

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

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

Filling in the Gaps – Lesson 21
SUICIDE, WHY?

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Suicide, why? If there really is a God, why would He allow something like this to happen? The answer is simple, God created human beings with the ability to choose.

Because this is a Bible study course, we need to start with finding out what the Bible says about suicide.

Exodus 20:13 *Thou shalt not kill.* That verse is as plain as it gets, but we have to consider that there may be someone reading this that may not care what the Bible says, which is sad. It is sad because God knew them before they were born. Yes, He knew you when you were in the womb of your mother. He also knew that life was going to be tough for you. That's why He put people in your life to guide you to what the Bible says and why it says what it says. Please do not disregard God's guidance. I can hear you say, "Why does it have to be that way? Why can't we just go through life with no problems, being rich and happy and then die?" Well, let me tell you – that is what God intended for all of us at one time (minus the dying). Then sin entered the world because people would not do what God said. Sin brought in the element of pain, troubles, and death.

Now that sin is here with all its consequences, we can either give up on life (not knowing what is beyond), or we can ask for God's help and enjoy His guiding hand through life. The best analogy I have ever heard is, "Troubles are like the glue of life." Each time a trouble occurs in your life you learn and eventually you will overcome, so that the next time that trouble invades your life, the previous trouble has glued that crack through experience and hope. Romans 5:3-5

When a cow is trying to eat the grass on the other side of the fence, he may end up getting his neck caught in the fence. You would think he would learn his lesson from the fence, but, being a cow, he will invariably do it again. You are not a cow, but when troubles cause hurt in your life, they should be learning experiences to help you remember to avoid such circumstances in the future. Unlike the cow, you have the ability to make a logical or wise choice.

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One of the greatest aspects of being a human being is that we are not all the same. We do not look, feel, act, think, or handle challenges and stress the same as others. God made you an individual. He gave you special talents that are unique to you. When God formed you in the belly of your mother, you were like a painting on God's easel that was special. There is no pill or remedy of man that can fix the troubles that come your way. You are God's creation, and only He knows how to help you.

Now, I can hear you say, "Well, you do not understand my situation." I may not, but God does. He wrote about situations like yours, and many others, that would drive a person to end his or her life.

May I say that you are not the first person to become tired of life's troubles and just want to give up. Let's look at a few people in the Bible that came to a point in their life where they had more than they could handle.

Jonah

Jonah 4:3 *Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.*

Jonah was a prophet of God who was commanded to go to the city of Nineveh to tell the people there that God was not happy with their behavior. He wanted Jonah to warn them that He was going to wipe them out unless they turned from their wickedness. Jonah disobeyed, ran from God, ended up swallowed by a whale, and was vomited up on shore. He then decided to obey God. He went to Nineveh and preached to the people who, in turn, repented and stopped their wicked behavior. God was pleased and did not wipe them out. This brings us to chapter four in the book of Jonah. We find here that Jonah wanted to die. Why now? He wasn't asking God to let him die when he was in the dark, nasty, smelly whale's stomach. No, rather, he wanted to die after he had done what God told him to do and after he had seen the people repent. Do you know why? Deep within Jonah's heart he had hatred for the Ninevites because they had brutally slaughtered his people. Jonah wanted God to do the same to Ninevites, but instead, God forgave them of all their wickedness. Jonah was not happy at all about that. He felt they deserved to be destroyed by God. Can you hear Jonah saying to himself, "*That's why I did not want to go in the first place. I knew God would forgive them, and it's just not fair after all they did to my relatives and friends. He should have destroyed them. I did what I was supposed to do. He was supposed to kill them, but He forgave them.*"

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Next, we will look at Elijah.

Elijah

1 Kings 19:4 *But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.*

Elijah told Ahab, the king of Israel, that God had said it was not going to rain for three years. After three years had passed with no rain, water was scarce. It was then that Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to an altar sacrifice burn-off (ASBO) to see if their false god, Baal, could make fire come down and burn the sacrifice. The prophets of Baal danced around their sacrifice. They cut themselves, shouted, and jumped, but their false god Baal did nothing.

