

BEING TRIED, JEREMIAH 12:3-7

Let us look into the Word of God today concerning a subject of being tried. Let us take this matter of testings and trials for our thought for the day. In Jeremiah, the twelfth chapter, we find Jeremiah saying these words, beginning in verse three. He said:

But thou, O LORD, knowest me: thou hast seen me, and tried mine heart toward thee: pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, and prepare them for the day of slaughter. How long shall the land mourn, and the herbs of every field wither, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein? the beasts are consumed, and the birds; because they said, He shall not see our last end (Jeremiah 12:3-4).

We see here in the Word of God that Jeremiah acknowledges that God is righteous. If you begin in the beginning of the chapter. However, Jeremiah did not understand the subject of why the wicked seemed to be prospering more outwardly than the righteous. Jeremiah was a true prophet of God, a true servant of God; yet he seemed to be driven from place to place and was wretched and poor outwardly as oftentimes Christians are that serve God. Outward wealth is not any sign or signal necessarily of a person serving God. Sometimes the wicked have more outward riches.

I like this portion here because, at least, Jeremiah establishes that God is righteous. And he declares his faith in the holiness and the righteousness of God's Nature and God's Headship. However, he inquires of the LORD why this thing was like it was. Then, God begins to explain to him through the rest of the chapter here after Jeremiah had poured out his complaint. We find that God explains to him that Jeremiah in comparison to these other people was rich indeed because God testifies in verse seven. He said:

I have forsaken mine house, I have left mine heritage; I have given the dearly beloved of my soul into the hand of her enemies. Mine heritage is unto me as a lion in the forest; it crieth out against me: therefore have I hated it (Jeremiah 12:7,8).

So God lets Jeremiah know that He tries the hearts of people and God ascertains and

discovers, beloved, when people love Him and when people hate Him. Beloved, when our heart has been filled with the love for God and for God's Word and God's Spirit and God's Presence and God's Glory, then we indeed are rich and wealthy! So God clarifies this matter here with Jeremiah here that He tries those that He loves and when He finds that love for Himself in their hearts, then He declares them indeed rich and blessed and wealthy. So oftentimes we want to compare our spiritual treasures with the earthly wealth of this world.

And God is letting these people here and all people of all generations see that if we have Jesus Christ in our hearts that we are rich indeed. God let Jeremiah see that even though these other people were outwardly wealthy momentarily and seeming to be blessed; yet God was going to remove their outward wealth and take them away because as He had tried and proved their heart, He found that they hated them, so, therefore, He took away their outward blessing. Oh how blessed it is to be blessed inside and to be rich spiritually with eternal treasures and eternal silver and gold that will never pass away. The Bible says that the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eye and the pride of life endure for just a season and then passeth away.

But, beloved, if we seek the Kingdom of God first, the Bible says, all these things will be added unto us. God does not want to strip us of earthly blessings. God knows that we have need of things to supply the needs and the wants of our bodies and our souls as we travel through this world. But God desires that we seek Him first. The thought for the day is that God does test and try those that walk after Him. And Jeremiah testifies. He said, "O LORD, thou knowest me. Thou hast seen me and tried mine heart toward thee. LORD, You know I have remained true to thee. You have tried me in afflictions. You have tried me in testings. You have tried me in persecutions." And indeed Jeremiah was tested and persecuted by those that hated God. And naturally, if we are servants of God and people hate God, they are going to hate us. But Jeremiah

remained true through God's testings and trials. And he said, "Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, and prepare them for the day of slaughter." He said in other words, "How long, O God, will You punish the land with famine and drought for the wickedness of people that hate You?" So God clarified this matter to Jeremiah that He chastens and corrects those that he loves. He tests and tries them. If we love Him, He only tests the gold of that love so that when that gold goes into the furnace, that golden love for Jesus Christ, that gold only comes out proved more by God and improved more by God. So it is a great beautiful thing to be tested by God and to learn in this present life what we have and what we do not have.

Oftentimes people do not like to face the Truth. They like to run from the responsibility of assuming the responsibility for change. So, beloved, God wants us to face the Truth, let Him test us, let Him try us because God does try the hearts of men. So when you are being tested and tried, do not run from the affliction, do not run from the persecution, but rather, ask God to purify that which He has placed within you of Himself. Let it come out a brighter gold. Let it come out improved gold, a gold that God can approve on a higher spiritual realm with Him. So God explained to Jeremiah here that He does indeed try people. And God tries people through suffering. You know, Job had an experience with that in Job 23:10. He said:

But he knoweth the way that I take: when he [God] hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold (Job 23:10).

Beloved, we cannot come forth as gold if we do not go in as gold. But if we will go in a trial, in a tribulation, in persecution, in testings that God places us in with the golden divine Nature of Jesus Christ, we will come out with that same Nature that we went in with. So this was Job's testimony, "He knoweth the way that I take." Job prophesied even to himself. And it is a good thing to prophesy to ourselves when there are testings and trials, knowing that God does try by suffering. We can prophesy and say, "I know when he has tried me, I shall come forth as gold."

What a precious promise. What a beautiful promise. How precious to be refined by God Himself that we might come out better gold, improved gold in His likeness and in His image. Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the privilege to be counted worthy, to be tested and tried. We thank You, O God, that thou the God of all creation would take time to come down and to plan and to design the things that you would desire to test us and prove us in. Grant us, O God, prophetic faith like Job that when we enter into testings and trials and persecutions that we can prophesy and say, in deed we shall come forth as pure gold. In the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen. Ɔ