

Title: The Trial's End
Text: Job 42: 5-17
Date: January 28, 2018
Place: SGBC, New Jersey

Friday, we visited Chloe soon after her surgery in the hospital. I looked at this little 6 year old girl, groggy from the anesthesia, lay there in the bed so sick with Leukemia. I saw a young mother and father with hurt in their eyes who would gladly take their child's place if they could. On the drive home, I asked God to give me a message for them and for us.

I have known a number of believers who have suffered very heavy trials who have told me that they would not change a thing about their trial. Not because there was anything easy or pleasant about the trial. But because after the trial God taught them things and blessed them in ways that they could not have known apart from the trial.

Proposition: When God sends his child a trial, though it is bitter to go through, in the end God always accomplishes his purpose of blessing and edifying his child.

A trial is a form of captivity. Verse 10 says "*And the LORD turned the captivity of Job.*" The LORD released him from the captivity of affliction/sorrow and made him rejoice. God gave the children of Israel a great trial *of captivity* under the Babylonians for 70 long years. But even as they suffered that trial, God sent Jeremiah to assure them:

Jeremiah 29: 10: Thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place. 11: For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. 12: Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. 13: And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. 14: And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.

Subject: The Trial's End

Divisions: I want to show you three things that God did for Job at his trial's end which God does for his child at the end of our trials.

1) One, God grew Job in the knowledge of Christ—**Job 42: 5: I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. 6: Wherefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes.**

2) Two, as God grew him in the knowledge of Christ, God grew Job in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ—**Job 42: 7: And it was *so*, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me *the thing that is right*, as my servant Job *hath*. 8: Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you *after your folly*, in that ye have not spoken of me *the thing which is right*, like my servant Job. 9: So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite *and* Zophar the Naamathite went, and did according as the LORD commanded them: the LORD also accepted Job.**

3) Three, after the trial ended, God blessed Job with more than he had from the beginning—**Job 42: 10:...also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. 11: Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold. 12: So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses. 13: He had also seven sons and three daughters. 14: And he called the name of the first, Jemima; and the name of the second, Kezia; and the name of the third, Kerenhappuch. 15: And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren. 16: After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, even four generations. 17: So Job died, being old and full of days.**

I hope God will be pleased to use this to comfort Ravi and Debbie, their family and each of us here and all his people who are suffering trials.

GROWN IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST

Job 42: 5: I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. 6: Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

At the trials end, God grows his child in the knowledge of Christ.

The first hour God gives his child faith to behold Christ this is where he brings us—*“I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.”*

2 Peter 1:3: According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

And likewise, at the end of the trial when God grows us in the knowledge of Christ this is where God brings us—*“I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.”*

For a believer, we are made to behold our Redeemer so clearly that we feel as if before, we had only *“heard of thee but now mine eye seeth thee.”* I’ve told you, at the end of more than one trial, God made me behold Christ so that I thought it was the first day I ever truly believed.

One of the best ways to keep us turned from our will, our wisdom and our works is by the trial in which God makes us know first-hand that we are helpless to save ourselves. When you see your child suffer, you would gladly take their place if you could. But in a trial like this God makes the doctrine of our total depravity so very real to a believer. We experience first-hand how helpless our will and works are to save. As a believer, Paul said,

Romans 7:18...for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

But the Spirit of God makes us behold our Everlasting Father who beheld his elect child upon our sick-bed. Yet, he both willed and had power to perform the work to save all his sick children.

Psalm 14: 2: The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, *and seek God.* 3: They are all gone aside, they are *all* together become filthy: *there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

Isaiah 63: 5: And I looked, and *there was* none to help; and I wondered that *there was* none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me.

We look and are helpless. He looked and came and took not only our sickness but our very sin; not only the sin of one of his sick children but the sin of every elect child given to him from eternity—“*for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.*” (Rom 5: 16)

Then being made sin he bore his own just fury. Thereby *his own fury upheld him*—by his own blood he upheld his own law and justice dying the just for the unjust—making each of his children the righteousness of God in him. So he says of himself, “*therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me.*”

In the trial, when God gives us light to behold Christ on the cross bearing that infinite pain and sorrow for us then we are brought to cry—“*I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.*”

Zechariah 12: 10: I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.

And that look is our double cure because not only are we made to know more assuredly that Christ is all our Salvation, we also are made to know more assuredly the sinfulness of our flesh, so that we also cry out, “*Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.*”

Oh, brethren, my heart breaks to see you suffer in trials. But this gracious work our Lord works through trials is what the apostle Paul meant when he said, “*our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*” (2 Cor 4: 17-18)

GROWTH IN THE GRACE OF CHRIST

Job 42: 7: And it was so, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me *the thing that is right*, as my servant Job *hath*. 8: Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you *after your folly*, in that ye have not spoken of me *the thing which is right*, like my servant Job.

At the trials end, God also grows his child in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We see in verse 7 that if we need to be defended in the trial, God will vindicate his child. When God tries you using friends who treat you with contempt, never vindicate yourself. Job put his hand to the ark by vindicating himself to his friends and made a mess of things. Wait on the Lord even as Christ waited on God the Father!

