

THE BOOK OF JOB –

“The Suffering and Consolation of the Christian”

Date: 1-7-18 Lesson: 7 Text: Chapters 12,13

**Theme: In God’s hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of all mankind**

Text:

Chapter 12

Then Job answered and said:

² “No doubt you are the people, and wisdom will die with you.

³ But I have understanding as well as you; I am not inferior to you. Who does not know such things as these?

⁴ I am a laughingstock to my friends;

I, who called to **God** and he answered me, a just and blameless man, am a laughingstock.

⁵ In the thought of one who is at ease there is contempt for misfortune; it is ready for those whose feet slip.

⁶ The tents of robbers are at peace, and those who provoke **God** are secure, who bring their god in their hand.

⁷ “But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you;

⁸ or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you.

⁹ Who among all these does not know that the hand of **the LORD** has done this?

¹⁰ In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.

¹¹ Does not the ear test words as the palate tastes food?

¹² Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days.

¹³ “With **God**^{cl} are wisdom and might; he has counsel and understanding.

¹⁴ If he tears down, none can rebuild; if he shuts a man in, none can open.

¹⁵ If he withholds the waters, they dry up; if he sends them out, they overwhelm the land.

¹⁶ With him are strength and sound wisdom; the deceived and the deceiver are his.

¹⁷ He leads counselors away stripped, and judges he makes fools.

¹⁸ He looses the bonds of kings and binds a waistcloth on their hips.

¹⁹ He leads priests away stripped and overthrows the mighty.

²⁰ He deprives of speech those who are trusted and takes away the discernment of the elders.

²¹ He pours contempt on princes and loosens the belt of the strong.

²² He uncovers the deeps out of darkness and brings deep darkness to light.

²³ He makes nations great, and he destroys them; he enlarges nations, and leads them away.

²⁴ He takes away understanding from the chiefs of the people of the earth and makes them wander in a trackless waste.

²⁵ They grope in the dark without light, and he makes them stagger like a drunken man.

Chapter 13

“Behold, my eye has seen all this my ear has heard and understood it.

² What you know, I also know; I am not inferior to you.

³ But I would speak to **the Almighty**, and I desire to argue my case with **God**.

⁴ As for you, you whitewash with lies; worthless physicians are you all.

⁵ Oh that you would keep silent, and it would be your wisdom!

⁶ Hear now my argument and listen to the pleadings of my lips.

⁷ Will you speak falsely for **God** and speak deceitfully for him?

⁸ Will you show partiality toward him? Will you plead the case for **God**?



⁹ Will it be well with you when he searches you out? Or can you deceive him, as one deceives a man?
¹⁰ He will surely rebuke you if in secret you show partiality.
¹¹ Will not **his majesty** terrify you, and the dread of him fall upon you?
¹² Your maxims are proverbs of ashes; your defenses are defenses of clay.
¹³ “Let me have silence, and I will speak, and let come on me what may.
¹⁴ Why should I take my flesh in my teeth and put my life in my hand?
¹⁵ Though he slay me, I will hope in him;^[b] yet I will argue my ways to his face.
¹⁶ This will be my salvation, that the godless shall not come before him.
¹⁷ Keep listening to my words, and let my declaration be in your ears.
¹⁸ Behold, I have prepared my case; I know that I shall be in the right.
¹⁹ Who is there who will contend with me? For then I would be silent and die.
²⁰ Only grant me two things, then I will not hide myself from your face:
²¹ withdraw your hand far from me, and let not dread of you terrify me.
²² Then call, and I will answer; or let me speak, and you reply to me.
²³ How many are my iniquities and my sins? Make me know my transgression and my sin.
²⁴ Why do you hide your face and count me as your enemy?
²⁵ Will you frighten a driven leaf and pursue dry chaff?
²⁶ For you write bitter things against me and make me inherit the iniquities of my youth.
²⁷ You put my feet in the stocks and watch all my paths; you set a limit for the soles of my feet.
²⁸ Man wastes away like a rotten thing, like a garment that is moth-eaten.

STUDY NOTES:

1. In God’s hands are the soul and breath of all mankind indeed
(Num 16:22; Eccl 12:7; Is 57:16; Dan 5:23; Zech 12:1; Ac 17:28; Heb 12:9).
2. “With **God** are wisdom and might; he has counsel and understanding. With him are strength and sound wisdom;
(Job 9:4; 36:5; Ps 99:4)
3. The judges and the leaders are made fools (2 Sam 15:31; 17:14,23; Is 19:12; 29:14; 1 Cor 1:19)
4. It may seem at times that God is hiding his face from us – the hidden God who comes in the midst of affliction
(Dt 32:20; Ps 13:1; 44:24; 88:14; Is 8:17; Hab 2:3; Lk 2:8-20,25,38)

LUTHER’S GALATIANS COMMENTARY CH. 2:11

“Luke reports "that the contention between Paul and Barnabas was so sharp that they departed asunder one from the other." The cause of their disagreement could hardly have been small since it separated these two, who had been joined together for years in a holy partnership. Such incidents are recorded for our consolation. After all, it is a comfort to know that even saints might and do sin.

Samson, David, and many other excellent men, fell into grievous sins. Job and Jeremiah cursed the day of their birth. Elijah and Jonah became weary of life and prayed for death.

Such offenses on the part of the saints, the Scriptures record for the comfort of those who are near despair. No person has ever sunk so low that he cannot rise again. On the other hand, no man's standing is so secure that he may not fall. If Peter fell, I may fall. If he rose again, I may rise again. We have the same gifts that they had, the same Christ, the same baptism and the same Gospel, the same forgiveness of sins. They needed these saving ordinances just as much as we do.”

LIFE APPLICATION:

“In God’s hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind” How does this truth help you put your life into context?