wedding day
--A child born (Post-Partum depress.
--A new home — MORTGAGE/REPAIRS
--A Church building completed
--A business deal consummated
--A 50th wedding anniversary

2-BUOYANT exaltation of flesh & spirit

3-Spurgeon--"Human nature cannot bear such strains as heavenly triumph bring to it. Reaction must come. Excess of joy or excitement must be paid for by subsequent depression." (Sermon on Discouragement)

4-ILLUS--Jonah after Nineveh has turned to God as he sits in the sun mourning the loss of his gourd. Such a little thi

4-If we do not have REST.... NB!
We will have FAILURE !!
--God knows this & His will includes divine provisions for "break time"
--SABBATH each week for Jewish believers' bodies under Mosaic Law
--Ex. 20:8-11
--Other sabbaths also----Each 7th year for the land
--Year of Jubilee every 50th
--Christ's call to His disciples:
Mk. 6:31--"Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place and rest a while..."
--We also need to "COME APART" before we come apart !!

5-Pressing demands--They will always press
--Must be occasionally laid aside !!
** Beasts of burden put out to pasture
** Fisherman must mend his nets
** Bodies & spirits need to be rejuvenated

6-We must learn that REST TIME is not LOST TIME, but it is necessary to gathering fresh strenth.
In the long run, we accomplish MORE by sometimes doing LESS !!

7-Moses experienced the discouragement of unbroken labor
--Num. 11:10-15
--WEARY of the load of leadership
--God's answer then was the help by others sharing in the work load (11:16-30)

8-Spurgeon adds a "balancing word":
"We are not to be living specimens of finely preserved men, but living sacrifices whose lot is to be consumed. We are to spend and be spent, not to lay ourselves up in lavendar and nurse our flesh."

9-God help us to know when to LABOR ON, and when to COME APART, for tomorrow we may well face...

B.-Discouragement In Times Of Crisis:

1-One-by-one, the stresses take their toll
2-Sometimes they come singly---and sometimes "IN BUNCHES"
--These are especially draining
--These take a lot out of us
--These require extra grace during their occurrence
--These also require some respite for recovery
3-OVERWHELMING CRISES--"Black Monday" on Wall Street (Oct. 19, 1987)
--Death of a close loved one: (Parent/Child/Spouse/Friend)
--Divorce
--Job loss
--Surgery for cancer
4-Biblical examples also
--Demas--The one who turned from walking with the Lord and serving alongside Paul to living a carnal life.
--Alexander--The coppersmith who did Paul much evil.

--Hymanaeus--Who put away the faith he had professed, and made a shipwreck of his life

--Discipline cases, as with morals in the Corinthian Church or failure to support oneself as in the Thessalonian congregation----these had to be faced with the sinfulness of their deeds

5-Christians do experience these problems and discouragements today also!!

--Part of the human lot

--Believers are not exempt

--ILLUS--Paul in 2 Cor. 2:16--"...and who is sufficient for these things?"

--Reply given in 2 Cor. 3:5-6--"Not that we are sufficent of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficency is of God; Who hath made us able ministers of the N.T...."

6-Many years ago a young midwestern lawyer suffered such deep depression that his friends thought it wise to keep all knives and razors from him. During this time he wrote:

"I am now the most miserable man living. Whether I shall ever be better, I cannot tell. I awfully forebode I shall not."

He was wrong. He did recover and went on to become one of America's most loved and respected presidents----ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

7-Since nothing more effectually cripples achievement than does discouragement, we need to know...

III.-GOD'S CURE FOR DISCOURAGEMENT:

A.-Problems When Discouragement Comes:

1-Searching for REASONS as to punishment of God for sins committed--Never punitive when chastisement comes

--Always remedial to restore to fellowship

2-Attention of God--Onto our problems

--Onto our selves

--DISTRACTED from the One Who is our sustenance and supply.

3-Complaining: "W H Y did this have to happen to ME !!"

--Part of being human

--Job 5:7--"Yet man is born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward."

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

--Rest in the confidence of Ps. 18:30--"As for God, His way is perfect..."

** He knows

** He cares

** He supplies

4-Dejection that life is not worth living sometimes comes:

--Health problems seem insurmountable

--Job difficulties have no relief

--Personal relationships are disintegrating

--Children are a heartbreak.....etc....