Isaiah 50: 6...I hid not my face from shame and spitting. 7: For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. 8: He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me. 9: Behold, the Lord GOD will help me;

So Christ will vindicate us before all our adversaries.

Romans 8: 33: Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth. 34: Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

But our main point here is that we see that God grew Job in the grace of Christ. We see it in the way God made Job do for these men what Christ did for him. God made these friends, who needed atonement for their sins, come to Job that he might represent them to God—*“Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job.”*

They had sinned. They needed forgiveness with God. So God told them to bring *seven bullocks and seven rams*—the number of perfection. Blood had to be shed to remit their sins, a type of Christ—*“By his one offering [Christ] hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.”*

But God told them to go to Job and Job would offer their offering to God for them and make intercession for them. This is what Christ did for Job and for all his people. We sinned against Christ. Then by God's grace, God brings us to the very one sinned against. We come to Christ against whom we sinned and Christ is the Mediator between God the Father and we who sinned against him; Christ offered himself to God in behalf of his people who sinned against him; Christ is the Intercessor who is our Advocate with the Father on our behalf.

Twice, God gives Job high honor, calling him my servant. Christ the GodMan took the form of a servant. Christ is the Righteous Servant of God whom God will accept. God told them they had to come to Job—*“For him will I accept: lest I deal with you after your folly.”* He told them this because they were not right as God's servant Job. Sinners must come to God through faith in Christ because God will accept Christ, else God will deal with us after our sin. It is because we are not righteous in ourselves, only Christ is the Righteousness of his people.

Then in verse 9 we see they *“did according as the LORD commanded.”* And Job interceded for them and *“the LORD also accepted Job.”* Do you see how through this trial, God grew Job in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ? For these sinners who treated Job with so much contempt, God made Job willing to show them grace. It is because God grew Job making him behold the grace of Christ toward him. Job was made to show them grace though they had sinned against him just as Christ showed him grace though Job was an enemy toward Christ. God made Job willing to do for his adversaries what Christ did for him, though he treated Christ with contempt. Job interceded with God on behalf of men who had treated him as an enemy.

Brethren that is the grace of our Lord Jesus toward his people. He laid down his life and interceded for his people who hated him and treated him with contempt.

2 Corinthians 8:9: For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. [who are we talking about when it says Christ did this for your sakes?]

Colossians 1: 21: And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

In Job, we see a believer who God grew in the grace of Christ. This is not that phony self-righteous work that religion calls progressive sanctification. When we are born of God, our inner man is recreated in the image of God, conformed to the image of Christ and is holy. We never become more holy. But God grows our new man in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ making us more willing to lay down our lives for one another, even for our enemies. The apostle Peter called this work of our Lord in the new man “*grow[ing] in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*” (2 Pet 3: 18) As God grows us in the knowledge of Christ, God grows us in the grace of Christ making us more willing to love one another, laying down our lives for one another, interceding for one another as Christ did for us.

BLESSED WITH MORE THAN BEFORE

Job 42: 10: And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. 11: Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold. 12: So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses. 13: He had also seven sons and three daughters. 14: And he called the name of the first, Jemima; and the name of the second, Kezia; and the name of the third, Kerenhappuch. 15: And in all the land were no women found *so* fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren. 16: After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons’ sons, *even* four generations. 17: So Job died, *being* old and full of days.

At the trials end, we find that not only has God not hurt us, God has blessed us with more than we had before.

One, “*the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends.*” The LORD turned Job’s captivity turning his sorrow and affliction into joy in Christ. God gave him joy by making him grow in the knowledge of Christ and by making him grow in the grace of Christ more than ever before.

Get this. Where did God do this? God did this in the public worship of God—*when he came to offer the sacrifices and pray for his friends.* Believer, before, during and after the trial never cease to assemble to publicly worship the Lord. It is here that Christ has promised to meet with us and it through his gospel, that he will sanctify the trial to us, teach us Christ and turn our captivity and affliction into joy. I pray he is doing that for someone today so you can bear witness that it is true.

Two, God gave Job more than he had before. Christ gave up everything on the cross. But God raised him and gave him more as the glorified GodMan. Christ has been seeing his sons and his sons sons born again and brought to him in glory for over two thousand years since the cross. Everything has been given to our glorious Head by our faithful Father. And we are joint-heirs in Christ.

And as God makes us behold Christ and grow in his grace, God gives us more than we had before. This is why I have heard so many believers who have suffered grievous trials say they would not change one thing about it.

Robert Hawker said, “The deepest afflictions are but the seed-time of a joyful harvest.”

This is all true because,

Romans 8: 28: And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

Every event in our lives is being worked together by our faithful heavenly Father for the good of each of his children according to his purpose. So we endure the trial.

James 5: 11: Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

To every believer who is suffering a trial, on the word of our God which I have proven by experience, I comfort you with this: after this trial, it shall be said of you what was said of Job, "*the LORD blessed the latter end...more than his beginning.*"

Amen!