

Chapter 7

In Trials, We Ask, “Where Did Your Love Go?”

The pressure is on. Jesus said that in the world we would have tribulation (John 16:33), and we are now in the midst of *the* end-time tribulation. Job laid the foundation for all last days’ prophecies, and his words and actions prophesied severe trials for the believers.

Because of these trials that God has allowed and that are necessary for the purification of the Bride of Jesus in these last days, many Christians have become discouraged, wondering if their Father in heaven really loves them. Trials can make us or break us, and for some, difficult times have kept them from turning their hearts back to Father Love.

The Supremes sang a song years ago entitled, “Where Did Our Love Go?” It’s a song of sadness and desperation of a woman who believes her beau doesn’t love her anymore. And we sometimes are attacked with the same feeling in regards to the Bridegroom of the church, Jesus, and in regards to our relationship with our Father in heaven. We sometimes ask of Him, “Where did Your love go?”

Job never cursed God, and he knew He was loved. Nevertheless, he had moments where he wondered what was going on in his life and what God was doing. We can only grasp the powerful portent of Job’s words by understanding the multifaceted and conceptual meaning of those words. In several places he prophesied a time of darkness and trials upon Jesus and His end-time followers, a time when they would be tempted to question the Father’s love.

Conceptual languages are hard to translate. They contain many meanings, even positive and negative meanings, in one word. No linear language like English can possibly render the full meaning of the words of the conceptual, vast meaning of the original Hebrew. My friend and apostolic leader Gerald Budzinski asked God years ago for supernatural help to understand the conceptual Hebrew, and a prominent Canadian rabbi has confirmed that his prayers were answered. I share in this chapter some of the revelations that we are able to grasp.

Job 3:10 is such a conceptual prophecy, as properly translated from the Hebrew: “Therefore, inasmuch as darkness could not hide the truth nor the Word and prophecies of God to bring in ignorance, nor could darkness close off or shut out the heart of my soul, and even though darkness has bound me to see all its misery, perverseness, and iniquity that it has schemed in the years of sorrow and tribulation, with my inner eyes my soul sees it.”

Job was prophesying a time when darkness tries to hide the existence of the real Jesus, as in the Dark Ages and in these last dark days. He foretold darkness for Jesus, attacking him at His birth and as a young child, darkness that would try to steal His anointing, peace, and joy, and that would try to incite Him to anger and ultimately kill Him. The same attacks come against His followers, especially in the last days.

Jesus amplified Job’s prophecies by saying a time of lawlessness and betrayal would extinguish the love of many, even believers (Mat. 24:10-13). Only those who would know the love of their Father and persevere in their love for Him would endure to the end.

Job asked why. So do we. His whys prophesied what we would go through in these last days. His questions are our questions. We have similar pressures and sometimes feel like giving up. He also prophesied that some of us wouldn't give up.

“Why Must I Go Through This Mess?”

The questions that Job asked as he wondered what God was doing in his life would be questions that we would all have to face in these last days. While the English translations of Job 3:11-12 veil the full meaning, he was asking questions that many Christians asked today: “Why did God not take me to heaven when I was baptized? Why did I have to see and go through all this mess? Why has life become so hard for me? Why have the pressures of sin been stronger against me after accepting Jesus than before? Why is my flesh warring against my spirit so much that I long for death? Why are Satan and the pressures of the world oppressing me and blocking my success?”

Job was a king who had lost his status and prosperity, as well as his family. He was asking God, “Why didn't I die when I was taken from the chariot of power, wealth, and family? Why am I dumped into dust and ashes when I am doing everything You asked of me?”

As Job, we believers are called righteous and made righteous by accepting Jesus as Savior, Master, Redeemer, and God. We have submitted to baptism, going into the womb of death to be reborn into the light of life in Jesus.

Job faced three times fiery trials by Satan. At each level of overcoming, we appear to backslide three times in the process of overcoming the flesh, the world, and Satan. We continue our backsliding into darkness until we realize our total dependence on Jesus for His blood, His strength, His wisdom, and His coat of righteousness.

