

JUNE 2

Read Job 15–17

CHAPTER 15

THEN answered Eliphaz the Temanite, and said,

2 Should a wise man utter vain knowledge, and fill his belly with the east wind?

3 Should he reason with unprofitable talk? or with speeches wherewith he can do no good?

4 Yea, thou castest off fear, and restrainest prayer before God.

5 For thy mouth uttereth thine iniquity, and thou choosest the tongue of the crafty.

6 Thine own mouth condemneth thee, and not I: yea, thine own lips testify against thee.

7 *Art* thou the first man *that* was born? or wast thou made before the hills?

8 Hast thou heard the secret of God? and dost thou restrain wisdom to thyself?

9 What knowest thou, that we know not? *what* understandest thou, which *is* not in us?

10 With us *are* both the gray-headed and very aged men, much elder than thy father.

11 *Are* the consolations of God small with thee? is there any secret thing with thee?

12 Why doth thine heart carry thee away? and what do thy eyes wink at,

13 That thou turnest thy spirit against God, and lettest *such* words go out of thy mouth?

14 What *is* man, that he should be clean? and *he which is* born of a woman, that he should be righteous?

15 Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight.

16 How much more abominable and filthy *is* man, which drinketh iniquity like water?

17. I will shew thee, hear me; and that *which* I have seen I will declare;

18 Which wise men have told from their fathers, and have not hid *it*:

19 Unto whom alone the earth was given, and no stranger passed among them.

20 The wicked man travaileth

with pain all *his* days, and the number of years is hidden to the oppressor.

21 A dreadful sound *is* in his ears: in prosperity the destroyer shall come upon him.

22 He believeth not that he shall return out of darkness, and he is waited for of the sword.

23 He wandereth abroad for bread, *saying*, Where *is it?* he knoweth that the day of darkness is ready at his hand.

24 Trouble and anguish shall make him afraid; they shall prevail against him, as a king ready to the battle.

25 For he stretcheth out his hand against God, and strengtheneth himself against the Almighty.

26 He runneth upon him, *even* on *his* neck, upon the thick bosses of his bucklers:

27 Because he covereth his face with his fatness, and maketh collops of fat on *his* flanks.

28 And he dwelleth in desolate cities, *and* in houses which no man inhabiteth, which are ready to become heaps.

29 He shall not be rich, neither shall his substance continue, neither shall he prolong the perfection thereof upon the earth.

30 He shall not depart out of darkness; the flame shall dry up his branches, and by the breath of his mouth shall he go away.

31 Let not him that is deceived trust in vanity: for vanity shall be his recompence.

32 It shall be accomplished before his time, and his branch shall not be green.

33 He shall shake off his unripe grape as the vine, and shall cast off his flower as the olive.

34 For the congregation of hypocrites *shall be* desolate, and fire shall consume the tabernacles of bribery.

35 They conceive mischief, and bring forth vanity, and their belly prepareth deceit.

CHAPTER 16

THEN Job answered and said, 2 I have heard many such things: miserable comforters *are* ye all.

3 Shall vain words have an end? or what emboldeneth thee that thou answerest?

4 I also could speak as ye *do*: if your soul were in my soul's stead, I could heap up words against you, and shake mine head at you.

5 *But* I would strengthen you with my mouth, and the moving of

my lips should assuage *your grief*.

6. Though I speak, my grief is not asswaged: and *though* I forbear, what am I eased?

7 But now he hath made me weary: thou hast made desolate all my company.

8 And thou hast filled me with wrinkles, *which* is a witness *against me*: and my leanness rising up in me beareth witness to my face.

9 He teareth *me* in his wrath, who hateth me: he gnasheth upon me with his teeth; mine enemy sharpeneth his eyes upon me.

10 They have gaped upon me with their mouth; they have smitten me upon the cheek reproachfully; they have gathered themselves together against me.

11 God hath delivered me to the ungodly, and turned me over into the hands of the wicked.

12 I was at ease, but he hath broken me asunder: he hath also taken *me* by my neck, and shaken me to pieces, and set me up for his mark.

13 His archers compass me round about, he cleaveth my reins asunder, and doth not spare; he poureth out my gall upon the ground.

