

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Filling in the Gaps Lesson 14B
Why God's people suffer

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TROUBLE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT (THE HEROES OF THE FAITH)

Hebrews 11 In this chapter the holy Spirit allow us to look back through four thousand (4000) years of the Old Testament and pulls from it the people who perform the greatest works of faith as recorded. He holds these men and women up to us and says this is the best. As you come down toward the end of this chapter, look at what the Bible says in Hebrews 11:33-39 *Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. 35 Women received their dead raised to life again:* Who wouldn't serve a God with joy if only things like this happened in their lives. God wrought these great victories and incredible miracles on their behalf.

Verse 35b...*and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: 36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: 37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; 38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.* I would rather be in that first group, wouldn't you? But do you know what the first group and the second group have in common?

Verse 39 *And these all, having obtained a good report through faith,.....*

- What did the person do who escaped, what did he do differently than the man who was imprisoned? Nothing.
- What did the person who suffered martyrdom do differently than the person who experienced a miraculous intervention? Nothing!

Do you understand? Look – we want you to surrender your life and live for Jesus Christ but that does not mean everything is going to be smooth, everything may not go your way. Everything down here is predicated on sin and our uncircumcised flesh. Sure it will be wonderful in heaven when God wipes the last tear from the last eye. But not down here.

TROUBLE IN THE APOSTLE PAUL'S LIFE

What do we do when we have trouble? We run to God and plead with Him to take it away. We never say... *“Lord, thanks for this... it's going to make*

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me stronger. In fact, give me a double-dose... I'll be twice as strong..." Now the day might come when we get to that place – But right now... we do not want to be sick, hurt, cry, have any conflicts or setbacks in our lives. Look at the length of a prayer list in any church... all of the hurt, pain, suffering and sorrow. What would you think if we bowed our head and said, "God, just turn up the heat on them so they can grow and be a better Christian...?" (We are not suggesting that you pray that way.) We all pray the same thing... **“God, fix it now! Work a miracle!”** What we are suggesting is maybe God has a different plan for this situation, so please do not get mad at God if your prayer does not go the way you wanted it too. Too often we hear people say, "Oh do not pray for patience because it will bring you trials and tribulations" The Bible says: 1 Peter 1:7 *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:* Nobody likes trials, but if this is the fruit it produces we should all want more. See also 1 Timothy 6:11.

Who are these people standing in these pulpits saying trust Jesus and you will never be sick again a day in your life? The man in the pulpit has gray hair and eye-glasses. Physician heal thyself...

Far too many people are being duped by these fakers, they will put their money in the offering – then they do not get healed, instead of walking away from the so called healer, they go home mad at God.

2 Corinthians 12:7. Would you say Paul is a pretty good servant of Jesus? The holy Spirit used him to pen a third of the New Testament, we read about Paul in verse 7... *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

Paul does what any of us would do we pray and ask God to heal me, see what God tells him. Verse 8- *For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.* (We are all probably thinking wish the verse would of stopped right there because the rest of this is going to condemn me.) *Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

Let's see how good of a Christian you really are – here is the test. The next time you get the stomach flu, pray and say "Thank you God – this is such a blessing because it is just showing me that all my strength comes from you.

Compared to Paul the Apostle none of us are good Christians, most of us want to be good Christians but we want God to answer our prayers or at least meet in the middle, we are selfish.

- The Lord wants me stronger – I just want to feel good.

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- The Lord wants to make a better Christian – I am content to be a good Christian as long as nothing hurts.

Our prayer life needs to be altered somewhat

- ✓ Fact. My neighbors without Christ they are all going to hell.
- ✓ Fact. Some of our next of kin are on their way to hell.
- ✓ Fact. Nations all over this world have absolutely no freedom to worship Jesus Christ. They risk their lives to own a Bible.
- ✓ Fact. The headline is... “Urgent Prayer Request...” I lost my job, please pray that I can get a new one right away. Really? Millions of people all over the world are on their way to a lake of fire,

Do you understand what we are? We want God to do what John the Baptist did for the Messiah – we want Him to level every hill and exalt every valley and make the crooked path straight. We just want smooth sailing with the wind at our back all the way into heaven and if it does not happen... (Sobbing) “Well, I don’t know if God loves me or not... I just don’t know if the Bible’s true or not...” Get over yourself. Life’s rough. It would be a lot rougher if you turn against God... because now it’s going to be rough without the Lord.

Psalm 55. David wrote some songs that if you sang them in church, they would throw you out. David’s having a bad time. Psalm 55:1. ***Give ear to my prayer, O God; and hide not thyself from my supplication.*** (Have you ever felt like God is just hiding from you?) ***2 Attend unto me, and hear me: I mourn in my complaint, and make a noise;*** (Have you ever felt so broken... so hurt you could not even put words in your prayers that you just moaned and groaned and cried before God? We have all been there. Life hurts all of us. ***3 Because of the voice of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked: for they cast iniquity upon me, and in wrath they hate me. 4 My heart is sore pained within me: and the terrors of death are fallen upon me. 5 Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me.*** (Have you ever felt that scared? Have you ever lied about that to that extent? Have you ever had people just try to wreck you and ruin you for no good reason? That is David.) ***6 And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest. 7 Lo, then would I wander far off, and remain in the wilderness. Selah. 8 I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest.*** (Do you know what David said? I just want to go somewhere else. Let me fly away let me escape in the middle of the ocean. Guaranteed if you have not been there you will be. That is what David is experiencing; he is the king of Israel. He is a man that could have everything he wanted except a life without trouble.

