

Prayer Meeting Address given by Mr Jabez Rutt at Lamberhurst on 12th December 2023

Reading: Job 42

We see the Lord's dealing with one of his favoured disciples, Job. He was highly favoured of God. He was a very gracious man, the word of God says so. He lived a very gracious, godly life, even though he was the greatest of the men of the east and a man of great wealth, yet he was a very godly man. It is nice to read of this in Scripture, we read of it with Abraham. Abraham had immense flocks and herds and was a very wealthy man. We read of it with Isaac and Jacob, they were the same. They inherited the wealth of their father and the Lord was with them, the Lord helped them. But we see the truth of those words that we find in Hebrews, it is actually a quotation from Proverbs chapter 3, "whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourageth every son whom he receiveth." Some people very glibly speak of being in Job's ditch. If you really look at what Job's ditch was there are not many people who come into that ditch. Job lost all his children, his wife said, "Dost thou still retain the integrity? curse God, and die." He lost his flocks, his herds, he was smitten with boils from the crown of the head to the soul of his foot. In this book of Job, a very profitable book to study, we see the hand of the Lord was upon him. We "see the end of the Lord;" James says in his epistle, "Behold...ye have heard of the patience of Job," the end of the Lord, of course, was to humble Job. We notice, and we all have it, we notice in Job in some of the things he writes there was a spirit of self-righteousness and that is very prominent. The Lord dealt with that, the Lord humbled him. How we need humbling just like Job did.

It was verses 5 and 6 that really seemed to rest with me of this chapter 42 and Job says here, "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee." We see the effect of that, his eye seeing the Lord: "Wherefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes." When we get a glimpse of the eternal God in Christ, because that is the only way we can glimpse it, we will indeed abhor ourselves. We find it with the prophets and the various ones throughout Holy Scripture how that the Lord was revealed unto them. Isaiah says "Woe is me!...I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips:" he felt his sinfulness in the light of God's holiness and this is exactly what Job did. "Wherefore I abhor *myself*," in the sight of God, "Wherefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes." He humbled himself. We read in Holy Scripture, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time." We need much grace, we need much

humbling and the things the Lord uses to humble us, things in providence he usually uses to humble us. The temptations of Satan are very prevalent here in the book of Job. The book of Job in one sense is the oldest book in the bible. Job would have been around at the time of the patriarchs, the time of Abraham before formal religion was established. That did not happen until the days of Moses. So we have a little sight into those days of the patriarchs, the same dealings then as is now with the Lord's people. The bible is ever up to date.

"I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear;" we read in Romans "faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." "I heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee." That is the eye of faith, he saw God by the eye of faith. "Wherefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes." It was not always like that with Job so that he could see God. Again this gives us, we might say a little snap shot, into the Lord's dealing with his people. If you turn with me to chapter 23 there we see Job answering and saying, "Even today *is* my complaint bitter: my stroke is heavier than my groaning." He says here in the word before us, "but now mine eye seeth thee," but here he says, "Oh that I knew where I might find him! *that* I might come *even* to his seat! I would order *my* cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments. I would know the words *which* he would answer me, and understand what he would say unto me. Will he plead against me with *his* great power? No; but he would put *strength* in me." That is what happened, as we read here in chapter 42, the Lord put strength in him, he had the eye of faith to behold the Lord. He says there in chapter 23, "There the righteous might dispute with him; so should I be delivered for ever from my judge." Now look at Job's condition here, "Behold, I go forward, but he *is* not *there*; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he doeth work, but I cannot behold *him*: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see *him*:" this right hand and left hand, we have no reason to interpret any differently from what we normally do. The left hand blessings are providential blessings, right hand blessings are those eternal spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus and that is what Job is referring to here. "On the left hand, where he doth work," that is in providence," but I cannot behold *him*: he hideth himself on the right hand," that is those spiritual blessings in Christ, "that I cannot see *him*: But," this is the language of faith, "But he knoweth the way that I take: *when* he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."

My beloved friends, these things are written for our instruction. Just look in chapter 23, verse 13, "But he *is* in one *mind*, and who can turn him? and *what* his soul desireth, even *that* he doeth. For he performeth *the thing that is* appointed for me: and many such *things are* with him." O that we might be given that grace to fall into his hands, fall into the gracious hands of our Lord Jesus Christ, our eternal Father, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes." My friends, those words of Christ, "except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." We need to be given to feel the need of our repentance. We need to be given to feel the need of our sinfulness and then we need to be given the spirit of repentance. O that the Lord would grant these things and that we may indeed have a view of Christ. "but now mine eye seeth thee." A sight of Christ and a feeling sense of his love and his mercy in our hearts. "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes." May the Lord add his blessing to these few remarks that we have made.