5-DESPAIR !!---NO HELP received--From God
--From friends
--From Christians
--From family
--From anyone or any where??

6-Charles W. Morton, an Atlantic Monthly editor, once told of the Harvard freshman who came to Dean Briggs' office to explain his tardiness in handing in an assignment.

"I am sorry, sir, but I was not feeling very well," he explained.

"Young man," Briggs replied, "please bear in mind that by far the greater part of the world's work is carried on by people who are not feeling very well."

B.-QUESTION: Is There A Cure For Discouragement?:

1-This question comes to the mind of all of us on some occasions.
--Sometimes only in thought, not verbalized
--Not infrequently it is also voiced
2-Valid question-----"IS THERE A CURE ??"
3-Needs an answer !!
4-Need to look for help in the right places:
---Ps. 20:7-9--"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God. They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen and stand upright. Save, LORD: let the king hear us when we call."
--No help when we look to "straws" that are inadequate
--"...but we are risen and stand upright." (Ps. 20:8)

C.-ANSWER:---Yes, There Is A Cure For Discouragement: 4 WORDS!

1-"CALL"--Ps. 120:1--"In my distress, I cried unto the LORD, and He heard me."
--Ps. 18:6--"In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: He heard my voice out of His temple, and my cry came before Him, even into His ears."
--Jer. 33:3--"Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."
--Go to the One Who always hears and is capable of ANSWERING you
--"...but we will remember the name of the LORD our God." (Ps. 20:7)

2-"CAST"--Ps. 55:22--"Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and He shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."
--Ps. 37:5--"Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass."
--1 Pet. 5:7--"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you."
--And after you have cast your cares upon your God, then LEAVE THEM WITH HIM !!
--Don't pick them up again !!
--Luke 12:19--34 as aftermath leads to another word

READ

3-"SEEK" --Lk. 12:31
--"Covet earnestly"; "Strive after"; "Endeavor"
--PRIORITIZE your life and its actions
--First things get first efforts
--Lesser things will fall in line eventually
--Get lined up with God's plans for your life

4-"WAIT" --In context of Luke 12 in 12:36
--God is not often on our timetable
--We must adjust to His
** For the coming of the Lord
** For solutions to our questions & problems
--WAIT on God, and on His timing — BOTH!

CONCLUSION:

A.-Resume:

I.-Kinds Of Problems That Lead To Discouragement:
A.-Times of SUCCESS
B.-Times of fatigue
C.-Times of UNBROKEN LABOR
D.-Times of crisis

II.-Steps To The Cure Of Discouragement:
A.-CALL
B.-Cast
C.-SEEK
D.-Wait

B.-Application:

1-Whatever the problems of life are which you face (now or later)...Make them STEPPING STONES to Christ and the victory He makes possible

2-Examples --Job did this, as we will see in our next message
--Elijah did in the wilderness of Horeb
--Jonah wrote his little record, and it seems likely he did find victory in the Lord, or he would never have shared his frustration with us.
--Paul did, repeatedly
** --YOU can also !! **

3-Remember our proposition:

Nothing more effectively cripples achievement than does discouragement, but God has an effective cure for discouragement: "CALL"
"CAST"
"SEEK"
"WAIT"

3/10/10 ~ Harper Heights Bapt. Ch

"WHEN PROBLEMS OVERWHELM US" Job 2:11--41:34

1

INTRODUCTION:

A.-A Modern Example:

1-ILLUS--A young man was trying to establish himself as a peach grower. He had worked hard and invested his all in a peach orchard which blossomed wonderfully---THEN CAME A FROST.

He did not go to church the next Sunday, nor the next, nor the next. His Pastor went to see him to find the reason. The young man exclaimed: "I'm not coming any more. Do you think I can worship a God who cares so little for me that he will let a frost kill all of my peaches?"

The old Pastor looked at him a few minutes in silence, then said,"God loves you better than He does your peaches. He knows that while peaches do better without frosts, it is impossible to grow the best men without frosts. God's object is to GROW MEN, not peaches."