14 He breaketh me with breach upon breach, he runneth upon me like a giant.

15 I have sewed sackcloth upon my skin, and defiled my horn in the dust.

16 My face is foul with weeping, and on my eyelids *is* the shadow of death;

17. Not for *any* injustice in mine hands: also my prayer *is* pure.

18 O earth, cover not thou my blood, and let my cry have no place.

19 Also now, behold, my witness *is* in heaven, and my record *is* on high.

20 My friends scorn me: *but* mine eye poureth out *tears* unto God.

21 O that one might plead for a man with God, as a man *pleadeth* for his neighbour!

22 When a few years are come, then I shall go the way *whence* I shall not return.

CHAPTER 17

MY breath is corrupt, my days are extinct, the graves *are* ready for me.

2 *Are there* not mockers with me? and doth not mine eye continue in their provocation?

3 Lay down now, put me in a surety with thee; who *is* he *that* will strike hands with me?

4 For thou hast hid their heart from understanding: therefore shalt thou not exalt *them*.

5 He that speaketh flattery to *his* friends, even the eyes of his children shall fail.

6 He hath made me also a byword of the people; and aforetime I was as a tabret.

7 Mine eye also is dim by reason of sorrow, and all my members *are* as a shadow.

8 Upright *men* shall be astonished at this, and the innocent shall stir up himself against the hypocrite.

9 The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger.

10. But as for you all, do ye return, and come now: for I cannot find *one* wise *man* among you.

11 My days are past, my purposes are broken off, *even* the thoughts of my heart.

12 They change the night into day: the light *is* short because of darkness.

13 If I wait, the grave *is* mine house: I have made my bed in the darkness.

14 I have said to corruption, Thou *art* my father: to the worm, *Thou art* my mother, and my sister.

15 And where *is* now my hope? as for my hope, who shall see it?

16 They shall go down to the bars of the pit, when *our* rest together *is* in the dust.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Chapter 15 begins the second cycle of speeches between Job and his “friends.” Eliphaz’s second speech is recorded here and the controversy between him and Job becomes more heated. He assumes Job is guilty and stands self-condemned. In the latter verses of the chapter Eliphaz describes the wicked and their end.

Chapters 16 and 17 record Job’s reply to Eliphaz. In chapter 16:2 he refers to his friends as “miserable comforters.” He tells them that God has afflicted him; that trouble upon trouble has overwhelmed him; and wonders how they would react if they were in his place!

Have you ever felt really low and rather than receiving comfort and encouragement from a friend, he said things that seemed to draw you down even further? This was what was happening in Job’s life. His friends did not understand his despair and troubles. They did not understand that the Lord was allowing these things to happen to Job, even though Job was a just man.

Many times, when we see things happening in a person’s life, as Christians we jump to the conclusion that there is sin in that person’s life. This is not always true. We should be very careful and not make the same mistakes Job’s friends made. During such a time as Job was going through, he needed the prayers and understanding of his friends, not their criticism.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

“The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools” (Proverbs 3:35).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 18: For today’s memory verses, follow instructions on page 7.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

MABLE BUSH

HYMN FOR TODAY

YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN

by William T. Sleeper, 1819-1904

Jesus made it clear that to be a member of His heavenly Kingdom, people must be twice-born—recipients of God’s Spirit and possessors of eternal life. Such a person then begins to live by a new dimension and a new direction. He has a new disposition, a new nature, a new commitment, and a new purpose for living. A so-called Christianity that does not involve a personal conversion and change is not an authentic Christianity in the New Testament sense. Eternal life is a quality of life that begins with the new birth experience and continues in daily fellowship with God and His people both now and forever. But the new birth experience can never be adequately explained. It is more than knowledge and mental assent. To be understood, it must ultimately be experienced.

The composer of this hymn, George C. Stebbins, tells in his *Memoirs and Reminiscences* about the time he was assisting Dr. George F. Pentecost in an evangelistic crusade in Worcester, Massachusetts, when Dr. Pentecost one night preached on Christ’s statement to Nicodemus in John 3:3 about the need of being born again. With the strong impression of this sermon still in his mind, Stebbins contacted one of the pastors in the city, William Sleeper, and asked his assistance in writing verses for the musical ideas he had for this text. “He acted at once upon my suggestion,” said Stebbins, “and soon after came to me with the hymn that bears his name.”

And another hymn was born that has since been used to confront individuals with the necessity of a new birth if they are ever to “see the kingdom of God.”

