

When I Am in Extreme Pain

[Short Word Meditation (31)]

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A wicked person who does not care for or the poor and abuses them

The wicked will have to give away what he has worked hard
to earn without even eating it,
and he will not be able to spend all his money in business.

The reason is because he did not care for the poor,
abused them, and took away other people's homes
(Job 20:18-19).

It is unthinkable!

Almighty God does nothing evil or wrong. ...
Therefore, it is unthinkable
that Almighty God would do evil and be unjust
(Job 34:10, 12).

Difficulties may suddenly strike us one after another.

With the permission of the sovereign God,
Satan took away everything Job owned "suddenly"
(Job 1:15, 19), stripping him not only of his oxen,
donkeys, sheep, and camels,
but also of the lives of his servants,
and even further, the lives of his ten children.

Job heard this news from the servants
who had "barely" (vv. 15, 16, 17, 19) survived,
and then he arose, tore his robe, shaved his head,
fell to the ground, and worshipped God (v. 20).

As I reflected on this passage,
it occurred to me that sudden hardships
could also strike our lives one after another.

Within God's sovereignty, it is possible that Satan might be permitted
to attack our families and take away what we possess.

Thus, we might find ourselves barely managing to endure each day,
living through great shock, deep sorrow, and pain.

But how can we worship God like Job did in such a state?

How could David enter the house of the Lord
and worship God after his child died?

(2 Samuel 12:20)

How could Hannah dedicate her child
to the Lord for life and worship God?

(1 Samuel 1:27)

If we focus on trying to understand God's actions and seeking His will,
we will never be able to worship God.

However, if we focus on God's sovereignty and who He is,
we can worship Him in faith, no matter the circumstances.

Let us not rely on spider webs!

What ungodly people who have forgotten God
rely on is like a spider's web, which will be easily broken,
and even if they lean on it, it will not support it
(Job 8:14-15).

Anything we rely on other than God is like a spider's web,
and it will not be able to sustain us.

Our tongue should never lie.

As long as we still have life within us
and the “breath of God” in our nostrils,
our lips should never speak evil,
and our tongue should never lie.
(Reference: Job 27:3-4).

The wicked who gives birth to lies.

The wicked bear evil, become pregnant with evil, and give birth to lies
(Psalms 7:14).

It could never have been a comfort!

How could Bildad, Job's friend, say to Job, who had lost his ten children,
"Your children must have sinned against God,
so He gave them the punishment they deserved"? (Job 8:4)
If someone had said to me after my first child Charis died,
"Your baby died because you sinned against God,"
I would have had no choice but to accept those words.
However, the reason Job's children died
was not because they had sinned against God.
The Lord did not give those ten children the punishment they deserved!
Such words from a friend could never have been a comfort to Job.

It never could!

When Queen Esther said to King Ahasuerus, 'The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman,'
Haman was terrified before the king and queen. The king got up in a rage, left his wine,
and went out into the palace garden. Haman, realizing that the king had already decided his fate,
stayed behind to beg Queen Esther for his life" (Esther 7:6-7).
As I meditated on this passage, I recalled Esther 3:6 : "Having learned who Mordecai's people were,
he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead, Haman looked for a way to destroy
all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes."
Clearly, in Esther 3, Haman was infuriated to the point of deciding to exterminate
all the Jews in the Persian Empire, not just Mordecai, because Mordecai refused to kneel
or pay him honor (3:5-6). But by chapter 7 of Esther, Haman realized that King Ahasuerus
had decided to kill him (7:7).
How could Haman's "decision" possibly overcome King Ahasuerus's "decision"?
It never could! God's decision to save us, whom He dearly loves and has chosen in His only Son,
Jesus Christ, can easily overcome any decision by anyone (especially Satan)
(Ref.: Romans 8:37).

The ungodly and the bribe takers.

The ungodly and those who take bribes
are those who give birth to sin through evil thoughts,
and their hearts are always full of deception
(Ref.: 15:34-35).

May the Lord fulfill the plans ...

I pray that the Lord, who is the light,
illuminates our path and fulfills the plans
we have made in Him and for Him
(Ref.: Job 22:28).

The comfort in suffering ...

The comfort in suffering
is the hope that the Lord will finally deliver us
because the Lord lives to save us
(Ref.: Job 19:2).

In our suffering, our prayers and wishes ...

In our suffering, our prayers and wishes may be
that God would be willing to kill us by ending our lives
(Ref.: Job 6:8-9).

When waves of suffering continually crash upon us ...

When waves of suffering continually crash upon us,
our hearts will be restless, unable to find peace,
thinking that God has thrown us into the storm.
At that time, we will stumble and cry out for help here and there
(Ref.: Job 30:22, 27-28).

When no one comes to our aid, what should we do?

This hymn comes to mind:

" Jesus, my Lord to Thee I cry; Un-less Thou help me I must die:

Oh, bring Thy free salvation nigh, And take me as I am.."

(Hymn: "Jesus, My Lord to Thee I Cry," Verse 1).

Perhaps God binds us with the chains of suffering and the cords of affliction ...

Perhaps God binds us with "the chains of suffering and the cords of affliction,"
to show us our prideful deeds and wrongdoings, and to make us listen to "words of warning,"
so that we turn away from sin (Ref.: Job 36:8-10).

Is it really the end when a person dies?

Is it really the end when a person dies?

Where do people go when they die?

(Ref.: Job 14:10)

Anyone who dies believing in the Lord Jesus Christ will live forever in heaven!

(Ref.: Psalms 23:6; John 6:40, 58; 10:28; 11:26; 1 John 2:17)

Can we all truly believe that what we believe and think ...

Can we all truly believe that what we believe and think

is right and claim that we are pure before God?

(Ref.: Job 11:4)

Will only suffer more

Those who follow gods other than the Lord

will only suffer more

(Ref.: Psalms 16:4).

A person who is not satisfied even after being bullied?

A friend who persecutes and torments us
and is not satisfied with us rather than pity us is an evil person
(Ref.: Job 19:21-22).

Salvation and humiliation

The Lord saves the humble and humbles the proud
(Psalms 18:27).

Salvation is ...

Salvation is given by God
(Psalms 3:8; Jonah 2:9).

God will save ...

God will save the humble
(Ref.: Job 22:29).

I hope I don't deviate from that path.

I hope that I will follow the words of the Lord and take care
to always follow the Lord's path and not deviate from it
(Ref.: Psalms 17:4).

At that time, only the Lord can comfort our souls.

Esther heard about what had happened concerning Mordecai,
and she was deeply distressed.

She sent clothes for him to wear, but he refused them
(Esther 4:4).

As I reflect on this passage,

I believe we can experience great distress because of those we love.

Especially when this distress weighs heavily on our hearts,
our souls may feel compelled to reject any comfort offered by others.

My thoughts on this are based on Psalms 77:2:

“In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord;

In the night my hand was stretched out without weariness;

My soul refused to be comforted.”

There are times when we are so distressed that our soul refuses to be comforted.

At that time, only the Lord can comfort our souls.

The truth we must not forget at that time!

When calamity weighs heavier than sighing,
we earnestly seek God (long for Him),
but we may despair enough because we cannot find Him
(Job 23:2-3, 8-9).

At that time, what we must not forget
is that while we may not understand why we are experiencing such severe calamity,
the truth remains: "But He knows the way that I take" (v. 10a).

The Lord will cover over my sin.

'I will wait patiently until my change comes.
You will call, and I will answer You;
You will long for the creature Your hands have made.
Surely then You will count my steps,
but not keep track of my sin.
My offenses will be sealed up in a bag;
You will cover over my sin'
(Job 14:14-17).

The Lord will reveal to them the secret of His promise.

The Lord will be intimate with those who serve Him with a fearful heart
and will reveal to them the secret of His promise
(Psalms 25:14).

That's how weak we are ...

We comfort and strengthen the feeble and fallen with God's word,
yet when we ourselves encounter difficulties,
we may become disheartened and perplexed
(Ref.: Job 4:4-5).

As weak as we are in that regard,
God uses even our weakness to strengthen
and empower our feeble neighbors.

We need to listen to them.

We need to learn the truths learned
by our ancestors in faith and listen to their words
(Ref.: Job 8:8, 10).

The reason we rejoice even in the midst of endless suffering is ...

The reason we rejoice even in the midst of endless suffering is
because we did not disobey the holy word of God
(Ref.: Job 6:10).

No matter how much I cry out to God in the midst of extreme pain ...

When God cast Job into the mire, Job became like dust and ashes.

He cried out to God, but the Lord did not answer him.

At that time, Job stood before God,

but felt that God had no interest in him and only looked at him

(Job 30:19-20).

In the midst of severe pain, even if we cry out to God,

His response to our prayers may not meet our expectations.

When it seems like God is silent and indifferent towards us,

we may feel like Job did, thinking that God is just observing us without any concern.

What should we do in such times?

Can we still praise God through hymns like "We Will Set Our Eyes on You"?

"... Oh Lord, we know You're watching us With Your eyes of everlasting love

O Lord, we know You hear our prayers With Your ears of unfailing love

You shed a light to the darkest path And You answer every prayer, big or small

No matter when it is or where we stand We will set our eyes on You."

When we are in extreme pain

When we are in extreme pain,

we may think that God has uprooted our hope like a tree

(Ref.: Job 19:10).

A friend who comforts us in times of extreme suffering is one who simply mourns with us who mourn in silence (Romans 12:15).

When Job's three friends heard about all that had happened to him, they contacted each other and came to Job to find him and comfort him.

When they looked at Job from afar and saw that he had changed beyond recognition, they cried loudly and couldn't help but tear their clothes and throw dust into the sky and sprinkle it on their heads.

Then they sat on the ground with Job for seven days and seven nights, but no one said a word because they saw that Job was suffering so much (Job 2:11-13).

A friend who comforts us when we are in extreme pain is a friend who just mourn in silence with the us who mourn (Romans 12:15).

Questions to ask the Lord during extreme pain

The question asked to the Lord during extreme pain is, “What is it about people that the Lord values them so much, pays so much attention to them, examines them every morning, and tests (trains) them at every moment?”

Why does the Lord not take his eyes off us even for a moment and does not leave us alone even while he swallows?

(Ref.: Job 7:17-19)

Even if we are in the midst of extreme pain ...

Even in the midst of extreme suffering,
we must be able to discern right from wrong
(Ref.: Job 6:30).

Accusing us of our faults without any basis

An unfaithful friend teaches us when we are in great pain
and accuses us of our faults without any basis
(Ref.: Job 6:24-25).

We should not rejoice ...

We should not rejoice in trusting in wealth or in having much property.
We should guard against subtly being drawn to money
and lifting up our hands in worship of it.
Instead, we should recognize that we have enough with what we have.
The reason is that loving money is the root of all kinds of evil.
Those who covet it stray from faith and wander,
suffering many pains and deep wounds in their hearts
(Ref.: Job 31:24-25, 27; 1 Timothy 6:10; Hebrews 13:5).

May God turn our troubles around ...

May God turn our troubles around
and give us twice as much as we had before
(Ref.: Job 42:10).

We must live a clean life.

We must live a clean life
by keeping God's commandments
and not doing evil away from our God
(Ref.: Psalm 18:20-21).

Sweeter than honey and the honeycomb is the word of God ...

The word of God is sweeter than honey and the honeycomb;
it is pure and righteous, more desirable than gold
(Ref.: Psalms 19:9-10).

I have obscured your will with ignorant words, Lord.

I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.
Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.
I have obscured your will with ignorant words, Lord.
Therefore, I am ashamed of all that I have said and repent
(Ref.: Job 42:3, 6).

I am not a loving comforter.

If I say these words to the other person who is suffering greatly,
but I cannot remain silent and say those words to him
even though I know that he will feel even more pain,
I am not a loving comforter (Ref.: Job 4:2).

I will trust in God.

Even if God takes my life away today,
I will trust Him (Ref.: Job 13:15).

I will not be shaken.

My heart will be glad, my soul will be glad, and my body will be safe.
I always have the Lord before me, and I will not be shaken
because the Lord is at my right hand
(Ref.: Psalms 16:8-9).

If I give the feeling that 'only I know and only I realize' ...

