



UPON
THE WINGS
OF
THE WIND

SELECTED BIBLE VERSES FOR
STRENGTH & COMFORT FROM THE SCRIPTURES

COMPILED BY
SHARLA KAY STOOPS

*"And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly:
yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind.*

-- Psalm 18: 10--

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A
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*"Oh that my words were now written!
Oh that they were printed in a book!
That they were graven with an iron pen
and lead in the rock for ever!"*

--Job 19: 23-24--

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I affectionately dedicate this volume to:

The loving memory of a special soul mate and dear wife, Sharla Kay:

for spending countless hours compiling the selected bible verses and comments featured in this volume;

for her shared spiritual insight into the love of God;

for her sweet contagious smile that radiated from a kind and loving heart;

for her positive attitude even when pained in body or mind;

and for her compassion and empathy for all who suffered.

My daughters, Robin and Sonya, and their families;

Especially to my grandchildren, Ryan, Joshua, Rachael, Kyle, and Kelsey, who were the pride and joy of their Grandma Kay: May they never forget her kind nurturing care and the value of her legacy; a strong and abiding faith based on the power of God.

Sharla Kay is sorely missed by her family and many friends. But I trust her selected bible verses that she read and studied every day will be a continuing memorial of a "virtuous woman" that we were privileged to have known and loved.

FOREWORD

“Upon The Wings Of The Wind” is published with three purposes in mind. The first purpose is to honor a faithful and devoted wife and friend who has provided inspiration for the journey of life and death and whose strength of faith and character continues to lift spirits to the higher realms of spiritual enlightenment. The second purpose is to provide an insight of the scriptures from the perspective of one that walked the pathway of affliction, triumphantly, by daily reliance upon the word of God and prayer. The third reason is to continue her labor of love by reaching out and touching others with comfort and inspiration from the power of God’s word. Hopefully, these purposes are accomplished.

The publication of this book stirs inspiring memories of a precious soul ready and waiting for glory, but sad memories of a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother that felt a need to stay and help her family learn to serve the Lord. This apparent dilemma was eventually resolved by the enlightenment of suffering resulting in full acceptance of the fact that God’s will is always right in spite of what seems to be a noble desire of the flesh.

With tear-stained eyes and joy that can not be expressed in human language this book was compiled and is now published. The overriding sense of joy is a result of the “spiritual intimacy” that developed between a man and the wife of his youth and their faithful God during two special years of enlightenment. This special bond stirred the deepest emotions of the innermost nature where true joy originates. It developed from shared intimate prayers, dwelling closely together in God’s holy word and “sowing [together] to the spirit,” i.e., making mutual investments in the inner being of those things that have eternal value and divesting the “things” that have little value.

It is little wonder that the real source of comfort, peace and joy is within the inner being where the human spirit communes with God’s Holy Spirit and where one delights in the law of the Lord. By divesting one’s self of the “things” of the outward man, whether through the perishing of the flesh or voluntary subjection, the more one has to “sow to [invest in] the spirit,” which leads to an eventual harvest of eternal life.

Therefore, it is easy to understand that the Holy Spirit is a very important person in God's relationship with mankind, beginning with the "wind" or spirit of God that moved across the face of the waters, or the "breathe of life," or spirit which God breathed into the nostrils making man a living soul.

When suffering in the flesh, it is very strengthening to know that though our outward flesh is perishing, yet our inward spiritual being is continually renewed day by day.

With this awareness, one windy spring day, while communing with the majesty of God's creation in the quiet Ozark hills at the Discovery Ministries campground, the words of David came to mind: "*And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind.*" As the wind swayed the treetops and gently brushed our faces, the presence of God's spirit was very near. From then on, every breeze that blew was a reminder of the nearness of God as the heavens are His canopy, the lights his robe, and the clouds carried by the wind His support and transport. The voice of the wind in the heavens is truly a universal language spoken in all the world proclaiming the glory of the Father.

The selection of verses in this book are the result of the inspiration of a close relationship with God and a continual abiding in His Holy Word. As some verses were selected, comments that came to mind were noted. These are included in *italicized text* following each verse. In other verses selected phrases with special meaning were highlighted by **bold and underlined text**. On a few occasions the editor has added brief comments in (*italicized text enclosed in brackets followed by "Ed."*)

The title "Upon The Wings Of The Wind" seemed to be appropriate for this book as a support for weary souls and a transport for suffering spirits conducting them to a special awareness of the presence of God in their journey on the sunset sea.

A special thanks to Robin Parks, a member of the Riverside Road church in Ozark, Missouri, for her efforts in proofreading and correcting this material.

dwain r. stoops
January 2000

Selected Bible Verses from Job

The suffering of the Lord's people.

Lessons From Job

The book of Job explores the divine reasons and purposes for the suffering of the Lord's people.

It reveals that the eyes of those who suffer are opened more fully to the mighty holiness of God leading them to a greater knowledge and discernment of self and godliness.

It is evident that the suffering of the Lord's people is designed to be corrective, not penal. It is used to test and refine the character.

The outcome of Job's experience demonstrates that by the grace of God His children trust and serve Him simply because of who God is and not merely because of temporal blessings.

The divine inspiration of the book of Job gives us confidence that God will ultimately win in the contest with Satan for the souls of God's children.

Yet, after reflecting on the lessons of Job, it is obvious that there remains a mystery to God's purposes beyond what is revealed. For many things in life there is no answer. A child of God must develop a humble attitude of reverence in acknowledgement that the sovereign God cannot be required by mortals to give all the reasons for everything He does.

This principle is taught by Job and Paul in the following scriptures.

Job 42:1-6

“Then Job answered the LORD, and said,

I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withheld from thee.

Who is he that hides counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.

Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.

I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.

Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

Romans 11:33-36

“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counselor?

Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?

For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.”

The following selected verses trace the changeable course of Job’s musing as he searches for the reason and purpose of his sufferings.

Note: Italicized text are Kay’s comments.

(Bracketed comments added by Editor, Ed.)

Job's Enlightenment in Suffering**Job 4:17**

Shall mortal man be more just than God?
shall a man be more pure than his maker?

Job knew it was impossible for man to be more just than God, but he knew he had lived righteously before God; just as we are aware when we live righteously.

However, because of the weaknesses of the flesh, when we suffer illness or trials the weakness, impurity and sin in our lives is illuminated as opposed to God's purity and holiness.

Job 5:17

Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:

Job has a feeling of happiness for his afflictions.

Job 7:11

Therefore I will not refrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.

Job has begun to feel bitterness for his affliction. His attitude has changed from happiness in tribulation as physical pain increased.

Job 8:6

If thou were pure and upright; surely now he would awake for thee, and make the habitation of thy righteousness prosperous.

Bildad feels Job is evil and God has turned away from him.

Job 8:11-13

Can the rush grow up without mire? can the flag grow without water?

Whilst it is yet in his greenness, and not cut down, it withereth before any other herb.

So are the paths of all that forget God; and the hypocrite's hope shall perish:

Job 9:11

Lo, he goeth by me, and I see him not: he passeth on also, but I perceive him not.

I don't even know where He is that I may talk with Him.

Job 9:12

Behold, he taketh away, who can hinder him? Who will say unto him, What doest thou?

I can't ask God why He took my children or why He has afflicted me.

Job 9:20

If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me: if I say, I am perfect, it shall also prove me perverse.

Though Job was a righteous man, in illness he found his mouth could condemn him. You say, think and feel things you have never felt before and which are not pure in God's sight.

Job 9:32

For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment.

I can not reason with God and ask Him why I am afflicted because He is not a man; He is the Almighty.

Job 10:15

If I be wicked, woe unto me; and if I be righteous, yet will I not lift up my head. I am full of confusion; therefore see thou mine affliction;

Job is confused. Why is this happening; am I evil or good?

Job 11:6

And that he would shew thee the secrets of wisdom, that they are double to that which is! Know therefore that God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth.

The pain and suffering you are experiencing is less than you deserve.

Job 12:3

But I have understanding as well as you; I am not inferior to you: yea, who knoweth not such things as these?

Job told his friends, I know as much as you.

Job 12:4

I am as one mocked of his neighbor, who calleth upon God, and he answereth him: the just upright man is laughed to scorn.

The evil say, "See he serves God but look what is happening to him; sickness and loss." They consider me foolish to serve God. I am mocked for serving God because it doesn't pay.

Job 12:5

He that is ready to slip with his feet is as a lamp despised in the thought of him that is at ease.

Comfortable Christians don't want to see what illness can bring. They don't want to think bad things happen to those who serve God. The lamp belongs to those with illness or afflictions so they may correct their way before God.

Job 12:6 The tabernacles of robbers prosper, and they that provoke God are secure; into whose hand God bringeth abundantly.

The evil prosper, but look at me.

Job 12:10 In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.

God has created all, controls all and holds our daily breath.

Job 13:7 Will ye speak wickedly for God? and talk deceitfully for him?

Do you know God's way or will?

Job 13:15 **Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him:** but I will maintain mine own ways before him.

Job 13:18 See now, I have prepared my case, I know that I shall be vindicated.

I.e., before God.

Job 13:20-21 Only two things do not do to me, Then I will not hide myself from You: Withdraw Your hand far from me, And let not the dread of You make me afraid.

Job wanted God to stay near him and he did not want to fear God.

Job 13:23 How many are my iniquities and sins? Make me know my transgression and my sin.

Job 13:26 For You write bitter things against me, And make me inherit the iniquities of my youth.

Job 14:12 So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.

Job 16:4 I also could speak as ye do: if your soul were in my soul's stead, I could heap up words against you, and shake mine head at you.

