

CHAPTER 21

BUT Job answered and said,
2 Hear diligently my speech,
and let this be your consolations.

3 Suffer me that I may speak;
and after that I have spoken, mock
on.

4 As for me, *is* my complaint to
man? and if *it were so*, why should
not my spirit be troubled?

5 Mark me, and be astonished,
and lay *your* hand upon *your*
mouth.

6 Even when I remember I am
afraid, and trembling taketh hold
on my flesh.

7. Wherefore do the wicked live,
become old, yea, are mighty in
power?

8 Their seed is established in
their sight with them, and their off-
spring before their eyes.

9 Their houses *are* safe from
fear, neither *is* the rod of God upon
them.

10 Their bull gendereth, and
faileth not; their cow calveth, and
casteth not her calf.

11 They send forth their little

ones like a flock, and their children
dance.

12 They take the timbrel and
harp, and rejoice at the sound of
the organ.

13 They spend their days in
wealth, and in a moment go down
to the grave.

14 Therefore they say unto God,
Depart from us; for we desire not
the knowledge of thy ways.

15 What *is* the Almighty, that
we should serve him? and what
profit should we have, if we pray
unto him?

16 Lo, their good *is* not in their
hand: the counsel of the wicked is
far from me.

17. How oft is the candle of the
wicked put out! and *how oft* cometh
their destruction upon them! *God*
distributeth sorrows in his anger.

18 They are as stubble before
the wind, and as chaff that the
storm carrieth away.

19 God layeth up his iniquity for
his children: he rewardeth him,
and he shall know *it*.

20 His eyes shall see his

destruction, and he shall drink of the wrath of the Almighty.

21 For what pleasure *hath* he in his house after him, when the number of his months is cut off in the midst?

22 Shall *any* teach God knowledge? seeing he judgeth those that are high.

23 One dieth in his full strength, being wholly at ease and quiet.

24 His breasts are full of milk, and his bones are moistened with marrow.

25 And another dieth in the bitterness of his soul, and never eateth with pleasure.

26 They shall lie down alike in the dust, and the worms shall cover them.

27. Behold, I know your thoughts, and the devices *which* ye wrongfully imagine against me.

28 For ye say, Where *is* the house of the prince? and where *are* the dwelling places of the wicked?

29 Have ye not asked them that go by the way? and do ye not know their tokens,

30 That the wicked is reserved to the day of destruction? they shall be brought forth to the day of wrath.

31 Who shall declare his way to

his face? and who shall repay him *what* he hath done?

32 Yet shall he be brought to the grave, and shall remain in the tomb.

33 The clods of the valley shall be sweet unto him, and every man shall draw after him, as *there are* innumerable before him.

34 How then comfort ye me in vain, seeing in your answers there remaineth falsehood?

CHAPTER 22

THEN Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said,

2 Can a man be profitable unto God, as he that is wise may be profitable unto himself?

3 *Is it* any pleasure to the Almighty, that thou art righteous? or *is it* gain *to him*, that thou makest thy ways perfect?

4 Will he reprove thee for fear of thee? will he enter with thee into judgment?

5. *Is not* thy wickedness great? and thine iniquities infinite?

6 For thou hast taken a pledge from thy brother for nought, and stripped the naked of their clothing.

7 Thou hast not given water to the weary to drink, and thou hast withholden bread from the hungry.

8 But *as for* the mighty man, he had the earth; and the honourable man dwelt in it.

9 Thou hast sent widows away empty, and the arms of the fatherless have been broken.

10 Therefore snares *are* round about thee, and sudden fear troubleth thee;

11 Or darkness, *that* thou canst not see; and abundance of waters cover thee.

12 *Is* not God in the height of heaven? and behold the height of the stars, how high they are!

13 And thou sayest, How doth God know? can he judge through the dark cloud?

14 Thick clouds *are* a covering to him, that he seeth not; and he walketh in the circuit of heaven.

15. Hast thou marked the old way which wicked men have trodden?

16 Which were cut down out of time, whose foundation was overflowed with a flood:

17 Which said unto God, Depart from us: and what can the Almighty do for them?

18 Yet he filled their houses with good *things*: but the counsel of the wicked is far from me.

19 The righteous see *it*, and are

glad: and the innocent laugh them to scorn.

20 Whereas our substance is not cut down, but the remnant of them the fire consumeth.

21. Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.

22 Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart.