In all his trials, unknown to Job, Jesus had told Satan not to take his life. In the same way, while we pass through the valley of the shadow of death, God has promised us that we won't die in these trials unless we submit to Satan.

Our Father's Love Never Fails

Job asked In Job 3:12, “Why did the knees receive me, and why the breasts, that I should suck?” When we consider the Hebrew, Job was asking, “Why was I blessed and protected until this attack? Where did Your love go, God, when things started going bad in my life? I saw Your love in the good times, but where is it in all these attacks? Where now is the comfort and provision of the abundant Provider *El Shaddai*?”

Jesus had to answer those questions on the way to the cross, and each of us in these last days must answer those questions.

“Does God still love me in times of trial? Does my Father Love truly care about what's happening to me?” These are the questions we must answer as we seek to turn our hearts to our Father.

Will the loss of something or even everything cause us to lose our love, understanding, and loyalty to Jesus? Would the loss of a pastor, apostle, teacher, mate, or child cause us to leave the church of God and the love of Jesus?

Many of us have asked Job's questions: “Why did You let me taste of Your goodness and then see it all taken away? Why did my mate and children seem to come to

Jesus and then flee? Why was I healthy and then attacked with sickness?” David asked the same kind of questions in the Psalms.

Job was saying to God, “I didn’t ask to be a king, to be special, to get any special treatment. So why am I being singled out to be tried like this?”

We are also called to be kings. And the reason we are called is the reason Job was called: God knew that in our weakness we would humbly seek His help and rely on Him for correction and guidance.

Jesus and Job both prophesied that problems would come our way. Persecutions and demonic forces would try to break us of our resolve. Yet Jesus said, “... take courage; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

Moreover, He told us not to worry (Mat. 6:25; Phil. 4:6) and to go about the mission He gave us in Matthew 28:19-20, where He said, “I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

He and Job were prophesying great troubles for us in the last days, but Job’s steadfastness in trial and Jesus’ words to us tell us that our Savior and Defender will never abandon us and will especially be with us in these last days.

The words of Job and his prophecies have been overlooked because of the false doctrine that the Old Testament, as men call it, is done away. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Here are God’s words of encouragement to us believers today, as we face the most turbulent and yet most exciting times in history: “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus” (Romans 15:4).

Jesus has declared that we are His witnesses and that no one, no person or demon, can snatch us out of His hand of love (Isa. 43:11-13; John 10:28-29). Our Father promises us that He will finish the work He started in us (Phil 1:6) and will be faithful to present us blameless before Jesus as His bride (1 Thes. 5:23-24). He encourages us not to lose heart and allow the trials to weary us (Gal. 6:9). Job didn’t have all the answers, but because of Job’s experience and Jesus’ words, we do have access to the answers.

Satan may cause events that make it seem like God has let go of us. He hasn’t. So let’s not let go of Jesus. Let’s turn our hearts to our Father, who is Love, and whose love for us never fails.

We mustn’t let the pressures from Satan and the world break us. They should *make* us. God’s Word gives us the encouragement we need to turn our hearts to our Father Love and know in our hearts that He loves us: “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13).

Where did God’s love go? It never went anywhere. Our Father’s love has been with us through all the tough times, and as we turn our hearts to Him, He will lead us through the valleys of these last days, and we will dwell in His house of love forever. Sometimes our only solution is to hold onto Jesus’ hand and trust Him to lead us, not away from, but *through* the valley of the shadow of death. In the days of heavy persecution of believers and the attacks of ISIS, never before have true believers needed to trust their Shepherd.

Satan's Attacks

Satan will try everything up his sleeve to get us to believe God doesn't love us, throwing trials at us that God allows for a purpose. Remember, however, that as the devil accuses us "before our God day and night"(Rev. 12:11), our High Priest Jesus counters his attacks day and night as well (Heb. 7:25).

Satan knows that if he can get us to condemn ourselves, we cannot receive all the gifts God wants to pour out upon us (1 John 3:21-22). We must understand that condemning ourselves is a slippery slope leading to the demonic world. It is worse than the sin committed that makes us feel guilty. Both sin and guilt must be turned over to Jesus.

