

AN ARK OF PEACE IN A SEA OF TROUBLE

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Job 14:1 Man *that is* born of a woman *is* of few days, and full of trouble.

Job 14:2 He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

Job 14:22 But his flesh upon him shall have pain, and his soul within him shall mourn.

John 16:33 *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

ΝΙΔ of [ri:h4]thlipsis *'thlip'-sis*): *pressure* (literally or figuratively): - afflicted, (-tion), anguish, burdened, persecution, tribulation, trouble.

Tribulation is from a root word that means to beat or thrash.

In our selected texts we see two sides of the same coin. In one, Job does not say anything about any good that might be associated with being a human on earth. In fact, at this time in his life, there didn't seem to be anything that might be said about a positive side to life. He had lost everything, the devil had hit him with a couple of powerful punches and they had landed home. It was bad enough for Job's condition that he had lost all his earthly possessions and had been stricken himself, but we notice in the account of this man that his family had also been almost all taken. Life was not good for Job here. This kind of situation occurs in greater or lesser degrees to people everywhere on earth every day. For some it is a crushing blow from which they do not recover. For others, they cope and go on, managing to still have some sort of life. For yet others, however, such tragedy can be viewed as what it is...a temporary, woeful experience with pain, suffering, loss...but only temporary and only passing. Because for this group, there is something that lies beyond the agony of these earth troubles. It exists now, and it will continue to fortify them as they make their journey through life. And that is what Jesus is really talking about in our second text (read it). This side of the coin reveals a different side to the experience of tribulation and the response to it.

I think Jesus Christ brought us the holy hope of salvation for comfort in our days of calamity. I also believe He gave us the clear statement about that victory over all the forces of the world because he intends for us to understand that we have a

source of strength that is able to supplant our desperation and give us the fortitude to bear up under the greatest of trials.

I believe He intends for us to bring our pains, our sorrows, our losses, our crises and our grief to His feet and leave them there. I believe the work of salvation he has wrought ensures that we may do it...that we may find an ark of peace on a troubled sea and be settled, and even cheerful, in this life.

As we all share in life's woes with Job, I want us this morning to come to understand that there remains a rest for the people of God. I don't believe that rest begins when we get to heaven. I believe it begins to be available as soon as we are saved. That rest exists because of the preparations performed by Jesus so that we may have a refuge of consolation to run to when the lightning and hail and wind of life threaten and abuse us in our bodies, souls or spirits. **How can we do this?**

I. Remember That Tribulation is a Fact of Life

- ❖ Job said it well (text)
 - **Job 5:7** Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.
- ❖ Job also deals with it matter-of-factly:
 - **Job 2:9-10** Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die. 10 But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. **What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?** In all this did not Job sin with his lips.
- ❖ Christ reminded us of it (our text)
 - **John 16:33** *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*
- ❖ Life events prove it - some of you here today have:
 - had loved ones suddenly taken away
 - had sudden sickness or injury grip you or a loved one at a time when it seemed it could not have been worse timing
 - had your livelihood threatened at a very bad time
 - had to face a storm of personal challenges, again and again
 - have been beset by trouble of mind that caused you to face overwhelming depression
 - have been accosted by word or deeds...or both...by those you thought were friends...or by those who did not care if you knew they were enemies

II. Remember the Promises and Guidance of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit (that relate to dealing with tribulation) to You

- ❖ (text) “**I have overcome the world**” (Hint: whatever the world throws at us, Christ has overcome it)
 - **Mat. 11:28** **Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**
 - **Psalms 46:1-3** To the chief Musician for the sons of Korah, A Song upon Alamoth. **God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.** **2** Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; **3** *Though* the waters thereof roar *and* be troubled, *though* the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.
 - **Romans 8:31** “...if God be for us, who can be against us?”
 - **2Cor. 1:3-4** Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; **4** Who **comforteth us in all our tribulation**, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.
 - **John 14:26-27** **But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. 27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**
 - **Phil. 4:7** And the **peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds** through Christ Jesus.
 - **Heb. 4:9** There **remaineth therefore a rest** to the people of God.

III. Remember the Pathway to Enjoying Peace on a Troubled Sea

- ❖ It’s one thing to hear the promises and guidance, it’s another thing to take possession of those promises and use the guidance.
 - Lets look at **Mark 4:37-39** Did you ever stop and think about the fact that during that stormy night long ago we read that when the storm was at its greatest fury, **Jesus was ASLEEP** in the stern of the ship? And He kept on sleeping until they woke Him!
 - I don’t think this was because He was omniscient...I think it was because He rested in God the Father
 - I believe He was confident that God would manage all things perfectly.
 - Let's look at a fishing trip recommended by Jesus and see if we can capture the idea of possessing and using the Lord's promise of help.
 - **Luke 5:1** And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,
 - **Luke 5:2** And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing *their* nets.

- **Luke 5:3** And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.
 - **Luke 5:4** Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.
 - **Luke 5:5** And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.
 - **Luke 5:6** And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.
 - Lesson: help from the Lord is there to be had, if we simply obey Him
 - So what are we to obey?
 - ◆ **Mat. 11:28-29** Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls
 - ◆ **Psalms 50:15** And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.
 - ◆ **Philippians 4:6** Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
- ❖ **Job 5:19** He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee.