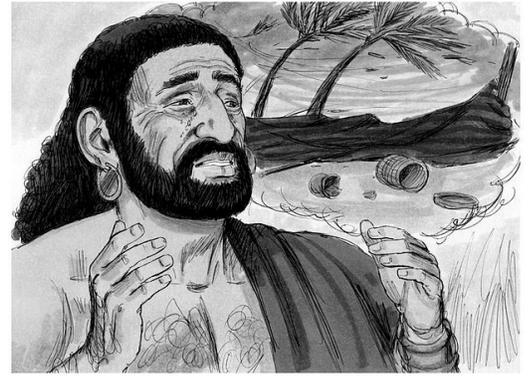


THE BOOK OF JOB –

“The Suffering and Consolation of the Christian”

Date: 12-10-17 Lesson: 5 Text: Chapters 8,9

Theme: “God is wise in heart and mighty in strength”



(Job 8:1-22) Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said: (2) "How long will you say these things, and the words of your mouth be a great wind? (3) Does **God** pervert justice? Or does **the Almighty** pervert the right? (4) If your children have sinned against **him**, **he has delivered them** into the hand of their transgression. (5) If you will seek **God** and plead with **the Almighty** for mercy, (6) if you are pure and upright, surely then he will rouse himself for you and restore your rightful habitation. (7) And though your beginning was small, your latter days will be very great.

(8) "For inquire, please, of bygone ages, and consider what the fathers have searched out. (9) For we are but of yesterday and know nothing, for our days on earth are a shadow. (10) Will they not teach you and tell you and utter words out of their understanding? (11) "Can papyrus grow where there is no marsh? Can reeds flourish where there is no water? (12) While yet in flower and not cut down, they wither before any other plant. (13) Such are the paths of all who forget God; the hope of the godless shall perish. (14) His confidence is severed, and his trust is a spider's web. (15) He leans against his house, but it does not stand; he lays hold of it, but it does not endure. (16) He is a lush plant before the sun, and his shoots spread over his garden. (17) His roots entwine the stone heap; he looks upon a house of stones. (18) If he is destroyed from his place, then it will deny him, saying, 'I have never seen you.'

(19) Behold, this is the joy of his way, and out of the soil others will spring. (20) "Behold, **God** will not reject a blameless man, nor take the hand of evildoers. (21) He will yet fill your mouth with laughter, and your lips with shouting. (22) Those who hate you will be clothed with shame, and the tent of the wicked will be no more."

(Job 9:1-35) Then Job answered and said: (2) "Truly I know that it is so: But how can a man be in the right before **God**? (3) If one wished to contend with **him**, one could not answer him once in a thousand times. (4) **He is wise in heart and mighty in strength --who has hardened himself against him, and succeeded?--** (5) **he who removes mountains, and they know it not, when he overturns them in his anger, (6) who shakes the earth out of its place, and its pillars tremble; (7) who commands the sun, and it does not rise; who seals up the stars; (8) who alone stretched out the heavens and trampled the waves of the sea; (9) who made the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the chambers of the south; (10) who does great things beyond searching out, and marvelous things beyond number.**

(11) Behold, **he** passes by me, and I see **him** not; he moves on, but I do not perceive **him**. (12) Behold, he snatches away; who can turn him back? Who will say to him, 'What are you doing?' (13) "**God will not turn back his anger**; beneath him bowed the helpers of Rahab. (14) How then can I answer him, choosing my words with him? (15) Though I am in the right, I cannot answer **him**; I must appeal for **mercy to my accuser**. (16) If I summoned **him** and he answered me, I would not believe that **he was listening to my voice**.

(17) For **he crushes me** with a tempest and multiplies my wounds without cause; (18) he will not let me get my breath, but fills me with bitterness. (19) If it is a contest of strength, behold, he is mighty! If it is a matter of justice, who can summon him? (20) Though I am in the right, my own mouth would condemn me; though I am blameless, he would prove me perverse. (21) I am blameless; I regard not myself; I loathe my life. (22) It is all one; therefore I say, **He destroys both the blameless and the wicked**. (23) When disaster brings sudden death, **he mocks at the calamity of the innocent**.

