

THE BOOK OF JOB –

“The Suffering and Consolation of the Christian”

Date: 1-14-18 Lesson: 8 Text: Chapters 14,15

Theme: “Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble...
you (God) have appointed his limits that he cannot pass”

Text:

(Job 14:1-22) "Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble. (2) He comes out like a flower and withers; he flees like a shadow and continues not. (3) And do you open your eyes on such a one and bring me into judgment with you? (4) Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? There is not one. (5) Since his days are determined, and the number of his months is **with you, and you have appointed his limits** that he cannot pass, (6) look away from him and leave him alone, that he may enjoy, like a hired hand, his day. (7) "For there is hope for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease. (8) Though its root grow old in the earth, and its stump die in the soil, (9) yet at the scent of water it will bud and put out branches like a young plant.

(10) But a man dies and is laid low; man breathes his last, and where is he? (11) As waters fail from a lake and a river wastes away and dries up, (12) so a man lies down and rises not again; till the heavens are no more he will not awake or be roused out of his sleep. (13) Oh that **you would hide me in Sheol, that you would conceal me until your wrath be past, that you would appoint me a set time**, and remember me!

(14) If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my service I would wait, till my renewal should come. (15) **You would call, and I would answer you; you would long for the work of your hands.** (16) For then **you would number my steps; you would not keep watch** over my sin; (17) my transgression would be sealed up in a bag, and you would cover over my iniquity. (18) "But the mountain falls and crumbles away, and the rock is removed from its place; (19) the waters wear away the stones; the torrents wash away the soil of the earth; so **you destroy the hope of man.** (20) **You prevail forever against him**, and he passes; **you change his countenance**, and send him away. (21) His sons come to honor, and he does not know it; they are brought low, and he perceives it not. (22) He feels only the pain of his own body, and he mourns only for himself."

(Job 15:1-35) Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said: (2) "Should a wise man answer with windy knowledge, and fill his belly with the east wind? (3) Should he argue in unprofitable talk, or in words with which he can do no good? (4) But you are doing away with **the fear of God** and hindering **meditation before God.** (5) For your iniquity teaches your mouth, and you choose the tongue of the crafty. (6) Your own mouth condemns you, and not I; your own lips testify against you.

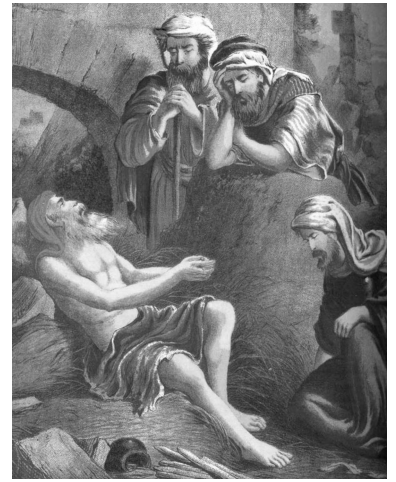
(7) "Are you the first man who was born? Or were you brought forth before the hills? (8) Have you listened in **the council of God?** And do you limit wisdom to yourself? (9) What do you know that we do not know? What do you understand that is not clear to us? (10) Both the gray-haired and the aged are among us, older than your father. (11) Are **the comforts of God** too small for you, or the word that deals gently with you?

(12) Why does your heart carry you away, and why do your eyes flash, (13) that you turn your spirit against **God** and bring such words out of your mouth? (14) What is man, that he can be pure? Or he who is born of a woman, that he can be righteous? (15) Behold, **God puts no trust in his holy ones**, and the heavens are not pure in his sight; (16) how much less one who is abominable and corrupt, a man who drinks injustice like water!

(17) "I will show you; hear me, and what I have seen I will declare (18) (what wise men have told, without hiding it from their fathers, (19) to whom alone the land was given, and no stranger passed among them). (20) The wicked man writhes in pain all his days, through all the years that are laid up for the ruthless. (21) Dreadful sounds are in his ears; in prosperity the destroyer will come upon him. (22) He does not believe that he will return out of darkness, and he is marked for the sword. (23) He wanders abroad for bread, saying, 'Where is it?' He knows that a day of darkness is ready at his hand; (24) distress and anguish terrify him; they prevail against him, like a king ready for battle.

