

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Morning

New Year's Day

Date 1st January 2023

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles, Psalms 130 T Martyrdom, Hymns 50, 568, 570.

Read: Job 23:1-10, Text Job 23:10

Title- God Knows what He Is Doing in My life

There is no doubt that Job is listed among believers who suffered under the burdens of life and for righteousness sake.

Satan was accusing him before God, that Job only lives for God because of all the blessings given to him and if those blessings were taken away Job would curse God.

Satan was permitted by God to touch all that Job had, then later to touch Job physically, but not take his life.

Within the space of one day, Job went from joy to sorrow, within the space of one day, Job's world was turned upside down. He lost his possessions, livestock, and his 10 children.

Added to Job's suffering was his three friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar who turned out to be his three discouragers.

One by one they counselled Job that all the loss, sorrow and suffering he experienced was a result of continual sin in his life.

Job knowing, he had not committed any of the sins accused of, started answering his three friends, by focusing upon the Lord.

While Job could not explain what was happening in his life, yet he could have full confidence that in his life **God knows what He is doing**. He is in full control.

Therefore, we can learn from Job's life and conclude what God does in the lives of His people is always for His own glory and their good.

Believer maybe in this new year of 2023, within the space of a day or within a short period of time, pain, suffering, discouragement will come one after another.

If you can testify as Job, I am not living in open rebellion and disobedience to God. My heart is not closed to the word of God.

I have been walking with God, I have enjoyed close communion with the Lord, yet this testing time has come upon me, and I don't know why, I don't understand what the Lord is doing in my life. It is an anxious time

Then know your challenges are not chastisements but chosen for you.

The testing path will not hurt you, it is designed for your likeness to Christ.

At such times when you don't know what God is doing in your life, learn **that God knows what He is doing in your life.**

Let that sovereign truth be your pillow of rest.

I FIRST, JOB'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT GOD KNOWS WHAT HE IS DOING IN HIS LIFE.

Job starts **verse 10** by emphatically acknowledging the Lord is in control when everything seems to be out of control. ***But He knoweth the way that I take.***

Job acknowledges the Lord's Person in His life

Job dwelt upon God's nature and highlights one of His many characteristics or attributes, the Lord's knowledge or what is termed God's omniscience.

The word **omniscience** is made up of two words. The pre-fix **omni** means **all**, the word **science** meaning **knowledge**, which comes from the verb **to meaning to know**.

Putting the two words together we learn **God is omniscient or God is all knowing**. His knowledge, sight, understanding is eternal, infinite and unchanging.

There is nothing that occurs in Job's life or any of our lives that the Lord does not know.

How is that? well He permits every event in our lives.

Just as you plan your day or week, so the Lord has planned your earthly life, from birth to death. He knows every detail about you.

You see God's knowledge is sourced from within Himself. He is absolute knowledge. He needs none to counsel or instruct Him.

He knows the beginning from the end. There is nothing new to God, there is nothing that catches Him by surprise. He sees eternity in one single view.

His knowledge is perfect. He misses nothing. **Ps 147:5** "...*His understanding is infinite.*" The word **infinite** means **unlimited, no restriction, no boundaries**.

It is no surprise that Job acknowledges "***But He knoweth the way that I take...***"

You see Job's knowledge is limited, and weak. He misses detail, he comes to wrong conclusions. He does not know what will happen going forward.

Therefore, the truth that God knows all things brings much comfort in sorrow, it lifts up the down cast.

Job in his suffering and pain, cannot look to self for answers, but He can look to His Saviour, who know the way that he will take.

The unknown path you will travel in 2023, causes us to learn and lean upon the one the Lord knows that way we will take. Trust Him.

Job acknowledges the Lord's Protection in his life.

The very fact Job did not know the way ahead, or the truth that only God knows the way signifies the Lord protection of His people.

In other words the Lord choses in His eternal, infinite and unchanging knowledge to guard us from knowing every little detail about the way ahead.

The reason being if the Lord right now revealed the way ahead for this year, we would know all joys and blessings, and when they would come, but equally true we would know all the sorrow, bereavement, backslidings and heartbreak that would come.

The truth is, we would not accept it, and would try and interfere. We would try to stop or change whatever would take place.

In Ch 1:14-19 Job's animals die, his servants die and his seven sons and three daughters die.

Just taking the death of his children do you not think if job new the exact time the great wind would come and cause the house to fall upon them, he would try and intervene.

What about yourself! It is often said after upsetting news sickness, or death, oh if I had been there, or only if they hadn't gone to that place, or I have had done this sooner, acted faster.

You enter the boxing ring of trials, and get punched with guilt, doubt, depression, despair, what if's and much more. You are left battered.

To know the way ahead for the rest of week, month year, would cause us to stop living for the Lord, we would focus upon the situation and so many other things but not the Saviour.

If we become obsessed and anxious about tomorrow we will become distracted from Christ today.

Therefore, the best way to prepare for the unknown way ahead is to live for God today.

Do what God wants you to do today, Glorify God today, and He will prepare you for the challenges ahead.