It's easy for others to tell you what to do when they are not in your shoes.

Job 16:5 But I would strengthen you with my mouth, and the moving of my lips should [relieve] your grief.

Job would comfort his friends not accuse them if they were in his place.

Job 16:21 O that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleadeth for his neighbor!

Job would like to plead with God face to face in man's words.

Job 19:23-24 Oh that my words were now written! Oh that they were printed in a book!

That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever!

Job desired his words to be left for those who would follow for their comfort.

Job 21:14-15

Yet they say to God, Depart from us, For we do not desire the knowledge of Your ways. Who is the Almighty, that we should serve Him? And what profit do we have if we pray to Him?'

Such is the reasoning of the unrighteous.

(Also Job 34:9)

Job 23:10

But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.

(This was a favorite verse. Ed.)

Job 23:14

For He performs what is appointed for me, And many such things are with Him.

God has a plan for each of us.

Job 25:5-6

If even the moon does not shine, And the stars are not pure in His sight, How much less man, who is a maggot, And a son of man, who is a worm?

Job 28:28

And to man He said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, And to depart from evil is understanding.

Job 29:2

Oh, that I were as in months past, As in the days when God watched over me;

Oh to be well as before, this is what I have wished for.

Job 30:9 And now I am their taunting song; Yes, I am their byword.

I.e., to ungodly people.

Job 31:24-25, 28 If I have made gold my hope, or have said to the fine gold, Thou art my confidence;

If I rejoiced because my wealth was great, and because mine hand had gotten much;

This also were an iniquity to be punished by the judge: for I should have denied the God that is above.

Riches must not be our goal.

Job 32:8 But there is a spirit in man, And the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding.

Job 33:15-16 In a dream, in a vision of the night, When deep sleep falls upon men, While slumbering on their beds, Then He opens the ears of men, And seals their instruction.

Often in sleep our dreams instruct us. God may tell us in the day but often we do not comprehend because we are busy with the flesh. So in the night he opens our ears.

Job 33:17-19 That he may withdraw man from his purpose, and hide pride from man. He keepeth back his soul from the pit, and his life from perishing by the sword. He is chastened also with pain upon his bed, and the multitude of his bones with strong pain:

God may change our direction and eliminate pride in our hearts through suffering.

Job 34:9

For he (Job) has said, It profits a man nothing That he should delight in God.

There is no profit in serving God. Elihu is speaking these words about Job.

Job 34:31-32

For has anyone said to God, I have borne chastening; I will offend no more; Teach me what I do not see; If I have done iniquity, I will do no more?

Job 35:3

For you say, What advantage will it be to You? What profit shall I have, more than if I had sinned?

What do I gain by being a Christian?

Job 35:6-7

If you sin, what do you accomplish against Him? Or, if your transgressions are multiplied, what do you do to Him? If you are righteous, what do you give Him? Or what does He receive from your hand?

None of this affects God.

Job 35:8

Your wickedness affects a man such as you (*others*), And your righteousness a son of man (*by encouraging others to become Christians*).

Job 37:5

God thunders marvelously with His voice; He does great things which we cannot comprehend.

Job 40:1-2

Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said: Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? He who rebukes God, let him answer it.

Job 40:5

Once I have spoken, but I will not answer; Yes, twice, but I will proceed no further.

Job has nothing else to say.

Job 41:10-11

No one is so fierce that he would dare stir him up. Who then is able to stand against Me?

If you can't handle things in the world that are fierce, how can you handle God.

Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him? Everything under heaven is Mine.

Selected Bible Verses from Psalms

A Handbook of Devotion and Joyous Praises

2 Samuel 23:2

Inspiration for Strength and Commitment

David, the poet laureate of Israel, was much more than a ordinary poet—he was also a prophet of the Lord.

“The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.”

David used poetic modes of thought and expression with the inspiration of the Spirit to teach profound lessons of praise and devotion. It has been said that Hebrew poetic thought is a more prominent form corresponding with the essence of the spiritual message of our heavenly Father.

Many psalms of David employ nature to speak of the glory and goodness of the invisible God in such a way that we mortals can feel the nearness of the presence of God all around us.

Psalms provides strength in building a relationship between the human heart and God. For this reason it is an excellent repertory of divine language for our expressions of devotion in prayer and thanksgiving to God, and for encouragement of one another.

The Psalms are especially valuable because they were specifically adapted to the worship of God and are based on the history of a deep religious experience.

As Christians move through the varied episodes of life with problems and infirmities, or with gray hair signaling the approaching end of all physical things, Psalms becomes our reassuring companion, comforter and counselor.

With this thought in mind, the following selection of verses were chosen to provide comfort and counsel from the inspired poetry of a man after God's own heart.

*Note: **Bold underlined** phases had special meaning to the compiler.*

“God is the Strength of My Heart”

Psalms 1:2

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and **in his law** doth he **meditate day and night**.