"If I give the other person the feeling
that 'only I know and only I realize,'
then the other person could very well say to me,
'What do you know that I do not?
What is it that only you have realized and know?'
(Ref.: Job 15:9).

There is hope for a tree.

There is hope for a tree.
If it is cut down, it will sprout again,
and its new shoots will not fail.
Its roots may grow old in the ground and its stump die in the soil,
yet at the scent of water,
it will bud and put forth shoots like a new plant.
But a person in extreme suffering,
living a hard life like a hired laborer, may seem to have no hope
(Ref.: Job 14:6-9).

Here are the lyrics to verses 1 and 3 of the hymn "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less":

(V. 1) My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.
(V. 3) His oath, His covenant, His blood, support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

The Lord, my shepherd ... (1)

The Lord, my shepherd, has led me this far.

(Ref.: Psalms 23:2-3).

The Lord, my shepherd ... (2)

The Lord, my shepherd, will lead me to the eternal home of God!

(Ref.: Psalms 23:1, 6).

Because the Lord, my shepherd, is with me ...

Because the Lord, my shepherd, was with me,

I was not afraid even in the midst of the death of my beloved child.

Rather, I came to praise the Lord's saving love

(Ref.: Psalms 23:4; 63:3).

My future is also in the Lord's hands.

Since the Lord has become my everything
and given me everything I need,
my future is also in His hands
(Psalms 16:5).

O God, my rock and my redeemer...

O God, my rock and my redeemer,
may the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart
be acceptable before you
(Ref.: Psalms 19:14).

It is my great joy.

It is my great joy to be with precious saints
(Ref.: Psalms 16:3).

God is my strength

God who is my strength,
please come quickly and help me
(Ref.: Psalms 22:19).

We will be discouraged and completely destroyed!

If our piety makes us confident and our blameless life becomes our hope,
that hope will disappoint us and our confidence will be completely destroyed
(Ref.: Job 4:6).

Those who are discouraged

We hope that those who are discouraged
will find courage when they see our bright faces.
(Ref.: Job 29:24).

Strangers

God may take our family, relatives, and friends far away from us,
so that we may become strangers to those who know us
(Ref.: Job 19:13-15).

“I not hate my life”?

When we try to forget our pain even while lying in bed,
we are startled and frightened by nightmares and visions.
We might then say, "I would rather be choked to death than continue living like this."
And we might plead with God, "I now hate my life.
Leave me alone, for my days are meaningless.
I no longer want to live (Ref.: Job 7:13-16).

My life is in the hands of the Lord.

My life is in the hands of the Lord.
In any situation, I want to trust in the Lord and confess,
‘The Lord is my God’ (Ref.: Psalms 31:14-15).

My lips testify that I am guilty.

Is it possible that my sin is teaching my mouth what to say?
Is it possible that I am deceiving myself with cunning words?
Perhaps it is my own mouth that is condemning me as a sinner.
My lips testify against me, revealing my sin
(Ref.: Job 15:5-6).

My cup overflows ...

My cup overflows because your goodness and steadfast love
have followed me all my life (Ref.: Psalms 23:5, 6).

“My happiness has vanished like a cloud.”

Worthless men rise up against Job,
and to bring him down, they dig traps before him.
They block his path to destroy him.
They fiercely charge at him like an army breaking through a breached wall.
As a result, Job is overwhelmed with fear.
Job confesses: "My dignity has blown away like the wind,
and my happiness has vanished like a cloud.
My life is withering away, and all that remains are days of suffering.
At night, my bones ache and throb, and the pain never ceases."
(Job 30:12-17).

When we spend days of unending suffering because of our adversaries,
we might say like Job, "My happiness has vanished like a cloud."

When we feel that our happiness has disappeared like a cloud,
what should we do and how should we act?

This hymn lyric comes to mind:

"Jesus, the very thought of Thee With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see, And in Thy presence rest"

(Hymn "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee," verse 1).

When I'm in distress ...

When I was in distress because of my adversaries
who were stronger than me and my enemies who hated me,
God protected me, led me to a safe place, and delighted in me, saving me
(Ref.: Psalm 18:17-19).

A comforter who thinks 'I'm better than you'?

A miserable comforter (Job 16:2) is someone who torments a suffering person,
crushes them with words, and thinks, "I am better than you."
He rebukes the person, saying,
"The difficulties you are facing are the result of your sins,"
and he does this without shame
(Job 19:2-5).

The reason I lack nothing ...

The reason I lack nothing is because the Lord is my shepherd.
(Ref.: Psalms 23:1).

Lord, I love ...

Lord, I love your house
and the place where your glory is
(Ref.: Psalms 26:8).

When I was in trouble ...

The Lord was my help when I was in trouble
(Psalms 27:9).

One thing I have asked of the LORD ...

One thing I have asked of the LORD:
I will live in the LORD's house all my life,
beholding his beauty and meditating on him in the temple
(Psalms 27:4).

I am lonely and suffering.

I am lonely and suffering.

The pain in my heart is increasing.

Lord, please be gracious to me and save me from all this suffering.

Look at my sorrow and pain and forgive all my sins

(Psalms 25:16-18).

I look to the Lord because I trust in Him.

I look to the Lord because I trust in Him.

Lord, protect me with your faithfulness and honesty

(Psalms 25:20-21).

I walk in the truth of the Lord.

Because the Lord's unfailing love is always before me,

I walk in the Lord's truth

(Psalms 26:3).

I will be glad and rejoice in your love ...

‘I will be glad and rejoice in your love,
for you saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul’
(Psalms 31:7).

The reason I cannot keep silent and must praise the Lord is ...

The reason I cannot keep silent and must praise the Lord is
that He has turned my sorrow into joy.
Therefore, I will give thanks to the Lord forever
(Ref.: Psalms 30:11-12).

From birth ...

From birth I was cast on you;
from my mother’s womb you have been my God
(Psalms 22:10).

I put my hope in you all day long.

My God of salvation, I put my hope in you all day long.

Guide me and teach me in your truth

(Psalms 25:5).

I keep my eyes always on the Lord ...

I keep my eyes always on the Lord,

for only He can rescue me from danger

(Psalms 25:15).

Who dares ...

Who can condemn the Lord because He is silent!

(Ref.: Job 34:29)

Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted (Luke 14:11)

Haman was in a very good mood because he alone was invited to two banquets with King Ahasuerus and Queen Esther. He boasted to his wife, Zeresh, and his friends about his wealth, his many children, and the high position the king had given him above all others. Yet, despite all this, Haman was not satisfied as long as he saw the Jew Mordecai sitting at the king's gate (Esther 5:9-13).

Haman seemed to be extremely angry because Mordecai did not acknowledge his high position, nor did he bow down or pay homage to him. It appears that Haman wanted everyone to recognize the high position he held, which he was very proud of.

However, there was just one person, Mordecai the Jew, who did not acknowledge his high status.

This greatly dissatisfied Haman.

His wife Zeresh and all his friends advised him to set up a gallows about 23 meters high and to ask the king the next morning to have Mordecai hanged on it. After that, he could go to the second banquet with Queen Esther in high spirits. This suggestion pleased Haman, and he ordered the gallows to be built (v. 14).

Haman wanted to hang Mordecai on the high gallows because Mordecai did not acknowledge his high position.

When I meditate on this passage, I am reminded of Jesus, who, despite having the highest position equal with God, came to this lowly and humble earth (Ref.: Philippians 2:6-8) and was crucified on a high cross (Ref.: John 3:14), the tree of curse (Deuteronomy 21:23; Galatians 3:13).

Jesus said, "For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted" (Luke 14:11).

Old age should come with wisdom and understanding.

Old age should come with wisdom and understanding.

However, true wisdom, power, insight, and understanding belong to God

(Ref.: Job 12:12-13).

It lasts but a moment!

The triumph of the wicked is short-lived,
and the joy of the godless lasts but a moment

(Job 20:4).

I put my hand over my mouth.

Job, upon hearing the word of God, replied,

"What can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth.

I spoke once, but I have no answer—twice, but I will say no more"

(Job 40:3-5).

Ecclesiastes 5:2-3 comes to mind: "Do not be quick with your mouth,
do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God.

God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.

A dream comes when there are many cares,
and many words mark the speech of a fool."

Speak kindly ...

Wicked people who do evil speak kindly to their neighbors,
but their hearts are full of hatred
(Psalms 28:3).

Satan prevents us from holding on to the truth any longer and causes us to curse God.

Satan, permitted by the sovereign God, relentlessly attacks us
to prove that God is false and we are not truthful.
He assaults our possessions and even our children
(Job 1:13-19) and can afflict us with disease (2:7-8).
In these perilous times, Satan's cunning strategy is
to tempt our spouses, who are one with us, to lead us away
from holding fast to the truth and to blaspheme against God (v. 9).

God has cleansed us from our filth!

No one in this world can make something clean come out of something unclean,
but only God has cleansed us from our filth
through the atonement death on the cross of His only Son, Jesus Christ
(Ref.: Job 14:4; Ezekiel 36:25; Hebrews 9:22).

I cannot understand why ...

I cannot understand why we are humans
so that the Lord thinks of us, cares for us,
and crowns us with glory and honor
(Ref.: Psalms 8:4-5).

We must help them.

When the poor cry out to us, we must help them.
And when we see orphans who have no help,
we must also help them
(Ref.: Job 29:12).

The taste of evil like the venom of a viper

The wicked man may have a sweet taste in his mouth
that he hides under his tongue,
but he cannot spit it out; he holds it in his mouth.
Yet his food will turn sour in his stomach;
it will become the venom of serpents within him.
He swallows wealth but vomits it up;
God will make his stomach disgorge it.
He will suck the poison of serpents;
the fangs of an adder will kill him
(Job 20:12-16).

We should rejoice and praise God.

The righteous should rejoice in the Lord and praise him;
the upright should sing to him with instruments,
giving thanks and singing praises with a new song,
skillfully played, and shouted joyfully
(Ref.: Psalms 33:1-3).

We must boldly say what needs to be said.

We must not take sides or flatter anyone (Job 32:21),
but speak boldly as we must (Ephesians 6:20; Colossians 4:4).

Those who are ungodly in heart ...

Those who are ungodly in heart do not cry out to God for help,
with anger in their hearts even when they are punished by God
(Job 36:13).

If we give up our greed for money ...

If we give up our greed for money and throw away our gold,
Almighty God will become our gold and precious silver.
Then we will be able to find joy in Almighty God
and lift up our faces toward God
(Ref.: Job 22:24-26).

If we are tired of life ...

If we are tired of life,
we may feel free to complain and vent our soul's suffering
(Ref.: Job 10:1).

If we receive loving discipline from our Heavenly Father ...

If we receive loving discipline from our Heavenly Father,
we will say like Job, "Teach me what I do not understand.
What if we pray, "If I have done something wrong, I will never do it again?"
(Ref.: Job 34:31-32)

If we obey God and serve Him ...

If we obey God and serve Him,
will we be able to live the rest of our lives happily
and joyfully without suffering?
(Ref.: Job 36:11)

If we turn away from God and ignore all of His commands ...

If we turn away from God
and ignore all of His commands
(Ref.: Job 34:27),
God lovingly disciplines us for our own good
and allows us to participate in God's holiness
(Ref.: Hebrews 12:10).

If God decides to take our spirit and life ...

If God decides to take our spirit and life,
we will die in an instant, even in the middle of the night,
and return to dust (Ref.: Job 34:14-15, 20).

The wicked who are never satisfied.

The wicked person is insatiable and always greedy,
but he will not be able to keep anything he wants.
He will eat everything he can, leaving nothing behind,
so the prosperity he enjoyed will come to an end
(Job 20:20-21).

The words of God, who created the world through His words ...

The words of God, who created the world through His words,
are true and everything He does is trustworthy
(Psalms 33:4, 9).

Everyone deceives one another and flatters one another with lies.

The godly are gone, the honest are gone,
and everyone deceives one another and flatters one another with lies.
'Lord, stop the mouth that flatters and cut off the tongue that boasts'
(Ref.: Psalms 12:1-2).

God sees everything.

God looks to the ends of the earth and sees everything in the world
(Job 28:24).

We must hand over all our problems to God.

