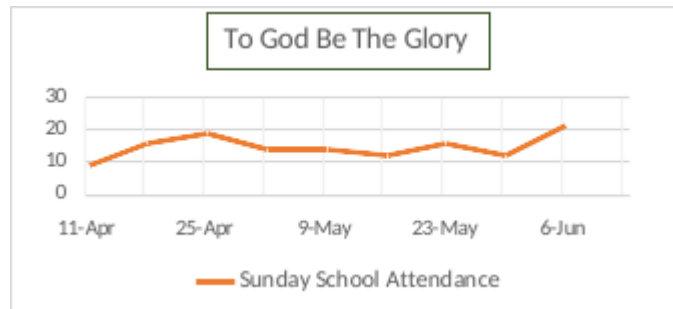


Welcome and Announcements

We are currently meeting in-person for 10:00 am Sunday School and 11:00 am Worship.
Last week's Sunday School attendance = 21



Introduction

Last week we began our study in Job focusing on Job's initial trial with the loss of all of his wealth and his children. Our lesson for this week is from chapter 14. Here we'll briefly consider the progression of events leading up to our focal passage for this week.

Testing Round 2 (Job 2:3-13)

³And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth (shuns) evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause. ⁴And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. ⁵But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face. ⁶And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life. ⁷So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown. ⁸And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes. ⁹Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die. ¹⁰But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive (accept) good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil (adversity/trouble)? In all this did not Job sin with his lips (with what he said).

God allows Satan to afflict Job with severe physical suffering, with even his wife tempting him to curse God. Job once more proves Satan a liar and passes this round of testing by maintaining his integrity and fear of God. Satan doesn't appear again in the book, but Job's trials were not over.

Job's 3 Friends (Job 2:11-13)

¹¹Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came everyone from his own place; Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite: for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him.

Job's friends journey to mourn and comfort Job, sitting quietly with him for 7 days and nights, before beginning dialogues with Job. They contend that Job's suffering was God's punishment for his sins as seen in the following exerts, while Job responds by claiming innocence.

Eliphaz (Job 4:1-8)

¹Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said, ²If we assay (venture) to commune (speak) with thee, wilt thou be grieved? but who can withhold himself from speaking? ³Behold, thou hast instructed many, and thou hast strengthened the weak hands. ⁴Thy words have upholden (helped) him that was falling, and thou hast strengthened the feeble knees. ⁵But now it is come upon thee, and thou faintest; it toucheth thee, and thou art troubled. ⁶Is not this thy fear, thy confidence, thy hope, and the uprightness of thy ways? ⁷Remember, I pray thee, whoever perished, being innocent? or where were the righteous cut off (destroyed)? ⁸Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same.

Eliphaz said he had never seen the innocent suffer, so Job must have sinned.

Bildad (Job 8:1-6)

¹Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said, ²How long wilt thou speak these things? and how long shall the words of thy mouth be like a strong wind? ³Doth God pervert judgment? or doth the Almighty pervert justice? ⁴If thy children have sinned against him, and he have cast them away for their transgression; ⁵If thou wouldest seek unto God betimes, and make thy supplication to the Almighty; ⁶If thou wert pure and upright; surely now he would awake for thee, and make the habitation of thy righteousness prosperous.

Bildad said his children deserved their fate and if Job were “pure and upright” he would once more prosper.

Zophar (Job 11:1-4)

¹Then answered Zophar the Naamathite, and said, ²Should not the multitude of words be answered? and should a man full of talk be justified? ³Should thy lies make men hold their peace? and when thou mockest, shall no man make thee ashamed? ⁴For thou hast said, My doctrine is pure, and I am clean (innocent) in thine eyes.

Zophar called Job a liar and mocker deserving even more suffering for claiming innocence.

Conclusion

Through the trials of the first two chapters, Job is able to maintain his integrity and faith and “not sin with his lips” although he was so severely afflicted that he resigned himself to wanting to die. His three friends share in his grief and attempt to comfort him; but their attempts to explain the cause of his suffering in light of their beliefs, only add to Job’s pain and almost accomplish what Satan couldn’t. At the point of near hopelessness, Job prays asking God to stop the affliction and deliver him. Our focal passage for this week is a portion of Job’s prayer. It is through prayer and faith in Jesus, our mediator or “daysman” (Job 9:33) that we find hope in this life. Though still subject to life’s trials, through Jesus we have a secure hope of salvation and future deliverance from the wrath of judgment...and on that assurance of peace with God and grace, we can find comfort.

¹Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: ²By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. **Romans 5:1-2**