2-God has purposes for our lives which go much beyond the mere growing of peaches

3-God is growing MEN and WOMEN to have deep roots in His grace

B.-An Ancient Example:

1-Job--a REAL Man
a REMARKABLE Man
a RESPECTED Man
a RIGHTEOUS Man
a REFINED Man.....seen in Job 1:1--12

2-Yet, this kind of man had to learn patience by the things which he suffered
--Satanic attack thru accusations (1:6-12)
--Satanic attack thru circumstances (1:13-22
--Satanic attack thru Job's own body (2:1-8)
--Satanic attack thru Job's wife (2:9-10)

3-WHEN PROBLEMS OVERWHELM US, we are tempted to ask these 4 questions:
W H Y ??
WHY ME ??
Why NOW ??
Why HERE ??

4-Years ago the Sunday School Times carried a short little item:

"Sometimes we are helped by being hurt. A skilled physician about to perform a delicate operation upon the ear said reassuringly, "I MAY HURT YOU, BUT I WILL NOT INJURE YOU."

"How often the Great Physician speaks to us the same message, if we would only listen! Richer life, more abundant health for every child of His is His purpose. Why defeat that purpose??"

5-PROP: We need to learn that WHEN PROBLEMS OVERWHELM US, God is there to undergird us!!

PROPOSITION

6-Let's see how that "WHY" is clarified in Job's experiences: for his good and ours

(2)

I.-Satanic Attack Through Job's Friends ...and...

II.-Satanic Attack Through Discouragment.

I.-SATANIC ATTACK THROUGH JOB'S FRIENDS:

1-Job 2:11-13--They heard of his plight & they came

A: Why Job's friends Came

--Came to SYMPATHIZE &
stayed to CRITICIZE

--Express purposes: (2:13)
** To mourn with him
** to comfort him

--Friends did not even recognize him, for his appearance was already so altered !!

Radically altered!

B. What Job's Friends Saw:

1. What his friends saw:
   - They came; commendable
   - They prayed & wept; commendable
   - They sat with Job; commendable (Ezek. 3:15)
     - ;; There is a comfort to be drawn from the PRESENCE of friends
   - But "none spake a word unto him — 7 days of SILENCE!
     - ** That's NOT commendable
     - ** Presence is needed
     - ** But also WORDS of comfort are desperately needed!
     - ** May not be eloquent words, but they are healing salve to broken hearts
   - Friends FAILED JOB in his time of need.

C. What Job's Friends Said:

1. ELIPHAZ
   - From Teman down in EDOM
   - Religious dogmatist — A "Know-it-all"
   - Argues from experience & from facts
   - Concludes that Job is a SECRET SINNER suffering Divine chastizement
   - 4:7-9
   - FINE FRIEND Eliphaz is !!
   - Advice---5:17-19 (6:10)
   - Only trouble is that JOB ISN'T GUILTY of secret sin

Say "I CARE" if you know no other words.

2. BILDAD
   - Traditionalist in his approach--8:8-10
   - Shorter speech & rougher language--------8:6, 20
   - Implication is clear as it appears in Bildad's eyes
     - ** Since Job is afflicted
     - ** He cannot be a righteous man
     - ** Really he sees Job as a HYPOCRITE (8:13)
   - Another "FINE FRIEND" and comforter

ANSWER
- Job agrees in principle that he is not righteous in his own right (9:1, 20)
- However Job does insist that his life is DIFFERENT from that of the wicked (9:29)
- Heart cry of Job is of his desire for a MEDIATOR (9:32-33)
- Acknowledges himself a creature of the Creator (10:7-12)
- DISCOURAGEMENT begins to set in
  - ** 10:18-22
  - ** We'll come back to this "tool of the devil"in more detail
  - ** TROUBLE sets in "with a vengeance" when we begin to ask "W H Y" ???

3. ZOPHAR
   - Moralist who assumes he knows all about God
   - Believes in salvation by MERIT
   - Accuses Job of being a liar (11:2-4)
   - Says: "Be grateful you've not gotten what you REALLY DESERVE" (11:5-6)
   - A real comfort!.....I can do without that kind, and so could Job!
   - Wants Job to REPENT of his sins of omission & walk the straight & narrow (11:13-15)
   - JOB REALLY STRIKES BACK
     - ** 12:1-2
     - ** Words full of IRONY

II. THE FURTHER ROUNDS OF ATTACK

A. More Of The Same!

** Without boasting Job states that he also has a measure of insight into spiritual truth (4)
** 12:3; 13:1-3
** What he thinks of these miserable comforters is clear (13:4-5, 13)
** HIS FAITH STILL STANDS (13:15-16) "Here I STAND"!