We must seek God and hand over all our problems to Him
(Ref.: Job 5:8).

There is nothing the Lord cannot do.

There is nothing the Lord cannot do,
and there is nothing he cannot accomplish
(Ref.: Job 42:2).

Let us not trust in the worthless things!

We must not allow ourselves to be deceived by trusting in worthless things.
Otherwise, worthlessness will be the price we pay back
(Ref.: Job 15:31).

A fool may seem to succeed for a moment ...

A fool may seem to succeed for a moment,
but in the end he will collapse in an instant
(Ref.: Job 5:3).

Live uprightly and honestly!

We must always live uprightly and honestly
(Ref.: Job 29:14).

Teach me the right path.

The Lord is good and upright,
teaching sinners the right way and guiding the humble
in the right path and teaching them his will
(Psalms 25:8-9).

There may be crying at night ...

There may be crying at night,
but there will be joy in the morning
(Psalms 30:5).

It is a hindrance.

A foolish person who only talks about useless things
is a hindrance to serving God with a fearful heart
and praying with a godly heart
(Ref.: Job 15:2-4).

How can people who are nothing more than worms and maggots ...?

How can people who are nothing more than worms and maggots
dare to stand before God and claim to be righteous,
and how can they be clean?

(Ref.: Job 25:4-5)

However, God has cleansed us with the blood of Jesus Christ
(Hebrews 9:22) and declared us righteous (Romans 4:5).

Blessed are those ...

Blessed are those who delight in the word of God
and meditate on it day and night
(Psalms 1:1, 2).

Blessed is the nation ...

Blessed is the nation that has the Lord as its God,
and blessed is the nation that God has chosen as his people
(Psalms 33:12).

Don't let us be put to shame.

Lord, show and teach your will and your ways
to those who trust and rely on you,
so that they will not be put to shame
(Ref.: Psalms 25:2-4).

Are we lacking ...?

Are we lacking in God's comfort and His gentle words?
(Ref.: Job 15:11)

Misfortune will overtake the wicked.

The wicked will suffer even when he has plenty,
and misfortune will overtake him
(Job 20:22).

**Even though the wicked piles up
a mountain of money and fills his closet with clothes ...**

Even though the wicked piles up a mountain of money and fills his closet with clothes,
the righteous will wear the clothes and take the money
(Ref.: Job 27:16-17).

**Although we live in this world
where filth and filth are rampant ...**

Lord, although we live in this world
where filth and filth are rampant (Psalms 12:8),
make us the pure bride of Christ.

Even though we cannot understand God's actions ...

Even though we cannot understand God's actions,
His actions are perfect
(Ref.: Psalms 18:30).

We don't want our hearts to laugh ...

We do not want our hearts to laugh at our lives
(Ref.: Job 27:6).

We should not associate ...

We dislike and should not associate
with liars, hypocrites, and evildoers
(Ref.: Psalms 26:4-5).

We should not be afraid of what people say.

We should not be afraid of what people say or their ridicule
so that we cannot say what we will say
(Ref.: Job 31:33).

It is not age that makes a person wise.

It is not age that makes a person wise,
but the Holy Spirit of Almighty God who gives wisdom to a person
(Job 32:8).

Lord, who deeply searches the hearts of people ...

Lord, who deeply searches the hearts of people,
cut off the evil of the wicked and make the righteous safe
(Psalms 7:9).

Shield of love

The Lord protects us with a shield of love
(Ref.: Psalms 5:12).

The God of love

The God of love cut off Jesus Christ,
the only begotten Son of God whom He loves and delights in,
on the cross in order to break us from the chains of sin
and bind us with the unbreakable cord of God's love.

**Satan not only dislikes us knowing the truth (Ref. John 8:32),
but also dislikes us enjoying freedom
through that truth and living truthfully.**

Some time later, Satan came again before the Lord with the angels, and the Lord said to Satan, 'Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.

And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason.'

Satan replied, 'Skin for skin!

A man will give all he has for his own life.

But now stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face.'

The Lord said to Satan, 'Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life'

(Job 2:1-6).

When I meditate on these words,

I believe that Satan also observed Job, whom God was watching over.

Satan's purpose was to attack Job, whom God praised as 'blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil,' in order to make him curse the Lord.

In essence, Satan's goal was to prove that God's commendation of Job was false.

This is the cunning purpose of the devil, Satan, who is 'a liar and the father of lies' (8:44).

His crafty scheme was to provoke God into allowing Job to be harmed 'without any reason.'

However, Job 'still maintains his integrity' (2:3).

Ultimately, we can see that Satan strongly dislikes us Christians preserving the truth.

He dislikes us knowing the truth, enjoying freedom through it (Ref.: John 8:32), and living truthfully.

Isn't that what Satan did?

Did God find fault with Job, who was blameless and upright,
who feared God and shunned evil? Was it not Satan who treated Job like an enemy?
(Job 33:9-10)

Isn't that what Satan did? (1:9-11; 2:4-5)

Satan attacks us like an enemy, seeking to make us curse God
and turn away from revering the Lord (1:9, 11; 2:5)

The Lord guides with sincerity and love ...

The Lord guides with sincerity and love
all who keep His promises and commands
(Psalms 25:10).

Valuable advice

We hope that people will listen to us and value our advice
because they find it satisfactory
(Ref.: Job 29:21-22).

Lifespan limit?

The Lord has determined our days and set limits

we cannot exceed in this life

(Job 14:5).

However, through faith in Jesus Christ,

God has saved His children (1 John 3:1)

and granted them eternal life without limits in the Coming Age

(John 4:14).

Those who think they are wise

God ignores those who think they are wise in their hearts

(Ref.: Job 37:24).

They will not be disappointed.

Those who trust and rely on the Lord will not be disappointed

(Ref.: Psalms 22:4-5).

Even when it seems that God has forsaken us ...

Even when it seems that God does not listen to our groaning,
does not answer our cries day and night, does not help us,
and has even forsaken us, the Holy Lord is still worthy of praise
(Ref.: Psalms 22:1-3).

Rather than consulting with people who are nothing more than useless quack doctors ...

Rather than consulting with people who fabricate lies
and are nothing more than worthless quack doctors,
it is better to speak directly to the Almighty God
and discuss our problems with Him
(Ref.: Job 13:3-4).

Foolish people who do evil ...

Foolish people who do evil say in their hearts, 'There is no God.'
They are corrupt and have gone astray; they are all tainted and do vile deeds
(Ref.: Psalms 14:1, 3, 4).

Those who do evil ...

Those who do evil thwart the plans of the poor,
but God is their refuge
(Psalms 14:6).

The wicked will disappear forever like their own dung.

Even if the pride of the ungodly wicked reaches to the heavens
and their head touches the clouds, they will disappear forever like their own dung.
They will pass away like a dream and vanish like a vision of the night,
never to be seen again. Even if they are physically strong,
they will soon return to dust
(Job 20:6-8, 11).

The wealth of the wicked does not last long.

The wealth of the wicked will not last long,
and his wealth will soon run out,
and he will disappear under the breath of God
(Ref.: Job 15:27-30).

A trap set by the wicked?

The wicked will fall into the trap he has set
(Psalms 7:15).

Although the evil rich may seem very high now ...

Although the evil rich may seem very high now,
they will be destroyed in an instant
(Ref.: Job 24:24).

The wicked are proud and arrogant, boast of their evil desires, and are greedy.

The wicked are proud and arrogant,
boasting of their evil desires and indulging in greed.
They oppress the poor.
Their mouths are full of curses, lies, and threats,
and with their tongues, they harm and commit crimes.
They do not seek God and think that
there is no God, cursing and rejecting Him.
Yet, they succeed in everything they do.
However, God's judgment awaits them.
The wicked do not realize this and say
that God will not punish them
(Ref.: Psalms 10:2-5, 7, 13).

When evil people oppress the poor ...

When evil people do injustice to the poor,
the poor have no choice but to cry out to God.
At that time, God hears the cries of those who are suffering
(Ref.: Job 34:28).

The wicked will have no hope of escaping the darkness.

The wicked who torment others will encounter unexpected disasters
just when they think they are safe, and will suffer for the rest of their lives,
with no hope of escaping from the darkness
(Ref.: Job 15:20-22).

No matter what suffering and pain there may be ...

No matter what suffering and pain there may be,
even if there is the shadow of death,
our prayers must be pure
(Ref.: Job 16:17).

How did Job not blame God even after losing everything?

After losing his ten children and all his possessions,

Job worshiped God and said:

'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart.

The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away;

may the name of the Lord be praised.'

Despite all this, Job did not sin or blame God

(Job 1:20-22).

When I reflect on this passage,

I wonder how Job did not blame God even after losing everything.

If he had been a believer who pursued a prosperity gospel,

he surely would have blamed God.

However, Job praised and worshiped God

even after losing all his children and possessions.

I believe he was able to do this because his faith was based on knowing who God is and recognizing God's sovereignty.

They don't pray to God except in difficult times.

The ungodly do not find joy in Almighty God

and do not pray to Him except in difficult times

(Ref.: Job 27:10).

If our foolish spouse does not support and help us in faith ...

Covered in painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head,
Job sat among the ashes, using a piece of broken pottery to scrape himself.
Seeing him, his wife said to Job, "Are you still maintaining your integrity?
Curse God and die!" Job replied to her, "You are talking like a foolish woman.
Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"

Despite all this, Job did not sin in what he said
(Job 2:7-10).

When I reflect on this passage,
I think about how Job maintained his integrity even in extreme suffering.
It shows that he valued maintaining his integrity more than his own life.
Usually, our instinct is to value our own life more than maintaining our integrity.
If we experience extreme suffering, we might succumb to Satan's temptation,
compromising our integrity to protect our life, and end up speaking and acting falsely.
Especially if our foolish spouse does not support and help us in faith,
we are at even greater risk of falling into Satan's temptation.
However, a person of faith who acknowledges God's sovereignty
will accept not only blessings from God but also calamities with faith.
And even in the face of such calamities,
that person will not sin against God with his lips.

When many troubles surrounded me ...

When many troubles surrounded me,
the Lord taught me His safe path and led me on it
(Ref.: Psalms 27:11).

It is a mistake!

If God examines us closely, He will find no good in us.

It is a mistake to think that we can deceive God as we deceive people

(Ref.: Job 13:9).

When there is only suffering, it is the time when God allows us to rely on Him and hold on to His Word!

When what we feared and dreaded finally comes upon us,
it may seem like we have no peace or rest, only suffering
(Ref.: Job 3:25-26).

However, even in the midst of that suffering,

God is with us, helping us to endure.

Not only does He help us endure,

but He also gives us His promises.

As we hold on to His promises and move forward,

He fulfills them for us.

Therefore, when we face only suffering,

it is precisely the time to rely solely on God

and cling to His word.

Only through the shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ ...

Are we clean and upright,
so that God hears our prayers and blesses our homes?

(Ref.: Job 8:6)

The lyrics from hymn "One Thing I of the Lord Desire",
verse 4 come to mind:

"I watch to shun the miry way,
And stanch the springs of guilty thought,
But, watch and struggle as I may,
Pure I am not. Pure I am not."

We are cleansed only through
the shedding of Jesus Christ's blood

(Hebrews 9:22),

and have been presented to Christ

as a pure virgin bride

(2 Corinthians 11:2).

Did you know that it is actually lighter?

Do we know that the punishment God gives us
is rather light compared to what we deserve?

(Ref.: Job 11:6).

Rather, he took vengeance on his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ ...

King Ahasuerus could not revoke the decree
he had issued with his signet ring,
so he instructed Queen Esther and Mordecai
to write a new decree in the king's name,
allowing the Jews to defend themselves against their enemies.

Immediately, scribes were summoned to record this decree
as Mordecai dictated it in every language
of each province and in the script of the Jews.

The decree granted the Jews in every city the right
to gather and protect their lives and property,
to annihilate any forces that attacked them,
including women and children,
and to plunder their enemies' possessions.

Ultimately, the content of this decree aimed to empower the Jews,
who were in imminent danger of destruction,
to retaliate against their adversaries
(Esther 8:7-13).

When I meditate on these words,
I believe that God, by avenging us
(Ref.: Romans 5:10; Hebrews 10:30),
could have rightfully allowed us to perish forever.

