

## Job – Part 6

### The Curse Causeless? – seeking answers

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a thought-provoking series of studies on the book of Job. Our topic today: The Curse Causeless?

Scripture Song: I would have lost heart (Ps. 27:13-14)

- 1) Trying to make sense of things that seem to make no sense
  - a) Summarize the events of Job 1 and 2.
  - b) How much did Job understand about why all of these terrible things were happening to him?
  - c) Job's "comforters" try to make sense of things. What is their motivation?
- 2) Job's comforters
  - a) Their initial response: Job 2:11-13 – your reaction?
    - i) Why is silence sometimes the best response in the midst of a great trial?
    - ii) Those involved in caring professions speak of "the gift of presence." What is involved here?
  - b) The response of Eliphaz – Job 4:1-11, 12-21
    - i) What concerns do you have about his response?
    - ii) What is wrong with his comment "whoever perished being innocent?"
    - iii) Even if Job had done something to cause his present suffering, what's wrong with Eliphaz' approach?
- 3) Sometimes we do bring problems upon ourselves
  - a) Eliphaz is convinced that Job has brought all of this trouble upon himself.
  - b) What evidence do you find in the Scriptures to support the idea that sometimes we do bring trouble upon ourselves by inappropriate actions?
    - i) Galatians 6:7-8
    - ii) Proverbs 22:8
    - iii) Story of King David with Bathsheba
    - iv) Other texts or stories?
  - c) How do we know if the trouble we are experiencing is of our own doing or an attack of the enemy? Jeremiah 33:3; Psalm 139:1-6, 23-24; James 4:7-10
- 4) The danger of passing judgment on others
  - a) Why are we cautioning against passing judgment on others? Matthew 7:1-2; John 8:7; Romans 2:1-3; 1 Cor. 4:5.
  - b) What is the difference between passing judgment and following the counsel in Galatians 6:1 and James 5:19-20 (see 1 Peter 4:8)?
- 5) Good outcomes in the midst of bad situations
  - a) It is human nature not only to ask "Why?" when facing trials but also to look for good outcomes in the midst of bad situations. What testimony does the psalmist give in Psalm 119:65-72? (see Rom. 8:28)
  - b) Share a time when God worked good for you in the midst of a bad situation.
- 6) Discussion question: What important lessons have you learned from this study that will help you when facing trials or helping others who are facing trials?