

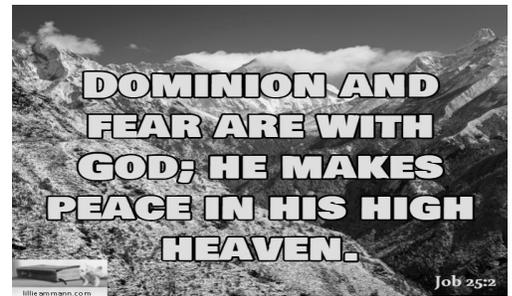
THE BOOK OF JOB –

“The Suffering and Consolation of the Christian”

Date: 2-25-18 Lesson: 13 Text: Chapters 24,25

Theme: “Dominion and fear are with God;

He makes peace in his high heaven”



Text:

(Job 24:1-24) "Why are not times of judgment kept by **the Almighty**, and why do those who know him never see his days? (2) Some move landmarks; they seize flocks and pasture them. (3) They drive away the donkey of the fatherless; they take the widow's ox for a pledge. (4) They thrust the poor off the road; the poor of the earth all hide themselves. (5) Behold, like wild donkeys in the desert the poor go out to their toil, seeking game; the wasteland yields food for their children. (6) They gather their fodder in the field, and they glean the vineyard of the wicked man. (7) They lie all night naked, without clothing, and have no covering in the cold. (8) They are wet with the rain of the mountains and cling to the rock for lack of shelter. (9) (There are those who snatch the fatherless child from the breast, and they take a pledge against the poor.) (10) They go about naked, without clothing; hungry, they carry the sheaves; (11) among the olive rows of the wicked they make oil; they tread the winepresses, but suffer thirst.

(12) From out of the city the dying groan, and the soul of the wounded cries for help; yet **God** charges no one with wrong. (13) "There are those who rebel against the light, who are not acquainted with its ways, and do not stay in its paths. (14) The murderer rises before it is light, that he may kill the poor and needy, and in the night he is like a thief. (15) The eye of the adulterer also waits for the twilight, saying, 'No eye will see me'; and he veils his face. (16) In the dark they dig through houses; by day they shut themselves up; they do not know the light. (17) For deep darkness is morning to all of them; for they are friends with the terrors of deep darkness.

(18) "You say, 'Swift are they on the face of the waters; their portion is cursed in the land; no treader turns toward their vineyards. (19) Drought and heat snatch away the snow waters; so does Sheol those who have sinned. (20) The womb forgets them; the worm finds them sweet; they are no longer remembered, so wickedness is broken like a tree.' (21) "They wrong the barren childless woman, and do no good to the widow.

(22) Yet **God** prolongs the life of the mighty by **his power**; they rise up when they despair of life. (23) He gives them security, and they are supported, and **his eyes** are upon their ways. (24) They are exalted a little while, and then are gone; they are brought low and gathered up like all others; they are cut off like the heads of grain.

(Job 25:1-6) Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said: (2) "**Dominion and fear are with God; he makes peace in his high heaven.** (3) Is there any number to **his armies**? Upon whom does **his light** not arise? (4) How then can man be in the right before **God**? How can he who is born of woman be pure? (5) Behold, even the moon is not bright, and the stars are not pure **in his eyes**; (6) how much less man, who is a maggot, and the son of man, who is a worm!"

STUDY NOTES:

1. There is pictured here the terrible and awful injustice in the world: robbery, poverty, nakedness, homelessness, hunger, cruelty, misery, groaning burdens of widows and orphans.

(Mt 6:27; John 3:19,20; Eph 5:8-14; 1 Th 5:4,5; James 4:14; Jude 1:13; Rev 6:10)

Job and all people throughout history wonder:

Why does God allow all this and seem indifferent to such suffering among men? **(Jerem 12:1-4)**

2. Wicked men cause much of this suffering: murderers, adulterers, robbers – people of the darkness
(Matt 15:19; Mk 7:21; John 8:44; 18:40; James 2:11; 1 Pet 4:15; 1 Jn 3:15)

3. God will ultimately judge, condemn and punish all wickedness.

But why must we wait and not see it happen now? **(Rom 12:19; 2 Thess 1:8; Heb 10:30)**

4. Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:

- "**Dominion and fear are with God; (Ps 47:9; 89:18; Zech 9:7; Rev 1:16)**

- **He makes peace in his high heaven. (2 Ch 20:6; Lk 10:18; Rev 12:7-9)**

- Is there any number to **his armies**? The Answer is NO!

- Upon whom does **his light** not arise? The Answer is NO-ONE! **(Mt 5:45; Jas 1:17)**

- How then can man be in the right before **God**? The Answer is HE CANNOT BE!

- How can he who is born of woman be pure? The Answer is HE CANNOT BE!

- Behold, even the moon is not bright, and the stars are not pure **in his eyes**; The Answer is INDEED!

- How much less man, who is a maggot, and the son of man, who is a worm!" The Answer is AGREED!

(Ps 80:17; 144:3; Ezek 2:1)

LUTHER'S WORKS - Vol. 46, pp. 29–30 – Dealing with Injustice

"I will give you some illustrations of Christian law so that you may see where the mad prophets have led you. Look at St. Peter in the garden. He wanted to defend his Lord Christ with the sword, and cut off Malthus' ear [John 18:10]. Tell me, did not Peter have great right on his side?

Was it not an intolerable injustice that they were going to take from Christ not only his property, but also his life? Indeed, they not only took his life and property, but in so doing they entirely suppressed the gospel by which they were to be saved and thus robbed heaven. You have not yet suffered such a wrong, dear friends.

But see what Christ does and teaches in this case. However great the injustice was, he nevertheless stopped St. Peter, bade him put up his sword, and would not allow him to avenge or prevent this injustice. In addition, he passed a sentence of death upon him, as though upon a murderer, and said, "He who takes the sword will perish by the sword" [Matt. 26:52].

This should help us understand that we do not have the right to use the sword simply because someone has done us an injustice and because the law and justice are on our side. We must also have received power and authority from God to use the sword and to punish wrong. Furthermore, a Christian should also suffer it if anyone desires to keep the gospel away from him by force. It may not even be possible to keep the gospel from anyone, as we shall hear."

LIFE APPLICATION:

If dominion and fear are with God; and if he makes peace in his high heaven;
and if the number of his armies is beyond measure; and if his light arises on all people;
then how does this help YOU deal with the injustice and misery in this world?