

THE BOOK OF JOB –

“The Suffering and Consolation of the Christian”

Date: 1-28-18 Lesson: 9 Text: Chapters 16,17

**Theme: “Behold,
my witness is in heaven,
and he who testifies for me is on high”**

Text:

(Job 16:1-22)

"O earth, cover not my blood,
and let my cry find no
resting place. Even now,
behold, my witness is in
heaven, and he who testifies
for me is on high.
(Job 16:18-19, ESV)

Then Job answered and said: (2) "I have heard many such things; miserable comforters are you all. (3) Shall windy words have an end? Or what provokes you that you answer? (4) I also could speak as you do, if you were in my place; I could join words together against you and shake my head at you. (5) I could strengthen you with my mouth, and the solace of my lips would assuage your pain.

(6) "If I speak, my pain is not assuaged, and if I forbear, how much of it leaves me? (7) Surely now **God** has worn me out; he has made desolate all my company. (8) And **he has shriveled me up**, which is a witness against me, and my leanness has risen up against me; it testifies to my face. (9) He has torn me in **his wrath** and hated me; he has gnashed **his teeth** at me; **my adversary** sharpens his eyes against me. (10) Men have gaped at me with their mouth; they have struck me insolently on the cheek; they mass themselves together against me. (11) **God** gives me up to the ungodly and casts me into the hands of the wicked.

(12) I was at ease, and **he broke me apart; he seized me by the neck and dashed me to pieces; he set me up as his target**; (13) **his archers** surround me. **He slashes** open my kidneys and does not spare; he pours out my gall on the ground. (14) **He breaks me** with breach upon breach; **he runs upon me** like a warrior. (15) I have sewed sackcloth upon my skin and have laid my strength in the dust. (16) My face is red with weeping, and on my eyelids is deep darkness, (17) although there is no violence in my hands, and my prayer is pure.

(18) "O earth, cover not my blood, and let my cry find no resting place. (19) Even now, **behold, my witness is in heaven, and he who testifies for me is on high**. (20) My friends scorn me; my eye pours out tears to **God**, (21) that he would argue the case of a man **with God**, as a son of man does with his neighbor. (22) For when a few years have come I shall go the way from which I shall not return.

(Job 17:1-16)

My spirit is broken; my days are extinct; the graveyard is ready for me. (2) Surely there are mockers about me, and my eye dwells on their provocation. (3) "Lay down a pledge for me with yourself; who is there who will put up security for me? (4) Since you have closed their hearts to understanding, therefore you will not let them triumph. (5) He who informs against his friends to get a share of their property-- the eyes of his children will fail.

(6) "He has made me a byword of the peoples, and I am one before whom men spit. (7) My eye has grown dim from vexation, and all my members are like a shadow. (8) The upright are appalled at this, and the innocent stirs himself up against the godless. (9) Yet the righteous holds to his way, and he who has clean hands grows stronger and stronger.

(10) But you, come on again, all of you, and I shall not find a wise man among you. (11) My days are past; my plans are broken off, the desires of my heart. (12) They make night into day; 'The light,' they say, 'is near to the darkness.' (13) If I hope for Sheol as my house, if I make my bed in darkness, (14) if I say to the pit, 'You are my father,' and to the worm, 'My mother,' or 'My sister,' (15) where then is my hope? Who will see my hope? (16) Will it go down to the bars of Sheol? Shall we descend together into the dust?"

STUDY NOTES:

1. To shake your head at someone is a gesture of insult and scorn (**Ps 22:7; Jer 48:27; Mt 27:39**)
2. He sees himself as God's target in **16:10-14**.
3. His misery is that though he is innocent, he still suffers.
4. Sackcloth, ashes and dust are signs of mourning and suffering (**Gen 37:34; Jonah 3:5,6**)
5. In **16:18-21** his hope is in a mediator and intercessor in heaven, which is only fulfilled in the coming promised Messiah and Christ. This One will be a friend, the holy One, his witness, his advocate, who will plead his case with God on his behalf. (**Ps 9:4; 89:37; 113:5; 140:12; 148:1; Is 33:6; 43:27; 57:15; 58:4; 66:1; Lam 2:19; Jn 15:15; Rom 1:9; 8:34; 1 Tim 2:5; 1 Th 2:5; 1 Jn 2:1,2**)
6. In **17:16** The gates of death which every man must go through:
(**Ps 9:13; 30:3; 107:18; Is 38:10,17; Jonah 2:6; Mt 16:18**)

LUTHER'S WORKS VOL 13: page 320 "Christ our Intercessor"

"In the same manner He also fulfilled the third part of the priestly office: intercessory prayer. Along with, and beyond, His sacrifice Christ also prayed to God the Father in our behalf. Isaiah 53:12 speaks of this function of His priestly office: "He bore the sins of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." And Hebrews 5:7 reads: "In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears; and He was heard for His godly fear." Being heard by God was His due; for He was the only one able to present Himself directly to God, without any intermediary and in His own right and power, to make intercessory prayer. He alone had the advance testimony that His prayer would be heard and approved; for the Father says of Him: "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17).

Furthermore, in behalf of all of Christendom He spoke that marvelously beautiful and heartfelt prayer in John 17. By means of such prayer He won for us and communicated to us the power and merit of His sacrifice, that is, forgiveness of sins, righteousness, and eternal life. Prayer like that is valid forever and works its power in all Christendom. In short, He continues to exercise this office as our Mediator and Advocate before God, as St. Paul tells the Romans (Rom. 8:34).

Undoubtedly this sacrifice, which He completed once for all the world's sin, suffices until the Last Day. But we are still sinful and spiritually weak. Therefore He must unceasingly represent us before the Father and intercede for us that such weakness and sin may not be reckoned to our account. Rather He must grant us the strength and power of the Holy Spirit to overcome sin.

The reason why He ascended to heaven to sit at the right hand of God was to preserve us forever in God's grace through His intercessions and, further, to give us power and victory over the terrors of sin, Satan, and the temptations of the world and our flesh. Nor does He merely pray for us. He also bestows upon us the power and the freedom to pray to God directly. He brings our prayers to God and assures us that such prayers are pleasing to God and will be heard for His sake, just as He has promised (John 15:16): "Whatever you shall ask the Father in My name, that He will give you."

LIFE APPLICATION:

**If my witness is in heaven, and if he testifies for me on high,
how can I then have confidence and hope in the Lord every day?**