That's what John is telling us in the above verses. He's giving us the conditions for receiving the blessings of the Father of lights who loves to shower gifts on His children (James 1:17). We must know how much our Father loves us so we can come boldly before Him with absolute confidence in our identity in Jesus and in God's covenant promises, keeping His commandments and doing what is pleasing in His sight.

Few realize what Job released in his conceptual Hebrew prophecies. Job probably didn't either. But they opened up the concept that the Israelites couldn't grasp: ask in faith and confidence, and you shall receive all the gifts God has to give. Jesus told us to ask, seek, and knock on His door for anything we wanted (Mat. 7:7-8), and the rest of the Bible shows those actions should always be framed in thanksgiving, not doubt.

Finding the Woman of Your Dreams Just a Walk in the Park

Here's an example of the power of thanks, found in a comment by a young man on our blog. He had been thanking our Father for bringing the woman that He wanted him to marry into his life. Lo and behold, while walking in the park one day, he met the woman of his dreams. He would never have thought that he would meet someone in a park. She is a strong believer in Jesus and even keeps the Sabbath. And they both know that God introduced them.

Our response underlines the power of thanksgiving: "Thank you for that powerful testimony of the power of thanksgiving. God does meet us where we are, yet when we are in thanksgiving and see our demand on His covenant as done, He meets us more quickly with the manifestation of our request. He says, 'Oh that My people would listen to Me, that [the believers] would walk in My ways! I would quickly subdue their enemies...I would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you' (Ps. 81:13-14,16). See how quickly you received your "honey"! Yes, God meets various people in various ways to find their mates, but this way you mentioned is a powerful one, based in thanksgiving. Wow! Nothing indeed is impossible with God. He turned [one man] around in twelve hours, and raised [a girl] from the dead after ten minutes being asleep and declared dead by doctors. But what do they know compared to our God? Thank you all for your praise reports as we glorify our great God together!"

Our Father is ready to pour out the blessings (Luke 11:13; James 1:17). Asking is a form of demand, a demand we place on the covenants we have with God. Job used a Hebrew word (*zakar*) in Job 10:9 to say to God, "Remember *now* my covenant with

you.” He was bold in calling for action according to the covenants. It’s a law in heaven and earth: we have a right to claim our covenants.

James follows through on Job’s prophecies for the last days, and we shall use paraphrases that amplify the meaning: “But if any of you lacks wisdom, have him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach or condemnation, and it will be given to him. But have him ask in faith without doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind” (James 1:5-6).

Stay Steadfast and Count Trials as Joy

Satan will try to blow us over with his winds and drown us with his floods, but James tells us what our answer should be: “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that these trials are tests of your faith that produce endurance, steadfastness, and maturity, and they allow endurance to work its maturing result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing” (James 1:2-4).

Satan wants us double minded and insecure in our knowledge of who God really is and what He is doing in our lives. While Job was not always steadfast in joy, he never cursed God or showed unforgiveness to his tormenting friends or to those who stole his wealth. The questions he asked weren’t posed out of pride or self-righteousness. He truly wanted to understand what was going on and dared to ask God openly about the situation.

His words and his steadfastness opened the door for us to succeed in these end times. These trials of the last days are testing our faith and trust in God to bring us to steadfastness and maturity in Jesus. We can rejoice because these trials are testing us for our preparedness to receive everything God has for us.

James then presents a new set of warnings I paraphrase: “For allow not that double minded man to expect that he will receive from the Divine Master, for a double minded man is fighting God and is unstable in all his ways. But the steadfast brother is glorified in his teachability and growth to full maturity. And he who is rich in double mindedness is humiliated because like the flower of grass that dies in the day, he too will pass away” (James 1:7-10).

The faith/doubt circle is a road to dizziness and confusion. Many Christians who concentrate on Lord worship rather than Jesus worship don’t know they are calling on a demon who calls himself Lord, but whose name is quagmire. He majors in pushing a person from one ditch to the other, as an errant boat is pushed one way and the other by the winds.

