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Don't Despair God Cares: Casting Our Burden's Upon the Lord

A Commentary by Jason Curry



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The book of Job is fast becoming one of my favorite books of the bible. This book isn't special to me because it tells the story of a man who endured tremendous suffering. Certainly, no one wants to see or hear of another person's anguish and despair. The book is meaningful to me because it conveys the idea that suffering and hopelessness should not or will not have the last word in the life of the Christian for the God that we serve is sure to provide us with hope, relief or joy after our trial. King David reminds us of God's abiding presence during our moment of suffering in the following scripture: "...weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning (Psalm 30:5)." If Job did not sin during his time of affliction, and he did not charge God with evil or wrongdoing (Job 1:22), one may raise the following question about the book of Job: What was Job's primary offense against God or himself throughout this famous book of the bible? After meditating on God's word,

searching the scriptures for answers, talking to colleagues, and consulting various theologians, it became clear to me that Job began to despair throughout his season or period of suffering. For example, in Job 10:1, he says:

"My soul is weary of my life; I will leave my complaint upon myself; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul." Essentially, Job did not believe that God's ear was attuned to his suffering, and he did not believe that God cared about him, loved him and was interested in making a positive change in his life.

The forty-second chapter of the book of Job clearly reveals that God cared deeply and intensely about the life of Job. In fact, after Job's period of suffering, God provide him with a number of material possessions. Toward the end of the book of Job, God essentially made the following statements in his presence: Don't you understand that I control this universe? Don't think that I don't have a plan for your life because I do. Why

did you despair, I have always loved you.

As we endure periods of hardship with challenges related to our finances, personal and professional relationships, family members, places of employment, career aspirations and periods of the life cycle (e.g., birth and death), let us never despair for God still loves and cares about us. Seasons of suffering in our life may cause temporary anxiety, but they should never cause temporary despair. David reminds us to "cast your burdens upon the Lord, and he shall sustain you, He shall never allow the righteous to be moved (Psalm 55:22)." Amen.