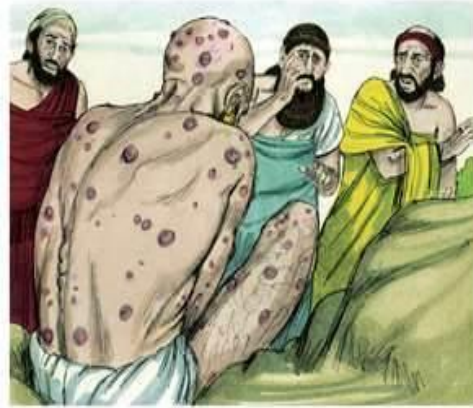
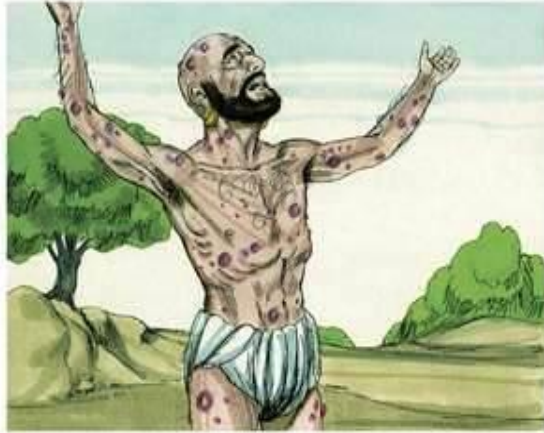


The Deliverance of the Righteous Will Come!

By Peter Nieman Martin, Sr.

July 22, 2014



There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. ⁶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan^[b] also came among them. ⁷ And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." ⁸ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" ⁹ So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰ Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. ² And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." ³ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause." ⁴ So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. ⁵ But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" ⁶ And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life." ⁷ So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸ And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes. (Job 1:1, 6-11; 2:1-8)

¹² Now the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. ¹³ He also had seven sons and three daughters. ¹⁴ And he called the name of the first Jemimah, the name of the second Keziah, and the name of the third Keren-Happuch. ¹⁵ In all the land were found no women so

beautiful as the daughters of Job; and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers.¹⁶ After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations.¹⁷ So Job died, old and full of days. Job 42:12-17

The illustration of Job in the presence of his friends is a reminder of the troubles that we will face in this life. ***“Man who is born of woman lives only a short time and is full of trouble,”*** says Job 14:1 in the New Life Version. Since life is going to be full of trouble, it matters a great deal how we go through these problems. We can live a sinful life and be ruined. ***“Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard (Proverbs 13:15).*** We can live righteously and find peace and life. ***For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace (Romans 8:6).***

Do Christians suffer for trying to live in a godly manner? Indeed they do! Paul, in 2 Timothy, said, ***“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted (2 Timothy 3:12).”*** What may be said of the righteous? ***“Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all (Psalms 34:19).”*** It is my desire to make this paper a document of encouragement for those who are suffering while trying to live a godly life. It will also be designed to benefit those who are suffering for the wrongs they have done but through a change of heart now want to serve God. I earnestly pray that God’s mercy will be with me in writing this so that the maximum benefit can be absorbed by those in either position.

The Transgressor’s Reward.

Solomon in Proverbs 1 provides the transgressor’s lot.

But since you refuse to listen when I call and no one pays attention when I stretch out my hand,²⁵ since you disregard all my advice and do not accept my rebuke,²⁶ I in turn will laugh when disaster strikes you; I will mock when calamity overtakes you—²⁷ when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and trouble overwhelm you.²⁸ “Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me,²⁹ since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the LORD.³⁰ Since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke,³¹ they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.³² For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them;³³ but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.” (Proverbs 1:24-33).

There is great foolishness in sin and its reward is severe trouble. And how shall we accept these troubles? Do we accept them as if we didn’t deserve them? In no way can we accept them in this manner for we deserve all that we have done. And when there is a delay in receiving the punishment, how do we behave? ***When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, people’s hearts are filled with schemes to do wrong (Ecclesiastes 8:11).*** Listen to the apostle Peter and see if his words are reasonable. ***If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler (I Peter 4:15).*** And again, ***For what glory is it if, when you sin, you patiently endure beating (I Peter 2:20).*** What is profitable in the transgressor’s lot? There is nothing to glory in! Go ahead and sin if you think it is the thing to do—but know this—we shall receive for the wrong we have done, and with God, there is no respect of

person. The wages of sin is death. There will always be a payday for the sinner. The currency will never run out. And one day there will be an awful increase in salary—a lake of eternal fire! The words of Solomon are instructive to those who desire to be approved of God, but to those whose ways are in opposition to God, the writers' words are a powerful condemnation and judgment.

The Reward for Righteousness

The rewards for obedience are great. For example, Psalms 39:14 says, ***“The righteous person may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all.”*** The carnal mind may wonder why the righteous should have any problems at all. The carnal mind will see trouble as the enemy of sanity and not as an opportunity to grow in faith. To the spiritually minded person the “natural man” is the real enemy! Here is the reason. ***“But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned (I Corinthians 2:14).”*** When we try to live for God means that we are going to have many difficult trials. Remember 2 Timothy 3:12? But we should be confident of this one thing--- that the many troubles which come to the righteous will turn out to the benefit of the righteous. ***“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).”*** Trouble, so far as the righteous are concerned, is nothing but an opportunity for God to deliver on his promise—***“I will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5).”***

Solomon spoke of the rewards of the righteous in Proverbs 1. ***“But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, And will be secure, without fear of evil (Proverbs 1:33).”*** To dwell in safety and to be without the fear of evil cannot be purchased with great riches! This comes only from obedience. Solomon's father, David, had this to say about the righteous in Psalms 1:1-3.

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful;² but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.³ He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

The counsel of the ungodly, the path of sinners and the seat of the scornful are things that lead to death. Now to walk in the way of the ungodly is to imitate their way of life. It is to accept what they do and to be united with them in thought and deed. The same is true with sinners and the scornful. Have you ever thought about the word ‘scornful’? It means to have open contempt for a person or thing. Contempt means that you see that person or thing worthless or despicable. There is a willful disregard or disrespect. It is a devilish attitude. We must do all in our power not to be identified with these. Their behavior is abominable! The individual who doesn't follow these paths is blessed! He has God's favor. This is wisdom, my friends! Do we wish others to know that we have wisdom? Then we should walk in God's ways. Consider these words out of the Book of Job.²⁸ ***But to man He said, Behold, the reverential and worshipful fear of the Lord—that is Wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.***

Jesus had this to say.²⁴ ***“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock (Matthew 7:24, 25).”*** A house built on a rock is built to last. Obedience indicates trust! Obedience indicates love! The foundation of rock comes from obedience, and obedience comes from love and trust.¹⁵ ***“If you [really] love Me, you will keep (obey) My commands (John 14:15).”*** We sing the song “Trust and Obey.” But do we believe what

we are singing? Far beyond the melodic value of the song is something more important—the confirmation of the words of that song in one’s life. The power in which our voices sing the song should come from the truth we have experienced from the song. It becomes a vocal testimony and an encouragement to others who need the same help that the words of the song have provided us. In this sense our worship is more meaningful because we are singing in truth.

Obedience is the only way we can show God that we love him. To obey God is to live a life of righteousness. To live a life of righteousness is to gain favor with God. ¹⁵ ***The eyes of the Lord are toward the [uncompromisingly] righteous and His ears are open to their cry (Psalms 34:15).***