

Through The Bible In One Year

The Adventure of Many Lifetimes

Unpublished Work, December 2005, David W. Shockey.

Daily Devotional Companion

Week 35

Day 239. Read Job 23.1–27-23; 2 Corinthians 1.12-2.11;
Psalm 41.1-13; and Proverbs 22.5-6.

Thoughts & Questions For Reflection:

Job: ‘If only I knew where to find God; if only I could go to his dwelling!’ The sufferer, and the seeker, long for God’s presence. Job is both. His suffering causes him to seek deeper knowledge of God and his ways. He longs to come into God’s presence. But how? He has faithfully followed God all his life, and yet, there is more to God than he comprehends. God stands alone. He does whatever he pleases. God’s awesome majesty and mystery strikes Job with—not terror exactly—but the reverent fear and trembling that the creature experiences when confronted with the Creator. Job asks why the Almighty does not set times for judgment, times when evil is radically confronted and set right. Inherent in his very longing is the promise of its fulfillment: a day of judgment will certainly come for all. What the prophets will later declare openly for God, Job longs for...asks for. His human counselor, Bildad, reminds Job of the danger of asking for judgment: ‘Dominion and awe belong to the Almighty, so how can anyone born of woman—any human being—be pure and righteous before him?’ Yet Job insists ‘I will maintain my righteousness as long as I live.’ He knows the secret of faith: that a person is justified in God’s sight not by their acts, but by faith in his forgiving love. That is the source of Job’s righteousness...and complete confidence: God himself. **Questions:** 1. Do I look forward with complete confidence to the Judgment Day as Job did, or am I unsure? Why? 2. What is the source of my confidence for the day of judgment? How does faith in Jesus Christ give confidence for the coming judgment? 3. What will it be like to stand before God on the Judgment Day and see him as he is? What will I do or say?

Corinthians: Paul planned a visit to Corinth, and then called it off. Was he vacillating? Indecisive? Not at all. In all his actions, he was consistently following the law of love Christ laid down. When he warned in the first letter to have nothing to do with the man in an incestuous sexual relationship, it was love that motivated him—love for their spiritual health and even for the wayward one himself, that he might be led to repentance. Now Paul bids them to forgive and comfort him. Love gave him over to the consequences so that love might welcome him back, restored. It was love that guided Paul to change his plans of visiting Corinth in order not to inflict more pain. Paul does not mix his words,

or jumble his plans. He does not say 'yes' and 'no' at the same time. His words and actions all have one source: Jesus Christ. All the promises of God have their 'Yes!' in Christ. In Christ who anointed us and set his seal of ownership on us in Baptism, and gave us the presence and power of the Holy Spirit within as a deposit that guarantees the future fulfillment of all God's promises to us, we can stand firm by faith. **Questions:** 1. When I make my plans, do I do so asking God what God wants me to do? 2. In my interactions with people, do I give them honest, straightforward responses based on God's will and ways as Paul did, or do I tend to ameliorate or compromise to avoid offending? 3. How do the seal of Christ's ownership on me, my Baptism into Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit who creates faith within me, give me courage and confidence for life now?

Prayer: God, on the Day of Judgment, let me stand firm in Christ's purity alone, and not my own. You have promised me I may stand at the Judgment so. This promise, as all your promises, finds its 'yes' in your crucified and risen Son. I long to hear that 'Yes' on that Day. 'Yes,' I will live with you forever, finally free, finally full of life as you always intended it to be. But now in this dark day when so much says 'no,' let me live courageously and compassionately in the confidence that comes from Christ even now; from his personal seal of ownership on me in my Baptism, and from the Spirit who causes me to claim him as my Lord, let me say 'Yes' to your ever call and leading in my life. Amen.

Day 240. Read Job 28.1-30.31; 2 Corinthians 2.12-17;
Psalm 42.1-11; and Proverbs 22.7.

Thoughts & Questions For Reflection:

Job: Human beings can tunnel deep into the dark earth to wrest from solid rock gold and gems into the light where they will sparkle and shimmer. Why can't humanity find the wisdom we need to fathom the mysteries of life...and death? God, the Creator, alone has such wisdom. And the way to wisdom for human beings is the way to God: faith. That reverent awe and love which is faith—the reverent 'fear' of God—is the way to wisdom and understanding. Job longs for the past, when God's intimate friendship blessed his house. Now in the dark aftermath of disaster and disease, he cries out to God, but God is silent. In the dark interval between the time of blessing and the future fulfillment, lies faith. Like the Psalmist...and the Crucified...Job cries centuries before them 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' He cries for all who suffer and seek the face of God. **Questions:** 1. Despite all our technological and scientific 'advances,' why can't humanity solve the problems of suffering and wrongdoing, or even understand them? 2. How has my faith helped me better understand and deal with the problems of my own evil and suffering? 3. How does my faith help me address the suffering and wrongdoing of others?

Corinthians: A fragrance fills its whole area. Those who proclaim Christ in word and deed are a fragrance...to God and to all others around them. We are the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved or perishing. To the perishing, it is the smell of death, for the believer is dying to sin and self, to rise as newborn in a resurrection they cannot yet understand. To those who are being saved, their words and deeds savor of life everlasting, and carry the character of Christ himself. The fragrance from Paul is all the sweeter because he makes it free. He serves and proclaims Christ not for personal profit, but with sincerity like an emissary sent from God himself. Everywhere he goes, the fragrance of Christ himself fills the air, so people might sense him, and come alive. **Questions:** 1. What kind of 'fragrance' am I emitting for God right now? Do I need 'deodorant?' Why? 2. To what extent am I influencing my surroundings and relationships for Christ? Am I filling the whole, some, or little of them? 3. How can I help those I know who seem to be perishing come into the path of salvation?

Prayer: God, who sweet is your forgiving love in Jesus Christ! To me, that love makes all my senses come alive again. I love you for loving me so in Christ! And so, the love that I have for you, is really his love, rising to you again. May my love for you be a sweet scent to you, bringing you joy! And may Christ's loving character and actions rising from me as I am renewed by his love be a sweet scent to everyone around me, so they too come to life like flowers unfolding in faith before you, a please aroma before you, increasing your joy. Amen.

Day 241. Read Job 31.1-33.33; 2 Corinthians 3.1-18;
Psalm 43.1-5; and Proverbs 22.8-9.

Thoughts & Questions For Reflection:

Job: The quiet little whisper that comes in the silence or the storm. The youngest of Job's would be consolers and counselors, Elhu, reminds Job how God speaks, now one way, now another, though people may hardly perceive. In dreams at night, or visions, or even through painful experiences, God speaks to a person to turn back her soul from the pit, or so the light of life may shine upon him.' God desires everyone to turn to him and have life. Job's own words reflect listening for that Voice and seeking always to heed it. 'Does he not see all my ways and count every step I make?' he ponders. Job has always consciously sought to align his thoughts and words and deeds with God's own will and way. 'I made a covenant with my eyes' he says, showing he has made a conscious decision, 'not to look at a woman with lust'. He seeks to follow the inner voice of conscience, the laws God has written in all our hearts and minds, instilling them into our very natures. So he invokes the just punishment on himself 'if I have denied justice to my servants, or refused to share my food with the fatherless, or put my trust in gold, or not welcomed the stranger into my home, or rejoiced at my enemies misfortune.' Long before Jesus taught the Golden Rule 'do unto others as you would have them do unto you' Job has tried to live by it. Long before Jesus taught 'when you welcomed the stranger you did it unto me' or

'love your enemy' Job was already listening to the voice of God inside and seeking to follow it fully. With his heart seeking to follow God fully, he rests content before God's judgment, trusting that God receives such faith-filled seeking as the fulfillment and actuality itself. Job ends his words of wondering what God is doing on the note of trust in God's goodness and fairness in accepting faith and following as the reality he is looking for itself. **Questions:** 1. How well do I live out the Golden Rule in my daily actions? Are there people I have wronged that I need to make amends to? 2. Do I rejoice in my 'enemy's' misfortune rather than actively seeking their good? Who am I at odds with in any way right now that I might show God's love in action to? 3. How does God guide and direct me day by day? How attuned am I to his quiet voice that speaks to me from my very heart and mind? How I can learn better to recognize his voice? How can I become quicker to heed it and put into practice what he asks me to do?

Corinthians: The people we touch for God are our letter of recommendation. You yourselves are my letter' Paul proclaims to the Corinthian Christ-followers, the church he helped found, 'known and read by everyone.' That is the fruit of our faith visible to all. Such a letter of recommendation is not written with ink on paper, but written by the very Spirit of God himself on human hearts. In every person who loves and follows Jesus Christ, the Spirit is at work transforming her into his very likeness, and making him reflect the very glory of the Lord Jesus. What is true for Paul the Apostle, is true for every follower of Jesus Christ: we are someone's letter of recommendation, and we turn to create living letters of recommendation for our own ministry for Christ as we yield ourselves to God as his instrument to touch and transform the lives around us with his own love. **Questions:** 1. Whose living 'letter of recommendation' am I? Who touched me with Christ's love and helped become a believer and follower of Jesus? 2. Who have I similarly touched in my own life? Who is my living 'letter of recommendation?' 3. How does it change my attitude and actions to hear Paul's declaration that I am being transformed into Christ' likeness so I more and more reflect his glory by the Spirit working upon me? How have I grown to reflect Christ more in the past year? If I haven't reflected Christ's character and actions more in the last year, why not? What would help me do so?

Prayer: Me a letter of recommendation, Lord? Not a great one, I think. Not as good a one as I might be...or should be. Me a reflection of your glory, that others actually see? All too often I intrude so that they see me, not you. All too often I seek the commendation of others, not to commend you. But you love me still, and send your Spirit to transform me more and more into your likeness so I reflect you. Is there any way to turn up the heat, to speed up the process, so I might be finished sooner? Let it be, if possible, though you know best. And if you choose to leave me unfinished in this life, let even my falling short show forth your greatest glory: that you love imperfect, even fallen people, like me. In this—that you love me as I am right-I reflect your true and greatest glory, and celebrate the loves which transforms me into who I will one day surely become: totally like you. Amen.

Day 242. Read Job 34.1-36.33; 2 Corinthians 4.1-12;
Psalm 44.1-8; and Proverbs 22.10-12.

Thoughts & Questions For Reflection:

Job: God is exalted in his almighty power, Elihu reminds Job. Who among his human creations can instruct him or give anything to him? If you sin, how does that diminish him? If you are righteous, what do you add to him? Nothing. And yet...God cares. His eyes are on the ways of people and he eagerly watches our every step. Those who wander from his ways, he instructs, even through suffering, to woo them back from the jaws of destruction, to bring them to a spacious place of freedom, to the comfort of a situation like a table laden with food. Although he is almighty and untouchable, he cares what happens to people, and intervenes in their lives to help them have the life he intends for them. He sends the rain on humankind, and provides food in abundance for the people he has made. One day his Son, in human form, will teach from a mountain along a seashore and bid people love others just like that almighty and unsearchable God who nevertheless 'sends the sun and the rain on the just and unjust alike' to provide them with life. Whether they give him the glory or not, he shows them loving kindness, because of who he is, not according to how they act, or what they deserve. **Questions:** 1. How does it change my thoughts and actions to know that I do not give anything to God by what I do or don't do, and therefore do not earn or determine God's kindness or love toward me? 2. Does it cause me to love him and do good freely to all, even as he does to me? How does his free and unmerited grace show in my actions toward others? 3. Do I accept, and even embrace, whatever happens to me, as something God has permitted, however bad it may be, as an opportunity to show forth my trust in him or to help or serve others for him? What is an example of this in my life?

Corinthians: Clay jars, holding—but not hiding—the true treasure everybody needs. That's who followers of Jesus Christ are. Clay jars. Not minimizing or denying the dirt. Direct dealing, admitting all our faults and failings. No deception or pretending. Nothing secret or shameful. Setting forth the truth plainly, the Word without distortion, in the glaring sunlight, even though doing so reveals every imperfection and failing of the vessel that carries it: us. This is how Paul proclaimed Jesus in word and deed, without commending himself. This is how all followers of Jesus commend ourselves to others: in a way that does not commend us, but Jesus alone. The secret is simply to be the clay jars we are, without hiding our idiosyncrasies and brokenness. The Treasure will shine all the brighter. But even then, some will see the treasure as trash, the light as darkness, because the god of this age has blinded them. They cannot recognize the Light, Jesus Christ, the very image of God in human flesh and words and deeds, who came in person to live out the good news of God's love for us like a scripture written in flesh and blood. Paul himself became such a clay vessel, a 'human scripture,' a proclamation in fallen human flesh of the life transforming love of God. 'We have this treasure in earthen jars' Paul reminds us, 'so that

it may be clearly seen the surpassing power is from God, and not from us.’ **Questions:** 1. How ready and willing am I to share my shortcomings with others so God’s surpassing power and love can shine all the brighter to them? 2. How am I like an earthen jar? What are my shortcomings and limitations, the mistakes I’ve made, and the wrong turns I’ve comprise the my ‘clay’ nature? How does God’s love that surrounds me despite my ‘clay’ nature shine all the brighter because of the clay vessel I am? 3. How does realizing my ‘clay nature’ effect my relationships with others? Am I more accepting and understanding of others because of it?

