

We are ready to complete:

### **Point 14. The Rapture and the Silence of God.**

The very first event that takes place after the Rapture is the ½ hour of silence as we will be so much in awe by our Lord's presence that we will literally speechless.

Not only will we be silent but even God and the elect angels will be silent.

God is silent because of the angelic conflict and the historical trial of Satan and all of the fallen angels.

I have chosen a book that really describes the silence of God as well as the silence of man and that is the book of JOB.

In the book of JOB, we saw that:

Satan is cross-examining Job and while he is doing so, God is completely silent.

He does not interrupt the cross examination which in Job's case was evidence testing, the highest form of glorifying God in the Angelic conflict.

I always think about the Angelic Conflict as the "Kingdom Conflict because it is really not a conflict just between the angles but it is really a conflict between kingdoms, the kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness.

In fact,

In MAT 3:2, we have the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

In MAT 4:8, Satan calls his kingdom the kingdoms of the world.

In MAT 19:24, we have the kingdom of God."

In EPH 5:5, there is the kingdom of Christ and God.

Probably the fact that there is a conflict between the two kingdoms, there is no better passage to point his out then COL 1:9-14.

COL 1:9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

COL 1:10 so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

COL 1:11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously

COL 1:12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

COL 1:13 For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

COL 1:14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

So much for why you might hear me mention the angelic conflict sometimes as the kingdom conflict

I called it the A.C. but as you can see it is also a conflict between two kingdoms.

And because most of the students that listened to me are familiar with Col. Thieme's term which he called the angelic conflict, I changed so there would be no confusion when I taught it.

Now, we pick up our study where we left off Sunday by noting the blasphemous spirit behind altar calls

In JOB 22:21, brother Zophar says "Yield now brother and be at peace with Him; Thereby good and prosperity will come to you.

Every altar call promises you something that is absurd and foolish and doesn't have the power to do so.

Now remember;

Eliphaz was a great theologian as we studied before in chapters 4 and 5, but he's also a self-righteous legalistic jack-ass who knows nothing about the silence of God!

The principle and never forget it;

You can be a theologian and a jackass at the same time.

Think about it!

Every profession has individuals who do not care about others but they get by because of a piece of paper called a diploma and that is supposed to instill confidence in the hearers.

And notice I said any profession.

Well, he or she is a doctor so, whatever they say believe!

Every profession has its villains!

So, in JOB 22:22 "Please (Job) receive instruction from His mouth

**God is silent ....Eliphaz!**

God is not talking to Job!

God cannot talk to Job until Satan has completed his cross-examination.

This is evidence testing and Eliphaz "you're talking to the greatest believer in the world at the time!"

So Eliphaz says JOB 22:22 "Please receive instruction from His mouth and establish His words in your heart.

Here Eliphaz is talking to the greatest believer alive....

For Job has received tragic, devastating, destructive suffering, and all of it was completely and totally undeserved,

Here is this idiot, just like the Pharisees, telling him to accept instruction from God's mouth and lay up God's words in your heart!

And God's mouth is **silent!!!**

JOB 22:23 "If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored;

JOB 22:24 And place your gold in the dust, And the gold of Ophir among the stones of the brooks,

JOB 22:25 Then the Almighty will be your gold and choice silver to you.

In other words,

“You must still have some money hidden away somewhere Job, and if you just give it all to God, then God will take care of you!

And believe it or not, there are suckers who fall for this type of thing every day!

"Give up everything to God and God will bless you!"

And what this boils down to is that

Those who are ignorant of doctrine are suckers for the phony pitches that come from the pulpits of legalism and emotionalism.

Just remember that it's nonsense and God's policy is **no nonsense!**

JOB 22:26 "For then you will delight in the Almighty and lift up your face to God.

Whatever that means.....

JOB 22:27 "You will pray to Him, and He will hear you;

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Job was a mature believer and his prayers were heard!

In fact, Eliphaz better hope that God hears Job's prayers because of what the Lord is going to say to Eliphaz in JOB 42:7.

JOB 42:7 "My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, because you have not spoken of Me what is right as My servant Job has."  
When the Lord says "My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, this refers to Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite who were Satan's agents or ambassadors.

These were Satan's three-fold ambassadors.

Whereas in DAN 1:7, we have the Lord's agents or ambassadors called Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego.

The three friends of Job had no idea why God was silent toward Job.

So our Lord says to them;

JOB 42:8 "Therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, and go to My servant Job, and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves, and My servant Job will pray for you. For I will accept him so that I may not do with you according to your foolishness, because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has."

Job finally understood why God had been silent toward him.

Back in JOB 22:27 "You will pray to Him, and He will hear you; And you will pay your vows."

What about vows?