Instead, He chose to avenge us through His Son Jesus Christ,
granting us eternal life (Ref.: John 3:16)
and considering us friends of God
(Ref.: James 2:23).

The right words, the true words

The right words are painful,
the true words are persuasive
(Ref.: Job 6:25).

Correct worship

We must worship God correctly and trust Him.
(Ref.: Psalms 4:5).

Why does God do that?

God gives us disease and pain. Because of that disease and pain,
we lose our appetite and even the most delicious food becomes unappealing to us.
Our bodies weaken gradually until only skin and bones remain,
and eventually we reach the brink of death.
Why does God do this? Perhaps it is to awaken us
(Reference: Job 33:19-22).

Why doesn't God punish the wicked?

Why do the wicked live on, growing old and increasing in power?

Why do their children thrive and their descendants prosper?

Why is their house secure, free from fear,
and why do they live without trouble?

Why do they spend their days in prosperity,
rejoicing in their wealth, and why do they die without suffering?

Why does God not punish the wicked?

(Ref.: Job 21:7-12)

Why does God make us helpless and put us in trouble?

Job considered them to be the children of fools,
the lowest of society, even younger than himself,
who were as contemptible as guarding dogs,
and they did not hesitate to ridicule,
mock, and despise him from a distance,
even spitting in his face.

He thought this showed that God had made him
powerless and brought him into distress
(Job 30:1, 8-11).

Why does God make us powerless and bring us into distress?

Could it be that God wants us to fully realize
how helpless we are as human beings?

Is it so that God might compel us
to rely entirely on His omnipotence?

Have courage and faith

Let us have courage and faith and trust in God!

(Ref.: Psalms 27:14)

What those of us who are discouraged need ...

When there is no hope to sustain life
and we are completely helpless and unable to wait any longer,
what a discouraged person like us needs
is sympathy from a faithful friend

(Ref.: Job 6:11-14).

Because of us, widows ...

I hope that widows will sing for joy because of us

(Ref.: Job 29:13).

Our God turns our sorrow into joy!

God rescued the Jews from the hands of their enemies,
turning their sorrow and tears into joy and celebration.
On that historic day, Mordecai sent letters to all the Jews
throughout the provinces of the Persian Empire,
instructing them to annually observe
the 14th and 15th days of the month of Adar
(the days when the Jews gathered together and defended themselves
against their enemies, killing 75,000 who hated them)
as days of feasting and joy, of giving presents to one another and gifts to the poor.
Thus, the Jews followed Mordecai's instructions
and celebrated these days as an annual festival called "Purim,"
meaning "lots" or "destiny" (Internet).
(Ref.: Esther 9:16-23).

This festival of Purim commemorates the day when the Jews,
under threat from their enemy Haman who plotted to destroy them
by casting lots and choosing the 13th day of the month of Adar,
were instead saved by God using Esther and Mordecai.
God moved King Ahasuerus to issue a decree
reversing Haman's evil plot to annihilate the Jews,
thereby rescuing them and bringing judgment upon Haman, his sons,
and all the enemies of the Jews (vv. 24-26, 31).

All the Jews agreed to establish this tradition of celebration
for themselves and their descendants,
and for all who would join their community as Jews,
ensuring that they would annually observe these two days at the appointed time.
And they vowed to observe these days of Purim annually,
celebrating them with joy and sending gifts to each other and to the poor.
These days were to be remembered and observed throughout every generation,
every family, province, and city in the Persian Empire,
so that the Jews would never forget
the events that had happened to them (vv. 27-28).

When I meditate on these words, I am reminded of Psalms 30:11 –

"You turned my mourning into dancing;
you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy."

Applying Jeremiah 31:13 to this,

"God turns our sorrow into joy and comforts us,
giving us joy instead of mourning."

When I reflect on the mention of the Jews feasting,

I am reminded of Psalms 23:5 –

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."

Similarly, when God rescues us and grants us victory, as He did for the Jews,
we learn the lesson to rest, celebrate,
exchange gifts with one another, and also to help the poor.

Our descendants will also serve the Lord ...

I pray that our descendants will serve the Lord and hear His word,
and that they, like us, will proclaim the righteous works of God
(Ref.: Psalms 22:30-31).

When we were in trouble ...

The Lord who saved us when we were in trouble
takes pity on us and listens to our prayers
(Ref.: Psalms 4:1).

If we were to claim innocence ...

If we were to claim innocence,
we would have no words to argue before the judging God;
instead, we could only seek His mercy.
Even if we were righteous,
our own mouths would condemn us as sinners.
Even if we were blameless and perfect,
God would prove our weakness
(Ref.: Job 9:15, 20).

The truth we must keep in mind!

I don't know why a severe disaster heavier than sighing came upon us (Job 23:2),
but the truth we must keep in mind is, "After he (God) has tried me,
I will come out as pure gold" (v. 10).

We should find out why our loved ones are sad.

Esther instructed Hathak, the king's eunuch attending her,
to find out why Mordecai was so distressed.

Mordecai told Hathak about everything that had happened to him,
including the exact amount of money Haman had promised
to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews.

He also gave Hathak a copy of the edict issued in Susa for their annihilation,
to show to Esther and explain the situation to her.

He urged Hathak to instruct Esther to go to the king
and beg for mercy and plead for her people

(Esther 4:5-8).

When I meditate on these words,

I learn the lesson that we should find out why our loved ones are sad.

Additionally, our loved ones need to open their hearts

and share honestly why they are sad.

And when they plead with us,

we should listen attentively to their requests.

When we do not confess our sins ...

We should be thankful that when we do not confess our sins,
the Lord presses heavily on us with His hand and our strength weakens.

The reason is that at that time we decided to confess our sins
and confessed all our faults and sins to the Lord without hiding them.

Because the Lord will forgive all our sins

(Ref.: Psalms 32:3-5).

Why we love the Lord ...

We love the Lord because He is our power of salvation
(Ref.: Psalms 18:1, 2).

The reason we can lie down and sleep comfortably ...

The reason we can lie down and sleep comfortably
is because the Lord keeps us safe
(Psalms 4:8).

Can we complain to God?

Can we complain to God if He does not answer our prayers?
Could it be that God is continuously speaking to us
in ways different from what we expect,
but we are not listening to His words?
(Ref.: Job 33:13-14)

Why we praise God ...

We praise God because, in our suffering and even in the danger of death, when we cried out to Him, He heard our voice and listened to our cries for help, and He saved us from that suffering or danger
(Ref.: Psalms 18:3, 5, 6).

The reason we can sing of the Lord's salvation even in times of trouble is ...

The reason we can sing of the Lord's salvation even in times of trouble is because the Lord becomes our refuge and protects us.
Even during times of trouble, the Lord guides us, teaches us the path we should take, watches over us, and guides us
(Ref.: Psalms 32:7-8).

The reason we look to the Lord with hope ...

The reason we look to the Lord with hope is because the Lord is our help and shield
(Psalms 33:20).

We do not fear!

Because the Lord is our shield and our glory and the one who lifts up our head,
we do not fear even though tens of millions of enemies surround us
(Ref.: Psalms 3:3, 6).

We should praise the Lord.

We should praise the Lord because He has already blessed us generously
(Ref.: Psalms 13:6).

We are eating to our full while ...

Have we ever denied the wishes of the poor or disappointed a widow?
Haven't we eaten to our full while letting the poor orphans go hungry?
Have we truly taken care of orphans as our own children and looked after widows?
(Ref.: Job 31:16-18)

We must realize the end of the wicked!

How do you think Haman felt when he had to take the royal robes and horse, dress Mordecai, and lead him through the city streets proclaiming, “This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor,” as commanded by King Xerxes?

(Esther 6:11)

Haman, ashamed and unable to show his face, hurried home with his head covered and told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him (vv. 12-13).

Then his wife and his wise friends said to him,

“Since Mordecai, before whom your downfall has started, is of Jewish origin, you cannot stand against him—you will surely come to ruin!” (v. 13).

Surely, they were the same people who had previously advised Haman to have a pole set up, reaching to a height of about 23 meters, and ask the king in the morning to have Mordecai impaled on it.

Then go with the king to the banquet and enjoy yourself (5:14).

Yet now they were saying that “since Mordecai, before whom your downfall has started, is of Jewish origin, you cannot stand against him—you will surely come to ruin!” (6:13).

“Before they had finished speaking,” the king’s eunuchs arrived and “hurried Haman away to the banquet Esther had prepared” (v. 14).

When I meditated on this passage,

I thought of Psalms 73:17-20: “Till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.

Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin.

How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors!

They are like a dream when one awakes;

when you arise, Lord, you will despise them as fantasies.”

Amen!

Like Job, no matter what harsh and heavy disasters come upon us ...

Like Job, even if any severe and heavy disaster befalls us,
we must follow the Lord's steps precisely, keep to His path without straying,
not disobey His commands, and cherish the words of His mouth more than our daily food
(Ref.: Job 23:2, 11-12).

We must live honestly, do what is right, and speak the truth in our hearts.

We must live honestly, do what is right, and speak the truth from our hearts.
We should not slander others, harm our friends, or speak ill of our neighbors.
We must honor those who fear God and keep our promises even if it causes us harm.
Therefore, we must remain unshaken forever
(Ref.: Psalms 15:2-5).

We must tell of all the wonderful things the Lord has done for us ...

We must tell of all the wonderful things the Lord has done for us
and praise Him with all our hearts
(Ref.: Psalms 9:1).

Before we die ...

We must not abandon our integrity before we die

(Ref.: Job 27:5).

With the word of God ...

With the word of God, we must strengthen those whose hands are weak,

encourage those who have fallen to get up,

and give strength to those whose knees are weak

(Ref.: Job 4:3-4).

We must rely on the Lord's steadfast love.

Even if we have fallen, our souls are troubled,

and our hearts are anxious all day long,

and even though we cry out to the Lord

and it seems like He does not answer our prayers,

and it feels as if He has forgotten us forever and hidden His face from us,

we must rely on His steadfast love and, in hope,

rejoice in the salvation that He will surely provide in the future

(Ref.: Psalms 13:1-3, 5).

We should not sin because we are angry.

We should not sin because we are angry.

We must lie down, think quietly, and examine our hearts

(Ref.: Psalms 4:4).

We also need to prioritize family ministry, following the example of Job.

Job was a man who was truthful and honest, feared God, and shunned evil.

On his birthday, each of his sons held a feast at his house.

He also invited his three sisters, and they ate and drank with him.

At the end of the feast, he called his children and sanctified them.

He got up early in the morning and offered burnt offerings according to the number of his children.

The reason was because he wondered if his sons might have sinned and dishonored God in their hearts.

Job's behavior was always like this (Job 1:1-5).

When I meditate on these words,

I think that as a father, Job first set an example for his children

by being truthful and honest, serving God with a fearful heart, and avoiding evil.

And I think Job placed great importance on family ministry.

The reason I think this way is because in Job 1:1-5, it introduces who Job is (v. 1), mentions how many children he had (v. 2), discusses his possessions (v. 3), and then from verses 4-5, it talks about Job's children specifically.

Job was afraid that his children might have sinned and dishonored God in their hearts, so he offered burnt offerings according to the number of them.

It seems that Job wanted not only himself but also his children to not dishonor God in their hearts.

I think he was a person who lived a God-fearing life focusing on his heart rather than his actions.

We must follow Job's example and become people who are truthful and honest, serve God with a fearful heart, and shun evil.

And we must follow Job's example and attach importance to family ministry.

As we focus on our hearts rather than our actions and live our lives of faith, we must check our hearts from time to time to see if we are dishonoring God in our hearts.

He made us live in the light of life.

God the Father, who has already spiritually died and will forever die,
sought to save us who were bound to die by finding our substitute,
which is none other than Jesus Christ, our intercessor
whom God the Father loves and delights in.

Through the death of Jesus Christ,

God restored our righteous relationship with Him.

Therefore, we can say, "I have sinned, but God has saved me.

He did not allow me to die, so I have come alive again and seen the light."

Ultimately, God has saved our souls, enabling us to live in the light of life
(Ref.: Job 33:24-30; Matthew 3:17; 1 Timothy 2:5).