1- Second round & then a third (Ch. 15—21 & 22—31) go over MORE OF THE SAME - Accusations by friends — Same Song, Second + Third verses
Answers by Job

2- Elihu comes along (Chs. 32—37)
--Attentive listener to all the former discourses
--Young man who hesitates to thrust himself into the debate
32:10
--Eventually discovers that wisdom is not always the possession of seniors & scholars
--Elihu condemns Job, saying he's labeling God as UNJUST (32:2)
--Elihu condemns the 3 friends because they charge Job with hypocrisy (32:3-5)
--Then Elihu gives witness to God's greatness in creation & goodness in revelation — Chs. 32-37
--TREMENDOUS ANSWERS to both the 3 friends & to Job

B. 3- GOD FINALLY SPEAKS - He answers (for, on behalf of) Job in 38:1

2- Accuses Elihu of darkening counsel by words without knowledge (38:2)

Chapter 38

3- Tremendous discourse on CREATION
--In it God is revealing Himself
--Well worth detailed study

4- It is notable that in this discourse (Chs. 38—41), the Almighty gives no explanation of Job's sufferings, renders no decision as to who "WINS" the debate, & offers no hint of compensation to Job for his experience of suffering

5 --However, God does show that His dealings with Job are BEYOND CRITICISM (40:6-9)

C. Friends --Miserable comforters
--More hurt than help

1 --Old Benjamin Franklin, noted for his wisdom, said: "There are 3 FAITHFUL FRIENDS----an old wife, an old dog and ready money."

2 But the time in life comes when a person needs a FRIEND with far more than what "an old wife, an old dog and ready money" have to offer!!

3 --Solomon, the wisest man of O. T. days wrote: Prov. 17:17--"A friend loveth at all times and a brother is born for adversity."
** Not just in times of ease or good
** But also in difficult days
** That brings a distinguishing of the REAL FRIEND from the fair-weather friend
** Neither life nor death can separate us from a real friend

4- -Prov. 18:24--"A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh c closer than a brother."

** Principle of friendship is: REACH OUT !! Don't SIT & WAIT

** Bless the Lord, there is One Who never fails as a Friend when we are in need

** Jesus never fails !!!

** What a friend we have in JESUS

5- -Biblical example of FRIENDSHIP--1 Sam. 18:1-4; 20:4; 23:15-16 Jonathan to David

--Oh, for friends like that

--Oh, TO BE SUCH A FRIEND

6- --Job surely had "friends" who were used of the Devil to bring tests into his life

--We, as modern believers, may well find some of our severe tests come thru our "friends" also

7- --Let's be careful we don't become part of the band of JOB'S COMFORTERS instead of being TRUE FRIENDS

CONCLUSION:

A.-Problems Of Job:

1-In our previous message--Satan's accusations
--Family & financial circumstances
--His own body's ills
--His wife's breakdown

2-In this message--Friends' failure to comfort him
--Discouragement

3-Olden days // Modern days // MUCH THE SAME !!

4-Eccles. 1:9--"The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun."

B.-Promises For Believers:

1-Why are these records in the Bible??
--Rom. 15:3--"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."
--Learn from E X A M P L E S in God's record

2-Another good way to learn
--Learn from PRECEPTS or PRINCIPLES
--1 Pet. 5:7--"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you."
--Answers the question of HOW TO DEAL with our problems?
--Tells us where to go when the problems overwhelm us!!

3-Repeat of PROP: We need to learn that WHEN PROBLEMS OVERWHELM US, God is there to undergird us !!
"Where could I go but to the LORD"?

C.-Closing Point:

1-ILLUS--W. W. Weeks has written that:
Years ago a fishing fleet went out from a small harbor on the East Coast of Newfoundland. In the afternoon there came up a great storm. When night settled down not a single vessel of all the fleet had found its way into port. All night long wives, mothers, children and sweethearts paced up and down the beach, wringing their hands and calling on God to save their loved ones. To add to the horror of the situation one of the cottages caught on fire. Since the men were all away, it was impossible to save the home.