Psalms 4:3

But know that **the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him.**

Psalms 5:8

Lead me, O LORD, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; **make thy way straight before my face.**

Psalms 6:2

Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I am weak: O LORD, **heal me; for my bones are vexed.**

Psalms 8:3-4

When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Psalms 9:10

And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

Psalms 13:6

I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me.

Psalms 15:1-5

LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

He that backbiteth not with his tongue, or doeth no evil to his neighbor, or taketh not up a reproach against his neighbor.

In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that swaureth to his own hurt, and changeth not.

He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.

Psalms 16:2-3

O my soul, thou hast said unto the LORD, Thou art my Lord: my goodness extendeth not to thee; But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight.

Psalms 16:7

I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons.

- Psalms 17:15* As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: **I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.**
- Psalms 18:10* **And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind.**
(Another very special verse! The presence of God is as near as the wind on your face. Ed.)
- Psalms 18:32* It is **God** that **girdeth me with strength,** and **maketh my way perfect.**
- Psalms 19:14* Let the **words** of my mouth, and the **medi-**
tation of my heart, **be acceptable** in thy sight, **O LORD, my strength,** and **my redeemer.**
- Psalms 20:7* **Some trust in chariots,** and **some in horses:** but **we will remember** the name of **the LORD** our God.
- Psalms 22:22* I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the **midst of the congregation will I praise thee.**
- Psalms 22:24* For **he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted;** **neither hath he hid his face from him;** but when he cried **unto him, he heard.**

Psalms 24:3-4

Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?

He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

Psalms 25:5

Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

Psalms 25:21

Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee.

Psalms 27:10

When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.

Psalms 27:14

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Psalms 31:3

For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me.

Psalms 32:5

I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

Psalms 33:18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that **hope in his mercy;**

Psalms 34:7 **The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.**

(Another very special verse! Ed.)

Psalms 34:18 **The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.**

Psalms 35:19-20 Let not them that are mine enemies wrongfully rejoice over me: neither let them wink with the eye **that hate me without a cause.**
For **they speak not peace:** but **they devise deceitful matters against them that are quiet in the land.**

Psalms 37:16 **A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.**

Simplicity is the key to a happy life.

Psalms 37:23-24 **The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.**
Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.

Psalms 38:15

For **in thee, O LORD, do I hope**: thou wilt hear, O Lord my God.

Psalms 39:4-5

LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am.

Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity.

Psalms 40:1-5

I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

Psalms 43:5

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? **hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.**

Psalms 46:1-3

God is our **refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.**

Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.

- Psalms 50:1* The mighty God, even **the LORD, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down the reof.**
- Psalms 51:17, 10* The **sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart,** O God, thou wilt not despise.
Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.
- Psalms 51:11* **Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.**
(This verse indicates the importance of a strong presence of the Holy Spirit within us. Ed.)
- Psalms 56:4* **In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.**
(This is a key verse to ensure a strong spirit. Ed.)
- Psalms 57:1* **Be merciful unto me, O God,** be merciful unto me: for **my soul trusteth in thee:** yea, **in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be past by.**
- (Another special verse. Ed.)*
- Psalms 60:11* Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man.

Psalms 68:4-6

Sing unto God, sing praises to his name: **extol him that rideth upon the heavens** by his name (which is the Lord), and rejoice before him.

A father of the fatherless, and **a judge of the widows**, is God in his holy habitation.

God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land.

Psalms 70:4

Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: and let such as love thy salvation say continually, **Let God be magnified**.

Psalms 71:18

Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; **until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation**, and thy power to every one that is to come.

Psalms 73:3; 16-18

For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;

Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.

Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.

Psalms 73:21-24; 26

Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.

So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.

Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.

Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

My flesh and my heart faileth: but **God is the strength of my heart**, and my portion for ever.

(A very comforting thought for the afflicted. Ed.)

Psalms 78:38-39

But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.

For he remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again.

Psalms 84:10

For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a **doorkeeper** in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Psalms 86:15

But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plentiful in mercy and truth.

Psalms 90:10, 12

The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

(Very good advice for all. Ed.)

Psalms 92:1-2

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:

To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night,

Psalms 92:5-6

O LORD, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep.

A stupid man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this.

Psalms 100:3

Know ye that the LORD he is God: **it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;** we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Psalms 103:12-14

As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

Psalms 103:17

But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his **righteousness unto children's children;**

Psalms 104:24

O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.

Psalms 105:17-19

He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant:

Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron:

Until the time that his word came: the word of the LORD **tested him.**

Psalms 107:31

Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

Psalms 111:4

He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

Psalms 111:10

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

Psalms 112:4-7

Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD.

Psalms 116:15

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

Psalms 118:14, 24

The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation.

This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalms 119:17-18

Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word.

Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

Psalms 119:49-50

Remember **the word** unto thy servant, upon which **thou hast caused me to hope.**

This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.