The Lord will raise us up again.

If we remove evil from our homes and return to Almighty God
with a repentant heart, the Lord will raise us up again
(Ref.: Job 22:23).

He gave us life.

The Spirit of God created us,
and the breath of the Almighty gave us life
(Ref.: Job 33:4).

When our good times are gone, our hopes are gone, and our heart's desires are frustrated ...

Even when our good times are gone,
our hopes are gone, and our heart's desires are frustrated
(Job 17:11), we believe that the Lord is our hope (Psalms 71:5)
and rely on Him even more. We must desire (42:1).
Those whose hope is only in the Lord will find new strength
(Isaiah 40:31).

We too will be filled with that glory, joy, happiness, and honor!

When God rescued the Jews
from the brink of destruction at the hands of their enemies,
there was glory, joy, happiness, and honor for them
(Esther 8:16).
We too have experienced and continue
to experience that glory, joy, happiness, and honor,
and it will be fully realized when Jesus returns to this world again.

God is always with us ...

God, who is always with us,
gives us light even when we walk in darkness
(Ref.: Job 29:3).

Our pain and sorrow

Our pain and sorrow may be heavier than the sand of the sea
(Ref.: Job 6:2-3).

God opens our ears ...

God opens our ears when we are in pain
(Ref.: Job 36:15).

God opens our ears to hear His words and fills us with fear as a warning.

God speaks to us in order to turn us from our mistakes
and prevent us from becoming arrogant.
He opens our ears to hear his words and makes us fearful as a warning.
God does not leave us to perish, but saves our lives from death
(Ref.: Job 33:16-18).

Brothers and sisters who sympathize with and comfort us in our sorrow.

I hope that there will be brothers and sisters who sympathize with our sorrow and comfort us in response to all the disasters that God has sent down (Ref.: Job 42:11).

We must not allow evil to dwell in our homes.

In order for us to stand firm with our faces uplifted and not to be afraid, we must get our mindset right, and when we lift our hands toward the Lord, we must shake off the sin in our hands and not allow evil to dwell in our homes (Ref.: Job 11:13-15).

Our vain cries?

Maybe the reason God doesn't listen to our prayers is because we are proud and evil. Almighty God neither listens nor listens to our vain cries (Ref.: Job 35:12-13).

I hope that our strength will grow stronger and stronger.

May our glory be renewed day by day
and our strength grow stronger and stronger
(Ref.: Job 29:20).

In times of crisis ...

In times of crisis,
the Lord protects me like the apple of His eye
and hides me under the shadow of His wings
(Ref.: Psalms 17:8).

The way to comfort (1)

The way to comfort is
to give a friend in pain the opportunity to speak first
(Reference: Job 21:2-3)

The way to comfort (2)

The way to comfort is
to keep your mouth shut and listen to the voices of your distressed friend
even blaming God with impatience
(Ref.: Job 21:2-5).

Greater than the pain of the body is the pain of the heart ...

Greater than the pain of the body is the pain of the heart,
when our spouse despises even our breath,
our siblings avoid coming near us,
our closest friends detest us,
and those we love turn away and become our enemies
(Ref.: Job 19:17, 19).

Those who live righteously and have pure hearts ...

Those who live righteously and have pure hearts
will continue to live diligently through any suffering
and will gradually gain strength
(Reference: Job 17:9).

What a wonderful scene from God's redemptive turnaround drama this is!

After attending the first banquet
hosted by Queen Esther with King Ahasuerus,
Haman left feeling very pleased.
However, his mood quickly turned to rage
when he saw Mordecai sitting at the king's gate,
not rising or showing any fear.
That day, Haman's wife, Zeresh, and all his friends advised him
to build a gallows about 23 meters high
and to ask King Ahasuerus the next morning
to have Mordecai hanged on it.
Then, they suggested, he could go to the second banquet
hosted by Queen Esther with a joyful heart.
Haman liked the idea and ordered the gallows to be built
(Esther 5:9-14).
But why, on that very night, could King Ahasuerus not sleep? (6:1)
Why did he command his servants
to bring the royal chronicles and read them to him? (v. 1)
And why, while reading the royal chronicles,
did the servants happen to read to the king the account of
how Mordecai had reported the conspiracy of Bigthana and Teresh,
the two eunuchs who guarded the king's entrance
and had plotted to assassinate him? (v. 2)
Was this all a coincidence? Absolutely not!
In God's redemptive turnaround drama,
although Haman intended to annihilate all the Jewish people,
God overturned his plans.
God kept King Ahasuerus awake "that night" and made him aware of the record
in the royal chronicles where Mordecai had exposed the assassination plot.
This prompted the king to want to reward Mordecai.
Even more intriguing is that "that night" (v.1), "at that moment,"

"just as" Haman entered the outer court of the palace,
it was undoubtedly God's doing (v. 4).

So, King Ahasuerus ordered his servants to bring Haman in and asked him,
"What should be done for the man the king delights to honor?"

(Naturally, the king had Mordecai in mind) (vv. 5-6).

The funny thing is, at that moment, Haman thought to himself
that there was no one else the king would want to honor more than him (v. 6).

From Haman's perspective,

it's understandable that he would make this mistake.

The reason is that King Ahasuerus had elevated him to a high position,
appointing him as the prime minister (3:1).

Additionally, Haman had been the only one invited to Queen Esther's banquet,
along with the king, and he was invited again to her second banquet (5:5, 8).

So, under this misconception, Haman answered King Ahasuerus,

"For the man the king delights to honor, have them bring a royal robe
the king has worn and a horse the king has ridden,
one with a royal crest placed on its head.

Then let the robe and horse be entrusted to one of the king's most noble princes.

Let them robe the man the king delights to honor
and lead him on the horse through the city streets,
proclaiming before him,

"This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!" (6:7-9).

Then the king commanded Haman,

"Go at once, get the robe and the horse,
and do just as you have suggested for the Jew Mordecai,
who sits at the king's gate. Do not neglect anything you have recommended" (v. 10).

How shocked must Haman have been to hear those words?

He was surely expecting that the king would honor him,

but instead, he found out that it was Mordecai—

the very man he was planning to ask

the king for permission to hang on the gallows.

How great must his shock have been at that moment!

What a wonderful scene from God's redemptive turnaround drama this is!

Haha.

What a wonderful scene in God's redemptive turnaround drama!!

King Ahasuerus and Haman attended Queen Esther's second banquet.

It was only when King Ahasuerus asked for the third time,

"Queen Esther, what is your request? I will grant it.

Even if you ask for half the kingdom, it will be given to you,"

that she revealed her request to him.

Her request was, "Spare my life and the lives of my people."

The reason she made this plea was because she and her people,

the Jews, had been sold to be annihilated.

King Ahasuerus then asked Queen Esther, "Who is he?

Where is the man who has dared to do such a thing?"

Esther replied, "The adversary and enemy is this vile Haman"

(Esther 7:1-6).

As I meditated these words,

I found the events of Esther chapter 6 fascinating,

situated between Queen Esther's first banquet (5:4-5) and the second banquet (7:1).

The reason being, in Esther chapter 6, King Ahasuerus begins to honor Mordecai (1-11),

while Haman begins to suffer humiliation (v. 13).

Clearly, Haman was elated when he left Queen Esther's first banquet in chapter 5,

because he was the only one invited along with the king.

Moreover, Queen Esther invited him again the next day to join the king (5:9, 12).

However, Haman's satisfaction was marred by seeing Mordecai the Jew

sitting at the king's gate, and none of his wealth, many children,

or the honors bestowed upon him by the king (v. 11) brought him joy.

Consequently, he followed the advice of his wife Zeresh and all his friends

and had a gallows seventy-five feet high built,

intending to ask the king to have Mordecai hanged on it (vv. 13-14).

Yet, in Esther chapter 6, we see King Ahasuerus beginning to honor Mordecai,

whom Haman had wanted to hang on the high gallows.

Haman believed that he was the person whom the king desired to honor (6:6),

thinking there was no one else but himself.

However, when he learned that the person

the king intended to honor was Mordecai, not him,
he was so ashamed that he covered his head and hurried home, unable to lift his face.
There, he recounted to his wife Zeresh and all his friends
everything that had happened to him (vv. 12-13).
His wise friends then remarked that this marked the beginning of his downfall (v. 13).
Meanwhile, as this unfolded, the king's eunuchs arrived
and quickly took Haman to Queen Esther's second banquet (v. 14), where he attended (7:1).
Another interesting point is that King Ahasuerus
asked Queen Esther three times what her request was (5:3, 6; 7:2).
As I meditated on these words,
I recalled the scene in John 21 where the resurrected Jesus
appeared to his disciples for the third time (John 21:14).
Specifically, I remembered how Jesus asked Simon Peter three times,
"Simon, son of John, do you love me?" (vv. 15, 16, 17).
Of course, Jesus asked Peter three times because Peter had denied him three times
(Matthew 26:70, 72, 74).
Therefore, I believe Jesus asked Peter three times, "Do you love me?"
to forgive Peter for his three denials and to restore him.
Furthermore, I think Jesus asked Peter three times to give him a mission
["Feed my lambs" (John 21:15), "Take care of my sheep" (v. 16), "Feed my sheep" (v.17)].
As I contemplate these words together,
I've considered that our Lord asks us both "Do you love me?"
and "What is your wish?" three times each.
When I reflect on this, my response would be as follows:
"Lord, you know that I love you" (v. 17), and
"My one wish, Lord, is this alone: To serve Thee all my days,
Then rise to stand before Thy throne And sing Thy deathless praise"
(Hymn "My One Wish, Lord, is This Alone" verse 1).
A third intriguing point is
when King Ahasuerus asked Queen Esther for the third time,
"What is your request? I will grant it.
Even if you ask for half the kingdom, it will be given to you."
At that moment, Queen Esther responded,
"Grant me my life and spare my people" (7:2-3).

What makes this interesting is that Queen Esther, until then, had obediently followed Mordecai's instructions, refraining from disclosing her identity as a Jew (2:10, 20). However, at her second banquet, when King Ahasuerus asked her for the third time, "What is your request? I will grant it," she finally expressed her wish and plea to save herself and her people, the Jews, by appealing to the king to spare their lives (7:2-3). Esther, who had approached the king with the resolve "If I perish, I perish" (4:16), now pleaded with the king to save her and her people from being annihilated (7:4). Why did Esther obey Mordecai's instruction and refrain from revealing herself as a Jew until King Ahasuerus asked her for the third time, "What is your request?" Clearly, King Ahasuerus had no prior knowledge that Esther was a Jew. If he had known beforehand, he would likely not have allowed Haman to issue the decree to annihilate all the Jews in the Persian Empire, even for Esther whom he loved more than all the other women (2:17) and found exceedingly delightful (5:2). He would not have given Haman the authority to carry out his plan to destroy all the Jews (3:6). When I meditate this, it strikes me how in the divine drama of salvation, God used Esther at the precise moment when she disclosed her request to the king and revealed her Jewish identity. It seems like a perfect timing orchestrated by God. And the moment when Queen Esther spoke her request to King Ahasuerus is indeed a remarkable turning point in God's dramatic salvation narrative. I consider it so because when Esther made her plea to the king during the situation where he and Haman attended her second banquet, she asked the king to spare her and her people's lives. It was during this banquet that Haman, who had plotted to kill them, was present along with the king. So, when King Ahasuerus asked, "Where is he?" Esther replied, "The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman" (7:5-6). What a wonderful scene in God's redemptive turnaround drama!!

I think this is exactly what Satan is aiming for.

Satan presented a question regarding Job's fear of God, suggesting that there was clearly a reason for it.

The reason was that the Lord always protected Job, his household, and his possessions, blessing everything he did so that his livestock covered the entire land, making him exceedingly wealthy.

So, Satan said to God,

"Stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face"

(Job 1:9-11).

Therefore, God allowed Satan to take away Job's possessions but instructed him not to lay a hand on Job himself (v. 12).

When I contemplate these words,

I think of prosperity-centered faith,

which refers to a form of faith that expects blessings, specifically seeking benefits for oneself (Internet).

The reason is that our belief in God

often revolves around expecting blessings that benefit us.