*A ruler once came to Jesus by night
To ask Him the way of salvation and light;
The Master made answer in words true and plain,
“Ye must be born again.”*

*Ye children of men, attend to the word
So solemnly uttered by Jesus the Lord;
And let not this message to you be in vain,
“Ye must be born again.”*

*O ye who would enter that glorious rest
And sing with the ransomed the song of the blest,
The life everlasting if ye would obtain,
“Ye must be born again.”*

*A dear one in heaven thy heart yearns to see,
At the beautiful gate may be watching for thee;
Then list to the note of this solemn refrain,
“Ye must be born again.”*

Chorus:

*Ye must be born again;
I verily, verily say unto thee,
“Ye must be born again.”*

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1862

GENERAL LEE WAS MADE GENERAL OF THE CONFEDERATE ARMY.

1773

JOHN RANDOLPH WAS BORN.

1840

THE BIRTHDAY OF THOMAS HARDY.

1886

GROVER CLEVELAND BECAME THE FIRST PRESIDENT TO MARRY IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

So again we turn our attention toward the President and to the White House. Again pray for him. Since this is the date of the marriage of Grover Cleveland, it would be fitting for us to pray for the President’s wife and family. Certainly, it is not easy to hold this position in the public eye. Not many of us would covet this type of life. Pray for the President’s family today.

1953

QUEEN ELIZABETH II WAS CROWNED.

Perhaps no nation is as close to the United States as is England. What a thrill to go to England! Pray for our sister nation and pray for the Queen.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1834

FIFTH NATIONAL BLACK CONVENTION MET IN NEW YORK WITH FIFTY DELEGATES FROM EIGHT STATES.

1863

HARRIET TUBMAN LED UNION ARMY GUERRILLAS INTO MARYLAND, FREEING MORE THAN 700 SLAVES.

1975

JAMES AUGUSTINE HEALY, FIRST BLACK ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP IN U.S., CONSECRATED IN CATHEDRAL AT PORTLAND, MAINE.

1899

BLACK AMERICANS OBSERVED DAY OF FASTING CALLED BY NATIONAL AFRO-AMERICAN COUNCIL TO PROTEST

LYNCHING AND RACIAL MASSACRES.

1943

NINETY-NINTH PURSUIT SQUADRON FLEW FIRST COMBAT MISSION, STRAFING ENEMY POSITIONS ON THE HEAVILY FORTIFIED ITALIAN ISLAND OF PANTELLERIA.

1967

RACE RIOT, ROXBURY SECTION OF BOSTON.

A Christian Life

BASCOM RAY LAKIN

1901-1984

B.R. Lakin was born on a farm near Fort Gay, West Virginia. Although his parents were devout Christians, it was not until he was 16 that he was converted to Christ during a revival. The minister who baptized him was the nephew of Devil Anse Hatfield, of the Hatfield-McCoy feud families. One week later, he preached his first sermon, and soon after became a circuit preacher, riding a mule to country churches near the forks of the Big Sandy River.

After attending Moody Bible Institute and pastoring several churches, he was called to assist E. Howard Cadle at the Cadle Tabernacle in Indianapolis, Indiana. Upon Mr. Cadle's death, he became pastor and, during the next 14 years, the ministry grew until he was preaching to 10,000 people each Sunday in addition to broadcasting the services nationwide. He was given honorary doctorates by Bob Jones University and Kletzing College.

In the early 1950s Dr. Lakin began a 30-year itinerant ministry that included the largest churches in America, averaging 50,000 miles annually and 4,000 people weekly. He witnessed more than 100,000 conversions to Christ. His ser-



mons were a combination of sanctified wit, Bible teaching, and a strong appeal for people to come to Christ.

After more than 65 years of preaching, Dr. Lakin "hung his sword on

the shimmering walls of the city of God," and went to be with the Lord on March 15, 1984. His funeral was conducted at the Thomas Road Baptist Church, Lynchburg, Virginia, and attended by more than 5,000 people.

The Treasure Path to Soul Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

DIFFICULT PROBLEMS SOLVED: "I HAVE A FEAR OF RIDICULE"

(Assignment 18)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for the next seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see "The Treasure Path to Soul Winning," page xiii near the front of this book.)

() Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.

() Mark 8:38

Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

() Revelation 21:8

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

() Luke 12:4

And I say unto you my friends; Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.

() Luke 12:5

But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.