Psalms 119:57-59

Thou art my portion, O LORD: **I have said that I would keep thy words.**

I intreated thy favour with my whole heart: be merciful unto me according to thy word.

I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.

Psalms 119:67, 71

Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.

It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

(A very special verse that can only be accepted by one filled with the Spirit. When one reaches this point, he or she can be assured that everything is going to be O.K. Ed.)

Psalms 119:75-76

I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.

Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant.

(This is full acceptance of God's will. Ed.)

Psalms 119:97-100

O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

Thou through **thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me.**

I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.

I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.

Psalms 119:165

Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

Psalms 121:1-2

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.

(A most strengthening verse, especially when you realize that the presence of God is upon the wings of the wind. Ed.)

Psalms 131:1-2

LORD, my heart is not **haughty**, nor mine eyes **lofty**: **neither do I exercise myself in great matters**, or in things **too high for me**.

Surely I have **behaved and quieted myself**, as a child that is weaned of his mother: **my soul is even as a weaned child**.

Psalms 133:1

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Psalms 139:14-16

I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

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- Psalms 141:2-3*** Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.
Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.
- Psalms 142:5*** I cried unto thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.
- Psalms 143:6*** I stretch forth my hands unto thee: **my soul thirsteth after thee**, as a thirsty land.
(As the deer panteth for the waters. Ed.)
- Psalms 145:18*** The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.
- Psalms 147:11*** The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.
- Psalms 150:6*** Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. **Praise ye the LORD.**
(A fitting end to the selections in Psalms. Ed.)

Selected Bible Verses from Proverbs

A Book of Instruction: Reflecting on Moral Issues

Proverbs 4:7

Wisdom is the Principal Thing

The book of Proverbs of Solomon is the product of a “peaceable” man in quiet times. This is in contrast to the troublesome and warring times of his father David. David, whose life was full of trouble, wrote a book of devotion and prayer. Solomon’s writings reflect the peaceful time which was conducive to learning and reflection.

The main emphasis of Proverbs is wisdom.

“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.”

The following selected verses focus on “Being Wise” in life and attending to the instructions of the Lord.

Proverbs 1:5; 7; 23

Understanding the Way of the Lord

A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

Proverbs 2:6

For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 3:5-6; 11-12

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:

For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

Proverbs 4:5

Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

Proverbs 4:13

Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.

Proverbs 4:20-22

My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.

Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

Proverbs 5:16-19

Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets.

Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee.

Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.

Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.

Proverbs 8:11

For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

Proverbs 9:10

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Proverbs 10:19

In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.

Proverbs 11:24

There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.

Proverbs 13:7

There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.

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- Proverbs 13:13* Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.
- Proverbs 13:22* **A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children:** and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.
- Proverbs 14:1* Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.
- Proverbs 14:8* **The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way:** but the folly of fools is deceit.
- Proverbs 16:19* **Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.**
- Proverbs 17:6* **Children's children are the crown of old men;** and the glory of children are their fathers.
- Proverbs 17:17* **A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.**
- Proverbs 18:23* The poor useth entreaties; but the rich answereth roughly.

- Proverbs 20:5* Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.
- Proverbs 20:19* He that goeth about as **a talebearer revealeth secrets**: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.
- Proverbs 22:2* **The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the maker of them all.**
- Proverbs 23:16* Yea, my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right things.
- Proverbs 24:29* **Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me**: I will render to the man according to his work.
- Proverbs 27:2; 10* **Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth**; a stranger, and not thine own lips.
Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity: for better is a neighbor that is near than a brother far off.
- Proverbs 28:6* Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.

Proverbs 30:7-9

Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die:

Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

Proverbs 30:15-16

The horseleach hath two daughters, crying, Give, give. There are three things that are never satisfied, yea, four things say not, It is enough:

The grave; and the barren womb; the earth that is not filled with water; and the fire that saith not, It is enough.

Proverbs 30:18-19

There be three things which are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not:

The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid.

Proverbs 30:21-23

For three things the earth is disquieted, and for four which it cannot bear:

For a servant when he reigneth; and a fool when he is filled with meat;

For an odious woman when she is married; and an handmaid that is heir to her mistress.

Proverbs 30:24-28

There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise:

The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;

The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks;

The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands;

The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces.

Proverbs 30:29-31

There be three things which go well, yea, four are comely in going:

A lion which is strongest among beasts, and turneth not away for any;

A greyhound; an he goat also; and a king, against whom there is no rising up.

Proverbs 31:10-31

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.

The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.

She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.

She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.

She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.

She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.

Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.

Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

(A fitting tribute to a good woman. Ed.)

Selected Bible Verses from Ecclesiastes

Personification of Wisdom

Proverbs 1:20

Solomon Instructing an Assembly

Solomon, the preacher of wisdom, is practicing what he taught in Proverbs.

“Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:”

Wisdom seeks the good of all, instead of the glorification of self.

The primary lesson of Ecclesiastes is that without God human existence is frustrating and never satisfying.