Therefore, whether God blesses us with wealth, health, or descendants, as long as our desires are satisfied, we believe in God.

However, if, as Satan predicts,

the blessings we possess and enjoy are taken away,

we may no longer reverence God but rather resent Him.

This, I believe, is exactly what Satan is aiming for.

This is the fate of the wicked determined by God.

The heavens will expose the wicked man's sins,
the earth will testify against him,
and his wealth will be washed away in the flood of God's wrath.
This is the fate of the wicked determined by God
(Job 20:27-29).

Such sin is a terrifying evil that must inevitably be punished.

A destructive fire akin to hell that swallows up everything we have
is the sin of lusting after a virgin with eyes of lust, straying from the right path,
being drawn to her with our hearts, hiding outside her door to peep at her, and committing sin.
Such sin is a terrifying evil that must inevitably be punished
(Ref.: Job 31:1, 7, 9, 11-12).

Therefore, Job made a covenant with his eyes (v. 1).

The reason is that the eyes are full of desires (1 John 2:16),
and human eyes are never satisfied (Proverbs 27:20).

Human eyes are full of adultery and constantly commit sins (2 Peter 2:14).

Pastor Lloyd Jones said this:

‘Your eyes are the problem. Where your eyes go, your heart follows. ...

If there is something that tempts you, do not look at it! ...

Guard your eyes from coveting. Do not stray from looking straight ahead. ...

Make a covenant with your eyes to look straight ahead.

Focus only on what God commands, on what is holy and heavenly.’

We have already received every spiritual blessings in the heavenly realms!

Through the atoning sacrifice on the cross by Jesus Christ, who died in our place (1 John 2:2), we have been reconciled with God (Romans 5:10) and enjoy peace (John 16:33).

In Christ, we have already received every spiritual blessing in heavenly realms from God the Father (Job 22:21; Ephesians 1:3).

A person who is loved and respected by his neighbors

King Ahasuerus seated Mordecai in the highest position.

The king elevated Mordecai to a position next to himself, making him prime minister, and Mordecai received the love and respect of all the Jewish people.

This was because he worked tirelessly for the welfare and prosperity of his people (Esther 10:2-3).

When I reflect on these words, I believe that those who work diligently for the benefit and well-being of their neighbors will inevitably receive love and respect from them.

Moreover, those whom the Lord exalts should humbly lower themselves even more and serve their neighbors as Jesus did.

Life is like a flower that withers for a while and is like a shadow that passes quickly ...

Life is like a flower that withers for a while
and is like a shadow that passes quickly and does not stay in this world for long.
But why is the Lord keeping an eye on us like this?
(Ref.: Job 14:2-3).

Because of the darkness of life ...

God weakens our hearts and terrifies us
because of the darkness of life
(Ref.: Job 23:16-17).

A comforter who demonstrates his great knowledge?

A person who demonstrates his great knowledge
by giving what he thinks is good advice to a suffering person (Job 26:3)
is a miserable comforter (16:2).

What I find puzzling is

Haman was very pleased
when he left the first banquet hosted by Queen Esther.
The reason was that he was the only one
invited besides the king to the banquet she had prepared,
and he was also invited to her second banquet
the next day along with the king.
However, seeing Mordecai at the palace gate not rising
or showing any sign of fear made his anger rise.
Despite this, he restrained his anger and went home,
where he gathered his friends and his wife Zeresh.
He boasted about his wealth, many children,
and all the ways the king had honored him more than anyone else.
Yet, seeing Mordecai, a Jew,
sitting at the palace gate continued to frustrate him
(Esther 5:9-13).

When I contemplate this passage,
I wonder why Mordecai did not rise
or show any fear when he saw Haman,
despite the grave danger facing his people,
where Haman's anger was stirred because of Mordecai.
It seems that Mordecai, like his cousin Esther w
ho resolved "If I perish, I perish" (4:16),
acted consistently in his approach towards Haman.
However, what I find puzzling is why Mordecai did not bow down
and pay homage to Haman respectfully each time he passed by,
even though it went against the king's command (3:2).
If Mordecai had obeyed the king's command,
perhaps Haman would not have been so enraged,
and maybe he wouldn't have resolved to exterminate
not only Mordecai but all the Jewish people as well (Chs. 5-6).
From Mordecai's perspective,

even knowing that his actions could lead to the imminent danger
of all the Jewish people being annihilated (5:9),
why did he not rise or show any fear
when Haman passed by the palace gate? (v. 9)
Perhaps Mordecai refused to bow respectfully to Haman,
despite the king's command, because he was unwilling to seek forgiveness
from Haman or compromise, even to plead for the lives of his people, the Jews.
Could Mordecai have disliked Haman so intensely
that he was unwilling to make any concessions? (v. 2)
Was Mordecai's refusal to kneel before Haman
a reflection of his disdain for Haman's elevation
to the position of prime minister by King Ahasuerus?
Could Mordecai have known about an earlier plot
by the palace gatekeepers, Bigthan and Teresh,
who harbored resentment against King Ahasuerus
and conspired to assassinate him,
and informed Queen Esther about it? (2:21-22)
Was Mordecai's refusal to kneel or bow before Haman
possibly because he saw him as someone
who could potentially harm King Ahasuerus
or even Queen Esther? (7:8)
It's unclear and difficult to understand.

Miserable comforters

Job referred to his friends as "you are all miserable comforters"

(Job 16:2).

From Job's perspective,

they were not coming to comfort him, but rather to distress him.

In Job's view,

they endlessly spoke empty words,

shaking their heads at him

with seeming arguments that only added to his distress.

They did not offer helpful words or comfort, but instead mocked Job (v. 20).

We should be cautious of such friends and not trust them lightly

(Jeremiah 9:4).

Instead, we should seek friends who love us consistently

and help us in times of trouble

(Proverbs 17:17).

When disaster is heavier than sighing

Job had a rebellious spirit and distress

due to the weight of his calamities being heavier than his sighs.

Amidst this, he desired to go before God, lay out his problem, and plead his case.

Moreover, he wished to hear God's answer and understand His words.

Job believed that if an upright person like himself presented his case

and appealed to God, God would listen to his words and ensure his eternal deliverance

(Job 23:2-7).

We should emulate Job by approaching God when our calamities weigh heavier than our sighs,

laying out our problems before Him, appealing to Him, and believing in the faithful God

who listens to our words, understands them, and accomplishes His promises for us.

I thought of the cross, the tree of curse.

When King Ahasuerus returned from the garden to the banquet area,
he found Haman collapsed on the couch where Queen Esther was reclining.
The king exclaimed, "Will he even assault the queen with me in the palace?"
As soon as the words left the king's mouth,
the attendants rushed in and covered Haman's face.

At that moment, Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said to the king,
"Haman has set up a gallows about 23 meters high at his house to execute Mordecai,
who spoke up to help the king." The king then ordered, "Hang him on it!"
So, they hanged Haman on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai,
and the king's anger subsided
(Esther 7:8-10).

When I meditate on this passage,
I find the words of Harbonah to King Ahasuerus particularly interesting.
How did it happen that, at that moment,
Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said to King Ahasuerus,
"Haman has set up a gallows about 23 meters high at his house
to execute Mordecai, who spoke up to help the king"?
How did Harbonah know that Haman had prepared
a gallows about 23 meters high in his yard to execute Mordecai?
Perhaps after Haman gave the order to build the gallows (5:14),
and "that night" (6:1), when Haman entered the king's palace
to seek permission from King Ahasuerus and entered the outer court of the palace (6:4),
he had already mentioned this to Harbonah.

This might explain how the eunuch knew that Haman had prepared a gallows
about 23 meters high in his yard to execute Mordecai (7:9).

The important point is that Haman himself was ultimately hanged
on the gallows (tree) that he had prepared for Mordecai (v. 10).

The wicked enemy who deserved to die (v. 6), Haman, was executed on that tree (gallows).

When I meditate on this passage,
I am reminded of the cross, the tree of curse
(Deuteronomy 21:23; Galatians 3:13).

The reason is that I, a sinner who was an enemy of God
(Romans 5:8, 10),
should have rightfully died on that cursed tree, the cross.
However, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God,
who was without sin, was crucified on the cross in my place.
Then the anger of the Holy God, the King of kings, was appeased
(Esther 7:10).
And by the total grace of God and the merits of Jesus Christ's cross,
I have received forgiveness for all my sins and salvation.
Hallelujah!

When enduring long periods of unexpected great suffering on the battlefield of life ...

When enduring long periods of unexpected great suffering on the battlefield of life,
we, like laborers waiting for their wages, will earnestly pray
and hope for deliverance (salvation) from that great pain.
Nevertheless, when thinking about having to spend this long and weary night alone
and how each day passes by without hope,
we realize that we may never see happy days again
and remember that “our life is nothing more than a single breath.”
Fearing that “once we die, we will be gone forever,”
we do not remain silent but speak of our anguish
and express the sorrow of our souls
(Ref.: Job 7:1-11).

It is truly beautiful and precious.

The gift the Lord gave me
is truly beautiful and precious.
(Psalms 16:6).

We must speak ...

We must speak honestly and truthfully about what we know
(Ref.: Job 33:3).

‘Please be quiet; that might be your wisdom’

I wonder if, while pretending to be wise,
I'm actually saying things that seem pointless to others.
Truly wise people do not speak foolish words like I do,
nor do they justify themselves with meaningless, empty words
(Ref.: Job 15:2-3).

I can't help but think that others might be telling me,
‘Please be quiet; that might be your wisdom’ (13:5).

“Please be quiet!”

When a good-for-nothing quack continues to tell us lies,
we may want to scream in our hearts, “Please be quiet!”
(Job 13:4-5).

We must be careful ...

We must be careful not to lean towards evil.
We must not prefer evil to tribulation
(Ref.: Job 36:21).

When employees express their grievances to their Christian employer ...

When employees express their grievances to their Christian employer,
the employer should listen to them and treat them fairly.
If he does not, how can he face God,
and what can he say when God questions him about it?
The God who made the employer also made his employees
(Ref.: Job 31:13-15).

Just as you know good food when you taste it ...

‘Just as you know good food when you taste it,
you can know wise words when you hear them’
(Job 34:3).

“Who, being innocent, has ever perished?”

Job's friend Eliphaz said to Job, who was suffering,
"Who, being innocent, has ever perished?"
(Job 4:7).

In reality, Jesus Christ, who was not only without sin but knew no sin
(2 Corinthians 5:21), bore all our sins and endured suffering
and death on the cross in our place, receiving God's punishment
(Ref.: Isaiah 53:4).

Therefore, we have received forgiveness of sins
(Colossians 1:14), have been justified by God (Romans 6:7),
and have received every spiritual blessing
in the heavenly realms in Christ
(Ephesians 1:3).

How can a person who drinks up sin like water and is filthy and vile be clean and righteous?

How can a person who drinks up sin like water
and is filthy and vile be clean and righteous?

(Ref.: Job 15:14, 16).

However, God has cleansed us by having His only begotten Son,
Jesus Christ, shed His blood and die on the cross

(Titus 2:14; Hebrews 9:14; 1 John 1:7).

By raising Jesus Christ from the dead, He has justified us

(Romans 4:25).

The very person who sins

God punishes the very person
who sins and makes him realize his mistake
(Job 21:19).

Lord, heal them.

Lord, my dear brothers and sisters are weak.
Have mercy on them, for they are sick. Heal them
(Ref.: Psalms 6:2).

Even though my sins are many ...

Lord, even though my sins are many,
forgive me for Your name's sake
(Psalms 25:11).

Lord, there are brothers and sisters whose hearts are deeply troubled.

Lord, there are brothers and sisters whose hearts are deeply troubled.
Lord, come and save them. Deliver them with Your unfailing love.
How long must they wait?
(Ref.: Psalms 6:3-4)

Lord, cleanse me from hidden faults.

Lord, cleanse me from hidden faults.
Keep Your servant from willful sins;
may they not rule over me
(Ref.: Psalms 19:12-13).

They may rejoice in You.

Lord, protect those who trust in You and love You,
so that they may rejoice in You
(Ref.: Psalms 5:11).

There is fullness of joy and eternal pleasure in the presence of the Lord.

