GOD’S HOPE
IN TIMES OF HARDSHIP

Learning Lessons In Times Of Suffering
MAY 6, 2020
GOD’S HOPE IN TIMES OF HARDSHIP

The Fundamental Cause Of Suffering Is Sin –
- In The Beginning – The Garden – No Sin – No Suffering

Sin Always Has Consequences
- It Always Leads To Suffering And Hardship
GOD’S HOPE IN TIMES OF HARDSHIP

Suffering Doesn’t Have To Be The Result Of Particular Sins:

Job 5:6–7 (NIV84) — 6 For hardship does not spring from the soil, nor does trouble sprout from the ground. 7 Yet man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward

Suffering Can Be As A Result Of Human Wickedness

Suffering Can Be As A Result Of Misfortune: Accidents, Sickness, Shortages Of Food Or Provisions, Natural Disasters
GOD’S HOPE IN TIMES OF HARDSHIP

Suffering Can Come Through Old Age And Death

- Ageing & Bereavement

Ecclesiastes 12:1 (NIV84) — 1 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, “I find no pleasure in them”
GOD’S HOPE IN TIMES OF HARDSHIP

There Is Suffering We Bring On Ourselves Through Foolishness

- Psalm 107:17 (NIV84) — 17 Some became fools through their rebellious ways and suffered affliction because of their iniquities.
GOD’S HOPE IN TIMES OF HARDSHIP

Suffering Through Satanic Activity
- The Influence Of Satan

1 John 5:19 (NIV84) — 19 We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

Demon-possession Or Oppression

Matthew 15:22 (NIV84) — 22 A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession.”
GOD’S HOPE IN TIMES OF HARDSHIP

The Suffering Allowed By God That He Uses (i.e.) Christian Suffering Produces Good Fruits

- Suffering Produces Hope, \textit{Ro 5:3–4};
- Discipline Produces Righteousness And Peace \textit{Heb 12:11}
- And Trials Produce Perseverance... \textit{Jas 1:2-3}
GOD’S HOPE IN TIMES OF HARDSHIP

We Must All Decide As We Look For God’s Hope In Times Of Hardship What We Will We Do Regarding Suffering

- Hardness Of Heart – Pharaoh

- OR -- Repentance -- Manasseh and The Prodigal Son

2 Chronicles 33:12-13 (NIV) (12) In his distress he (MANASSEH) sought the favor of the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. (13) And when he prayed to him, the LORD was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; so he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD is God.
GOD’S HOPE IN TIMES OF HARDSHIP

The Prodigal Son

- **Luke 15:17–18 (NIV84)** — 17 “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.”
GOD’S HOPE IN TIMES OF HARDSHIP

There is a Blessing in Suffering

Psalm 119:71 (NIV84) — 71 It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.

Hezekiah

Isaiah 38:17 (NIV84) — 17 Surely it was for my benefit that I suffered such anguish. In your love you kept me from the pit of destruction; you have put all my sins behind your back.
GOD’S HOPE IN TIMES OF HARDSHIP

Our Response – To Find God’s Hope In Times Of Hardship:

- Let Our Response Cause Satan To Be Silenced
- Let Us See You
- Let Us See Ourselves As We Really Are
- Let It Produce Compassion.
- Let It Teach Us Humility.
- Let It Raise Our Faith To Know That All Of Your Plans Will Turn Out For The Best If We Hold On