

SUBJECT : When All Hope Is Gone

BIBLE BASIS:

Lesson Scripture: Job 14:1-2, 11-17, 32:6-8, 34:12,
37:14, 22

BIBLE TRUTH:

There is hope for Christians beyond the grave

MEMORY VERSE:

Job 14:14

Lesson Aim:

That your students will understand the issues about life and death.
Sometime life isn't fair and good people suffer bad things for
reasons unknown to themselves.

What Is Hope?

- One of the three main elements of Christian character is hope. 1Cor. 13:13
- Hope is joined to faith and love, and is opposed to seeing or possessing. Rom. 8:24;
- Hope is an essential and fundamental element of Christian life, so essential indeed, that, like faith and love, it can itself stand for the essence of Christianity. 1 Pet. 3:15;
- In hope the whole glory of the Christian vocation is centered Eph. 1:18; 4:4.
- Unbelievers are without this hope. Eph. 2:12; 1Thes. 4:13.
- Christ is the actual object of the believer's hope, because it is in his second coming that the hope of glory will be fulfilled. 1 Tim. 1:1; Col. 1:27; Titus 2:13.
- Peter speaks of hope as "lively", a living, hope, a hope not frail and perishable, but eternal. 1Pet. 1:3
- In Rom. 5:2 the "hope" mentioned is "the hope set before us," namely, eternal life. Rom. 12:12. 1John 3:2-3

Introduction

- What should our attitude be as we ride out the storms of life and it seems like all hope is gone? Should we cozy up to death as just a natural part of living? after all, even the most respectable people die. On the other hand, should we live in fear of this universal experience or be like Job? Job 19:13-26
- Death is Gods penalty for sin and it is not to ever be embraced as a friend but a defeated enemy. Gen. 2:17, 1Corn. 15:26, 1Corn 15:51-58
- It is not easy to think of eternity when our feet are still planted firmly on the earth. We would be doing well if we could have the same attitude of the apostle Paul when it came to death. Phi 1:23-24
- We should not waste any of our moments fearing the time of death. Every moment spent on fear robs us of a moment of dwell on our hope in Christ. 2Corn. 5:6-10, 1Thes. 4:13-18
- The brevity of our life should motivate us to devote it to something worthwhile and important, Indeed the fact that death is coming ought to drive us to Jesus Christ. 1Corn. 3:10-15, Rev. 14:12-13
- Behind every diet, exercise program, the cosmetics we buy is the hope for a new body. And God has granted that desire. 2Corn 5:1
- How can we know heaven is real has anyone every been their and lived to tell us about it. 2Corn 12:1-4, Phil. 1:23 John 14:1-4 ,Matt. 22:23-33
The God of the Living, John 11:25-26 Never Die

Who Said Life Was Fair?

- Job 14:1-2 Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. [2] He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.
- Our lesson text begins in the middle of Jobs response to Zophar, the last of the three misguided friends to engage him in argument. Rather than comfort Job, these friends ended up criticizing him. Job 16:1-2
- Each of them followed the same argument in one way or another: 1. God blesses the righteous and afflicts the wicked; 2. God has afflicted Job; 3. Therefore, Job must be wicked. Of course, their thinking seemed logical, but it was not spiritual. Isa. 55:6-11.
- We must keep in mind that these friends did not have the full revelation that we have in the New Testament, that suffering is not always caused by sin and that, through our faith in Christ, that all suffering is not bad and can be turned into a blessing. Gen. 50:20, Rom 8:18, 28.
- Life is not only short but it is full of ups and downs, struggles and calamities, uncertainty, and difficulties. 2Cor. 4:8-11
- Job illustrates the fleetingness of life with a flower which appears in the spring of the year for a season and is cut down or withered away in a few days. James 4:13-17
- Job uses a shadow to illustrate the insubstantial life is. It only appears when there is light and then it is gone. We cannot grab hold of it or control it.