Then it was Elijah's turn. He ordered twelve barrels of water to be poured upon the sacrifice. Then Elijah called upon God, the true God. The heavens opened and fire came down from God. The fire burned up everything. What a victory! And then God sent rain in abundance.

You would think that after Elijah had been used by God in such a mighty way that he would be shouting on the housetops for joy. Unfortunately, that is not what happened.

Ahab had told his wicked wife, Jezebel, all that Elijah had done, including how Elijah had had all the prophets of Baal slaughtered after they had lost the ASBO. Jezebel was in a rage; she wanted Elijah killed. This brings us to the verse previously quoted, 1 Kings 19:4. Elijah is sitting under a tree, scared for his life, hoping none of Jezebel's messengers find him.

He was not scared when he stood before the king of Israel, telling him there was not going to be any rain because the king had forsaken God's commandments and followed after the false god Baal. He was not scared when he challenged the prophets of Baal to call down fire from heaven. He was not scared when he ordered the people to kill the prophets of Baal. Why was he scared now? He stopped trusting in God. He took his eyes off God and focused on himself. He then makes the statement that proves where his heart was, "*for I am not better than my fathers.*" He had changed his focus from God to "I". "I" was the center of Elijah's own will. "I" was the driving force of his

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emotions. "I" had Elijah so down in the dumps that all he could focus on was his fear. Depressed and frightened, Elijah fell asleep and was awakened by an angel, who had prepared him dinner. After he ate, God told him where he was to go next, and Elijah began trusting God again and obeyed.

Let's look at Job now.

Job

Job 6:8-11 Oh that I might have my request; and that God would grant me the thing that I long for! Even that it would please God to destroy me; that he would let loose his hand, and cut me off! Then should I yet have comfort; yea, I would harden myself in sorrow: let him not spare; for I have not concealed the words of the Holy One. What is my strength, that I should hope? and what is mine end, that I should prolong my life?

You think you have problems? You think your situation is far worse than anyone else's? You think nobody loves you, not even God? Well, let me introduce you to Job. Job's life was the ultimate example of suffering and betrayal by friends and loved ones.

Let's look at a few verses to see Job's life before the troubles in his life started: ***Job 1:1-3 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.***

At first glance, one would say that Job was the best man in the east and that God was blessing him. But Job was about to learn a lesson that we all must learn in life – life is tough and then we die. God used Job as an example to show us that we need to keep our eyes on the Lord when we face adverse situations. If we don't, the tribulations of life will become overwhelming. This might be the case for you right now.

Job lost all his livestock and his servants. ***Job 1:13-15 And there was a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them: And the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.*** See also verses 16 and 17 where he lost all

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his sheep, camels, and more servants. Then in verses 18-19, another man came to Job with the most dreadful news of all, all his children were dead. *Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead...*

That wasn't all that happened to Job. He also got boils from the top of his head to the soles of his feet. Job 2:7 *So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.* Job's situation is really bad. He then made the mistake that we all make when trouble, trials, and tribulations come our way. He took his eyes off the Lord and focused on himself and his terrible situation. Job 3:3 *Let the day perish wherein I was born, and the night in which it was said, There is a man child conceived.* Job's main thought was within. Look at some portions of a few verses that show Job's state of mind: *Let the day perish wherein I was born (3); let no joyful voice come (7); why did I not give up the ghost when I came out of the belly? (11); Or as a hidden untimely birth I had not been (16).*

Job's troubles did not stop there. His own wife said to him, "*Curse God, and die.*" Then came his so-called friends, who had never experienced such suffering, to give advice to this broken, despairing, boil-covered man. They selfishly said that if they were going to counsel him, he should cease being sad. Are you kidding me?! Job just lost everything that had meaning to him and is only left with a wife that wants him to die. And they were telling him not to be sad? His "friends" go on for days telling Job how to get his life in order, not considering that God is the only one that can straighten out Job's life. Job mentioned, during their counseling, that they were not helping, and that they were in fact "miserable comforters". Finally, God stepped on the scene and told Job's friends who was really in charge of Job's life and of theirs too. *Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if thou hast understanding.* Job 38:4

Before the end of Job's life, God restored everything to him. Job 42:12-13 *So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses. He also had seven sons and three daughters.*

My dear friend, all the psychiatric counselors and shrinks will never help you. Only the God in heaven who made you can help you. Prayer is the method by which we contact God. His Holy Bible is the tool God uses to repair what is hurting us. Read it, believe it, and life's troubles will get easier.