When we seek for our own sakes all the pleasures and material things of life the result is unhappiness and a sense of futility.

One of the world’s richest men, Aristotle Onassis, said, “I worked very hard to get to the top only to find out that there is nothing there.”

The following selection of verses summarize the futility of seeking material things and worldly pleasures. They emphasize the good advice of “being wise” and “keeping things simple.”

These readings teach us to place proper priorities on every thing in life. Generally, the things that get us most upset are the least important. Life is a state of mind. It’s up to each one to decide if our approach to life’s problems is going to be from the positive or negative point of view. It makes a difference in the way we handle life and death.

“For This is the Whole Duty of Man”***Ecclesiastes 1:3-9***

What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?

One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever.

The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose.

The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.

All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.

All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 1:16-18

I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all they that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge.

And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit.

For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sor-

row.

Ecclesiastes 2:10-11

And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.

Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 2:13-16

Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness.

The wise man's eyes are in his head; but the fool walketh in darkness: and I myself perceived also that one event happeneth to them all.

Then said I in my heart, As it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth even to me; and why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart, that this also is vanity.

For there is no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now is in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise man? as the fool.

Ecclesiastes 2:21

For there is a man whose labour is in wisdom, and in knowledge, and in equity; yet to a man that hath not laboured therein shall he leave it for his portion. This also is vanity and a great evil.

Ecclesiastes 2:24

There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God.

Ecclesiastes 3:11-14

He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life.

And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.

I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.

Ecclesiastes 3:18-22

I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts.

For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity.

All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.

Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?

Wherefore I perceive that there is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion: for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?

Ecclesiastes 4:6

Better is an handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit.

Ecclesiastes 4:8

There is one alone, and there is not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother: yet is there no end of all his labour; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither saith he, For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good? This is also vanity, yea, it is a sore travail.

Ecclesiastes 5:1-2

Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.

Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.

Ecclesiastes 5:8

If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for he that is higher than the highest regardeth; and there be higher than they.

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.

When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes?

The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.

There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt.

But those riches perish by evil travail: and he begetteth a son, and there is nothing in his hand.

As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand.

And this also is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind?

All his days also he eateth in darkness, and he hath much sorrow and wrath with his sickness.

Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion.

Every man also to whom God hath given

riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God.

For he shall not much remember the days of his life; because God answereth him in the joy of his heart.

Ecclesiastes 6:2

A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this is vanity, and it is an evil disease.

Ecclesiastes 6:7-9

All the labour of man is for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled.

For what hath the wise more than the fool? what hath the poor, that knoweth to walk before the living?

Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the desire: this is also vanity and vexation of spirit.

Ecclesiastes 6:10

That which hath been is named already, and it is known that it is man: neither may he contend with him that is mightier than he.

Ecclesiastes 7:1

A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth.

Ecclesiastes 7:3-4

Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.

The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

Ecclesiastes 7:5-9

It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.

For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool: this also is vanity.

Surely oppression maketh a wise man mad; and a gift destroyeth the heart.

Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.

Ecclesiastes 7:13-15

Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked?

In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him.

All things have I seen in the days of my vanity: there is a just man that perisheth in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man that prolongeth his life in his wickedness.

Ecclesiastes 7:20-22

For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

Also take no heed unto all words that are spoken; lest thou hear thy servant curse thee:

For oftentimes also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself likewise hast cursed others.

Ecclesiastes 7:28

Which yet my soul seeketh, but I find not: one man among a thousand have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found.

Ecclesiastes 8:8

There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

Ecclesiastes 8:11-14

Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:

But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.

There is a vanity which is done upon the earth; that there be just men, unto whom it happeneth according to the work of the wicked; again, there be wicked men, to whom it happeneth according to the work of the righteous: I said that this also is vanity.

Ecclesiastes 8:17

Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea

further; though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it.

Ecclesiastes 9:1

For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God: no man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them.

Ecclesiastes 9:9-12

Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.

For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.

Ecclesiastes 10:7

I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth.

Ecclesiastes 10:10

If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct.

Ecclesiastes 10:11-12

Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment; and a babbler is no better.

The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself.

Ecclesiastes 10:14

A fool also is full of words: a man cannot tell what shall be; and what shall be after him, who can tell him?

Ecclesiastes 10:18-20

By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.

A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things.

Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter.

Ecclesiastes 11:1

Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.

Ecclesiastes 11:5

As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.

Ecclesiastes 12:1-7

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain:

In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened,

And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low;

Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:

Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Selected Bible Verses from Lamentations

Jerusalem Laments Her Suffering

The Lord Loves Those He Chastens

The deeper significance of Lamentations lies in the fact that Jeremiah's intense burden of sympathy for Jerusalem actually discloses the love and sorrow of the Lord for the people He is chastening. This is a burden similar to what the Lord Jesus Christ expressed in His lament over Jerusalem (Matt. 23:37-39).

