

How You Can Weather any Storm 2009 might Hurl at You.

Various Texts from Book of Job

None of us knows what 2009 has in store.

The character Job

He was a great man spiritually, 1

Blameless doesn't mean sinless he handled sin god's way.

Upright, man of integrity

Fear God, sense of awe and respect for God, he feared God's displeasure.

His life was characterized by hating evil.

Sometimes we are tempted by it, want it, learn to say no, but he was characterized by shunning evil.

He did the best he could to see that his kids were right with the lord, 1:4-5

He was a great man genealogically, v 2

7 sons and three daughters, sign of wealth in the ANE.

He was a great man financially.

V 3...

God had blessed the work of his hands, he was godly.

Most of us couldn't hold a candle to Job.

Scene in heaven

God raises the issue... 1:8.

God gives Satan permission, 1:12; 2:6.

Sometimes Satan is a tool God uses, but God is always in control.

God was in control the entire time and he always is.

Scene back on earth.

***The tragedy strikes with unremitting, unrelenting, relentless force,
Wham, slam bam.***

In rapid fire succession, he found out that he had lost everything he owned.

He loses his children he cared for so much, gaping whole 1:18.

He loses his health, 2:6.

He loses his wife's sympathy, 2:9

The pain and heartache would not stop.

How does he handle it?

1:20, 1: 22; 2:10b

How could he do it? How can anyone do it?

1. Right view of the character of God.

He gave, and he took away.

Not: God gave and Satan took away. Not: I earned it and Satan took it away.

What God does is correct. Isaiah 45:7 Job 2:10; 1:21

He does not owe his children blessings and goodness all the time.

God can still be holy, kind, righteous, wise and giving, sovereign, all powerful and still allow sufferings, unrelenting hardship of inconceivable degree.

Trials, hardships and persecution are signs of sonship.

Hebrews 12:7

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons.

2. Right view of the Word of God, Job 23: 11-12

He loved God's Word, he became a doer, not just a knower. The word of God he loved, he obeyed, it made a difference in his life.

New Year dawning... Be committed to a regular systematic reading of the bible leads to changed character and behavior!

3. Right view of trials, Job 23:1-9

When the heavens seem as brass, stone cold, when God seems to have forgotten, it is only apparent, not real. "He knows the way that I take."

4. Right view of growth.

"When he has tested me, I shall come forth as gold."