(25) Because he has stretched out his hand against **God** and defies **the Almighty**, (26) running stubbornly against **him** with a thickly bossed shield; (27) because he has covered his face with his fat and gathered fat upon his waist (28) and has lived in desolate cities, in houses that none should inhabit, which were ready to become heaps of ruins; (29) he will not be rich, and his wealth will not endure, nor will his possessions spread over the earth; (30) he will not depart from darkness; the flame will dry up his shoots, and by the breath of his mouth he will depart.

(31) Let him not trust in emptiness, deceiving himself, for emptiness will be his payment. (32) It will be paid in full before his time, and his branch will not be green. (33) He will shake off his unripe grape like the vine, and cast off his blossom like the olive tree. (34) For the company of the godless is barren, and fire consumes the tents of bribery. (35) They conceive trouble and give birth to evil, and their womb prepares deceit."



STUDY NOTES:

1. (Ch. 14:1,2) "Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble. He comes out like a flower and withers; he flees like a shadow and continues not"

These words are read at a funeral when the casket is coming down the aisle to the front of the church.

Our lives are flowers and grass that thrive and then wither away...

(Ps 37:2; 49:12; 89:47; 90:5,6; 102:11; 103:15; 109:23; 144:4;

Eccl 6:12; 7:15; Is 40:6-8,24; Mt 11:11; Jas 1:10; 1 Pet 1:24)

2. (Ch 14:5) "Since his days are determined, and the number of his months is **with you**, and **you have appointed his limits** that he cannot pass"

All days are determined and lined out for us by God

(1 Chr 29:30; Ps 31:14,15; 39:4; 56:8; 90:12; 139:16)

3. Eliphaz has been understanding and sympathetic up till now, but now he loses his patience with Job.

4. (Ch. 15:5) "For your iniquity teaches your mouth, and you choose the tongue of the crafty."

(Matt 15:10-20) What comes out of the mouth has come out of the heart.

5. The wisdom of the aged, who have lived long lives on earth and learned about human existence, is pictured in (Ch. 15:20-35) with many pictures and illustrations.

FORMULA OF CONCORD – SOLID DECLARATION - PART XI. - LINES 4-6

⁴ At the very outset we must carefully note the difference between God's eternal foreknowledge and the eternal election of his children to eternal salvation. For the fact that God sees and knows everything before it happens—what we call God's foreknowledge—extends to all creatures, good or evil. He sees and knows in advance all that is or shall be, all that happens or will happen, both good and evil, since all things, present or future, are manifest and present to God, as it is written, "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's will" (Matt. 10:29). Again, "Thine eyes beheld my unformed substance, in thy book were written every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them" (Ps. 139:16). And again, "I know your sitting down and your going out and coming in, and your raging against me" (Isa. 37:28).

⁵ On the other hand, the eternal election of God or God's predestination to salvation does not extend over both the godly and the ungodly, but only over the children of God, who have been elected and predestined to eternal life "before the foundation of the world was laid," as St. Paul says, "Even as he chose us in him, he destined us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ" (Eph. 1:4, 5).

⁶ God's foreknowledge (*praescientia*) sees and knows in advance the evil as well, but not in such a way as though it were God's gracious will that it should happen. To be sure, he sees and knows beforehand whatever the perverse and wicked will of the devil and of men will attempt and do. But even in wicked acts and works God's foreknowledge operates in such a way that God sets a limit and measure for the evil which he does not will—how far it is to go, how long it is to endure, and when and how he will interfere with it and punish it. For the Lord God governs everything in such a way that it must redound to the glory of his divine name and the salvation of his elect, and thereby the ungodly are confounded."

LIFE APPLICATION:

If man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble...
and if God has appointed our limits that we cannot pass,
in what ways does this reality shape how you look at your life and then live your life?