Prayer: Clay, Lord? Couldn’t you have made me of gold...or steel...or even stone? Even sandstone would be better, it would’nt have had to be something so solid, strong and enduring as granite. Clay! A little water and it dissolves into mud. A sharp bump, or a drop, and it’s broken. I know, all the better to show off the treasure. The treasure is the point, not me. You are the point, not me, for people find their life in you alone, not me. Well, I am content to be your clay vessel, because that is a special calling, too. I am your clay vessel...formed by your hands...for your purpose. Your fingerprints are all over me, making me who I am. Thank you, my loving Lord! Have your way with me. May this clay lift up your glory, and make it all the more glorious, because of your glorious love for me, though I am but clay. Amen.

Day 243. Read Job 37.1-39-30; 2 Corinthians 4.12-5.10;
Psalm 44.9-26; and Proverbs 22.13.

Thoughts & Questions For Reflection:

Job: God comes. God shows up, and what is more, God speaks. Just as Job asked...sort of. God gave Job what he had been asking for, almost. Job asked not just for a hearing of his own questions, but a hearing of God’s response. He wanted answers, and he got them....sort of. To Job’s questions God responds with...questions of his own. ‘I will question you, and you will answer me’ God says. Me answer? If only I could! If only I could answer the questions he asks! Question after unanswerable question rolls off God’s tongue, but the profoundest is right at the start: ‘Where were you when I created earth’s foundation?’ If I had been there beside God at the beginning...if I had been God, which is what God actually means...I would know the answers to all the questions of how...and especially why. But I was not there. No one was there...beside God. I am not God, though I think I ought to be...and even think I am...too often. By asking me where I was, he shows me where I am...my true place...and even shows me who I am. I am his. His creation. I myself, and all my times, are in his hands. **Questions:** 1. How does God come to me and speak to me today? Which ways are most important and why: His Word; Real Spiritual Relationships With His People; His Holy Supper; Worship; Prayer; Service; Sharing My Faith With Others; Giving? 2. Why does my old, fallen nature chafe so under

God's sovereignty? How much of my discontentment in life comes from that? 3. What will help me to accept more the things I cannot understand, without giving up a healthy desire to know more or to accomplish more for God?

Corinthians: It's not the 'outwardly wasting away' part that's hard to buy. It's the 'inwardly being renewed day by day.' After a certain~ young - age, every day we see the tell tale signs of steady decline setting in. A receding hairline, a bulging midriff, an aching joint, a name or number forgotten. But being renewed every day in our inner nature? That takes faith to swallow. A big dose of faith, for day after day, I make repeat the same mistakes. I get angry when I feel slighted. I long for something I desire, and am disappointed if denied. The old nature lingers and delays dying. But faith sees what is real: though the outward is wasting away, the new nature inside is being renewed more and more every day. The sign of this is the Spirit of God living inside us, a deposit guaranteeing the promised fulfillment that is sure to come. Our true glory, though it is disfigured and delayed here, awaits us. All the disfigurement and delay here is preparing us to carry our true dignity: the glory we have through God's gift as children of God. Though life is not painless, it also is not pointless. We make our whole aim and purpose in life to please him, who was pleased to love us so. We live by faith, not by the certainty of sight. One day will come the consummation, when everyone will stand before the judgment seat of Christ, seeing him as he is, and receiving what is due for the things we have done here in the body. Even while it is wasting away, all who believe are coming more alive to God day by day, through the working of the Holy Spirit in us. **Questions:** 1. What are the signs of my outward nature wasting away? How am I responding to them? 2. What stubborn character traits or tendencies toward sin persist in me? How does God's promise through Paul that my inner nature is being renewed every day give me strength and resolve to put them to resist them? 3. Do I make it my aim to please God in everything I do, most of what I do, some of what I do, or little of what I do? How can I commit and surrender my whole self to God?

