

All Alone? by Leland Ping

Many people are familiar with the story of Job. He was a very righteous man whom the Lord allowed Satan to attack in virtually every way. In spite of all that he endured, Job stayed strong in the Lord and showed us an example of what righteous living is all about, especially when it's very hard to remain so faithful. A little over halfway through the lengthy account of Job and his suffering, the righteous man of faith made the following interesting statement:

"Oh, that I were as in months past, as in the days when God watched over me" (Job 29:2).

Are there times when you feel like God isn't watching over you and you feel all alone? Times when you feel like the God who cared for you in the past days is no longer there? Of course! We're human beings who, like Job, are allowed to go through all sorts of troubles that try us.

But what we must do is be able (or try hard) to see the end of the picture. Again, familiarity with the rest of the book of Job is helpful when Job is restored to the place he'd once inhabited. The trials we face now are temporary. In truth, the feeling that God has forsaken us or forgotten about us is just that – a feeling. Instead, we can take full confidence in the fact that the Lord never leaves His children. Does He allow us to suffer? Sure, but for a purpose of building us up into the kinds of men and women He wants us to be and knows we can be.

In truth, the Lord was always with Job and He will always be with us. On that, we can rest assured and be ever-confident.

(editors note; another aspect of Job's lonely feelings that might be overlooked is the fact that while he was feeling abandoned and forsaken, in actuality, he was the topic of conversation in heaven. Of all the things happening in the world at those moments the Lord was choosing to talk about Job. Not only that, but in the discussion about Job the Lord was TAKING HIS SIDE. What would Job have thought if he could have known that in discussing Job's faithful endurance with Satan, the Lord would be defending Job and sticking up for him, even challenging the Devil concerning him. The next time you feel lonely, consider that YOU might be the topic of conversation. Now what would you have said about you? Mac)