

## THE BOOK OF JOB –

### “The Suffering and Consolation of the Christian”

Date: 3-18-18 Lesson: 16 Text: Chapters 30,31

#### Theme:

“My portion from God above and my heritage from the Almighty on high”

#### Text:

**(Job 30:1-31)** "But now they laugh at me, men who are younger than I, whose fathers I would have disdained to set with the dogs of my flock. (2) What could I gain from the strength of their hands, men whose vigor is gone? (3) Through want and hard hunger they gnaw the dry ground by night in waste and desolation; (4) they pick saltwort and the leaves of bushes, and the roots of the broom tree for their food. (5) They are driven out from human company; they shout after them as after a thief. (6) In the gullies of the torrents they must dwell, in holes of the earth and of the rocks. (7) Among the bushes they bray; under the nettles they huddle together. (8) A senseless, a nameless brood, they have been whipped out of the land.

(9) "And now I have become their song; I am a byword to them. (10) They abhor me; they keep aloof from me; they do not hesitate to spit at the sight of me. (11) Because **God has loosed my cord and humbled me**, they have cast off restraint in my presence. (12) On my right hand the rabble rise; they push away my feet; they cast up against me their ways of destruction. (13) They break up my path; they promote my calamity; they need no one to help them.

(14) As through a wide breach they come; amid the crash they roll on. (15) Terrors are turned upon me; my honor is pursued as by the wind, and my prosperity has passed away like a cloud. (16) "And now my soul is poured out within me; days of affliction have taken hold of me. (17) The night racks my bones, and the pain that gnaws me takes no rest. (18) With great force my garment is disfigured; it binds me about like the collar of my tunic.

**(19) God has cast me into the mire, and I have become like dust and ashes. (20) I cry to you for help and you do not answer me; I stand, and you only look at me. (21) You have turned cruel to me; with the might of your hand you persecute me. (22) You lift me up on the wind; you make me ride on it, and you toss me about in the roar of the storm. (23) For I know that you will bring me to death and to the house appointed for all living.**

(24) "Yet does not one in a heap of ruins stretch out his hand, and in his disaster cry for help? (25) Did not I weep for him whose day was hard? Was not my soul grieved for the needy? (26) But when I hoped for good, evil came, and when I waited for light, darkness came. (27) My inward parts are in turmoil and never still; days of affliction come to meet me. (28) I go about darkened, but not by the sun; I stand up in the assembly and cry for help. (29) I am a brother of jackals and a companion of ostriches. (30) My skin turns black and falls from me, and my bones burn with heat. (31) My lyre is turned to mourning, and my pipe to the voice of those who weep.

**(Job 31:1-40)** "I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin? (2) What would be **my portion from God above and my heritage from the Almighty on high?** (3) Is not calamity for the unrighteous, and disaster for the workers of iniquity? (4) Does not he see my ways and number all my steps? (5) "If I have walked with falsehood and my foot has hastened to deceit; (6) (Let me be weighed in a just balance, and **let God know** my integrity!)

(7) if my step has turned aside from the way and my heart has gone after my eyes, and if any spot has stuck to my hands, (8) then let me sow, and another eat, and let what grows for me be rooted out. (9) "If my heart has been enticed toward a woman, and I have lain in wait at my neighbor's door, (10) then let my wife grind for another, and let others bow down on her. (11) For that would be a heinous crime; that would be an iniquity to be punished by the judges; (12) for that would be a fire that consumes as far as Abaddon, and it would burn to the root all my increase.

(13) "If I have rejected the cause of my manservant or my maidservant, when they brought a complaint against me, (14) what then shall I do **when God rises up?** When he makes inquiry, what shall I answer him? (15) Did not **he who made me in the womb make him? And did not one fashion us in the womb?** (16) "If I have withheld anything that the poor desired, or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail, (17) or have eaten my morsel alone, and the fatherless has not eaten of it (18) (for from my youth the fatherless grew up with me as with a father, and from my mother's womb I guided the widow), (19) if I have seen anyone perish for lack of clothing, or the needy

"The  
*Lord* is my  
portion,"  
says my soul,  
therefore I will *hope*  
in him."  
Lamentations 3:24

without covering, (20) if his body has not blessed me, and if he was not warmed with the fleece of my sheep, (21) if I have raised my hand against the fatherless, because I saw my help in the gate, (22) then let my shoulder blade fall from my shoulder, and let my arm be broken from its socket.