When the morning broke, to the joy of all, the entire fleet found safe harbor in the bay. But there was one face which was a picture of despair---the wife of the man whose home had been destroyed. Meeting her husband as he landed, she cried, "OH, HUSBAND, WE ARE RUINED! OUR HOME AND ALL IT CONTAINED WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE."

But the man exclaimed, "THANK GOD FOR THE FIRE!! It was the light of our burning cottage that guided the whole fleet into port."

2-Without doubt, it is a serious problem to lose a home and all of its contents...

3-BUT, that loss was the means of saving lives of many--- including the life of the man who lost his home.

4-When problems threaten to overwhelm us, let us look to our Heavenly Friend for His grace to sustain us in our time of need. Father +

5-Hymn #38[illegible]--"What A Friend We Have In Jesus"

6/11/72--Westbree
10/18/87--O.K.B.C.
12/13/09-Hilltop Bapt.
3/15/10-Harper Heights Bapt. Ch.

1-#73--"Look To The Lamb Of God"
2-#496--"Jesus Never Fails"
3-#483--Take The Name Of Jesus With You"
4-#38[illegible]--"What A Friend We Have In Jesus"

INTRODUCTION:

A.-REACH: Forward

Larry Richards: "It's easy to trust God as long as things are going well, or at least as long as we think we can understand why something difficult is happening. But we cannot always know life's whys. And God's purposes in our lives are often hidden

This is why Job is a book of deep personal value. It helps us confront God as mystery and come to the place where we are willing to trust ourselves blindly to Him. Blind as to WHY, but not blind as to WHOM." (Let Day Begin P. 243.)

HE MAKETH NO MISTAKE!

My Father's way may twist and turn,
My heart may throb and ache,
But in my soul I'm glad I know
He maketh no mistake!
My cherished plans may go astray,
My hopes may fade away;
But still I'll trust my Lord to lead,
For He doth know the way.
There's so much now I cannot see,
My eyesight's far too dim;
But come what may, I'll simply trust
And leave it all to Him.
For by and by the mist will lift,
And plain it all He'll make,
Through all the way though dark to me
He made not one mistake!

—A.M.Overton

B.-REVIEW: Backward

1-Job was a PERSON--A real man
--A remarkable man
--A respected man
--A righteous man
--A refined man
--Confirmed by both Ezekiel & James

2-Job was a man who had PROBLEMS:
--Satan's accusations as to why he served God
--Calamitous circumstances in loss of family & fortun
--Physical body became diseased
--Wife became a trial instead of a helpmeet
--Friends became miserable comforters
--Discouragement set in

3-God has shown us answers--(a) CALL upon God
(b) CAST cares upon Him
(c) SEEK Him first in all things
(d) WAIT for deliverance

4-Job's life is recorded as a SAMPLE OF LIFE for us to learn from

C.-REWARD: Ahead

1-True, God does allow problems into our lives
2-BUT, He does have A PURPOSE in them, and He will be with us all the way in them!
3-Blessing will be brought in the end if we walk faithfully day by day
4-PROP: Adversity brings profit to believers who are right with God.!!
5-Int: How can adversity bring profit to God's faithful ones?
6-Trans: Let us look first at

I.-ADVERSITY'S PROFIT TO JOB HIMSELF: (Job 42:1-6)

A.-JOB'S ADMISSION:

1-His view of God is greatly enlarged
2-42:1-2a--OMNIPOTENCE
--Connection back to Chapters 40 & 41 where "The LORD answereth Job" (40:1)
** "Behold now behemoth" (40:15)
** "Canst thou draw out leviathon?" (41:1)
--Reminds of LK. 1:37--"For with God nothing shall be impossible."
--Anticipates Eph. 3:20--"Now unto Him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."
3-42:2b--OMNISCIENCE
--All thought & Knowledge is His
4-Job has previously heard of Jehovah--42:5a Information
--Not an eyewitness at creation or thru the centuries
5-Now Job SEES Jehovah--42:5b Acquaintance
--Silences Job's arguing
--Deepens Job's awe
--Thrills his soul with a grand perspective
6-Delitzsch: "...the final teaching of the book is not that God's rule demands faith before everything else; the final teaching is, that sufferings are for the righteous man the way to glory, and that his faith is the way to sight."

