

his first reaction to the wave of shocks. He humbled himself in the most lowly things he could physically do—by shaving his head, tearing his clothing, and falling on his face before God....Job didn't quote anyone else. He couldn't look up an appropriate verse. Job...communi-cated to God his honest thoughts and reactions to all the terrible things that had happened. He said, **Naked came I from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return: the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord** (Job 1:21). Job... didn't know what we know as we read the account, because the curtain had not been pulled back for him...but he trusted God without seeing....

What a gigantic task [Job] had in the battle in the heavenlies....No amount of imagination could bring Job to recognize a fraction of what victory was going to flow forth from his sitting in the ashes...covered with boils, full of all the varieties of pain which a person can have—physical pain, emotional pain at tragic loss, the sorrow of having one's children all die at once, psychologi-cal pain at the isolation from the understanding of wife or friends, the loneliness of being misunderstood, as well as the misery of having a lifetime of success turn into total loss within hours. Yet the victory which was being won by Job in the midst of all that—unseen by him—was a reality in the ongoing battle in the heavenlies. The stream of victories which have flowed forth from Job's exam-ple—and from God's explanation as He pulled the curtain aside for the writer—is something it will take us eons of time to discover.

—Edith Schaeffer in *Affliction* (1978)



As for me,

**I would seek God
and to God I would
commit my cause.**

Job 5:8

We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

Cover art: Christ Consoled by the Angel on the Mount of Olives by Rembrandt (c. 1656). Pen and bistre.

Old Orchard Church

November 20, 2011 — 10:15 to 11:50 a.m.

**Do not be afraid or discouraged
because of this vast army.
For the battle is not yours,
but God's.**

—2 Chronicles 20:15—

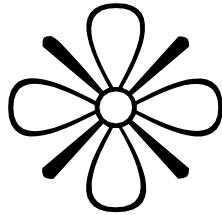
Celebrating Jesus Christ, Our Captain in Spiritual Warfare

**Blessed be our Lord Jesus Christ
Who has defeated our Ancient Foe,
And now trains our hands for war.**

**Our arms can bend a bronze bow,
And he gladly gives us daily a shield for victory,
That we may endure every attack.**

**The Lord's right hand sustains us,
He stoops down to make us great!
The Lord arms me with strength for battle;
God will crush my Enemy, Satan of old, under my feet.**

**The Lord lives, Praise be to my Rock!
Let God my Savior be exalted.**



Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson: Zechariah 3:1-10

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 6:10-18

Sermon

“By Demonstration: God as He Is, and a Kingdom as It Is Coming”

(Part 6, final sermon)

Hebrews 12 and 13:1-9

Ron Lutjens, pastor, preaching

The Unseen Battle

If we view history as a tapestry, Job's life would be one of the key threads in bringing out the true perspective of the rest. Job did not realize what an important thing he was doing as he sat in the ashes covered with boils....Job was a pioneer in a certain area of the battles between God and Satan, as far as we know from the Bible....

In the first chapter of Job, the curtain is pulled back for us, to reveal what was going on in the heavenlies. We are told that Satan appeared before God. This enemy—the adversary—stood there as a challenge before God, saying that he had been **going to and fro in the earth**. (In 1 Peter 5:8, we are warned that this is the devil's *constant* occupation [that is, walking up and down throughout the earth to see what harm he can do]: **Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.**) God spoke to Satan and asked whether he had noticed Job and that there was nobody else like him who feared God and hated evil....Here was someone who evidently brought joy to the Lord, a man...dear to Him....Job's life and the inner reality of his love and worship obviously mattered to God. This is an exciting portion of the glimpse we are given of this conversation. Job was a person to the infinite, personal Living God, and he meant enough to God to be made a part of His challenge to Satan. The fact that there existed a man who really put God first in his life was a victory for God in the continual challenge by Satan....What an exciting revelation this is to us! We matter, as individuals, to the Living God. However—here is a sober warning—we also matter to Satan!

Conversation like this also goes on about *us*. Satan's answer was that Job didn't really love God, but only the things which God had given him. “You have protected him from difficulties,” was Satan's accusation, “so that he has a hedge of protection around him....” He really had everything: material affluence, health, a family that surrounded him, and the peace in which to go on accumulating these good things. Satan's...next challenge was this: “Just spoil everything he has, and he will curse You to Your face.” A dare to God! God's answer in this portion of the battle of the heavenlies was: “The hedge is removed, Satan, and you can put forth your hand and touch the things Job has. But you can't touch Job him-self.” So Satan left the presence of God and went to do the worst he could imagine to everything Job had.

The deluge of calamity that fell upon Job was pretty complete....Within minutes, everything which Job had to bring him rejoicing in his day-by-day work and life had been wiped out....

[But] Job's reaction was a terrific victory for God in this battle in the heavenlies....Job truly loved and trusted God and bowed before Him in worship as

(Continued on the back)