Prayer: Why do I still play you, God, and pretend to know all, be able to do all, even fix all that is amiss in me or the world?! As if I were your partner and stood beside you as you created the universe...instead of your creature, who I am. My outward being is wasting away every day, which bothers me, because I am not unchangeable as you, but I am not bothered at all that my old nature inside survives, indestructible it seems, to fight another day...day after day after day. You promise me my inner nature is being renewed...by your Spirit at work within me. I have to accept this on faith, not sight, my Lord, so make me blind that I may see myself as you see me: forgiven and restored through your own Son's death and resurrection. Holy Spirit, do your work within me day by day. As you moved over the chaotic waters at creation, brood over my old nature and make me a new creation to be like Christ. Amen.

Day 244. Read Job 40.1-42.17; 2 Corinthians 5.11-21;

Psalm 45.1-17; and Proverbs 22.14.

Thoughts & Questions For Reflection:

Job: On hearing God, Job wanted to be heard no more. He had to answer though. 'I have no answer...I will say no more.' Job put his hand over his mouth to keep silence. God is not done yet. There is more for Job to discover...more for Job to say...not about God but about himself. God renews his long list of questions, none of which anyone but God can answer. Might as well try to catch a whale with a fishhook! When finally God falls silent again, Job responds 'I know you can do all things, and you have the plan. I spoke about things too wonderful me, things I did not understand.' It is not any information that has turned Job about. His heart has moved, as he met the living God. 'My ears had heard of you,' he said, describing his second hand experience before, 'but now my eyes have seen you.' God has come and formed the relationship through his word and living presence. For Job's sake, God spares Job's would be counselors. His prayers will intercede for them and save them, as one day God's own Son will intercede to save others by his prayer on a cross. The latter part of Job's life is more blessed than the first. No matter what may befall us here, no matter how the evidence may seem to contradict, for all who believe, the best blessing still lies ahead when we too will see and hear God with our own eyes and ears. **Questions:** 1. How does it help strengthen my relationship with God that God even bears with my questions and doubts, just as he did with Job's? 2. How does it affect my attitudes and actions to realize that, though God loves and bears with me as I am, and wants a personal relationship with me, God is still so far above and beyond me I will never completely understand or comprehend him? 3. What does it do for my attitudes and actions to know that the best is yet to come, no matter what happens to me in this life? Does that help me to live more joyously and generously?

Corinthians: Extreme. Outright compulsive. That's who Christ's people are....because of their....compassion. We keep trying to persuade people. We must. We are driven people, driven by...Christ's love...the same love that burns in Christ's own heart for people. Paul was so driven. 'He died for all' Paul writes 'so that those who live might live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised from the dead.' Paul experienced that total turnaround from self centeredness to outwardly and other oriented. From persecuting and even killing Christians he turned to proclaiming Christ, even to those who persecuted him. Anyone who is in Christ Jesus is a new creation of God. The old nature, with its deadly and destructive ways, is gone. History. The new has come. Christ has taken control. God does this, not us. But amazingly we who were the problem now become his ambassadors—people sent by his authority with his message for all to hear: 'be reconciled to God!' In Christ Jesus, through his cross and resurrection, God was reconciling the world to himself. The world? That means every person. That means all people. The opportunity is open for everyone to believe and become God's new creation. And everyone who believes is caught up into the same 'compulsive' love of Christ that relentlessly seeks out those who are lost so they might have life with him forever. **Questions:** 1. How can I persistently proclaim Christ and invite people I know to new life without being pushy or obnoxious

about it? 2. Do I allow fear of possibly offending others deflect me from sharing Christ's love for them with others, talking to them about faith matters, or inviting them to a relationship with Jesus and his people? 3. What kind of an ambassador am I being for God right now? Who needs to hear from me about Jesus, that no one else can reach in the same way I can?

Prayer: I am your ambassador? Cool! Oh, I know that doesn't come with diplomatic immunity in this world. Others may disrespect or ridicule me when I talk to others about your love for them and your longing that they live with you forever. They may well have different ideas and agendas for their life. But you have called me and re-created me in Christ to be your ambassador. You have given me the same commission as Christ...and the same message. Eternal life with you as a new creation! That's the best message anyone ever carried anywhere to anyone in this world. I am so thankful your ambassadors brought that message to me. I will be going now, to the people to whom you have sent me, with the good news you have given me. You come with me. Amen.

Day 245. Read Ecclesiastes 1.1-3.22; 2 Corinthians 6.1-13; Psalm 46.1-11; and Proverbs 22.15.