What does the Bible say about vows?

Hold your place here and go forward to ECC 5.

ECC 5:1 Guard your steps as you go to the house of God, and draw near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools; for they do not know they are doing evil.

ECC 5:2 Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few.

ECC 5:3 For the dream comes through much effort, and the voice of a fool through many words.

ECC 5:4 When you make a vow to God, do not be late in paying it, for He takes no delight in fools. Pay what you vow!

ECC 5:5 It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.

So back in JOB 22:27 "You will pray to Him, and He will hear you; And you will pay your vows.

JOB 22:28 "You will also decree a thing, and it will be established for you; And light will shine on your ways.

All of these phrases like;

JOB 22:21 "Yield now and be at peace with Him"

JOB 22:22 "establish His words in your heart"

JOB 22:23 "return to the Almighty"

JOB 22:26 "lift up your face to God"

JOB 22:27 "pay your vows"

JOB 22:28 "light will shine on your ways"

All of these phrases have absolutely no meaning apart from the direction's mechanics, mechanics, mechanics and there are no mechanics in altar calls!

JOB 22:29 "When you are cast down, you will speak with confidence And the humble person He will save.

God will listen to you because you have come forward and got your heart right like mine is!

JOB 22:30 "He will deliver one who is not innocent and he will be delivered through the cleanness of your hands."

All the guilty people will be delivered because of you!

In other words,

Join us Job, we are so clean that God uses us to change other people's lives.

Eliphaz has that ISA 65:5 attitude,

ISA 65:5 "They say, 'Keep to yourself, do not come near me, For I am holier than you!'"

So, he is saying join us Job, we are so clean that God uses us to change other people's lives!

Join our traveling medicine show and then you too can give altar calls!!!!

And this is the last thing Eliphaz will say.

Now, Job is recognizing the need for God to straighten out his three friends.

In Job 23, we have Job's last reply to his friend Eliphaz who has come right out in lambasted Job.

JOB 23:1 Then Job replied,

JOB 23:2 "Even today my complaint is rebellion and His hand is upon me heavy despite my groaning.

JOB 23:3 "Oh that I knew where I might find Him, That I might come to His seat!

Remember that passage because we will get study more of it later.

This is the silence of God where God cannot speak during the cross examination of Satan in the historical trial of Satan and all fallen angels.

The rules in the angelic conflict have already been given and Satan is following the rules.

He has **not** taken Job's life, but he can do anything else he desires!

And what he has desired to do is:

To put pressure on Job from three of Job's friends who were influenced totally by legalism and self-righteousness.

So, God must remain silent and Job must do it on his own with the doctrine resident in his soul!

All undeserved suffering requires you to use the inventory of your doctrine resident in your soul.

Not someone else's counsel!

Not someone else's encouragement!

You must do it on your own from the resources of doctrine in your soul!

GAL 6:5 For each one shall bear his own load.

LAM 3:27-28, "It is good for a man that he should bear the yoke in his youth [time of youthful vigor]. LAM 3:28 Let him sit alone and be silent Since He has laid {it} on him.

In GEN 32:24, it wasn't until Jacob was left alone with the Lord that his named was changed to Israel, a prince with God.

GEN 32:24 Then Jacob was **left alone**, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak.

GEN 32:25 And when he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of his thigh; so the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated while he wrestled with him.

GEN 32:26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking." But he said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

GEN 32:27 So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob."

GEN 32:28 And he said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed."

GEN 32:29 Then Jacob asked him and said, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And he blessed him there.

GEN 32:30 So Jacob named the place Peniel, for he said, "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved."

It was not until Jacob was left alone with the Lord that his named was changed to Israel, a prince with God.

We all need to have that experience of going through struggles in life alone with God.

It is part of becoming spiritually self-sustained.

In 2CH 32:31 God left Hezekiah alone to test him, that He might know all that was in his heart.

There are times when the silence of God is manifested by all the doors in your life being closed and then you must make your own decisions.

And God is testing the doctrine that is in your own heart!

In JOH 8:9, it wasn't until the woman caught in adultery was left alone with the Lord that she was set free,

JOH 8:9 And when they heard it, they began to go out one by one, beginning with the older ones, and He was left alone, and the woman, where she was, in the midst.

The Lord even had to go through this in JOH 16:32 when He said:

JOH 16:32 "Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.

So, right now Job is having a little trouble with the silence of God.

He knows that he did nothing wrong to have this suffering.

He knows that all of these disasters that came to him did not come because of any personal sin or divine discipline.

JOB says in JOB 23:4 "I would present my case before Him And fill my mouth with arguments.

You see, I've been telling you that Job has been going in and out or up and down with his relationship with God.