(23) For I was in terror of **calamity from God**, and I could not have faced **his majesty**. (24) "If I have made gold my trust or called fine gold my confidence, (25) if I have rejoiced because my wealth was abundant or because my hand had found much, (26) if I have looked at the sun when it shone, or the moon moving in splendor, (27) and my heart has been secretly enticed, and my mouth has kissed my hand, (28) this also would be an iniquity to be punished by the judges, for I would have been false **to God above**.

(29) "If I have rejoiced at the ruin of him who hated me, or exulted when evil overtook him (30) (I have not let my mouth sin by asking for his life with a curse), (31) if the men of my tent have not said, 'Who is there that has not been filled with his meat?' (32) (the sojourner has not lodged in the street; I have opened my doors to the traveler), (33) if I have concealed my transgressions as others do by hiding my iniquity in my bosom, (34) because I stood in great fear of the multitude, and the contempt of families terrified me, so that I kept silence, and did not go out of doors—

(35) Oh, that I had **one to hear me!** (Here is my signature! **Let the Almighty answer me!**) Oh, that I had the indictment written by my adversary! (36) Surely I would carry it on my shoulder; I would bind it on me as a crown; (37) I would give him an account of all my steps; like a prince I would approach him. (38) "If my land has cried out against me and its furrows have wept together, (39) if I have eaten its yield without payment and made its owners breathe their last, (40) let thorns grow instead of wheat, and foul weeds instead of barley."

**The words of Job are ended.**

#### **STUDY NOTES:**

1. My portion from God above and my heritage from the Almighty on high  
(Nu 26:55; Ps 11:6; 16:5; 50:18; Eccl 3:22; 5:19; 9:9)
2. He who made me in the womb made him - And did not one fashion us in the womb?  
(Prov 22:2; Eph 6:9)
3. Calamity from God- I could not have faced his majesty - God above  
(Ps 29:4; 68:34; 93:1; Heb 1:3; 8:1; Jude 1:25)
4. Oh, that I had one to hear me! Let the Almighty answer me  
(Rev 1:8; 15:3; 19:6; 21:22)
5. Here is my signature - The words of Job are ended.  
(Ps 72:20; Jer 51:64; 2 Thess 3:17)
6. In 31:24-28 Covetous greed is idolatry and evil in God's sight (Mt 6:19-24; Col 3:5)  
and in 32:29-32 it is a sin to gloat over the misfortune of your enemy (Ex 23:4,5; Mt 5:43-37)

#### **LUTHER'S WORKS - Vol. 2, pp. 319–320 – The Suffering of the God-fearing**

“**Job** did not deserve such punishments by his life; for he was God-fearing, guileless, and virtuous. And yet he is most painfully scourged by Satan with the Lords permission, in order to test his faith and perseverance. For the Lord tells Satan (Job 2:3): “You moved Me against him, to destroy him without cause.”

It tends to instruct and comfort us when we learn that God often causes even the innocent to experience the most serious misfortunes and punishments, merely in order to test them. When faint hearts feel the punishments, they immediately think of sin, and believe that these are punishments for sin. But one must maintain that the godly experience many evils, solely in order that they may be tested...

Then, too, the godly are often afflicted, not because their sins deserve it or because they are being tested, but in order that they may be kept humble and may not be puffed up on account of their gifts. Thus Paul says about himself that a thorn in the flesh was given to him to keep him from becoming conceited because of his extraordinary revelations. “An angel of Satan,” says he, “beats me with his fist that I may not exalt myself” (2 Cor. 12:7). It is as though he were saying: “Because of my superb gifts I might rate myself above all the other apostles and perhaps look down upon them; but God is curing this evil with that thorn of Satan, to show me that I am nothing and to cause me to humble myself.”

**LIFE APPLICATION:** In the midst of our afflictions, how do we cling to the truth that my portion is from God above and my heritage is from the Almighty on high?