

CHAPTER 18

THEN answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said,

2 How long *will it be ere* ye make an end of words? mark, and afterwards we will speak.

3 Wherefore are we counted as beasts, *and* reputed vile in your sight?

4 He teareth himself in his anger: shall the earth be forsaken for thee? and shall the rock be removed out of his place?

5 Yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out, and the spark of his fire shall not shine.

6 The light shall be dark in his tabernacle, and his candle shall be put out with him.

7 The steps of his strength shall be straitened, and his own counsel shall cast him down.

8 For he is cast into a net by his own feet, and he walketh upon a snare.

9 The gin shall take *him* by the heel, *and* the robber shall prevail against him.

10 The snare *is* laid for him in

the ground, and a trap for him in the way.

11 Terrors shall make him afraid on every side, and shall drive him to his feet.

12 His strength shall be hunger-bitten, and destruction *shall be* ready at his side.

13 It shall devour the strength of his skin: *even* the firstborn of death shall devour his strength.

14 His confidence shall be rooted out of his tabernacle, and it shall bring him to the king of terrors.

15 It shall dwell in his tabernacle, because *it is* none of his: brimstone shall be scattered upon his habitation.

16 His roots shall be dried up beneath, and above shall his branch be cut off.

17 His remembrance shall perish from the earth, and he shall have no name in the street.

18 He shall be driven from light into darkness, and chased out of the world.

19 He shall neither have son nor nephew among his people, nor

any remaining in his dwellings.

20 They that come after *him* shall be astonished at his day, as they that went before were affrighted.

21 Surely such *are* the dwellings of the wicked, and this *is* the place of *him that* knoweth not God.

CHAPTER 19

THEN Job answered and said,
2 How long will ye vex my soul, and break me in pieces with words?

3 These ten times have ye reproached me: ye are not ashamed *that* ye make yourselves strange to me.

4 And be it indeed *that* I have erred, mine error remaineth with myself.

5 If indeed ye will magnify *yourselves* against me, and plead against me my reproach:

6 Know now that God hath overthrown me, and hath compassed me with his net.

7 Behold, I cry out of wrong, but I am not heard: I cry aloud, but *there is* no judgment.

8. He hath fenced up my way that I cannot pass, and he hath set darkness in my paths.

9 He hath stripped me of my glory, and taken the crown *from* my head.

10 He hath destroyed me on every side, and I am gone: and mine hope hath he removed like a tree.

11 He hath also kindled his wrath against me, and he counteth me unto him as *one of* his enemies.

12 His troops come together, and raise up their way against me, and encamp round about my tabernacle.

13 He hath put my brethren far from me, and mine acquaintance are verily estranged from me.

14 My kinsfolk have failed, and my familiar friends have forgotten me.

15 They that dwell in mine house, and my maids, count me for a stranger: I am an alien in their sight.

16 I called my servant, and he gave *me* no answer; I intreated him with my mouth.

17 My breath is strange to my wife, though I intreated for the children's *sake* of mine own body.

18 Yea, young children despised me; I arose, and they spake against me.

19 All my inward friends abhorred me: and they whom I loved are turned against me.

20 My bone cleaveth to my skin

and to my flesh, and I am escaped with the skin of my teeth.

21 Have pity upon me, have pity upon me, O ye my friends; for the hand of God hath touched me.

22 Why do ye persecute me as God, and are not satisfied with my flesh?

23. Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book!

24 That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever!

25 For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth:

26 And *though* after my skin worms destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; *though* my reins be consumed within me.

28 But ye should say, Why persecute we him, seeing the root of the matter is found in me?

29 Be ye afraid of the sword: for wrath *bringeth* the punishments of the sword, that ye may know *there is* a judgment.

CHAPTER 20

THEN answered Zophar the Naamathite, and said,

2 Therefore do my thoughts cause me to answer, and for *this* I make haste.

3 I have heard the check of my reproach, and the spirit of my understanding causeth me to answer.

4 Knowest thou *not* this of old, since man was placed upon earth,

5 That the triumphing of the wicked *is* short, and the joy of the hypocrite *but* for a moment?

6 Though his excellency mount up to the heavens, and his head reach unto the clouds;

7 *Yet* he shall perish for ever like his own dung: they which have seen him shall say, Where *is* he?

8 He shall fly away as a dream, and shall not be found: yea, he shall be chased away as a vision of the night.

9 The eye also *which* saw him shall *see him* no more; neither shall his place any more behold him.

10. His children shall seek to please the poor, and his hands shall restore their goods.

11 His bones are full *of the sin* of his youth, which shall lie down with him in the dust.

12 Though wickedness be sweet in his mouth, *though* he hide it under his tongue;

13 *Though* he spare it, and forsake it not; but keep it still within his mouth:

14 *Yet* his meat in his bowels is turned, *it is* the gall of asps within him.

15 He hath swallowed down riches, and he shall vomit them up again: God shall cast them out of his belly.

16 He shall suck the poison of asps: the viper's tongue shall slay him.

17 He shall not see the rivers, the floods, the brooks of honey and butter.

18 That which he laboured for shall he restore, and shall not swallow *it* down: according to *his* substance *shall* the restitution *be*, and he shall not rejoice *therein*.

