

Old Testament Adversity

By Juanita Coy

“Adversity is the diamond dust heaven polishes it’s jewels with.” - Leighton

If you are struggling with trials in your life, you are in good company! We all face them at one time or another. Throughout the Word of God, great men and women faced ups and downs in their lives, sometimes through fear, but always through faith and trust in God.

I recently did a study personally on adversity and was surprised how many wonderful examples of adversity there are in the Bible, sometimes almost too many to choose from. Here are a few examples. I encourage you to begin your own study and receive a blessing of encouragement!

GENESIS

Noah *Gen. 8:1* “God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded.”

Abraham *Gen. 15:1* “Do not be afraid Abram, I am your shield, your very great reward.”

Joseph *Gen. 41:38.* “So Pharaoh asked them, “Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?””

EXODUS

The Children of Israel *Exodus 3:7* “The Lord said to Moses, ‘I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out...I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.’”

LEVITICUS/

NUMBERS/DEUTERONOMY

Moses *Deut 7:9* “Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love and keep his commands.”

JOSHUA

Joshua. *Joshua 1: 6-9* “Be strong and courageous. For the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

JUDGES

Jephthah He was a great warrior (11:1) *Judges 11:35* “I have made a vow to the Lord that I cannot break.”

Gideon *Judges 6:15,16* “But Lord,” Gideon asked, “How can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.” The Lord answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together.”

RUTH

Ruth. “May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me.”

ISAMUEL

Hannah *I Sam. 2:1* “My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies for I delight in your deliverance.”

II SAMUEL

Nathan *II Sam 7:17* “Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation.”

Elijah *I Kings 18:36-38* “Let it be known today that you are God in Israel and I am your servant and have done all these things at your command.”

I CHRONICLES

David *I Chronicles 17:16* “Who am I, Lord God, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?”

II CHRONICLES

Micaiah “As surely as the Lord lives, I can tell him only what my God says.”

NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah *Nehemiah 6:9* “But I prayed, now strengthen my hands.”

ESTHER

Esther *Esther 4:16* “And if I perish, I perish.”

JOB

Job *James 5:10,11* “You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.”

PSALMS/ECCLESIASTES

David *Lots of great verses here. Ps. 10:1* “Why, O Lord do you hide yourself in times of trouble.” *Eccl. 12:13* “Here is the conclusion of the matter; Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”

ISAIAH

Isaiah. *Isa. 41:10* “So do not fear, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

JEREMIAH/LAMENTATIONS

Jeremiah *Jer. 39:17* “I will rescue you on that day, declares the Lord; you will not be handed over to those you fear. I will save you; you will not fall by the sword but will escape with your life, because you trust in me, declares the Lord.” *Lam 2:11* “My eyes fail from weeping. I am in torment within my heart because my people are destroyed.”

EZEKIEL

Ezekiel *Ezek. 2:1* “He said to me, ‘Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you.’”

DANIEL

Daniel *Dan. 2:22* “God reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.”

Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego

Dan. 3:16-18 “If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it.”

HOSEA

Hosea *Hosea 6:1* “Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds.”

“They conquer who believe they can. He has not learned the first lesson of live does not every day”
surmount a fear.”
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

JOEL

Joel *Joel 2:12,13* “Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, relents from sending calamity.”

JONAH

Jonah *Jonah 2:1* “In my distress I called to the Lord and he answered. From the depths of the grave I called for help, and you listened to my cry.”

NAHUM

Nahum *1:7* “The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him”

HABAKKUK

Habakkuk *Habakkuk 1:2* “How long, O Lord, must I call for help, but you not listen?”

“Show me someone who has done something worthwhile, and I’ll show you someone who has overcome adversity.”
- Lou Holtz