James tells us to be teachable in our trials so that we may be glorified in our growth and maturity rather than surrendering our gifts to Satan by our divided loyalties. Our joy in Jesus will get us through all such trials. We reach our hand out to Jesus to lead us safely through the valley of the shadow of death. Our endurance will produce growth in faith, hope, and love. We will thus call for everything we have asked for to come to us as a loving gift from our Father.

“Blessed is the man who perseveres, endures, and is steadfast under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which Jesus has promised to those who love Him” (James 1:12). Because Job stood steadfast, his words opened the door for us to do the same. And because Jesus broke Satan’s hold that Job had authorized, we have the crown of life and our names written in the book of life.

Stay in the joy of Jesus. Keep on obeying and loving Him even in tough times. Ask for the strength to endure in Jesus all tests, trials, and temptations. The gifts are yours when you ask without doubting.

God tests us at times, but he never tempts us (James 1:13-14). Job was attacked with doubt because it looked like God was tempting him to sin to compromise his integrity. His doubts prophesied that we would also be attacked with doubt in these last days, but his steadfastness opened the door for us to conquer our lusts. We ask amiss when we allow our lusts to take over. By dwelling on our lusts, we open the door to all sin.

Glorious Freedom from “Pet Sins”

Some things we dwell on become “pet sins.” They are usually besetting weaknesses we think will make us righteous when we overcome them. We’re already righteous in Jesus, but we hang onto these sins and habits and often love them more than Jesus. They are usually the last lusts to go by God’s grace, since in most cases God has to build up to a certain level of faith before we are willing to let them go.

We may lay them down to Jesus repeatedly, but we take them up again until our will is fixed to say no to these sins. We turn many problems over to Jesus before we’re finally willing to turn these persistent weaknesses over to Him for good.

Mark Detrick confessed on cbn.com his thirty-year struggle with pornography. It started when his seven-year old brain was struck with images of women in lingerie in a catalog. When he accepted Jesus, he was repentant, but the sin returned. It haunted him in his eleven-year marriage to a Christian woman. With the help of a brother in Jesus, he finally faced the problem and even confessed it to his wife, with the risk of losing her and his family. God spoke to her to love him to health, so she was a factor in his complete release from this pet sin.

The key here was the Christian brother. This man realized unless he confessed his sin to his believer friend, getting it out into the open as James 5:16 commands, He couldn’t be healed. Confessing to God will bring forgiveness, but confessing to another brings *healing*.

The revelation that few have grasped of the laying down of our long-term problems and weaknesses on the new moon that occurs every month has been a cause for breakthrough for many on our blog site (search “new moon” at the A-Z section at www.freedomchurchofgod.com.) They turn over to Jesus the hardwiring of the brain that tends to bring these problems back to haunt them.

One young lady related a praise report. She had gone through the new moon taking all the things that she did while on drugs, turning them over to Jesus. She figured she should get rid of the shame and guilt that went along with the drugs. She felt so new and fresh, receiving a new start. She turned her addiction over to Jesus and all the unforgiveness, and for a month after her report she had been totally free from all draw to it. She exclaimed that Jesus was so wonderful to take such problems.

The lust, sin, and death cycle exacts its toll (James 1:15) and must be stopped because lust compromises our integrity and causes us to love evil and hate what is good. Lust causes us to speak Satan’s words and even to curse God. Lust gets into our hearts to get us to love evil and sin. No one doubts God, walks in fear, or listens to lust unless they

love evil in their heart. But Job turned away from evil. He persevered and eventually received all the blessings of God.

Satan doesn't want us to ask for every good and perfect gift from our Father, and he definitely doesn't want us to accept the love of our Father. That love enables us to turn our sins over to Jesus and our hearts to our Abba Father. The devil doesn't want us to walk in the joy of Jesus in good times and bad so we can receive all God wants to give us. Satan wants to destroy us, but he can't if we say no to our lusts. Saying no to Satan ensures we will reap the blessings of the abundant life (James 1:16-18).

