

**“The Almighty: Warnings, Difficulties, Discipline, and Perseverance”**

Ruth 1:19-22; Job 1:21-22; 2:10

*“In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other....” (Ecclesiastes 7:14)*

*“Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.... Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.... so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.... but He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness.” (Hebrews 2:1; 3:12; 6:12; 12:10b)*

*“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.... Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? For I am sure that neither death nor life.... will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” (Romans 8:28, 35-39; Philippians 1:6)*

*“God is at times sovereign in spite of us and at times sovereign through us, and in both situations this is for our good.” (John Piper)*

- The Almighty (Shaddai): The God who makes, keeps, and sustains His covenants (Genesis 17:1-14). The God who protects (Genesis 43:14). The God who brings abundance of undeserved blessings (Genesis 49:25). He is the “Overpowerer”, the one who does as He pleases. He sustains, He provides, He nourishes, and protects.

*“Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is Yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all. In Your hand are power and might, and in Your hand it is to make great and give strength to all.”  
(1 Chronicles 29:11-12)*

- **Deuteronomy 8:3-18: “Take care lest you forget the Lord your God....”**
  - True life is found in obedience to God’s Word (Deuteronomy 8:3 & 6).
  - The Lord will discipline His children when they disobey His Word (Deuteronomy 8:5).
  - God had promised the Nation of Israel a prosperous economy if they joyfully obeyed His Word (Deuteronomy 8:8-10).
  - God warned them not to forget Him in their abundance and blessing since it is all from His hand and He is worthy of their praise (Deuteronomy 8:8-18).
    - Wheat and barley were the primary food source for Israel in the promised land (Deuteronomy 8:8). It is estimated that over 60% of their caloric intake was from wheat and barley consumption. Wheat and barley would be planted in the fall and would be harvested in the spring; barley matured faster so it would be harvested first (Ruth 1:22). The Lord graciously set up systems to remind them to “not forget the Lord”

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**Worship:** Rock of Ages (The Modern Post)      All Glory be to Christ (Kings Kaleidoscope)

**Service Times:** Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7; Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

(Deuteronomy 8:11). The feast of unleavened bread would be celebrated with barley (Leviticus 23:9-14). They were not allowed to eat the barley until they brought their offering to God. It was a time of rejoicing to give to the Lord because that meant the Lord had blessed you with provision for food (Deuteronomy 16:14-17; Exodus 23:16-17).

- Ruth 1:19-22

- *“The whole town was stirred....Is this Naomi?”*

- Naomi had left Judah proudly in abundance/blessing and had returned to the Lord in humble poverty. The Lord’s discipline is always for our good (Hebrews 12:11; Job 13:24-26; 1 Samuel 3:18). An affliction rightly handled always makes us draw nearer to God and helps us see God more clearly and makes us more grateful (James 1:2-4; Psalm 119:67 & 75).
- Naomi’s afflictions reminded her of these great realities:
  - Yahweh is a God who deals kindly with His people (Ruth 1:8).
  - Yahweh is sovereign over all provisions (Ruth 1:9).
  - Yahweh is a God who disciplines His people (Ruth 1:13).
  - Yahweh is a saving God (Ruth 1:16).
  - Yahweh is God of calamity and bitterness and God of blessing and abundance (Ruth 1:1,6, 20-21).