The Lord has revealed to me the way to life,
and there is fullness of joy and eternal pleasure in the presence of the Lord
(Ref.: Psalms 16:11).

Lord, guide us ...

Lord, guide us to do your will and reveal your ways for us to follow
(Ref.: Psalms 5:8).

When the Lord showed me grace ...

When the Lord showed me grace,
He established me as firm as a mountain,
so I was safe and said, 'I will never be shaken'
(Ref.: Psalms 30:6-7).

Lord, you have granted us victory.

Lord, you have granted us victory; may our glory shine brighter.
You have bestowed upon us fame and majesty.
Additionally, you bless us with eternal blessings,
and by being with us, you allow us to experience boundless joy
(Ref.: Psalms 21:5-6).

The Lord gives strength to his people ...

The Lord gives strength to his people and blesses them with peace.
(Ref.: Psalms 29:11). He gives them joy
(Ref.: Psalms 21:5-6).

Lord, I believe that you listen to the wishes of the humble ...

Lord, I believe that you listen to the wishes of the humble,
encourage them, and listen to their cries
(Ref.: Psalms 10:17).

The LORD is my strength and my shield ...

The LORD is my strength and my shield;
in him my heart trusts, and I am helped. Therefore my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him
(refer to Psalm 28:7, Modern Translation).

The Lord hates deceitful men.

A proud person cannot stand before the Lord.
The Lord hates deceitful men.
(Ref.: Psalms 5:5, 6).

The Lord does not ignore the suffering of those in trouble ...

The Lord does not ignore the suffering of those in trouble
or despise them, but listens when they cry out
(Ref.: Psalms 22:24).

Those who seek the Lord ...

Those who seek the LORD will not be forsaken by Him;
those who know the LORD will put their trust in Him
(Ref.: Psalms 9:10).

Show the Lord's wonderful love.

Rescue those who take refuge in you from their enemies;
show your wonderful love to those who seek shelter from their foes
(Ref.: Psalms 17:7).

All the LORD's faithful ones love Him.

All the LORD's faithful ones love Him.

The LORD protects the faithful and punishes the proud severely.

Let us all take courage and strengthen our hearts, relying on the LORD

(Ref.: Psalms 31:23-24).

The Lord's protection

The Lord gives us life, gives us love,
and protects our spirit with His care

(Ref.: Job 10:12).

Remember me according to your steadfast love and goodness, O Lord.

Lord, do not remember the sins of my youth or my rebellious ways.

Remember me according to your great mercy and love, shown from ancient times.

Remember me according to your steadfast love and goodness, O Lord

(Ref.: Psalms 25:6-7).

Please give us your unfailing love.

Lord, give us your unfailing love as we place our hope in you
(Ref.: Psalms 33:22).

"If I perish, I perish."

Esther replied to Mordecai, asking him to gather all the Jews in Susa and fast for her, without eating or drinking, day or night for three days.

She and her maids would fast as well.

After that, she would go to the king, even though it was against the law.

She declared, "If I perish, I perish"

(Esther 4:15-16).

As I meditate on this,

even though Prime Minister Haman resolved to annihilate

not only Mordecai but all the Jews throughout the Persian Empire (3:5-6),

Esther made up her mind, saying, "If I perish, I perish,"

determined to go to the king against the law to save all the Jews,

even though the king had not called for her.

This reminds me of the words of Jesus:

"... whoever loses their life for me will find it"

(Matthew 16:25).

Even now, God is using us to deliver His people who are in crisis.

When Mordecai asked Esther through Hatach
to go to the king and plead for her people's deliverance,
Esther responded that she risked death
if she approached the king without being summoned,
and that thirty days had passed since the king had last called for her.
Upon hearing this reply, Mordecai sent back this message to Esther:
"Do not think that because you are in the king's palace
you alone of all the Jews will escape.
For if you remain silent at this time,
relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place,
but you and your father's family will perish.
And who knows but that you have come
to your royal position for such a time as this?"

(Esther 4:8-14)

As I meditate on this, from Esther's perspective,
approaching King Ahasuerus was a potentially life-threatening task,
and she did not assume she would be
the sole survivor among all the Jews in the palace.
I began to think that her becoming queen was
perhaps to be used as an instrument of God
to deliver (save) the Jews who were facing imminent destruction.
This reminded me of how God sent Joseph
ahead into Egypt to become a ruler,
ultimately saving (delivering) his father Jacob (Israel),
his brothers, and their families.
Even now, I believe that God is using us
to deliver (save) His people who are in crisis.

The hands of the Lord of truth

I commit my spirit into the hands of the Lord of truth
(Ref.: Psalms 31:5).

Speaking the truth

We must speak the truth about God
(Ref.: Job 42:8).

True wisdom and true enlightenment

Serving God with a fearful heart is true wisdom,
and turning away from evil is true enlightenment
(Job 28:28).

Reasons for uncontrollable anger?

Elihu became angry because Job considered himself more righteous than God and also because Job's three friends had stopped answering him, because he was righteous in his own eyes (Job 32:2-3).

For us who believe in Jesus through God's grace (Ephesians 2:8) and have been justified by God (Romans 3:26), who dares to accuse or charge those whom God has chosen as sinners? (Romans 8:33)

When I wake up in heaven, I will be satisfied with the sight of the Lord.

I will see the Lord in righteousness, and when I wake up in heaven, I will be satisfied with the sight of the Lord (Psalms 17:15).

As we would comfort someone in mourning

We should comfort those in distress as we would comfort someone in mourning (Ref.: Job 29:25).

We cannot fathom ...

We cannot fathom the Almighty God.

He is great in power and righteous and just in all His ways

(Ref.: Job 37:23).

A friend who would sell you out

A friend who seeks to blame someone for a few words spoken in despair

due to extreme suffering is a friend who would sell you out

(Ref.: Job 6:26-27).

We hope ...

We hope that all who hear about us or see us will praise us

(Ref.: Job 29:11).

The Lord has stored up ...

The Lord has stored up great blessings

for those who trust and rely on Him

(Psalms 31:19).

Why did Esther, when faced with a great crisis, not immediately ask the king to save her people but instead held two banquets?

Why did Esther, despite King Ahasuerus offering her up to half his kingdom, request that he and Haman attend a banquet she had prepared instead of immediately asking for her people's salvation? (Esther 5:3-4).

So, the king commanded Haman to be brought quickly so they could attend Esther's banquet together (v. 5).

While drinking wine at the banquet, the king asked Esther again, "Now tell me what you really want.

I will give it to you, even if it is half the kingdom!"

But even then, Esther replied,

"If it pleases Your Majesty and you want to grant my request, come with Haman tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for you.

Then I will explain what this is all about" (vv. 6-7).

Why did Esther, when King Ahasuerus twice asked her,

"What is your petition? Tell me, and I will grant it,"

not immediately answer, "My petition and my request is this:

Grant me my life and spare my people" (7:3),

but only reveal her request the third time he asked?

Even though on January 13, Haman summoned the king's scribes and had them write orders to the king's satraps, governors of each province, and the officials of each people in their own scripts and languages, sealed with the king's signet ring.

He sent the dispatches to every province,

ordering the killing and annihilation of all Jews—

young and old, women and children—on a single day,

December 13, and to plunder their goods.

This decree threw the city of Susa into confusion and dismay (3:12-15).

So why, when King Ahasuerus asked, "Queen Esther, what is your request?" did Esther not immediately state her petition?

When King Ahasuerus said, "What is your petition?"

Tell me, and I will grant it, even up to half the kingdom!”
why didn’t Esther immediately state her request?
Instead, she said, “If it pleases the king, let the king
and Haman come today to the banquet I have prepared for him” (5:3-4).
As I ponder this question,
I find it interesting that Esther hosted two banquets.
This reminds me of how King Ahasuerus
also hosted two banquets in Esther 1 (1:2, 5).
It is uncertain whether Esther knew about the king’s two banquets—
perhaps she had heard rumors.
However, I do not fully understand why,
when facing a great crisis for herself and her Jewish people,
Esther did not immediately plead for their salvation
but instead hosted two banquets.
It may be that by inviting both the king and Haman to the banquets,
Esther was strategically targeting Haman,
who was the source of the great danger facing the Jewish people.

Weeping prayer

King Ahasuerus issued a decree at Haman's suggestion to kill all the Jews—men, women, and children—throughout the Persian Empire in a single day, the 13th of December, and to plunder their possessions (Esther 3:13).

When Mordecai learned of this, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and wailed loudly (4:1).

The Jews wept and fasted, crying out loudly, and many lay in sackcloth and ashes (v. 3).

Reflecting on this passage, it occurred to me that Mordecai might have felt responsible, thinking that his refusal to bow to Haman, thereby provoking Haman's wrath, ultimately led to the decree to annihilate all Jews (vv. 2-6).

The significant point is that both Mordecai and the Jews wept bitterly. I wonder how deeply grieved and sorrowful they must have been to weep and cry out so intensely.

From my memory, I have prayed a weeping prayer only once in my life, and that was when my first child, Ju-Young, died in my arms.

Can one who is at ease sympathize with someone in calamity?

Can one who is at ease sympathize with someone in calamity?

Rather, if one who is at ease feigns wisdom,

boasts that they are better off,

and scoffs at and despises the calamity-stricken?

(Ref.: Job 12:2-5)

Before God, you and I are the same.

Before God, you and I are the same.

We are all created from dust.

So, we have no reason to fear each other

(Ref.: Job 33:6-7).

God exalts the humble and writes a reversal drama of salvation!

On January 13th, Haman summoned the royal secretaries and instructed them to write letters to the governors, officials, and administrators in every province in the language and script of each province and to the Jews in their own script and language. These letters were sealed with the royal signet ring. He sent dispatches by messengers to all the king's provinces with orders to destroy, kill, and annihilate all the Jews—young and old, women and children—on a single day, the thirteenth day of Adar, and to plunder their goods. But God, in His mercy and providence, thwarted Haman's scheme to destroy the Jews. On March 23rd (approximately two months and ten days later), the royal secretaries were summoned at Mordecai's command and they wrote out all Mordecai's orders to the Jews, to the satraps, governors and nobles of the 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush. And Mordecai wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed it with the king's signet ring. He sent letters by mounted couriers riding on swift horses used in the king's service, decreeing that the Jews in every city should gather and defend their lives, to destroy, kill, and annihilate any armed force of any people or province that might attack them, with their children and women, and to plunder their goods, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar. A copy of the document was to be issued as a decree in every province by proclamation to all the peoples to be ready for that day. The couriers, mounted on swift horses that were used in the king's service, went out, hurried and urged by the king's command. And the decree was issued in Susa the citadel. So, the Jews struck down all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying them, and they did what they pleased to those who hated them. The people of Judah gathered in their cities in each province and slaughtered with the sword their enemies who tried to harm them. All the other nations were afraid of the Jews and no one stood against them. In fact, the governors of each province, all the officials, nobles, and magistrates of the king were afraid of Mordecai and helped the people of Judah.

At that time, Mordecai solidified his position in the palace, and as his power grew stronger, he became famous throughout the world. So, the people of Judah could do whatever they wanted to their enemies, so they killed 800 people in Susa with the sword, all 10 sons of Haman, and 75,000 people in other provinces.

But they did not touch the property of their enemies (9:1-16).

(1) I believe that on the 13th of January, Haman, the enemy of the people of Judah, summoned the scribes to write a decree to be sent to the ministers, the governors of each province, and all the officials.

They translated it into the language of each province and nation, and stamped it with the emperor's seal.

When they stamped their seals with a ring and sent people all over the country to promulgate the edict,

when I meditate on the fact that the edict was dated December 13th,

I think it must have been a time of fear for the people of Judah for 11 months.

However, when Mordecai reflected on the decree sent

throughout the provinces from India to Ethiopia,

encompassing 127 provinces, to all the Jews,

with their governors, officials, and administrators,

he had the palace secretaries write in the name of King Ahasuerus

and seal with the royal signet ring.

He dispatched mounted couriers riding the royal horses,

instructing them to proclaim and circulate the decree

in every province and to rescue the Jews from their enemies on March 23,

approximately two months and ten days after January 13.