19 Because he hath oppressed *and* hath forsaken the poor; *because* he hath violently taken away an house which he builded not;

20 Surely he shall not feel quietness in his belly, he shall not save of that which he desired.

21 There shall none of his meat

be left; therefore shall no man look for his goods.

22 In the fulness of his sufficiency he shall be in straits: every hand of the wicked shall come upon him.

23. *When* he is about to fill his belly, *God* shall cast the fury of his wrath upon him, and shall rain *it* upon him while he is eating.

24 He shall flee from the iron weapon, *and* the bow of steel shall strike him through.

25 It is drawn, and cometh out of the body; yea, the glittering sword cometh out of his gall: terrors *are* upon him.

26 All darkness *shall be* hid in his secret places: a fire not blown shall consume him; it shall go ill with him that is left in his tabernacle.

27 The heaven shall reveal his iniquity; and the earth shall rise up against him.

28 The increase of his house shall depart, *and his goods* shall flow away in the day of his wrath.

29 *This is* the portion of a wicked man from God, and the heritage appointed unto him by God.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

At this point in Job's experience of suffering, it would seem that he had faced all he possibly could. But there is more opposition and criticism to come. In chapter 18 Bildad begins another indictment against him. He also attempts to frighten Job by describing the doom of the wicked.

In chapter 19 Job replies to Bildad. He is discouraged. His heart is crushed. His friends have falsely accused him. His wife has told him to curse God and die. He is standing alone, with a broken heart. Beyond that, because of his physical condition, he feels he is dying. He is ready to quit. But God still has a purpose for Job. There is a flash of faith and light in verses 25-27, as the Spirit of God enlightens him and lifts him out of his despair. In these verses Job utters one of the most superlative statements of faith found in the Old Testament. "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me." Those words express the deepest and most radiant conviction of believing hearts. What a witness to the blessed hope of the Lord's coming, the resurrection of the body, and the glorification of the saints.

Zophar's second speech is recorded in chapter 20. In these verses he mistakenly places Job in the same category with the wicked, and he argues that their seeming prosperity is only brief.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life" (Proverbs 4:13).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

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

BIRTHDAYS TODAY

ESELEY WALTON
LESLIE WALTON
PEARL VALLERY

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1808
THE BIRTHDAY OF JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Pray for the South and God's people there.

1905

HUDSON TAYLOR DIED.

His death was one of beauty and faith. His daughter-in-law attended him and watched him die. After he had gone to Heaven, his daughter-in-law said, "It was not death." Hudson Taylor was a great missionary.

Our attention is turned again to missionaries. Pray for them today. Pray for missionaries in general. Pray for missionaries in particular. Call the names in prayer of those that you know and love. Write them and encourage them in the work today. Imagine how it must be having to educate your own children without public schools. Imagine how it must be to go for years without seeing Mother or Father or brother or sister, or loved ones and friends at home. Imagine how discouraged they must get. Pray for them.

1963

THE DEATH OF POPE JOHN XXIII.

He died at the age of eighty-one. Well do I recall the headlines the next morning that said, "The leader of millions is dead." I can raise my voice and say, "Praise the Lord, my religious leader lives forever. He was dead, and, yea, is alive forevermore." Join me in praising God today for a resurrected Christ. It was my privilege to stand at the empty tomb, yea, to kneel at the empty tomb and to see the place where He lay. Praise God for a living Saviour!

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1833

FOURTH NATIONAL BLACK CONVENTION MET IN PHILADELPHIA WITH SIXTY-TWO DELEGATES FROM EIGHT STATES. Abraham D. Shadd of Pennsylvania was elected president.

1919

LIBERTY LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY (CHICAGO), THE FIRST OLD-LINE LEGAL RESERVE COMPANY ORGANIZED BY BLACKS IN THE NORTH, INCORPORATED.

U.S. SUPREME COURT (IRENE MORGAN V. COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA) BANNED SEGREGATION IN INTERSTATE BUS TRAVEL.

1949

WESLEY A. BROWN BECAME THE FIRST BLACK GRADUATE OF ANNAPOLIS NAVAL ACADEMY.

The Story of the Psalms

PSALMS 47

AUTHOR: David

THE STORY BEHIND THE PSALM:

David has come to the end of his reign. He looks back with thanksgiving and shouts, “O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.” With a marvelous reign behind him he shouts in verse 6, “Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises.” ‘Ah, what a God! What a King! What a Saviour! Such a shout of praise can be on the lips of each of us if we will but live our lives and serve our God all the days of our lives. Imagine the pageantry of an old king handing the reigns and the throne to his son and looking back with thanksgiving to God for all that God had done and penning and singing the words of Psalm 47.

THE WAY IT WAS USED BY GOD’S PEOPLE:

Psalm 47 was sung at the anointing of Solomon and at his ascension to the throne. It was a congregational Psalm. It was sung by all the people together. It was also sung at thanksgiving feasts and at the anointing of all kings.

Have you ended a successful life? Are you coming to the close of the rearing of your children? Are you about to retire after years of service and hard work? Are you coming to the close of a pastorate where God has blessed? Then read Psalm 47 and join with the sweet singer of Israel, David, as he rejoices because of God’s blessings. Ah, what a Psalm for senior citizens and those who are coming to the sunset years of life!

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.