Live for Christ today and Let Christ take care of tomorrow.

When Job lost his possessions, live stock, children, suffered physical pain, others accusing him of sin, and his own wife urging him to curse God, how did Job respond? **Job 1:20-22**

Job "***fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,²¹ And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath***

taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. 22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

Before job experienced sorrow and suffering that day, we learn in **Job 1:5**, he had spent time in prayer, worshipping the Lord, in thinking about the sufferings of Christ.

Job looked by faith to Christ in the life that He would live, and death He would die for Him.

Job was protected from falling apart but prepared for the way he would take.

Job acknowledges the Lord's Path for his life.

But He knoweth the way that I take...” The Hebrew word for **way** means **path, journey, road or distance**. Isn't that wonderful to know.

Job didn't know the path ahead. He never expected his children to die as they did, or the sores to cover his body.

He did not know how long the road of suffering would last. He didn't know the distance left to reach the end of his particular trial.

Yet the Lord knew, the way, and distance, and all the way His Saviour lead Him.

God knows that Job is in the furnace of affliction because He permitted and appointed it.

We could apply the psalmist's words to job in **Ps 37:23** ***“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD...”***

It would be right to say, that when situations arise in our life such as health issues, setbacks, rise in costs,

discouragements, trouble, and sorrows, we count them unexpected, they come upon us suddenly.

But they do not come suddenly and unexpectedly to the Lord. Believer, we must keep reminding ourselves that God is sovereign, God has appointed our steps, situations, starts and stops.

And while we do not understand it and while the pain and distress that is involved can be very hard to bear at times, yet God is working out His purpose for our lives and he knows the way that we are take.

David said in **Ps 139:3** “***thou compassest my path and my lying down and art acquainted with all my ways.***” This means God knows all about your path.

Christ’s own path was appointed for Him by the Father, His path was, rejection, falsely accused, tempted by Satan to blaspheme God, suffering, shame, pain and death.

He has gone before His people within the veil in glory, to show there is victory through the death and resurrection of Christ.

Our ultimate path leads home to glory to be forever with the Lord.

II SECOND, JOB’S ASSESSMENT THAT GOD KNOWS WHAT HE IS DOING IN HIS LIFE.

Job said “...***when He hath tried me***...”

The word **tried** means ***to examine, scrutinise, investigate to prove***. God would try or examine Job.

But please notice Job said **when** not **if**. That means trials are guaranteed in the Christian life. Trials are guaranteed in 2023.

Ps 11:5 “*The LORD trieth the righteous,*” The word **trieth** is the word *to examine, scrutinize, investigate to prove.*

Surely if Job, who by God's own assessment in **Job 1:1** was *perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil,* and as, **Job 1:3 states** he “*was the greatest of all the men of the east,* then none of God's children will escape deep valley experiences.

Job's faith was tested and tried; it was examined to show it was genuine faith.

Every heavenly examination is ordered and set by the Lord no matter how big or small. Grab that lesson and hold unto it.

The little things that annoy us, and maybe you are easy annoyed, quick to panic, the Lord knows that, and He tries us in those areas, not to punish us, to cause hurt, upset us get into a bitter spirit, but they are sent for our victory over them and spiritual growth. It is sent to prepare you for greater blessings.

God never tries or tests us to destroy us. The trials of life, are designed, ordained and appointed by God in order to make us holier Christians in order to bring us closer to Christ, in order to make us lean more upon Him, in order to make us realise without Him we can do nothing, we need Him every hour.

The Lord Jesus Christ as the only mediator between God and man was tried. His life was openly examined.

In the Levitical worship system before the sacrificial animal was offered unto God, it was tried, and examined to prove there was not blemish no fault, for God demanded a perfect offering. The picture presented Jesus Christ who “**offered Himself without spot to God.**”

Job knew His redeemer liveth, He Lives in heaven.

Job had a man in Glory. His Redeemer represented Him in continual prayer upon the ground of His atoning blood.

Believer Christ in heaven knows all about you and prays for you.

III THIRD, JOB'S ASSURANCE THAT GOD KNOWS WHAT HE IS DOING IN HIS LIFE

“when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.” Job was assured that what God was doing in his life, the way He had chosen for Job, he would come out purified., or ***“come forth as gold.”***

Gold was a precious metal.

Job said ***I shall*** there was no if but or maybe, rather ***“when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”***

God tries our lives in order to purify our life, in order to make us usable.

The hymn **How Firm A Foundation** beautifully expresses this eternal truth about our loving Jehovah-Jesus...

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace all-sufficient shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.

The gold was tried in the fire with strong heat. Once dross or impurities of the metal was exposed and removed from the metal, the goldsmith could see his own reflection in the gold or metal. **Prov 25:4** ***“take away the dross from the***

silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer.

So it is believer, God our tests or examines our lives in the fiery furnace, for the purpose to exposes impurities, dross in order purify our lives that Christ might be formed in our lives, that other will see a Christ like spirit in us.

Therefore Job was assured all that God plans and permits in ours lives is not to work against but to lead us forward in Christlikeness.

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