You are unable to ask in faith to receive all your Father of lights wants to give you unless you comprehend this colossal truth: your heavenly Father loves you so much that He is determined to bestow upon you every good gift. All you have to do is to ask for them by name and receive them in joy with a "yes and amen."

Trials come by Satan to see if you will surrender these gifts of abundance to him. He brings in doubt, double mindedness, and lust to make you ask amiss, thus looking at the gifts of God as evil.

What Do We Do with Adversity?

This study of trials brings us to discuss adversity, whose synonyms have been cited as trouble, misery, disaster, or distress. Bad things happen to people, believers or not. Adversity can be caused by our own bad choices, or it could be Satan wanting to stop us from making right choices.

Christians often speak of adversity as a friend. While trials in general can be tools for growth, we must understand that adversity is also the name of a demon that specializes in bringing bad events into our lives. As such, adversity must be resisted, even though it isn't a demon that can be sent to the pit. God has given keys as to how to defeat adversity by our words and actions so that this demon can't stay around to trouble us. Here are the twelve keys:

1. Sing.
2. Dance.
3. Shout.
4. Listen to praise and worship music.
5. Praise and thank God.
6. Read Scripture aloud and speak out the Word against the attacks.
7. Obtain and pray with prayer partners.
8. Seek the support of your church congregation.
9. Rely on the Holy Spirit.
10. Use wisdom.
11. Declare you are redeemed by Jesus' blood (because your Father loves you).
12. Laugh!

While these holy weapons will keep the spirit of adversity away, trials will inevitably come. We need to understand exactly what trials are. The spirit of adversity doesn't always bring them on. Trials are tests brought on by circumstances of cause and effect or by Satan and allowed by God. They are tests to see if we will learn lessons of

character through them, and subsequent trials come to see if we have indeed learned the lessons.

Some trials are meant to be. But many Christians believe in the doctrine of demons called penance. They believe they must be punished. They condemn themselves as sinners and believe that when bad things happen to them, they deserve them. God is justly punishing them, and that punishment is something they must go through, something that will please God. For the most part, however, that isn't true.

Jesus suffered for us so we don't have to suffer. The only godly sufferings are persecution, in which we rejoice since we are becoming truly mature sons of our Father (Mat. 5:44-48), and the mental suffering that comes about when we say no to what pleases our flesh when those fleshly cravings are against God's Word and will.

People persecute us because of our love and obedience to Jesus. So why shouldn't we rejoice? We can also rejoice when other trials come, even though they may not be God's perfect will, since all things do work for our good (Rom. 8:28), and we learn from our afflictions (Ps. 119:71). We have a merciful Father, the Father of mercies and comfort (2 Cor. 1:3) who allows us to learn from our sins and mistakes.

Churches based in legalism, religiosity, judgmentalism, and perfectionism don't allow you the freedom to make mistakes and learn from them. In fact, if you don't display the same kind of perfection they pretend to have, you can't even stay in their churches. God is a God of order (1 Cor. 14:33, 40), but He allows us free will. He picks us up when we fall, and we see our Redeemer Jesus take ugly situations and make them beautiful (Gen. 50:20).

Zophar, So Good? — It's Not Always Cause and Effect!

When we go through ugly trials, the people around us, even fellow Christians are usually about as much help as Job's friends.

Ever had judgmental friends like Job? Zophar especially treated this righteous man like a joke (Job 12:4). Trite clichés instead of sincere compassion hurt like knives in our heart when we are going through something difficult. Job's friends were so caught up in religiosity that they kicked Job while he was down.

Know the feeling? You go through a grief of losing someone you love, and your religious friends tell you, "The Lord took her for a reason, and she's in heaven, so why are you so sad?" Cliches kill. Words of love—sometimes silent, listening love— bring life.

Zophar claimed that wisdom had two sides (Job 11:6). Indeed, worldly wisdom is the knowledge of good and evil that God condemned in the garden. He said not to eat of that tree. Job lambasted Zophar for his false ideas.