The deep grief expressed in Lamentations resulted from God withholding His presence from His children. The grievous suffering of the inhabitants of Jerusalem is because of their own sins. They are feeling the wrath of God as He disciplines them for their own good.

The following selected verses record their suffering and the final recognition that God meant it for their good.

Lamentations 1:5

Her adversaries are the chief, her enemies prosper; for the LORD hath afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions: her children are gone into captivity before the enemy.

Lamentations 1:16

For these things I weep; mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water, **because the comforter that should relieve my soul is far from me**; my children are desolate, because the enemy prevailed.

Lamentations 1:21-22

They have heard that I sigh: there is none to comfort me: all mine enemies have heard of my trouble; they are glad that thou hast done it: thou wilt bring the day that thou hast called, and they shall be like unto me.

Let all their wickedness come before thee; and do unto them, as thou hast done unto me for all my transgressions: for my sighs are many, and my heart is faint.

Lamentations 2:5-6

The Lord was as an enemy: he hath swallowed up Israel, he hath swallowed up all her palaces: he hath destroyed his strong holds, and hath increased in the daughter of Judah mourning and lamentation.

And he hath violently taken away his tabernacle, as if it were of a garden: he hath destroyed his places of the assembly: the LORD hath caused the solemn feasts and sabbaths to be forgotten in Zion, and hath despised in the indignation of his anger the king and the priest.

Lamentations 2:9; 11

Her gates are sunk into the ground; he hath destroyed and broken her bars: her king and her princes are among the Gentiles: the law is no more; her prophets also find no vision from the LORD.

Mine eyes do fail with tears, my bowels are troubled, my liver is poured upon the earth, for the destruction of the daughter of my people; because the children and the sucklings swoon in the streets of the city.

Lamentations 2:16

All thine enemies have opened their mouth against thee: they hiss and gnash the teeth: they say, We have swallowed her up: certainly this is the day that we looked for; we have found, we have seen it.

Lamentations 3:22-27

It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.

It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.

It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.

Lamentations 3:31-33

For the Lord will not cast off for ever:

But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies.

For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.

Lamentations 3:37

Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not?

Lamentations 3:40-41 Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD.

Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the heavens.

Lamentations 3:55-57 I called upon thy name, O LORD, out of the low dungeon.

Thou hast heard my voice: hide not thine ear at my breathing, at my cry.

Thou drewest near in the day that I called upon thee: thou saidst, Fear not.

Lamentations 4:6 For the punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom, that was overthrown as in a moment, and no hands stayed on her.

Lamentations 5:21 Turn thou us unto thee, O LORD, and we shall be turned; **renew our days as of old.**

Job asked for this same thing, (Job 29:2).

Special Selected Bible Verses from the Old & New Testaments

The Exceeding Greatness of God’s Power for His Saints

The Power of Understanding

When contemplating God’s power we generally associate it with some supernatural action. Before God’s revelation to mankind was completed, His power was exhibited by supernatural actions designed to carry out God’s purpose or inspire faith in God.

Since God’s revelation has been completed, His power is not visibly apparent in supernatural actions, but in the power of understanding.

Paul prayed for power to understand, not the power to act. In Ephesians 3:16-20, he prayed for the power to understand and know something that surpasses human knowledge—too great for human words, i.e., the love of God.

To know the love of God is to experience the fullness of God and His power in our lives. If we know and have that love then we will have the power to act like Him. This power of understanding is the basis of saving faith.

The following selected verses provide an overview of God’s power through the Holy Spirit for the saints.

Matthew 22:29

Jesus answered and said unto them, **Ye do err**, not **knowing the scriptures**, nor the **power of God**.

Ephesians 3:16-20

That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be **strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man**;

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

May be **able to comprehend** with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

And **to know the love of Christ**, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the **power that worketh in us**,

“I want to be filled with all the fullness of God, which is His spirit. Therefore, I must love as Christ loved and I must study for understanding and have wisdom in His word.”

Ephesians 1:16-19

Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

That the **God** of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation** in the knowledge of him:

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; **that ye may know** what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

And what is the **exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward** who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,...

Romans 5:5

And hope maketh not ashamed; because the **love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost** which is given unto us.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ**: for it **is the power of God** unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

1 Corinthians 2:4-5

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of **the Spirit and of power**:

That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the **power of God**.

1 Corinthians 4:20

For **the kingdom of God** is not in word, but **in power**.

Romans 14:17

For **the kingdom of God** is not meat and drink; but **righteousness**, and **peace**, and **joy in the Holy Ghost**.

Romans 15:13

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may **abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost**.