B.-JOB'S CONTRITION:

1-His view of himself is dramatically changed!
2-He acknowledges that he has spoken out of incomplete knowledge in his discourses (42:3). Admits he has FLUNKED his Biology Exam---as challenged by Jehovah
3-Asks humbly to be heard by God (42:4)
4-When Job FULLY SEES GOD, then he also ACCURATELY SEES HIMSELF (42:5)

5-Result is 42:6---"I despise myself"
6-SCOFIELD NOTE: "Brought into the presence of God, Job is revealed to himself. IN no sense a hypocrite, but Godly and possessing a faith which in all his afflictions could not shake. Job was yet self-righteous and lacking in humility." (P. 597)
7-Sick of his own self-righteousness
--Isa. 6:5--"Then I said, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."
--Luke 5:8--When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

C.-JOB'S REACTION:

1-REPENTANCE !! (42:6)
--Change of mind issuing in a change of life
--Job cannot be the same as he was before
--"in dust and ashes" ; Expression of self-depreciation (Gen. 1827)
--The confession of Job is the confession of every converted man !
2-His repentance is not of the sins his friends accused him of, but of the wrong attitude he has had at the loss of family and wealth and health
3-Affliction brings him to himself and judgment of what has been wrong in his life. SO there is a PURIFYING EFFECT from his trials
4-Ps. 119:71--"It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes."
5-J. N. Darby:
"...if God had stopped short in the outward afflictions, Job would have had fresh cause for self-complacency. Man might have judged that those afflictions were ample. But the evil of Job's heart consisted in his resting on the fruits of grace in himself, and this would have only increased the good opinion he had already entertained of himself; kind in prosperity, he would have been also patient in adversity. God therefore carries on His work, that Job may know himself." (Synopsis of the Books of the Bible, II, P. 31)
6-Job humbled.....can be BLESSED !!

D.-NOTICE:

1-No explanations are given to Job for his experience of suffering and loss
2-No insight into his sufferings is recorded here by Job in his autobiography
3-Viewed as "A PART OF LIFE" as God leads His dear children along.
4-Now Job has become willing to trust the Sovereign God, whose ways are perfect (Ps. 18:30), even though he does not understand everything.

5-Indeed; ADVERSITY has profited Job himself---and we'll see.

II.-ADVERSITY'S PROFIT TO JOB'S FRIENDS: (Job 42:7-10)

A.-VINDICATION OF JOB BY GOD: (42:7-8)

1-God has not overlooked the content & spirit of the speeches of the three "friends"
- --Eliphaz is addressed by name as the eldest and leader
- --Anger against all 3--"WRATH"
- --Elihu is not included, because his exhortations were less condemnatory of Job

2-Reason for God's displeasure:
- a--They have accused Job
- b--They have not vindicated God
- c--They failed to defend the "right" or "correct" things which God was doing
- d--They did not understand, yet they spoke!!
- e--By insisting that suffering is retributive, the three friends were limiting God's sovereign ability to use suffering for other purposes. As a result, they cruelly indicted Job, who was innocent

3-God does **vindicate Job**
- --Commendation in calling Job "my servant Job" (1:8; 2:3; 42:7, 8)
- --Indicates that Job spoke "the right"
- --Makes it clear that these 3 who ACCUSED Job must now ask for his intercession for them before God

4-Blood sacrifices required:
- --Required of the 3 friends
- --7 bullocks & 7 rams-----E X P E N S I V E !!
- --Similar to those Balaam prescribed to Balak (Num. 23:2-29) PRE-LAW date of Job is thus indicated
- --Why these sacrifices??
  - * Leon J. Wood: "Sacrifices prescribed by God always prefigured the great coming Sacrifice, Christ Himself. These animals could not atone for sin, but they pointed ahead to Him Who could & would atone." (RBPress on Job, P. 78)
  - ** These men were to come to forgiveness of their sins only after prefiguring Christ's death in their place
  - ** Not their salvation, but their RESTORATION to fellowship is involved.

