

Job 24: 1 – 26: 14; “How the Lord Jesus Helps Us”, Sermon # 33 in the series – “Remember to Magnify His Work”, delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on July 2nd, 2023, in the Afternoon Worship Service.

As I have been using these messages from the beginning of this series as Communion messages, I would like to approach the truth which is given to us here in Chapters 24-26 from the vantage point of the words of Job in chapter 26, verse 2, where Job says to Bildad – “How have you helped him who is without power?” In terms of our great salvation, the Lord Jesus is the One who helps us in every respect during the time of our trial. I want to bring to your attention that even though friends may fail you in your hour of trial, that the Lord Jesus will never fail you, nor forsake you.

There are 3 things which I would have you remember, when you come to the Table, concerning the help of the Lord Jesus. 1st of all – Think about how it was that the Lord Jesus helped you when you were without power. (Chapters 24 & 25 and Chapter 26, verses 1-4) 2nd – Think about how it is that God helps you to become more like Christ. (verses 5-12) And 3rd – Think of how it is, that God, through Christ, by His Holy Spirit, adorns you with all the blessings of light and life. (verses 13 & 14). **1st of all – Remember how it was that the Lord Jesus helped you when you were without power.**

I do not want to spend much time on chapters 24 and 25. It is not that there is not much valuable truth here. But for the most part it is Job’s refutation of Eliphaz the Temanite’s accusations that he was an unrepentant sinner against the Lord. I do not want to go back over that ground. I want to press on to show you what it was that Job really needed at this time. Job begins chapter 24 by showing that Eliphaz’ conception of wicked men always falling under the judgment of God in this life, was not true at all. He says – “Since times are not hidden from the Almighty, why do those who know Him see not His days?”

He means the days of God’s judgment in this life, where He judges the wicked for their sins. And also the days when God comes forth to rescue and to help His dear people, to vindicate them in regard to their righteousness. This is what Job did not see happening in his own case. Job then goes on, for most of the rest of chapter 24, to talk about the various sins of wicked people. He sets forth the truth to his friends, of how often wicked men seem to be getting away with their sins. He mentions those who remove the landmarks, and those who seize flocks violently and feed upon them.

He mentions stealing and depriving the fatherless and the widow of what little they have. He mentions the murderer and the adulterer and what should happen to them. Then in verses 22-25 he states that God does eventually draw the mighty away with His power. He rises up against them, and no man is sure of life. He gives them security and they rely on it; yet His eyes are on their ways. That is, to bring them into judgment with Himself. They are exalted for a little while, and then they are gone. In verse 25 he states – Now, if this is not so, who will prove me a liar, and make my speech worth nothing?

Then Bildad the Shuhite answers and says in chapter 25, verse 1 – “Dominion and fear belong to God; He makes peace in His high places.” But you will notice that Bildad does not speak peace to Job, who he thinks is a great sinner. Instead he goes on to ask in verse 4 – “How then can man be righteous before God?” Ah, this is the best of questions, but he does not answer it! Instead, he goes on to say in verse 4 – How can a man be pure who is born of a woman? If the stars are not pure and the moon does not shine with pure light, then how can a man who is a maggot? Now, in saying these things, Bildad may be doing a good job of proving man’s total depravity. But he is not doing a good job of helping Job come to terms with the trial of his faith, at all.

And so, Job answers him and says, in chapter 26, verse 2 – “How have you helped him who is without power?” “How have you saved the arm that has no strength?” “How have you counseled him who has no wisdom?” “And how have you declared sound advice to many?” “To whom have you uttered words?” “And whose spirit came from you?” These were very good questions for Job to ask. Because he really did need his friends to help him at that time. And yet they were unable to do

so, because they thought that he was such a great and unrepentant sinner. In partaking of the Lord's Supper in this hour, I want you to remember that the Lord Jesus is the friend of sinners. He is the One who came to your rescue and helped you when you had no power and no strength before you were saved. And He will come to your aid now, by His grace. You simply need to remember how it was with you before you were saved and what He did for you.

Turn with me over to Romans chapter 5, verses 1-6. "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith in to this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." "And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope." "Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." "For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."