This period of time marks God's intervention in the dramatic reversal of salvation, rescuing the Jewish people from the hands of Haman.

Considering the timeline, within approximately two months and ten days,

God orchestrated this dramatic turnaround to deliver the Jews

who had been living in fear of annihilation since November.

For the Jews, these two months and ten days

must have been filled with great apprehension.

In contrast, Haman and the enemies of the Jews

endured about eight months and twenty days of intense fear.

Therefore, many people of the land became Jews because they feared them (8:17).

Reflecting on this passage in terms of time,

from the perspective of the Jews, one might wonder

why God did not bring about the reversal of salvation sooner,

considering it took approximately two months and ten days.

They could have easily questioned why God did not act earlier.

On the other hand, if God had initiated the reversal of salvation

a few days before the decree was to be executed on December 13,

the Jews would have endured a long period of fear

(about 10 months and 3 weeks?).

The crucial point is not our timing but having faith and assurance

that God will surely deliver His people at the right time, in His appointed time.

(2) I also reflected on how God exalted Mordecai in his position.

Mordecai was one of the exiles taken captive from Jerusalem

by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, along with King Jehoiachin of Judah (2:6).

He daily walked back and forth near the courtyard of the harem

to learn how his cousin Esther was doing and what was happening to her (v. 11).

Mordecai sat at the king's gate (v. 21, 5:13), dressed in sackcloth and ashes,

mourning loudly as he went through the city, up to the king's gate,

and stood in the square in front of the palace (4:1-2, 6).

King Ahasuerus then commanded Haman to dress Mordecai in royal robes,

parade him through the city streets on horseback, and proclaim before him,

"This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!" (6:11).

Afterward, Mordecai was able to approach King Ahasuerus,

who gave him the signet ring that he had taken from Haman (8:1-2).

And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king

wearing royal garments of blue and white, with a great crown of gold

and a garment of fine linen and purple (8:15).

Mordecai became a figure of fear to all the governors of the provinces,

the officials, the nobles, and the administrators of the king (9:3).

Reflecting on this, I began to think about how greatly God exalts the humble.

And when God exalts the humble,

He uses them to write a drama of divine reversal and salvation.

I pray that God will make it come to nothing.

Queen Esther again fell at the feet of King Ahasuerus and with tears in her eyes begged that Haman's evil plot to kill the Jews would be thwarted:

“If your Majesty is pleased with me and loves me,
please issue an edict revoking the edict written by Haman,
son of Hammedatha the Agagite, to annihilate all the Jews in your empire.
How could I watch my people being brutally killed and destroyed?”

(Esther 8:3-6)

As I meditate on these words,

I pray that God will make the evil plots of our enemy Satan
to make us abandon our faith and leave God come to nothing.

We may misunderstand that God is judging us.

When Satan attacks us and causes suffering under God's sovereign permission,
our friends may see us suffering and misunderstand that God is judging us
because we have sinned greatly and committed evil against God
(Ref.: Job 22 :5).

A person whom God pays attention to

I don't know how the accuser, Satan,
could stand before God with the angels,
but God said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job?
There is no one on earth like him who is truthful and honest,
who serves me with a fearful heart and shuns evil"
(Job 1:6-8).

The lesson is that you are watching carefully.
Therefore, I am taught that
I must first become a person who is sincere and honest,
serves God with a fearful heart, and shuns evil.
Afterward, I also receive the lesson
that I should emulate God and pay attention to such a person.

What God gives to His anointed servants

God gives unwavering love to His anointed servants
and gives them great victory!
(Ref.: Psalms 18:50).

God brings down the high (proud) and exalts the low (humble).

When the enemy of the Jews, Haman, persuaded King Ahasuerus to issue a decree, the contents of that decree mandated the killing of all Jews, men, women, and children alike, and the plundering of their property (Esther 3:13).

However, God, orchestrating a drama of salvation, caused King Ahasuerus to give Haman's estate to Queen Esther (8:1).

Moreover, God caused the king to give the signet ring, which had been given to Haman, to Mordecai (v. 2).

When I meditate on these words,

I am reminded that God does not allow us to be plundered by the enemies of Satan's people;

rather, He turns it around to give their possessions to us.

And I recall the saying that God lowers the proud and exalts the humble (Ezekiel 21:26).

God will hear our cries ...

God will hear our cries

and cause all our enemies to leave us

(Ref.: Psalms 6:8).

God saves the servants of the Lord ...

God saves the servants of the Lord whom He has chosen
by giving them a great victory through His power
(Ref.: Psalms 20:6).

God exalts the humble!

God exalts the humble and guides those who mourn to safety
(Ref.: Job 5:11).

God will save us from suffering

God will save us from suffering and lead us out of danger
so that we can live safely
(Ref.: Job 36:15-16).

God causes cunning people to fall into their own schemes.

God overturns the plans of the cunning, prevents them from succeeding,
and causes the cunning to fall into their own schemes so that they achieve nothing
(Job 5:12-13).

God is watching!

God sees everything we do and counts our every step.
Before God, can we truly say we have not lied or deceived anyone?
Can we honestly declare that if God were to weigh us in an honest balance,
He would find us truthful? (Ref.: Job 31:4-6)

God watches carefully the actions of everyone ...

God watches carefully the actions of everyone,
so there can be no darkness or shadow in which evildoers can hide
(Job 34:21-22).

God watches over ...

God watches over those who serve him
with a fearful heart and rely on his unfailing love
(Psalms 33:18).

God silences the trusted ...

God silences the trusted, weakens the strong,
and reveals secrets in the dark
(Ref.: Job 12:20-22).

When we commit a sin ...

When we commit a sin, God inflicts pain through loving discipline,
but He binds up our wounds and heals us.
God will save us from any misfortune and disaster
and will not allow any harm to reach us
(Job 5:17-19; Hebrews 12:6).

God strengthens us ...

God strengthens us and makes our way safe

(Ref.: Psalms 18:32).

God regards us as sinless.

God laid our sins on Christ, who knew no sin,
so that we might be acknowledged as righteous by God in Christ

(2 Corinthians 5:21).

God regards us as sinless

(Ref.: Job 9:28).

God will definitely accomplish what He has planned for us!

God will definitely accomplish what He has planned for us.

God will even use the harsh and heavy disasters that come upon us
to accomplish what He has planned for us.

Therefore, we must tremble before God, think about all this, and fear God

(Ref.: Job 23:2, 14-15).

Is God rebuking us and judging us because of our piety?

Is God really rebuking us and judging us because of our piety?

(Ref.: Job 22:4)

Why did God allow Job, who was truthful, honest, fearful of God,
and shunned evil, to be attacked by Satan

and lose all his possessions (property), his 10 children, and Job's health?

Did he allow us to lose everything?

Did he do this because of Job's piety?

God is watching everything.

God shapes everyone's hearts and watches everything they do

(Psalm 33:15).

God is wise and powerful.

God is wise and powerful.

God performs mysterious things beyond measure
and many miracles that we cannot fathom

(Job 9:4, 10).

Those who trust in God ...

Those who trust in God are protected by God's steadfast love
(Ref.: Psalms 32:10).

We who rely on God ...

We who rely on God will not be shaken by God's great love
(Ref.: Psalms 21:7).

Those who trust in God

Blessed are those who trust in God
(Psalms 2:12).

Ungodly people who have forgotten God

Just as a reed grows green but withers before other grasses when the water dries up,
ungodly people who have forgotten God are like these reeds and their hopes will be dashed
(Ref.: Job 8:11-13).

God's plan and purpose

God's plan is constant and God's purpose remains the same in every generation (Psalms 33:11).

God's will of salvation and Esther's wish

If any man or woman approached the king in the inner court without being summoned, they would be put to death unless the king extended his gold scepter to spare their life. However, King Xerxes had not called for Queen Esther for thirty days (Esther 4:11). Despite this, Esther fasted and prayed for three days and nights and resolved, "If I perish, I perish" (v. 16). She then stood in the inner court of the palace. When King Xerxes saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and extended the gold scepter that was in his hand. Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter. The king then asked her, "What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given to you" (5:2-3). King Xerxes repeated this offer to Esther two more times (v. 6; 7:2). When I meditated on this passage, I found it fascinating that after Esther fasted and prayed for three days and nights with the resolve to act, King Xerxes, who had initially chosen her as queen because he was more attracted to her than to any of the other women (2:17), found her pleasing (5:2) when he saw her after her fast. How delightful must she have been that King Xerxes offered her, "Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given to you!" (5:3, 6; 7:2). This reminded me of Mark 6:22-23. During his birthday banquet, King Herod promised Herodias' daughter, who had pleased him and his guests by dancing, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you ... up to half my kingdom." That Esther, who could have died, was instead highly favored and that King Xerxes was willing to grant her wish, even up to half his kingdom, shows that God used the unbelieving King Xerxes to fulfill Esther's wish and thereby accomplish His plan of salvation.

God's warm hand

I pray that God's warm hand will protect our family
(Ref.: Job 29:4).

The wicked, who do not know God ...

The wicked, who do not know God (Job 18:21),
will find their vigorous steps faltering,
and they will be ensnared by their own schemes.
He will walk into a net of his own making, and his feet will be caught.
His heels will be trapped by a snare (vv. 7-9).
The wicked will suffer from hunger and lose their strength,
with disaster waiting at their side.
Disease will devour his skin and consume his limbs (vv. 12-13).

God's Word is perfect, sure, accurate, and pure.

God's Word is perfect, sure, accurate, and pure.
Therefore, the word of God revives the soul,
makes the foolish wise, makes the heart glad,
and brightens the eyes (Ref.: Psalms 19:7-8).

The word of God is sure, pure!

The word of God is sure, pure as silver
refined seven times in a furnace.
(Psalms 12:6).

Anyone who does not listen to the word of God ...

Anyone who does not listen to the word of God
is a fool and like a mule
(Ref.: Psalms 32:9).

A good opportunity to receive God's teachings?

Perhaps it is when we are suffering
that we have a good opportunity to receive God's teachings
and keep His Word in our hearts
(Ref.: Job 22:22).

Saints who will live forever in God's house

Saints who will live forever in God's house
are those who seek God and worship Him.
They are pure and pure in their actions and thoughts,
do not worship idols, and do not swear falsely.
They will be blessed by God and recognized as righteous
by the God of salvation.
(Ref.: Psalms 23:6; 24:4-6).

What God does always deserve praise!

Who is there to say that what God is doing is wrong?
What God does always deserve praise
(Ref.: Job 36:23-24).

We should think about it.

We must listen to the word of God, stand still,
and think about the amazing things God is doing
(Ref.: Job 37:14).

I have many things to say.

I have many things to say (Job 32:18).
But while I have been waiting patiently until now (vv. 6, 11),
keeping silent without saying a word (v. 16),
until I could no longer hold it in (v. 18).
I must say what I ought to say to feel relieved (v. 20).

Blessed is the man!

Blessed is the man whose wrongdoings are forgiven
and whose sins are covered by God!
Blessed is the man whose heart is not deceitful,
whose sin God does not acknowledge!
(Psalms 32:1-2).

Perhaps I am speaking a lot of vain words ...

Perhaps I am speaking a lot of vain words
without even realizing what I am saying
(Ref.: Job 35:16).

Vain comfort

Job knew what his friends who came to comfort him in his pain were thinking and their plans to harm him.

So, he said to his friends, 'Will your comfort not be in vain?

All your answers are nothing but lies'

(Job 21:27, 34,

We cannot fathom.

God does great things that we cannot fathom

(Ref.: Job 37:5).

The reason we can worship, sing, and praise God with joy in the day of trouble is ...

The reason we can worship, sing, and praise God with joy in the day of trouble is because God keeps us safe and places us on a high rock

(Ref.: Psalms 27:5-6).

We shouldn't be happy.

We should not rejoice when we see those who hate us perish
or be happy when we see them suffer from disaster
(Ref.: Job 31:29).

Without wavering!

I pray that you rely on the Lord without wavering
(Ref.: Psalms 26:1).

The powerless rely on the Lord.

Lord, you have seen the evil things that evil people do.
The Lord knows the pain and sorrow they bring.
Now punish them. The powerless rely on the Lord.
The Lord has always helped the helpless
(Psalms 10:14).