B.-TRANSFORMATION OF FRIENDS: (42:9)

1-Humbling of these 3--"Went and did according as the LORD commanded them"
- --OBEDIENCE is essential

2-And OBEDIENCE brings about CHANGE in these who thought that they "knew it all"

3-Forgiveness had to be **given** them and **received** by them

4-"WILL YOU FORGIVE ME" must be responded to

5-Actually produces change in both--The forgiven one, and
- --The forgiver also

6-God has His way of making things right eventually (5)

C.-INTERCESSION AS JOB PRAYS: (42:10)

1-"My servant Job shall **pray for you**; for **him will I accept**"
- --God requires that they ask for Job's prayer (42:8)
- --God requires recipients of forgiveness to pray for **OTHERS**
- --Three friends never once prayed for Job

NB ✱

2-Job as a praying man
- --Prayed for his family (Job 1:5)
- --Pattern of his life to do so continually
- -Now he prays for those who badgered and condemned him
- -Mt. 5:44--"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."

3-Job had longed for a MEDIATOR between himself and God (16:19-21) since his three countrymen were not interceding for him; but ironically he himself becomes a mediator for them, even though they did not ask for one

4-GREAT INTERCESSOR
- --Abraham for Sodom (Gen. 18)
- --Samuel for the nation (1 Sam. 12:23)
- --Daniel in captivity for Israel (Dan.9)
- --Ezra (Ch. 9) and Nehemiah (Ch.9) in the return from the Babylonian captivity & seeking revival among the covenant people
- ✱-**Climax** of a life that is well-pleasing to God is to become an Intercessor

NB

5-42:10-**Culmination** of Job's experience of trial is that he turns his problem into a ministry for **OTHERS** as an Intercessor
- -Probably relief from his own physical problems came as he prayed for them & got his eyes off of himself only

6-Change in Job----"the LORD also **accepted Job**" (42:9)

7-Adversity has had its **profit**
- --To Job
- --To Job's friends
- -And now, also....

III.-ADVERSITY'S PROFIT TO JOB'S FAMILY: (42:10b-17)

A.-The UNANSWERED QUESTIONS: (42:11)

1-Where have these folks been??
- --All his brethren
- --All his sisters
- -All that had been of his acquaintance before

2-WHY do they come to Job now?
- -Problems are past
- -"On the mend" now

3-**No answers** are given to these questions

4-**FORSAKEN** in his time of need

5-But they stream back now that the tide has changed.

B.-THE UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS:

1-Interest of relatives
- They came
- They ate
- They bemoaned (=="consoled" NASB)
- They comforted
- Seemed to **impugn God** about Job's trials
- Contribution of money & golden rings
- RYRIE--"Such presents were customarily given when visiting an important person, especially after a calamity." (Ryrie Study Bible, P. 797)
- Perhaps this is the precident for the CHINESE CUSTOM of a gift of money at a funeral

2-Restoration of property
- **TWICE AS MUCH**--42:10c
- Property ** 7000/ 14000 sheep (wool, meat, sacrifices)
  ** 3000/ 6000 camels (transportation for caravans)
  ** 500/ 1000 yoke of oxen (field labor)
  ** 500/ 1000 she-asses (riding by family & as beasts of burden)
- **Tokens of** God's **grace**, not obligations of His justice
- H O W ?? ** Perhaps original stock purchased with the money given by friends & relatives (42:11)
  ** Probably the increase occurred over a period of time through management & breeding
- "**TWICE as much**" according to God's promise **42:10**

3-Restoration of **family** (42:13-16)
- Relief over loss of 7 sons & 3 daughters is given to some degree by birth of **7 more** sons & **3 more** daughters
- No word if these were borne by MRS. JOB of 2:9-10, or if by a subsequent wife
- **TEN** children already in heaven (1:19)
- Leon J. Wood--"Children who have died are not lost to us as animals are." (Quarterly, P. 127
- **TEN MORE** children are now born to Job
- **D O U B L E** what he had before
- **Sons** are numbered, but not named (42:13)
- Daughters are numbered & their **NICKNAMES** (what Job called them) are given (42:14)
  ** Jemima=="DOVE"; fair as the day
  ** Kezia == "CINAMMON"; aromatic accacia bark
  ** Keren-Happuch == "DARK EYES"; Horn for keeping eye-paint
  ** Very fair and beautiful women (42:15a)
- INHERITANCE for daughters ** **Equal** with their brothers
  ** Very **unusual** provision
  ** Generally only for the sons
  ** Therefore these girls would be desired both for their beauty and for their dowery
- These daughters must have been the source of unusual joy to Job.