Verse 15. (How does God respond?) ***Let death seize upon them, and let them go down quick into hell:*** (Have troubles ever made you bitter... against the people that weren’t suffering like you were? We say to ourselves I live right and look at all of this happening to me and they live like the devil and nothing happens

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to them. We have all felt that way; and said those things.) ...*for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them.* There is not a one of us that hasn't been to one of those funerals of an untimely death and said, "Why this young person? Clean... saved... sober... loves Jesus. Look at that guy!" The one you're mourning is with the Lord! That guy would have been in hell.

Verse 16. *As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me. 17 Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.* Do you know what he said? I'm just going to keep praying to God till I get some help.

Verse 18. *He hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle that was against me: for there were many with me. Verse 22 Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.* David is standing in the midst of this trouble and heartache. It is destroying him emotionally. It is destroying him physically. It is turning him against God and man. And he prays and he prays and he prays and he prays – and here is what he said. I wanted to go to the wilderness and God wouldn't let me move. I wanted to run away and God wouldn't let me move. See what he said? *He didn't suffer me to be moved! But He came where I was and sustained me.*

David said I want to go into the wilderness... the sparks still fly upward out there. I want to take wings and fly to another place... you'd still be born of a woman when you got there. Here's what God said. Until I can take you out of this world with all its trouble, if you will keep coming to me I will sustain you. Praise the Lord. That's the best you can get... in a world full of sin. But you can have it.

Rather than me telling you a fairy tale with whipped cream on top to make you feel good, we would much rather tell you the truth then you can get a hold of something to help you the rest of your life. God is not against you; sin is against you. God is not hurting you; sin hurts you. God will sustain you and give you joy and strength only if you are with Him. You're going to have the troubles. Everybody has troubles.

Here are three Hebrew children, Hananiah, Azariah and Mishael. They stood for God in a wicked society. The king, builds a big statue of himself so everyone can bow down to his image. Everybody has to bow down in worship to this image or go in a burning fiery furnace these boys said we are not going to bow to an image. Daniel 3:13-17. *Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. Then they brought these men before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up? 15 Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds*

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of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands? 16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. 17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. Their fate was not in the hands of king Nebuchadnezzar, only in God's hands. We belong to God, Jesus made a similar statement while discussing His fate with Pilate, see John 19:10-11. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego had already decided they were not going to bow down to your statue. We are going to stand for God.

Daniel 3:23-25 Daniel 3:23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. 24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. 25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

God did not get David out of his trouble. He came and strengthened him in his trouble. God did not get those three boys out of the fiery furnace; He came down there and walked with them in the fiery furnace. Start hoping for the blessed hope; and stop hoping for what you cannot have until that trumpet sounds. We must make God as real as your trouble. We must spend as much time and fellowship with the Lord as we spend in fellowship with your sorrow. When your mind is occupied with what went wrong all you are is occupied with is what went wrong. As soon as you can get occupied with the God of all grace all comfort all mercy and the God that has a glorious heaven prepared for us He will sustain you, walk with you, strengthen you and He will comfort you so that while the rest of the world falls apart in their troubles they see us loose and walking in the fire and say, "The Son of God must be in there somewhere...."

Elijah, David, Paul, Abraham....that is a Mount Rushmore in the Bible. Jesus... trouble... trouble... trouble.... Every one of them finished well because they did not let trouble turn them against God. They let their trouble turn them to God. We all wish life was easy. Easy street is just around the corner "the rapture" and it will be forever... forever.... In the meantime do not cast away your faith in God when trouble comes.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Notes

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Name _____

(*) if asterisk is shown in question, scripture is required along with answer in your own words.

1. Where does trouble come from?*
2. What is the test of a real Christian when trouble arises?
3. Explain Hebrews 11:39?
4. What are on most prayer lists?, why?
5. Who is on the Mount Rushmore of the Bible? why?
6. Why should we be praying for patience?*
7. In what way should our prayer life be altered?
8. What stipulation do we put on God when we ask Him to make us better Christians?

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9. What should we be thinking about when trouble comes out way?

10. When a preacher tells you that if you let Jesus in your heart all your troubles will go away, what is he telling you? What should you do?

11. Why was Paul the Apostle never healed?*

12. Why is it wrong to think; only trouble comes to people who are trying to be good Christians?

13. What is the worst thing you can do when trouble comes?

True/false

- The born again believer is in God's hands.
- The martyrs for God were just average Christians.
- All of us want to be good Christians, just as long as nothing hurts.
- When trouble comes our thoughts should focus of the goodness of God.

**Scripture memorization**

Proverbs 3:5-6; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Psalms 55:16-17

Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)

any questions?