(24) The earth is given into the hand of the wicked; **he covers the faces of its judges--** if it is not he, who then is it? (25) "My days are swifter than a runner; they flee away; they see no good. (26) They go by like skiffs of reed, like an eagle swooping on the prey. (27) If I say, 'I will forget my complaint, I will put off my sad face, and be of good cheer,' (28) I become afraid of all my suffering, for I know you will not hold me innocent. (29) I shall be condemned; why then do I labor in vain? (30) If I wash myself with snow and cleanse my hands with lye, (31) yet you will plunge me into a pit, and my own clothes will abhor me.

(32) For **he is not a man, as I am**, that I might answer him, that we should come to trial together. (33) There is no arbiter between us, who might lay his hand on us both. (34) Let him take **his rod** away from me, and let not **dread of him** terrify me. (35) Then I would speak without **fear of him**, for I am not so in myself.

STUDY NOTES:

1. Bildad gives Job the typical advice of a work righteous world, in essence he is telling him, “God cannot be unjust, so Job and his family must be suffering as a result of sinfulness. Job should plead for mercy, and if he has been upright, God will restore him.” **CSSB p. 741**
2. Despite his poor theology, Bildad does predict accurately the end result for Job (**8:7,21; 42:10-17**)
3. It is true that our days are like a shadow (**1 Chr 29:15; Ps 102:11; 144:4; Eccl 6:12; 8:13**)
4. **8:11-19** is a wisdom poem filled with earthly wisdom and imagery.
5. **9:5-10** is a powerful hymn about the greatness of God, as evidenced in the creation, made by the Creator.
Note: This is a description of the 1st Article gifts of God the Father in the Creed, but true comfort can only come from the 2nd and 3rd Article gifts from God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
6. God “made the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades” – these are constellations which are studied in astronomy.
The wonder of the universe (**Gen. 1:14-19**)
7. Rahab in **9:13** is not the woman many years later who helped the Jewish spies, rather it is a mythical sea monster and a symbol of Egypt. (**26:12; Is 30:7**)
8. “God is wise in heart and mighty in strength”
(**Ps 51:6; 93:4; 95:3; Prov 2:6; 8:14; Eccl 2:26; Is 40:26; 63:1; Dan 2:20; 4:35; Mt 13:54-58; Lk 1:49-52; Acts 2:22; 1 Pet 5:6**)
9. **9:33** “There is no arbiter between us, who might lay his hand on us both.” This is the role of a Mediator, which will ultimately be fulfilled in our Lord Jesus Christ alone – the Mediator between God and man (**1 Tim 2:5**)

Luther’s Works - Vol. 1, p. 144

“Now here, too, a sea of questions arises. Inquisitive people ask why God permitted Satan to tempt Eve. Furthermore, why Satan waylaid Eve through the serpent rather than through a different animal. But who can supply the reason for the things that he sees the Divine Majesty has permitted to happen? Why do we not rather learn with Job that God cannot be called to account and cannot be compelled to give us the reason for everything He does or permits to happen? Why do we not likewise register a complaint with God because the earth does not produce plants and because the trees are not green throughout the year?”

I am fully convinced that in Paradise there would have been perpetual spring without any winter, without snow and frosts, such as we have today after sin. But these are all things under the divine power and will. To know this is enough. Besides, it is wicked curiosity to investigate these problems in greater detail. Therefore let us, who are clay in His hands, cease to discuss such questions. Let us not sit in judgment on our God; let us rather be judged by Him.

Hence the answer to all such inquiries must be only this: It pleased the Lord that Adam should be tempted and should test his powers. So it still is today. When we have been baptized and brought into the kingdom of Christ, God does not want us to be idle; He wants us to use His Word and gifts. For this reason He allows us weak beings to be sifted by Satan (Luke 22:31).

Thus we see the church, which has been cleansed by the Word, still exposed to continual danger... In addition, there are internal troubles. These God allows to happen this way, not because He has decided either to abandon the church or to want it to perish; but, as Wisdom says (Wisd. 10:12), those conflicts befall the church and the godly that the church and the godly may prevail and learn by experience itself that wisdom is more powerful than everything else.”

LIFE APPLICATION:

**Since God is wise in heart and mighty in strength,
how does this truth affect you in your daily walk of faith?**