Now, it should be very evident to us that this is just the truth that Job needed to hear during the time of his trial. And he needed to hear it from his friends. But they did not give it to him. Let me be your friend and give it to you now. All of us were sinners by nature and practice before we came to know Christ. When you came to Christ in faith, and when you believed in what He did for you by His righteous life and His death on the cross, you were saved. You were pardoned of all your sins. You were justified. You were declared righteous in the sight of the holy God. All of your sins were washed away in His blood. From the moment that you that you first believed, you knew that you had peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

You immediately had access by faith into this grace in which you now stand, and you rejoiced in the hope of the glory of God. But the seemingly hard part comes in verse 3. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations. Really? Yes, really! Why? Because we know that tribulation produces perseverance and perseverance produces Christian character, and character brings us hope that does not disappoint. There is a progression of learning for the Christian. Even trial and tribulation has a very good purpose in the hand of God. It produces growth in the experience of learning to suffer for righteousness sake. You realize that you are coming to know the power of Christ to help you in your most difficult situations. He gives you wisdom on how to keep His word, and glorify Him.

All these difficulties bring you to greater Christian maturity. You come to have a sure and certain hope that what God has begun in grace in you, will have its completion in time. And so you are not disappointed because you are undergoing these trials. Instead you learn to rejoice in them. The love of God is poured out in your heart by the Holy Spirit. You know His working in your life. The Spirit was given to you to be your Helper. He was given to you to teach you all these good things. So think back to the time before you were converted. You were without strength, it says in verse 6.

It was at that very time when you were without strength to save yourself, that was the very time that God chose to save you. You had not the strength to either become a Christian or to live the Christian life. But because Christ died for you, you came to have that strength. And His strength is now in you, by the power of the Holy Spirit. And you should understand that Christ's strength is not made perfect in your strength. But rather, it is made perfect in your weakness, as it says in 2nd Corinthians 12: 9. You remember Paul's thorn in the flesh. He prayed and he asked the Lord 3 times that the Lord would take it away from him. And the Lord said to him: "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

And what was Paul's response? He said: "Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." "Therefore I take pleasure in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake." "For when I am weak, then I am strong." Is this how it is for you, dear Christian? When you are without power, that you still find spiritual strength coming to you from Christ, so that even in your weakness, you are made stronger to do God's will? Are you stronger to bear up under your trials and physical weaknesses and pains and difficulties? This is why we remember the Lord Jesus dying for us, and rising from the dead. It is so

that we will know the reality of the Spirit's power in our life. It is so we will learn to be content with trials and difficulties.

2nd – Think about how it is that God makes you more like Christ.

(verses 5-12)

“The dead tremble, those under the waters and those inhabiting them.” “Sheol is naked before Him, and destruction has no covering.” “He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing.” “He binds up the water in His thick clouds, yet the clouds are not broken under it.” “He covers the face of His throne, and spreads his cloud over it.” “He drew a circular horizon on the face of the waters, at the boundary of light and darkness, the pillars of heaven tremble, and are astonished at His rebuke.” “He stirs up the sea with His power, and by His understanding He breaks up the storm.”

Here in these verses we find Job describing things that God does in His creation. But the way that he describes them show us that he is speaking of God's great wisdom and His great power to accomplish all that He purposes to do in relation to the salvation of His people, and the judgment of those who hate and oppress them. Job is saying that God is always perfect in His judgment of everything related to His creation. If this is so, then He is also perfect in His judgment in relation to everything that happens to His dear people, no matter what situation they are in. He is infinitely wise, and He always knows what He wants to do. He always knows what He will do.

Job says in verse 5 that the dead tremble, and those under the waters, and those inhabiting them. He appears to be speaking of those who died by drowning in the flood in Noah's day. God sees their wicked spirits in Sheol. For Him, destruction has no covering. He knows that He did the right thing in judging the world of that day. In verses 5-10 Job appears to be describing what God did in the creation of the world. He stretched out the north over empty space; He hung the world upon nothing. In verse 10 Job describes God as drawing a circular horizon on the face of the waters, at the boundary of light and darkness.

And thus the world began, with this awesome conception in God's mind of forming the earth out of the waters above and the waters beneath it. Even in the present time, Job says in verses 8 and 9, He binds up the water in His thick clouds, yet the clouds are not broken under it. He covers the face of His throne, and spreads His cloud over it. What is he saying here? He is saying that God has a purpose for everything that He creates and everything that He does in relation to the physical creation. He rules over His creation as a great King and Judge. But everything that He makes judgments on, He also makes it subservient to His purpose in the salvation of His people. He covers the face of His throne with anger when wicked people will not repent.