Hebrews 13:20-21

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Philippians 2:12-13

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

For it is **God which worketh in you** both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Ephesians 3:20

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to **the power that worketh in us,**

1 Thessalonians 1:5-6

For our **gospel came** not unto you in word only, but also **in power, and in the Holy Ghost,** and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with **joy of the Holy Ghost:**

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

(For the **weapons of our warfare are** not carnal, but **mighty through God** to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and **bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;**

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through **Christ which strengtheneth me.**

2 Corinthians 3:5

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but **our sufficiency is of God;**

2 Corinthians 9:8

And **God is able to make all grace abound toward you;** that ye, always having **all sufficiency in all things,** may abound to every good work:

2 Corinthians 9:11

Being **enriched in every thing** to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 12:9

And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee:** for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather **glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.**

Colossians 1:9-12

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to **pray** for you, and to desire that **ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;**

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

2 Thessalonians 1:11

Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:

2 Timothy 1:7

For **God hath** not **given us the spirit** of fear; but **of power**, and **of love**, and **of a sound mind**.

1 Peter 1:5

Who are **kept by the power of God through faith** unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Ephesians 6:10

Finally, my **brethren, be strong** in the Lord, and **in the power of his might**.

Isaiah 40:31

But **they that wait** upon the LORD **shall renew their strength**; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

- Psalms 138:3* In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and **strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.**
- Psalms 21:13* Be thou exalted, LORD, in thine own strength: so will **we sing and praise thy power.**
- Psalms 59:16* But **I will sing of thy power;** yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy **in the morning;** for thou hast been my defence and refuge in the day of my trouble.
- Psalms 68:35* O God, thou art terrible out of thy holy places: the **God** of Israel **is he that giveth strength and power unto his people.** Blessed be God.
- Psalms 71:18* Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have **shewed thy strength unto this generation,** and **thy power to every one** that is to come.
- Deuteronomy 32:45-47* And Moses made an end of speaking all these words to all Israel:
- And he said unto them, **Set your hearts unto all the words** which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law.
- For it is not a vain thing for you; because it is your life;** and through this thing ye shall prolong your days in the land, whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.

Kay's bible study notes jotted on the back of a get well card envelope during her afternoon bible study on October 25, 1999.

Power

1. We ✓ bring + praise God's power
2. God gives us power + strength + people
3. we are / show + " " " " + other
4. our faith is the power of God
5. gospel is the power of God * Rom 1:16
6. We have "hope" through + power
7. God is / working according to + power
8. we are strengthened by power
9. God has given us the spirit of power + we are full
10. There is power - in us!

questions

1. Is the "power" + spirit of God.

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A question for deeper study was 'Is the "power" the spirit of God?' Do we understand and appreciate God's power as we should? Consider Matt. 22: 29.



January 1, 1939—November 8, 1999

THIS BOOK IS A FITTING MEMORIAL TO A FRAGILE YET STRONG WOMAN THAT TURNED THE FIERY TRIALS OF CANCER INTO FAITH-ON-FIRE THAT STRENGTHENED HER SPIRIT AND LIFTED HER AND MANY OTHERS TO NEW HEIGHTS OF HOPE AND ETERNAL ENCOURAGEMENT.

THE KEY TO HER STRENGTH WAS HER THIRST FOR THE WORD OF GOD. SHE COULD TRULY SAY, "AS THE DEER

PANTS FOR WATER, SO MY SOUL LONGS AFTER YOU, PSALM 42: 1-2." HER HEART'S DESIRE AND LONGING WAS TO KNOW AND WORSHIP THE LORD! THIS BURNING DESIRE ENABLED HER TO BRING HER THOUGHTS INTO CAPTIVITY TO THE OBEEDIENCE OF CHRIST, WHICH PROMPTED HER KIND AND CARING SPIRIT TO REACH OUT AND TOUCH THE LIVES AND SOULS OF MANY PEOPLE DURING HER TWO YEARS OF ENLIGHTENMENT. IT WAS THROUGH THE POWER OF GOD THAT THIS WOMAN OF FAITH USED THE FIRES OF AFFLICTION FOR SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT, INSTEAD OF DARK DESPAIR. THE CANCER MAY HAVE CLAIMED HER BODY, BUT NOT HER ETERNAL SPIRIT AND SOUL.

IT IS OBVIOUS THAT IT WAS THE LORD'S PURPOSE TO ALLOW HER REASONABLY GOOD QUALITY OF LIFE AND PHYSICAL STRENGTH FOR TWO YEARS IN ORDER TO SHOW US A BETTER WAY OF DEALING WITH ADVERSITIES IN LIFE. FINALLY, WHEN HIS WILL WAS ACCOMPLISHED, THE LORD TOOK HER QUICKLY AND PEACEFULLY TO ENJOY THE RICHES OF THE GLORY OF HIS INHERITANCE; FOR THIS REASON SHE SANG, "O THAT WILL BE GLORY FOR ME!"

SHARLA KAY STOOPS LEARNED THE IMPORTANCE OF "SETTING OUR HEARTS UPON ALL THE WORDS OF THE LORD...FOR IT IS NOT A VAIN THING FOR YOU; FOR IT IS YOUR LIFE, DEUT. 32:45-47."

DRS