In Job 12:5, Job lashes out against a prevalent false doctrine expressed by Zophar and shared by both Muslims and Christians. He did, however, add a conceptual verse showing he understood that problems do sometimes come from our sins "He who is at ease holds calamity in contempt, as prepared for those whose feet slip."

When you understand the full meaning of "ease" and "contempt" (*buwz*, pronounced "booze" and having a definite connection with our word for being drunk, in this case drunk in one's pride), here is what Job was saying: "Calamities, troubles, and disasters come seeking the person who is speaking and asking in contempt and disrespect,

shaming those who seek God with all their heart. They are so drunk with their own striving for self-aggrandizement, self-glorification, and haughtiness that they don't recognize a gift from God or the love of God. The powers of the pit have therefore made their way slippery and assured of a fall, for they look to money to save them and have rejected the Sabbath rest in Jesus."

But is calamity always the result of mistakes or sins on our part? The resounding answer is no.

Even if He had allowed Job to be placed in the writings rather than the prophets at the time of Solomon, Jesus knew the importance of Job's prophecies, and He affirmed them. His disciples, like the friends of Job, assumed if something bad happens to you, it has to be from sin of yours or your parents. But Jesus agreed with Job that such a concept wasn't true (John 9:1-3).

When tragedies happen, Christians either blame them on God, as if He likes to make people sick or kill them, or they blame the victim, believing they committed some horrible sin. While it is true that cause and effect are often factors, this isn't always the case.

A popular Christian singer lost his young Chinese adoptive daughter in a tragic accident. Some believed God took her so she could be with Him immediately in heaven. Others wondered what he had done to deserve this. The more likely truth is that Chinese girls are heavily cursed, often with death, and Christians don't always know about these considerations. They don't break off the curses since they don't believe curses have much power.

Hurtful Clichés versus Healing Truths

It's not always our fault that we weren't taught truths that could have saved our lives or our children's lives. And few believers really believe Jesus can raise the dead through them because they've been taught, "That was Jesus. We can't do that; we're not Jesus." Pastor haven't taught their congregations about John 14:12. Read it.

Meanwhile, Christians suffer because of lack of knowledge, and God blames the ones who should have taught them (Hos. 4:6). But other Christians more often than not blame those whom tragedy strikes, opening their big mouths with clichés that hurt like knives in a fresh wound.

Job's friends gave the typically simplistic, uncompassionate, trite, and hurtful assessments we often get from fellow Christians when we're down. "You must have sinned badly, Job, to get in this fix," was their attitude. With friends like some religious people who play a role of knowing God when they don't know him intimately, who needs enemies?

When problems and tragedies come, it's not always because we sinned. It's time we quit judging and understand why some bad things happen to some good people. Here are some possibilities:

- A direct attack by demons.
- Wrong prayers by a person not moving in love but in legalism, witchcraft, fear, control, and unforgiveness. Just recently I was unable to sleep because some who thought they were doing a good deed were praying for me in fear. I had expressed

- need for prayers regarding my sleep. God doesn't answer prayers of fear or prayers to "the Lord," but Satan does.
- Betrayal by a friend, mate, family member, or a church.
 - Curses that haven't been rejected. I suffered with pain and discomfort for three weeks before I realized it came from being cursed by a religious person that didn't like my dancing at a conference in a session of songs of praise.
 - Backlash for moving on something without having full understanding or protection. Not being taught isn't a sin.
 - Generational curses that manifest in the third or fourth generation. Why would we be responsible for a sin of our grandfather? We may face the consequence but don't bear the guilt.
 - Incantations, spells, hexes, talismans, etc. sent by witches.
 - Terrors, traumas, and nightmares that haven't been understood and turned over to Jesus. Jesus' shed His blood seven times to free us from traumas, but how many Christians know about what He did and the freedom He paid for?
 - Having wrong prophecies spoken over us and accepted without realizing their importance.
 - Being labeled by people without our direct knowledge. I only realized I had been labeled with a serious label by some members in France, one that affected me for thirty years before I was able to break it off.
 - Having others attach their souls to us without our knowledge.
 - Having numerous soul ties, blood bonds and vows affecting and tormenting our soul.
 - Being rejected for the Word of God or the light of God being manifested in our life. Jesus warned us of persecution by family.
 - Not recognizing the times, seasons, or the days we are in.
 - Praying to the Lord rather than to the Father in Jesus' name, thus allowing the spirit of quagmire to push us from one ditch to the other.