4-Elongation of life (42:16-17)
--140 more years after these trials
--Lived to see 4 generations of his progeny
*--LONG LIFE:
** Perhaps 70 to 80 years old at the time of the trials described in this portion of Scripture
** Jewish tradition says 140 years of further life granted Job were TWICE the number of his previous life
** If so, then the doubling extended ++ To property
++ To progeny
++ To perpetuation
** JOY of life's extension to observe his family as they walked with God after Job's example
** Death came when he was "full of days" (42:17)

5-Privilege of writing his (AUTOBIOGRAPHY) for us *
--Shares with us his trials
--Shares with us his discouragements
--Shares with us his working through these experiences
--Shares with us the outgrowths and God's vindication !
--PRINCIPLE:
** Old Testament--Deut. 8:16--"Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that He might humble thee, and that He might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;"

** New Testament--Heb. 12:11--"Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grevious: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

CONCLUSION:

A.-"WHAT PROFIT FROM ADVERSITY?" As It Relates To Job?:

1-INSIGHT gained--about God, and
--about himself

2-INDICATION of God's pleasure with Job both at the beginning of the story and at the end

3-INTERCESSION for his friends

4-INHERITOR of earthly increase of goods

5-INCREASER as he had "treasures" of family in heaven and on earth

6-INSCRIBER of his story for us in the BOOK OF JOB

7-Leon J. Wood: "The purpose of the Book of Job has been to show the wisdom of trusting God no matter what the circumstances, even when it is impossible to account for them. Job did this, and God greatly rewarded him. Job had suffered at the hand of Satan---not because he was a great sinner, but because he was righteous. God permitted it, not as a punishment, but as a test of faith to inspire spiritual growth."
Pamphlet, O. 128)

B.-"WHAT PROFIT FROM ADVERSITY?" As It Relates To Us?:

1-**ENLIGHTENMENT** concerning Satan
- -Much is revealed in this book to inform us
- -His hatred ** against God, and
  ** against believers who seek to live in a godly manner
- -His accusations against the brethren
- -His attacks ** EXPECT opposition in your life
  ** EXPECT God to vindicate you in due time
  ** EXPECT ultimate victory

2-**INSIGHT** into suffering (one of man's most perplexing problems)
- -Allowed of God
- -Instigated by Satan
- -Not necessarily due to sin in one's life
- -Misfortune does not mean God has forsaken His own
- -**Afterward**, suffering will yield peaceable fruit
- -PURPOSES OF SUFFERING (Bible Knowledge Commentary, O.T., P776
  (1) Denouncers of Job said suffering's purpose is always DISCIPLINE (=punishment for wrong-doing).
  (2) Job thought his sufferings were for DESTRUCTION, thinking God was determined to destroy him
  (3) Elihu stressed that the aim of suffering is DIRECTION to keep Job from death.
  (4) God had two purposes:
  (a) DEMONSTRATION that Satan's allegations about Job were untrue, and
  (b) DEVELOPMENT of Job's spiritual insight
- -Insight is thus offered to uswhen we are tempted to ask "HOW COME, GOD?"

3-**RESTRAINT** on our tongues
- -Watch out that we not judge intentions or motives in others which we do not really know
- -Avoid long harranges & "setting straight" speaches addressed to hurting people
- -Visit the needy in their times of need
- -Encourage, commend, strengthen, comfort & pray for folks wherever and whenever you can.

4-**KNOWLEDGE** of God
- -He is Sovereign, Omnipotent and Omniscient
- -He is Totally Just
- -He is merciful to our feeble ways
- -His ways are inscrutible, though He is known:
  ** In the natural creation, and
  ** In His divine revelation
- -Realize the truth that man's worship of God does not stem from a businesslike contract whereby man earns reward from God, but that man is to TRUST God and WORSHIP Him, regardless of current circumstances when he does not clearly understand
- -God is to be believed and be VINDICATED Always !!

1-"All The Way My Savior Leads Me" # 22
2-"It Is Well With My Soul" #271
3-"Jesus, I Come" #196
4-"Th rough The Love Of God Our Savior" #358

God Leads His Dear Children Along"

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