

The Depths of Despair

by Wayne Goff

In the book of **Job**, we see a man brought into the depths of despair because of suffering and sorrow. In Job 3, he cursed the day he was born. Why did he do this?

Because Job had lost his wealth, his health, and his children. He did not know *why* these things had suddenly befallen him. He knew he was not being punished for his sins, though that is the first thought that crosses the human mind in situations like this. But as he sat in his own anguish and pain, he could truthfully say that it would have been better not to have been born. However, God's plans for Job were higher and greater than Job's own plans for himself. Job's example to us is a constant encouragement.

Many Will Curse Their Own Birth

The child of God who failed to live for God faithfully until the end will one day greatly regret it! *"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame"* (Heb. 6:4-6). Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 5:10 that we must all stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ to receive the things done in the body. Then he proclaimed, *"Knowing therefore the **terror** of the Lord, we persuade men"* (2 Cor. 5:11). **"Terror"** means to be exceedingly afraid, and that *barely* describes the great horror of standing before God condemned!

The unbeliever will one day curse the day he was born. A judgment of God is found in Revelation 6 and could well be applied to eternal judgment. *"And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?'"* (Rev. 6:16-17). Eternal judgment will be a different day. The tables will be turned. Those who have spoken so many harsh things against God, Christ, the Gospel, and the church will receive their just reward (see Jude 14-15). It would be better if an avalanche fell on the unbeliever and he died, never to awake again!

The apostate will certainly curse the day of his birth. Judas Iscariot was such a man of whom even Jesus said, *"It would have been good for that man if he had not been born"* (Matt. 26:24).

Judas played the role of a hypocrite -- a play-actor. He was *never* on the Lord's side, though Jesus chose him and gave him every opportunity and advantage that he gave to the other eleven disciples. Toward the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus summed up the apostles with these words: *"Jesus answered them, 'Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?' He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve"* (Jn. 6:70-71). Judas answered the same call as the others. Judas was baptized like the others. Judas followed Jesus throughout his earthly ministry, but somewhere along the way he acted the part of the fool and the hypocrite!

Judas was not alone in the Lord's day. Jesus said to some of the most *religious* people alive: *"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it"* (Jn. 8:44). How could Jesus say this to His own kinsmen in the flesh? The answer lies in their *"deeds"* (KJV). They were religious hypocrites because they *feigned* service to God while serving the Devil instead! Perhaps they had gotten so good at their man-made traditions that they had deceived even themselves! But Jesus exposed their evil deeds (Matt. 23).

Look Up To Heaven!

In time, Job's health, wealth and children were restored to him (Job 42:10-13). He never lost his faith in God, and he did not sin (Job 2:10). We, too, must learn to do the same in our day of adversity.