There Is Still Hope

- Job 14:11-12 As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up: [12] So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.
- Man has a desire to live forever however his life is short at best weather you are young, middle age, or old life as it relates to eternity is short. Ps. 90:10
- Having lost his children in a sudden and shocking manner, Job was confronted with the fact that he would never see them again on this earth. The finality of death was painfully apparent to him. God has set the limits of mans life. Job 14:5
- Although a felled tree may seem to spring to life again from various shoots , a man does not reappear once he is gone. Job 14: 7-10
- In the east, it is not unusual for a body of water or a river to go dry. What once was a lively source of refreshment is suddenly barren an empty. In the same way, someone can be lively and full of energy one day and then suddenly be still and lifeless as death claims him.
- When we go to sleep, we lie down; but we get up again. This is not the case with death. We can imagine Jobs sadness as he noted that as long as the earth lasts, no one who lies down in death will ever rise again. Of course on this side of the cross we can see beyond the grave. 1Thes. 4:13-14

Faith Has A Language Of Its Own

- [13] Oh that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me! [14] If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.
- Grief has a way of leading to complex and conflicting thoughts. Job seems to have desired both death and protection at the same time. He imagined that God might be angry at him, but he awaited his deliverance as well.
- Part of the explanation for the complexity of Jobs thought is that people love life but hate to suffer. Being faced with death, a person may believe in God but have no clue as to what God is doing in his life.
- Job know doubt realized that what he asked for was seemingly impossible he could not hide a while in the grave, the place of the departed, until Gods anger had passed and then return to life. Nor was it logical for him to expect God to hid him when he felt it was Gods anger he was experiencing in the first place.
- Nevertheless, I will trust him, for He will vindicate me either in this life or in the life to come. It took a great deal of faith for Job to argue this way in the light of his circumstances No wonder James points to the patience of Job. James 5:11

Job Had A Relationship With God Not A Religion

Religion

- [15] Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands. [16] For now thou numberest my steps: dost thou not watch over my sin? [17] My transgression is sealed up in a bag, and thou sewest up mine iniquity.
- Job understood God cares about the works of his hand. God is not out of touch with the feeling of our infirmities. How important it was for Job to remember this in his time of sadness. He envisioned God taking the initiative in restoring the relationship between them. Heb. 4:15-16
- Because God had create him, Job recognized that he had value. He trusted in Gods love and goodness. This love, of course , is not based on our merit but wholly on Gods grace. The fact that God is love makes the relationship all the more certain and trustworthy. It was a strong rock of truth to which Job could cling. Jer. 31:3
- Job had some understanding about what God was like. Every true believer knows that no relationship with God is possible without His forgiveness. His blood makes forgiveness possible. Heb. 9:22, Rom. 3:10, 23, 1John 1:7-9
- Job had some understanding of the doctrine of redemption. He knew God well enough to realize that he was not eager to pounce on every sin he committed; rather he would seek to deal with our sins so that they would be covered and forgotten. Lev. 16:34, Heb. 10:10-14

Death Is A Subject For All Ages

- Job 32:6-8 And Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said, I am young, and ye are very old; wherefore I was afraid, and durst not shew you mine opinion. [7] I said, Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom. [8] But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.
- Elihu mentions his youth because of the respect he had for the older friends of Job. However the subject of death and suffering is universal involving all ages. Gods spirit will work wherever He wills, and He dispenses wisdom as He sees fit. He does not necessarily confine His blessing of wisdom to those who are older. Elihu's words, therefore are worth careful consideration. John 3:8, Gen 41:38-39
- Job 34:12 Yea, surely God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgment.
- In the mist of all the discussion of Jobs situation Elihu believed it was important to remember some essential truths about God. One of those essential truths is that Gods justice remains sure. If this principal is denied, there is no possibility of having any understanding or hope in times of hardship. If God could do wrong, this world would be ruled by no set principles. Isa. 55:10-11

It's Not Over Till God Says It's Over

- **Job 37:14 Hearken unto this, O Job: stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God.**
- Elihu says to Job stop trying to figure this thing out. Some things that happen to us will never make sense. Be like the Psalmist and be still and know that I am God. Just like you cannot look upon the brightness of the sun on a clear sky day so God's glory is overwhelming when he reveals Himself. Job 37:21, Ps. 46:10
- **Job 37:22 Fair weather cometh out of the north: with God is terrible majesty.**
- Elihu is concluding that it can't rain always that a brighter day will come out of the North. The North is where God dwells. When he comes he will transcend the glory of the sun.
- While the three friends argued that Job's suffering was a punishment for sin Elihu had a different idea God sends suffering to chasten us and teach us. But he failed to help Job. Job 38:1-2
- If there is one thing a person needs when in the depths of despair, it is hope. Those who are blessed with the eyes of faith in the promises of God can leave the slippery slope of doubt and walk on the path of hope. Heb. 10:35

Encouragement

- "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me." Phil. 4:13

The road to success is not straight. There is a curve called Failure, a loop called Confusion, speed bumps called Friends, red lights called Graves, caution lights called Family. You will have flats called Jobs.

But, if you have a spare called Determination, an engine called Perseverance, insurance called Faith, a driver called Jesus, you will make it to a place called Success.