Victory in Trials

God knows in advance every trial that will befall us, whatever the cause may be, and He always provides a way out of the trial (1 Cor. 10:13). But He wants us to go through the test with our hands in Jesus' hands to walk us through the valley (Ps. 23:4). And James continues to tell us what lessons God wants us to learn.

We are to learn to be slow to anger in a trial (James 1:19-20). When we look at everyone and everything through the eyes of anger, we can't walk in love but are burdened by legalism and judgmentalism. We aren't in a position to receive from Father Love.

James repeats some of his warnings in this paraphrase: "You lust and don't have; so you commit your heart to the spirit of murder; and you are envious and can't obtain; so you fight, gossip, undermine, murmur, seduce, lie, destroy, and quarrel. You don't have because you don't ask in love. And when you do ask and don't receive, it's because you ask with wrong, lustful, murdering motives so that you may spend, consume, and employ it on your sin-filled pleasures" (James 5:2-3).

Nothing can be given us when we ask for it in the spirit of murder, fear, or lust. Job prayed and sacrificed in fear for his children (Job 1:5) and his fears came true (Job 3:25).

James gives us keys to receiving the gifts of God as we go through the trials that prepare us to receive: “ But He [Father Love] gives a greater gift of empowerment. Therefore it is written, ‘God is opposed to the proud who love murder and lust, but He gives the empowerment to the humble, teachable, and contrite. Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God in love, truth, and faith, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you lovers of evil and sin, and purify your hearts, you who choose fear and double mindedness” (James 4:6-8, paraphrased).

As did David, Job asked a lot of questions of God because he truly wanted to know Him and His ways, but he submitted to God and turned away from evil (Job 1:8). He resisted the devil, so Satan in the end had to flee from him. As we stay steadfast in trials, he will also flee from us, no matter how much he wants to destroy us in his end-time wrath (Rev. 12:10-12).

Job said the slave would one day be free from his master (Job 3:19), and James tells us how: “But as it is, you boast in your arrogance, pretensions, and fantasies. All such boasting is evil. Therefore, to one who knows the ways of God, to do the right thing, and yet does not do it, to him it is sin” (James 4:16-17).

The master in this world is Satan, the lord of boasting, arrogance, pretensions, and fantasies of aggrandizement. Death will set us free of his pressures over us, but God has another way, a way that gives us life in real peace, love, abundance, and freedom. We can block it and be bound to Satan and his demons in marriage, or we can embrace it and be married to Jesus in eternal life and the gifts of our Father Love. The question is: Will we allow our trials to prepare us to receive the wonderful gifts of God?

“Where did Your love go?” That’s the questions too many believers ask of their Father. They forget that His name is Love, and He can’t help loving us. He’s not there to make problems for us, but He is our great Problem Solver. He allows trials so we’ll look to Him for help. He wants us to trust Him as we go through the valleys. Those who persevere in these trials of the last days will be ultimately saved, if they don’t give up on God (Mat. 24:13).

Satan wants to wear down the saints, but our Father encourages us not to lose heart in doing good, “...for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary” (Gal. 6:9). Will you allow Satan to wear you down and out? Will you be mad at your Father for allowing trials in your life, or will you praise and thank Him that He will bring you through?

Some end-time believers will be given into the hands of a satanic leader for three and a half years (Dan. 7:25). The Roswell Stone gives the same time frame. This leader will wage war with the saints, “...overpowering them” (Dan. 7:21). Not all will be overpowered. Some will shine (Dan. 12:3). Some will trust Jesus to qualify them to take possession of the Kingdom of God, ruling with Jesus on this earth soon. If you turn your heart to Father Love in these last days, even amid all the trials, you will be of their number (Dan. 7:22; Rev. 5:10). How much do you want to receive that reward?