And when He wants to deal with His own people to teach them His ways, He knows how to bring the clouds that are full of rain, full of blessing and refreshment to them, and yet He may withhold these blessings for a time until the lessons that He wants to teach us, are learned. This will be true in relation to everyone whom He saves, and in respect to all the trials they will go through. Yes, it is so. Some things that God ordains and permits concerning His people, even the pillars of heaven tremble at what He does.

All of the angels, who are ready at all times to do His bidding, and are assigned by Him to be a “band of destroying angels” must at times be astonished by what they are called to do. They bring stormy winds to do His bidding. Even though God creates them to be fearless in these situations, do they still tremble at His word with holy trembling? Or does the “pillars of heaven” trembling refer to leaders among God's people who tremble and are astonished at His rebuke? Whichever it is, when God acts in His judgments in His creation, and He brings earthquakes, floods, and tornados, it is not random or haphazard.

Concerning Israel, in Psalm 78: 40 it says – “How often they provoked Him in the wilderness, and grieved Him in the desert!” “Yes, again and again they tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.” “They did not remember His power: the day He redeemed them from the enemy.” And in verses 47-49, concerning God's anger with Pharaoh and the land of Egypt, it says – “He destroyed

their vines with hail, and their sycamore trees with frost.” “He also gave up their cattle to the hail, and their flocks to fiery lightning.” “He cast on them the fierceness of His anger, wrath, indignation, and trouble, by sending angels of destruction among them.”

So, this is what Job was thinking about, how God brings the storm, and how He breaks up the storm afterwards. Verse 12 – “He stirs up the sea with His power, and by His understanding He breaks up the storm.” He does all these things according to His purpose. I would have you to think about how it is that God makes you more like Christ. It is not always by your having a smooth road at every point. Indeed, sometimes trials, like storms, will come. It will be the Lord who will be permitting them. It will be the Lord who has ordained them for your good to make you more like Christ. He will be stirring up the sea of your life with His power.

But when He has accomplished His purpose in your life; to make you a more holy person, to make you a more righteous person, to make you a more loving person, then He will break up the storm, and He will restore you, and bring peace and blessing. Hebrews 12: 11 & 12 – “Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” “Therefore strengthen the hands which hand down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.” Let’s come down front now and I will give you a few more words there.

3rd – Think of how it is, that God, through Christ, by His Holy Spirit, adorns you with all the blessings of light and life. (verses 13 and 14)

“By His Spirit He adorned the heavens; His hand pierced the fleeing serpent. Indeed these are the mere edges of His ways, and how small a whisper we hear of Him!” “But the thunder of His power who can understand?” Job speaks here of the visible physical heavens which are above the earth. The Holy Spirit in the creation of the world garnished the heavens by placing the sun, moon, and stars in the sky to be a beautiful display of His glorious wisdom and power, that we can behold day after day and night after night.

But these verses seem also to be speaking of what God does, through Christ, in saving His people from their sins and helping them on to heaven. It was Christ’s hand who pierced the fleeing serpent. He did so by His hands and His feet being pierced at the cross. He died there in our place, and He rose again for our sakes. It was the Father and the Son who sent the Spirit to His church at Pentecost. And now, all through this church age, by His Spirit He adorns the heavens of Christ’s church. That is, the Holy Spirit adorns all of God’s people, who become His people through Christ and His finished work. The Holy Spirit adorns us with great and wonderful and beautiful grace, so that we shine as lights in the firmament of the church in this world.

Matthew 5: 14 – “You are the light of the world.” “A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.” Verse 16 – “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” The Spirit garnishes the life of every Christian with the light of the truth and grace which Christ purchased for them at the cross. Therefore, in living our life to God, we are called to reflect and to show forth the glory of Christ. We are called to do all things without murmuring and complaining, that we might become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom we are to shine as lights in the world. (Philippians 2: 14 & 15)

And the Scriptures also tell us that we will shine as lights in the firmament of heaven and eternal glory after Christ returns. Daniel 12: 2 – “And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.” “Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.” Do you see now how Christ helps us, His people? He helps us when we have no power and strength. He counsels us, when we have no wisdom, with His word. Let us now observe the Lord’s Supper with gladness of heart. Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with

such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leaven you nor forsake you. So we may boldly say: The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"