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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1590 ~ Job, Tried and True.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

The only survivor of a shipwreck reached the shore of a small uninhabited island. He cried out to God to save him. Every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed come.

Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a rough hut and put his few things in it. Then one day, after hunting for food, he arrived back at the hut to find it ablaze in flames and the smoke rising up to the sky. He was deeply disappointed with his loss.

But early the next day, a ship drew near to the island and rescued him. He asked the crew how they knew he was there. They said, “We saw your smoke signal.” Though it may not seem so now, your present difficulties may be part of your future happiness.

In today’s drama, Job’s suffering was just about to start.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound.](#)

The theme of the book of Job is: why do righteous people suffer all manner of problems when they live right? We all expect evildoers to receive troubles for their sins against others but we question, why do the godly believers in the Lord Jesus have to suffer too?

God's natural laws are there for everyone. If a Christian lady misses her step on a stair and falls, is gravity meant to stop working at that point to prevent her from crashing to the ground? We'd like to think God would spare her, and at times, He does intervene, but in reality, gravity acts the same for everyone. It would be a very chaotic world if it didn't. In fact, the first scientists were Christians. They believed that God's laws were consistent. It was people who worshipped false gods who usually believed them to be unpredictable.

If we don't believe that our God is trustworthy, reliable and good, then doubts will arise and destroy any real worship of Him. Job was one man who remained loyal to God, no matter how badly things went wrong. Even when Job was covered by sores, he didn't reject God or get angry at Him. Satan was wrong to think that Job in his suffering would blame God and conclude his religion was a failure.

Job's wife was no help to her husband either. She took Satan's side and suggested that Job kill himself after such tragedies – what was there left to live for?

After his tempting, three of Job's friends came to comfort him. When they saw how greatly he suffered, they wept and acted like mourners. They sat with Him on the ground for seven days and seven nights, saying nothing at all during that time.

In the book of Job, the speeches his friends gave are contained in chapters 4 to 31. Eliphaz spoke first. He asked Job why didn't Job practise what he preached. He thought Job's suffering was caused by himself! This was a terrible way to encourage a hurting friend. The English expression "Job's comforter" comes from this and is really saying that that person is no comfort at all! Eliphaz told Job that sinners always reap what they sow, indicating that it was Job's fault that he was now poor and sick instead of rich and healthy. This friend's advice played right into Satan's hands: "Does Job fear God for nothing?"

Job's other two friends agreed with Eliphaz. They insisted that Job must have sinned badly to have caused this amount of suffering. Job continued to assert he was in right standing with God. Then a younger man spoke up in Chapter 32. He came closest to the truth when he said that suffering was God's discipline to bring the soul back into fellowship with God, but that wasn't the whole truth. God Himself had said Job was perfect and upright. Job's friends were wrong to think that sin was the only possible cause of his troubles.

Job's friends made the situation worse. Suffering people need love, acceptance and patient encouragement, not arguments and accusations. Job finally became impatient with his friends' advice and wished that he could plead his case before God.

In chapters 38 to 41 in the book of Job, God spoke to him and asked him nearly 60 questions that showed God's knowledge is infinite. God humbled Job by showing him just how little he really knew. Then God showed Job how very weak Job was, and his lack of ability to be able to control the biggest animals in the world. God watches over everything and if He takes care of the young birds, will He not care for His people too? When we think about this, we are amazed at just how much good God does every day.

The wisdom of God is present in all things, from creation to the control of nature to the ways animals and birds act. Job's lack of understanding of God's wisdom made him think himself able to contend with God. Of this Job admitted he had offended God and he didn't try to justify himself anymore. His new understanding of God's power and purpose helped him to repent. Then his vision of God's greatness brought glory to God.

We too, need to have a right view of God's wisdom. What foolishness it is to strive against God. It's in our own best interests to seek peace with Him and keep in His love. The sufferings of the Lord Jesus on the shameful cross were far worse than Job's sufferings.

Jesus didn't deserve any of His sufferings either, but He went through such life destroying treatment to please His Father and purchase us out of the slave market of sin. How precious Jesus regarded us to do such a thing! He's worthy of our love, trust and loyalty, no matter how much He allows us to suffer.

Two men were travelling together on a plane. While one dozed, the other worked on a crossword puzzle. The fellow nudged his friend in the ribs and asked, "What's a word of three letters, with the letter O in the middle, meaning man's best friend?"

The second man mumbled, "Dog."

But dog didn't fit the puzzle. The man kept working at it and finally said, "The last letter is D." But they never came up with the right answer nor realised that the first letter was actually 'G'. And in the puzzles of life, many people never realize either that their best friend is God.

What have we learnt from Job's suffering to help ourselves or others when we suffer injustice and physical pain? Trials and suffering are our education and training, making us fit for heaven. The athlete is not put under strict discipline for punishment but merely to make him ready for the race. Christ is ever preparing us for the race that is set before us, one that marks us to finish in Heaven.

After Job had prayed for his friends for misrepresenting God, God forgave them. God also gave Job twice the wealth that he had before. He was given seven more sons and three more daughters and lived for a further 140 years before he died. Job's suffering was replaced with earthly glory.

This reward often doesn't happen for those belonging to the Lord Jesus. Human suffering may never be redressed here on earth, but instead, be transformed into heavenly glory when this life on earth is past.

In times of trouble, focus your thoughts on God, His greatness and His ability to bring out good in everything. No matter what happens, God always gives us strength to cope if we trust in Him. Keep on going and never give up. Remember to look for the good things and count your many blessings. In 1st Thessalonians, Chapter 5, it says: "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

That was Cindy R Walker singing "Teach us to number our days."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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