23 If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up, thou shalt put away iniquity far from thy tabernacles.

24 Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust, and the *gold* of Ophir as the stones of the brooks.

25 Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defence, and thou shalt have plenty of silver.

26 For then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty, and shalt lift up thy face unto God.

27 Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee, and thou shalt pay thy vows.

28 Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.

29 When *men* are cast down, then thou shalt say, *There is* lifting up; and he shall save the humble person.

30 He shall deliver the island of the innocent: and it is delivered by the pureness of thine hands.

CHAPTER 23

THEN Job answered and said,
2 Even to day *is* my complaint bitter: my stroke is heavier than my groaning.

3 Oh that I knew where I might find him! *that* I might come *even* to his seat!

4 I would order *my* cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments.

5 I would know the words *which* he would answer me, and understand what he would say unto me.

6 Will he plead against me with *his* great power? No; but he would put *strength* in me.

7 There the righteous might dispute with him; so should I be delivered for ever from my judge.

8. Behold, I go forward, but he *is* not *there*; and backward, but I cannot perceive him:

9 On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold

him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see *him*:

10 But he knoweth the way that I take: *when* he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

11 My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined.

12 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary *food*.

13. But he *is* in one *mind*, and who can turn him? and *what* his soul desireth, even *that* he doeth.

14 For he performeth *the thing that is* appointed for me: and many such *things are* with him.

15 Therefore am I troubled at his presence: when I consider, I am afraid of him.

16 For God maketh my heart soft, and the Almighty troubleth me:

17 Because I was not cut off before the darkness, *neither* hath he covered the darkness from my face.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Chapter 21 records Job's reply to Zophar. He looked to the Lord for his help and in these verses shows how the wicked often prosper in this life. Later in the chapter he brands the conclusions of his friends as pure falsehoods.

Chapter 22 begins the third cycle of speeches, with Eliphaz speaking first. He concludes that Job is a great sinner and charges him especially with his cruel treatment of the poor. He urges Job to get right with God.

Job replies to Eliphaz in chapters 23 and 24. He wavers between faith and unbelief in chapter 23:10-17. He makes a glowing statement in verse 10 when he says, "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." It is a happy day for the Christian when he learns, as Job did, that God knows more about us than we know about ourselves. It is a real revelation to us when we suddenly realize that He truly knows and understands everything we face and endure. Beyond that, He cares about us and will meet our every need.

Chapter 23:3 indicates that Job did not know that God was intimately near to him, even nearer than his very breath. There was no need for Job to go forward and backward, on the right hand or the left. The Lord was near him; even in his heart; for His throne was pitched there on the sands of the desert, between Job and his pitiless accusers!

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not into the way of evil men" (Proverbs 4:14).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 18: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 6.

BIRTHDAY TODAY

GWENDOLYN HOLDEN

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1777

THE NATIONAL FLAG WAS ADOPTED.

Thank God for the flag and for the fifty states it represents. Thank God for the nation. Let us all join in singing "God Bless America."

GOD BLESS AMERICA

*God bless America,
Land that I love,
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with a light from above;
From the mountains,
To the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America,
My home sweet home!
God bless, America,
My home sweet home!*
—Irving Berlin

1896

HENRY FORD HAD THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL RUN ON THE CAR IN DETROIT.

The story is told of a man who was having trouble with his Ford. He was trying to fix it beside the highway and an old man stopped his car, got out, and offered his help. "Old man," said the flustered car owner, "I've been driving cars for years; in fact, I've been driving Fords for years. I think I am quite capable of fixing my own car."

The old man left with a parting greeting, and as he left he said, "I'm glad to meet you, sir. My name is Henry Ford."

There is no one that can repair an object like its maker. Oh, how prone we are to try to repair our own lives when God our Maker wants to help us. Let us yield to His help and leadership today.

1942

THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY ISLAND.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1832

THIRD NATIONAL BLACK CONVENTION MET IN PHILADELPHIA WITH TWENTY-NINE DELEGATES FROM EIGHT STATES.

Henry Sipkins of New York was elected president.

1973

DEATH OF ARNA BONTEMPS (72), WRITER AND EDUCATOR, IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

1972

ANGELA DAVIS ACQUITTED BY WHITE JURY IN SAN JOSE, CALIF., OF CHARGES STEMMING FROM A 1970 COURTROOM SHOOTOUT.

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.