And Job needs to be reminded of the fact that;

**"God knows what's going on!"**

Job has forgotten some of the principles of divine attributes and the essence of God rationale.

God knows what's going on and Job will hear from him at the right time.

For example,

God is sovereign and God will make sure that the believer is protected and not tested beyond what he is able to bear.

God is just and this means that God is fair; it is impossible for God to be unfair in the function of His justice.

God is wise, incorruptible, and perfect righteousness therefore, He is the perfect and fair judge, the one judge who has never rendered a wrong decision.

In all the trillions of decisions God has rendered, not one has ever been unfair or incorrect.

It is impossible for perfect God to render a bad decision as judge.

Another part of God's essence which the believer needs to recall during undeserved suffering is the omnipresence of God.

God fills space and time with his presence, sustains it, and gives it purpose and value.

God is ever present.

Now, the omnipresence of God guarantees us that He will fulfill His promises!

Such as

MAT 28:20b I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Or

Heb 13:5 Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,"

1SA 12:22 "For the Lord will not abandon His people on account of His great name,

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Another part of God's essence which applies to undeserved suffering is the omniscience or knowledge of God.

There never was a time in all of eternity past when God did not know everything about you:

Every thought you would ever have, every motive that would be formed from those thoughts, every decision you would make from thought or lack of thought (which is impulsive), and every action which results.

There never was a time and never will be a time when you will have a thought, motive, or make a decision or do something asinine that God did not know about billions and billions of years ago.

Because he is immutable, God has never changed; and God's knowledge has never changed God!

God is aware of all the changes in creatures but that doesn't change Him.

For example, in;

MAL 3:6 "For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed."

There never was a time when God did not know everything.

And that means every sin that you would ever commit after the day of your salvation.

God knows everything about you that is knowable, every thought you've ever had, your every decision, motive, and action; the same is true of billions and billions of creatures.

Time has nothing to do with God's knowledge and therefore, the future is as well known to Him as the past.

Another part of God's essence which applies to undeserved suffering is the omnipotence of God.

The term "omnipotence" is used to describe the unlimited power of God.

This emphasizes the doctrinal fact that God is always in control.

God has never lost control in all of human history or in prehistoric times during the angelic conflict.

God has invented free will in man, so that man can go negative or positive to God.

And

From his negative volition, man can be out of control; but God is still in control of everything.

Why?

Because of.....

1PE 1:5 "We are guarded by the power of God through faith for a deliverance, ready to be revealed in the last time."

1SA 2:9 "He keeps the feet of His godly ones, But the wicked ones are silenced in darkness; For **not by might** shall a man prevail."

Divine omnipotence is related to both the promises and the actions of God.

ISA 43:13 "Even from eternity, I am He, and there is no one who can deliver you out of My hand. I act, and who can reverse it?"

Another part of God's essence which applies to the doctrine of eternal security is the faithfulness of God.

The faithfulness of God is an anthropopathism, which is a human characteristic ascribed to God in the Bible as the basis for confidence in who and what God is.

God is faithful in rebound, 1Jo 1:9, "if we acknowledge our sins, **He is faithful** and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

God's faithfulness means there are no exceptions; no sin is too bad or heinous or evil that could not be forgiven.

2TI 2:11 It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him;

2TI 2:12 If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us;

2TI 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself.

God always does exactly the same thing on the basis of the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

We are daily sustained and supported by the faithfulness of God, regardless of whether we are carnal or spiritual, winners or losers.

God is faithful to all believers in logistical support.

1Th 5:24, "Faithful is He Who calls you, Who will also do [provide] it."

God's faithfulness to the reversionistic believer is the subject of 2Ti 2:13, "If we are faithless, He remains faithful; he cannot deny himself."

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit indwell every believer.

No member of the Trinity can deny Himself or another member of the Trinity.

You can renounce your salvation and enter into any kind of blasphemy you want to.

But the first time you believed in Christ, God gave you forty things; you do not have the power to cancel them and neither does God.

God's faithfulness is stated in relationship to the prehistoric angelic conflict.

2TH 3:3 "But the Lord keeps on being faithful; He will support and guard you from the evil one."

There are many ways in which we are protected, of which we are not even aware.

There are many dangers around us as believers due to invisible demons.

We cannot be demon possessed, but demon influence comes from false doctrine entering our frontal lobes.

Nevertheless,

The Lord keeps on being faithful, and He supports and guards both the loser and the winner from the evil one.

These verses on the faithfulness of God are a reminder to you that regardless of how you fail or succeed, whether you are a winner or a loser, God is always faithful to you, no matter what.

He cannot be faithless; it is contrary to His essence.

Now,

Job is a mature believer and a mature believer **knows** all of those principles I just gave you concerning the essence of God.