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Finally, we will look at Paul the Apostle
The Apostle Paul

1 Corinthians 9:15-16 *But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me: for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void. For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!*

Remember we talked about the individuality of every human being that God ever made? Well, Paul was definitely different. Paul, unlike many of us, had the zeal and perseverance to press forward in the face of eminent danger.

Many of us know the story...At first, his name was Saul. He was a tentmaker by trade, and his side job was to kill all the disciples of the Lord in his region. He was good at what he did. Acts 9:1-2 *And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.* But God had better plans for Saul. God saw the zeal and dedication that Saul had, so He decided to alter his job description.

One day, Saul was on a road going to Damascus when God spoke to him. God gave him his new name, Paul. After this personal encounter with God Almighty, Paul decided it was time to be on the winning side.

Paul became aggressive in preaching the gospel of God; and because of his boldness, he encountered many who did not like what he preached. They showed their discontent by throwing stones at him. On several occasions, Paul was beaten and battered so badly that they dragged him out of the city, thinking he was dead.

That did not stop Paul. He just went to the next town and preached to the people there. Paul was so bold for the Lord that God opened opportunities for him to preach to leaders in government. Many times, his body was whipped and beaten. Eventually, Paul ended up in prison, where he wrote a third of the New Testament that we have in our Bible to this day.

Think about Paul for a moment. He was sitting in a dark, filthy jail, with a broken-down body that has been whipped, road burned, beaten, stoned,

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bruised, and starved. He was malnourished, aching, and likely suffering from wounds. Here is a brief testimony of Paul's life. 2 Corinthians 11:25-27 *Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.*

After reading what Paul had suffered, we can understand why he wanted to die. What does Paul do that so many Christians do when difficulty and hardship come their way? He looked in instead of up. Paul knew that God was with him. By this time, he had seen God's miraculous intervention on his behalf on numerous occasions. Yet at this moment, he had become weak. However, his weakness quickly passed when he saw the purpose for continuing the work God had called him to do. Philippians 1:23-25 *For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;*

It is OK to have weak moments in your life, everyone does. But don't ever stay there because it opens up opportunities for the devil to run you down like a deer in the headlights. God used trials, trouble, and tribulation as glue in the fiber of Paul's life, enabling him to continue to do service for God his Saviour. God knew that eventually Paul would become a martyr for the faith.

Thank you to all those before us who have gone through moments of weakness in their life and yet persevered to further the gospel of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

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SUICIDE, WHY?

Name _____

Note: Scripture is required when an asterisk (*) is shown in the question.

1. What is the key source of suicide?
2. How does God view suicide? *
3. Explain why Jonah was so angry and wanted to die.
4. What resource do we have to understand what God wants to teach us?
5. Explain Job 5:7.
6. Why are trials and tribulations like the glue of our lives?
7. Other than looks and body structure, what is the primary difference between yourself and a cow?

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8. What reasons would make you act like a cow, according to what you have learned in this Bible Study?
9. Who can fix your depression?
10. When the trials of life become too overwhelming, what should I do?
11. The only person in the Bible that ever was successful in committing suicide was Judas Iscariot, what was his reason for doing it? and why do you not want to ever emulate his character? Matthew 27:3-5; Luke 22:3-4; John 12:6

True/false

- Trials and tribulations are the glue that hold our lives on track with the Lord.
- God made each of us unique.
- Sin is what causes death, pain and sorrow.

**Scripture memorization**

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

Exodus 20:13; John 1:3-4; John 14:6;

any questions?