

THE BOOK OF JOB

JOB 3

INTRODUCTION:

1. What is the worst day of your life? Maybe that day has not come and is dreaded. (Job 3.25)
2. **JOB 3.1:** *“After this”* After Job experienced the worst days of his life and mourned for seven days with his friends.

I. UNFOLDING THE TEXT

- A. Job curses the day of His birth. (vs. 1-10)
 1. “Curse” carries the idea of rendering insignificant in contrast condemnation. (Job 3.1; 1.11; 2.5,9)
 2. **JOB 3.3:** *“May the day perish on which I was born”*
 3. Job wanted his birthday to be obscured. (Job 3.5)
 4. **JOB 3.10:** *“Because it did not shut up the door of my mother’s womb, nor hide sorrow from my eyes.”*
- B. Job wishes He was never born. (vs. 11-19)
 1. **JOB 3.11-16:** *“Why did I not die at birth?”*
 2. Why did Job wish for death? *“Then I would have been at rest.”* (Job 3.13)
 3. There is trouble, oppression, slavery (Job 3.17-19)
 4. Job desired death *“more than hidden treasures...and are glad when they can find the grave”* (Job 3.21,22)

II. APPLYING THE TEXT

- A. When I am hurting, I need to remember the blessings of life.
 1. There are reasons to be thankful. (Ps. 103.2; Eph. 1.3)
 2. Hardship can make us forget our blessings. (Job 1.14)
 3. **1 PETER 3.14:** *“But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed.”*
 4. What are the blessing that we enjoy in this life? (Luke 18.29,30; Phil. 4.6; 1 Pet. 5.7; Eph. 1.7)
- B. When I am hurting, I need to remember the blessing of the life to come. (Rev. 14.13; Rev. 21.27; Phil. 1.21-24).

CONCLUSION: No matter how hard life gets, we can be thankful.

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

APRIL 16, 2023

2424 McCARRAN ST.

NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89031

(702) 642-3141

WWW.NLVCHURCHOFCHRIST.COM

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. ☐ North Las Vegas, NV ☐ 89030

Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: Pruittle@gmail.com

Be sure to watch us live at www.nlvchurchofchrist.com

Facebook: Northside Church of Christ Las Vegas

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

April 16, 2023

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

PRAYING WITH DOUBTING

In a context of facing the testing of our faith, James writes that we are to pray for wisdom (James 1.5). He further describes the manner of our prayers. *“But let him ask in faith, without doubting”* (James 1.6). Why is it so important to pray without doubting? Let’s make some observations.

The person who doubts is described as *“a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind”* (James 1.6). A wave has the highest point called the crest and the lowest point called the trough, and it is the wind that affects these two points. Like the wave, the person who doubts is one who wavers between a high point and a low point. He is divided within himself. He believes enough to pray, but doubts enough to not expect to be heard. In his doubting, he wavers between hope and despair.

The person who doubts is also described as *“a double-minded man unstable in all his ways”* (James 1.8). He is double-minded. One the one hand, he believe, but then he turns around and doubts. His being unstable in his prayers is probably also found in all of his ways.

What can a person who does not pray is faith expect? **JAMES 1.7:** *“For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord.”*

THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD

ESTHER 4:14

INTRODUCTION:

1. God works within the laws of nature to involve himself in our lives, that is, God works providentially.
2. Understanding the nature of God will help us understand and accept the concept of providence.
 - a) God is Watching. (Prov. 5.21)
 - b) God is Vengeful. (Rom. 12.19)
 - c) God is Merciful. (Luke 6.36)

I. THE CONCEPT OF PROVIDENCE

- A. The providence of God proves that God is in control.
 1. God is in control of nature. (Job 37.5,6,11-13)
 2. God is in control of the animals. (2 Kings 2.23,24)
 3. God is in control of humanity. (Rom. 9.17; Dan. 5.21)
- C. The providence of God proves that God cares.
 1. God cares about nature. (Col. 1.17)
 2. God cares about the animals. (Ps. 147.9)
 3. God cares about humanity. (Ps. 23.1; Phil. 4.19)

II. THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD IN ESTHER

- A. The book of Esther.
 1. The theme: *“who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”* (Est. 4.14)
 2. The word “Jew” is found fifty-two times. Yet God is not mentioned once anywhere in the book.
 3. This is a book about God involving Himself providentially to save the Jews from genocide.
- B. God worked through Esther providentially.
 1. God was involved with Ahasuerus providentially in the celebration that took place. (Est. 1.1,6-17)
 2. God was involved providentially in the life of Mordecai to place Esther into position. (Est. 2.5,7)
 3. God was involved providentially in the life of Esther to save the Jews from Haman’s plot. (Est. 7.1-8)

CONCLUSION: God’s providence is still at work in our lives. Maybe this is the reason you are here.

THE PRAYER OF FAITH

The Bible tells me that God hears my prayers and that I can be confident that I will receive my requests. Jesus said, *“Ask, and it will be given to you”* (Matt. 7.7). Later, He said, *“Whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you”* (John 16.23). Yet does it seem that there are times when we do not receive that for which we pray? Does it challenge your faith? We wonder why God is not giving us what we ask even though He said He would. Consider three reasons why our prayers may go unanswered.

1. **THERE IS SIN IN OUR LIVES.** Sin is what separates man from God. We are told in Isaiah 59.2 that *“your iniquities have separated you from your God...so that He will not hear.”* One man observed that *“Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him”* (John 9.31; cf. 1 Pet. 3.12). The only way to have your sins washed away and your relationship with God restored is through Jesus. Our prayers are heard only if we are in Christ (John 14.6; Heb. 10.19).

2. **WE DO NOT PRAY ACCORDING TO HIS WILL.** We find this in 1 John 5.15 where we are promised that *“if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”* However, this promise is based on a condition found in the previous verse. *“If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us”* (1 John 5.14). Sometimes we may ask for something that is not within the will of God. It was God’s will that Jesus shed His blood so that salvation could be offered to man. Jesus asked God not to put Him through it praying, *“O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me”* (Matt. 26.39). God’s answer was no, and Jesus submitted to what God wanted by saying, *“nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will”* (Matt. 26.39).

3. **WE ASK FOR THINGS THAT ARE NOT IN OUR BEST INTERESTS.** Jesus said that if we ask, we will receive (Matt. 7.7). In that same context, He said that our father knows how to give *“good things to those who ask Him”* (Matt. 7.11). We may ask for something that will, in the long run, hurt us or hurt someone else. We ask for good health, but perhaps poor health keeps us humble and more dependent on God (2 Cor. 12.7-10).

God does indeed answer prayers. A prayer of faith means that we trust God to answer in a way that He sees best.