God knows what's going on and Job will hear from him at the right time.

Just like God knows exactly what's going on in your life so you don't have to complain to Him or to others!

There comes a time in the life of every believer when he must go it alone!

And you're going to have that experience from time to time to see if the doctrine is there.

Why?

Because:

God never lets you go it alone unless you've been exposed to the doctrine. So, the issue is can you take the doctrine in your own soul and apply it to your situation.

Now, back in JOB 23.

JOB 23:1 Then Job replied,

JOB 23:2 "Even today my complaint is rebellion and His hand is upon me heavy despite my groaning.

JOB 23:3 "Oh that I knew where I might find Him, That I might come to His seat!

JOB 23:4 "I would present my case before Him And fill my mouth with arguments.

JOB 23:5 "I would learn the words which He would answer, And perceive what He would say to me.

JOB 23:6 "Would He contend with me by the greatness of His power? No, surely He would pay attention to me.

You see, Job says "No, he would not contend with me by the greatness of His power because I've **done nothing wrong!**

Note, once again that Job maintains to the very end the fact that he has not sinned and he is not in some system of evil!

JOB 23:7 "There the upright would reason with Him and I would be delivered forever from my Judge.

JOB 23:8 "Behold, I go forward but He is not there and backward, but I cannot perceive Him;

Why?

Because God is silent....the silence of God!

JOB 23:9 When He acts on the left, I cannot behold Him; He turns on the right, I cannot see Him.

Notice please that Job was confident that if he could just present his case that God would declare him innocent!

What Job does not understand is this problem of the silence of God which is a part of evidence testing.

For the silence of God is simply this tremendous cross examination permitted by Satan.

For example,

In 2Co 12:7, Paul's thorn in the flesh was a pain in the neck, something aggravating enough to bother him.

God permitted a fallen angel of great ability to penetrate the wall of fire around Paul and to bother him.

2CO 12:7 And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me-- to keep me from exalting myself!

Notice it was a messenger or an angel from Satan!

2CO 12:8 Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

2CO 12:9 And He **has said** to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

Paul prayed for it to be removed, but his prayer was wrong.

Instead, God said, "No!

My grace is sufficient for you!"

In other words, this is not a matter for prayer.

However,

Paul was persistent in praying this erroneous prayer three times.

Finally,

Paul rebounded but the suffering was still there, but now it was turned into suffering for blessing--however, it was suffering designed for blessing. Prin-Undeserved suffering or suffering for blessing is not designed to be removed by prayer.

It is administered by God, and what God does not remove He intends for us to bear.

You do not pray for the removal of any suffering, whether for blessing or punitive.

Such a prayer is blasphemous, for without suffering the believer cannot fulfill the PPOG.

Prayer is antithetical to the purpose for suffering for blessing.

We must understand the role and significance of undeserved suffering or suffering for blessing.

You do not pray for the removal of the very means of advancing you to spiritual maturity and glorifying God.

What God does not remove by way of suffering He intends for you to bear.

Prayer is not a problem-solving device in your life.

You can pray for others under suffering, and you should. However, you don't judge why they're suffering, but you do pray for those who suffer.

This is a privilege of the royal priesthood.

But you never pray for the removal of suffering from yourself or from others.

All suffering is a decision from the sovereignty of God.

And;

The Christian does not pray for strength in time of suffering, because strength in suffering comes in other ways mechanically.

Prin: Ignorant and negative believers use prayer for everything, having no doctrine, no application of doctrine, and no spiritual growth.

However,

God never puts on you more than you can bear; only you do that under the law of volitional responsibility.

And before God gives suffering for blessing, He always provides the means of handling it.

So, strength in suffering comes from the application of metabolized doctrine.

Prin-Suffering for blessing focuses on God's grace, and turns boasting away from self-glorification into worship, love, and appreciation for God.

2CO 12:9 And He **has said** to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

In this passage Paul is boasting because this is not **punitive preventative suffering**, but suffering for blessing through which God is glorified.

This is boasting in a good sense, which looks away from Paul and toward the grace provision of God.

It is not boasting to glorify self, but the dynamic mental attitude of the mature believer when going through undeserved suffering.

Again, in 2CO 12:10 "For this reason I find contentment in weaknesses [preventative suffering], in slanders [people testing], in pressures [thought testing], in persecutions [system testing], in stresses [disaster testing] on behalf of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

Whenever we face suffering for blessing, human solutions cannot solve or help; only divine solutions can.

Therefore,

Suffering for blessing causes the believer to be weak so that he has to depend on the divine provision for problem solving.

"on behalf of Christ" parallels Phi 1:29, "For to you it has been given on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake."

**This leads us to Point 15 where we will pick it up on Sunday morning.**

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