Thoughts & Questions For Reflection:

Ecclesiastes: Eternity is already heralded in every human heart, like a distant horizon we are sometimes mindful of as we journey through life. When we look immediately about us, the landscape looks different. It surely seems that human beings share the same as all other animals. Death and disintegration. Solomon, the wisest and wealthiest of the kings of Israel, in worldly terms, surveyed life from his privileged position and came to that stark conclusion. Every living thing goes to the same place: the grave. 'Who knows if the spirit of a man rises upward and if the spirit of an animal goes downward?' he asked. We need to know. If we don't, everything is meaningless, as Solomon suggests. Not just everything, every one would be meaningless then. But why would God put eternity into our hearts—why would God give us a longing for life after this life—if we were meaningless to him? No. The desire within us means we were made for eternal life with him. That's the point: life is not pointless, neither now... or hereafter. **Questions:** 1. What makes me most aware of eternity? Why does it make me reflect on eternity? 2. Since God has put spirit and a sense of eternity into every person when he created them, how does this fact make it possible for me to talk with everyone I know about their eternity? How does it give us something in common about which to reflect and talk together? 3. How does knowing I and everyone I will ever meet is an eternal being change my attitudes and actions in life?

Corinthians: Now is the time. Not yesterday, as if it has passed and is lost forever. Not tomorrow, as though it we should wait or put it off. Now is the time of salvation. Now is

the time to receive the gift that is extended right now. The hand holds it out to us now...and now...and now. Time, made up of moments like pearls strung together on a string is a series of nows. But those nows are not meaningless or massed produced. Each and every one is pregnant with purpose. Now...is the time of...salvation. Now is life extended, life the way we want it, life the way it was intended for us from the beginning. Now is the time of God's favor. His love is like an open door at every moment, and all we need do is walk through...hold out our hand to receive the pearl of great price. Paul did everything he could to remove stumbling blocks that kept people from receiving the gift of new life in Christ now. Paul does everything he can...and suffers anything he must...to open the door to the people around him...now... and now... and now. He invites the people of God at Corinth, from whom he was then separated in spirit because of conflict, to 'open wide your hearts also.' All hearts should be open...now. **Questions:** 1. How does it change my attitudes and actions to know that I (along with all people) am surrounded by God's love every moment like the air I breathe? 2. Why is it so hard for me to live 'in the now?' That is, why is it difficult for me to live every moment consciously as a time of opportunity to know God's life better? 3. Do I always seek to take advantage of the opportunities God gives me to reach others with the good news as Paul did? How can I do so better?

Prayer: Right now. This very moment...is the time of salvation. Right now your love and new life surround me as the air I breathe. Why am I so often forgetful of the gift of now? Why do I allow myself to be drawn out of living this moment by worries about what might be in the future, or regrets about what has happened in the past. I spend more time in the future, which doesn't even exist, or in the past, which is gone forever, than now, the only time I truly could have...would have if I trusted totally in you. Now is the time you live in. Every time...for all eternity...is now for you. And now is the time of opportunity to share in your life. Open my eyes to now, and let me share you with others right now. They need you now, too. Amen.

Through The Bible In One Year: Week 35

Sunday Worship Lessons

First Lesson (Old Testament): Job 38.1-7

Psalm: 46.1-11

Second (New Testament) Lesson: 2 Corinthian 5.14-21

Theme: The Surpassing Sovereignty and Surprising Compassion of God

Sunday Scripture Selection and Theme Explanation, Week 35:

Job speaks for all sufferers in this world. In the midst of his grief, illness and suffering, he asked 'why?' He sought to know why God, whom he believed to be almighty, would allow such suffering. With his almighty power, why did he not act immediately to remove it? Why is there evil in God's world? God comes and speaks to Job, but does not address his questions. He only asks Job more questions, deeper questions, which Job cannot answer. God is sovereign over all, far surpassing human understanding. Yet God shows ultimate compassion as well. God answers the question of human suffering and evil by sending his Son, Jesus Christ, in human flesh, to suffer for us. He did not just take on our nature and lot by becoming one of us, he became sin so that by dying, our sin might be taken away and we might be reconciled to God. Whoever is in Christ, whoever believes and follows him, is already new creation. She has already passed from death to life. For him who believes, the old has passed away and the new has already come. They are reconciled to God which means eternal life now and hereafter forever. What is more, we who caused suffering and suffered ourselves, for whom life was painful and pointless, are now caught up into God's work to reconcile everyone in the world to God so they, too, might have life.