

ENDURING TRIALS

A Daily Devotional Study Guide



**THE BOOK
OF JOB**

WEEK 5

“Something Beyond This Life”

Study: Job 21:1-34

Reading: Hebrews 11:9-16

Memory: Matthew 5:35

One thing that I have found very fascinating on my travels to poorer countries is that there are many places where there will be a beautiful house and next door to there will be a shack. This is something that I haven't seen much in America or many of the first world countries I have traveled to. Most of the time in first world countries, you have financial divisions separated in neighborhoods. This is not the case in the poorer countries I have been to. Though I have seen this several times, I am still amazed when I see it because it simply looks out of place. Yet, this is a reminder to us that some people are able to gain wealth in this life and others struggle to get by.

Today, we will read how spirituality doesn't determine earthly wealth. There are rich and poor Christians and there are rich and poor unbelievers. A person's character can't be judged by his earthly success.

What Does the Bible Say?

One of the greatest things that a person who is suffering needs is a listening ear. Job desired that his friends listen to him so that he could express what he thought and felt. He sarcastically added that after he finished speaking, then they could continue to mock him for the struggles and trials he was going through. Job once again wanted to express how he was feeling through this difficulty and trial that had come his way. People who saw his physical appearance were appalled at what he looked like. He himself was in great pain and his body was doing crazy things in reaction to the great physical and emotional pain (vs 1-6).

While he was suffering all this, those who were wicked were prospering all around him. Their estates prospered and their flocks increased. Their children were evil, and yet they partied and had a great time without any consequences. They lived in relative success and then died without having to face severe judgment for their actions. Their earthly success drove them further and further away from God to the point where they reject God completely because they thought they

themselves were something. Job's point was that the wicked do prosper on this earth — A point that is still true today (vs 7-16).

Job refuted some of the things that his friends said by describing how God doesn't always destroy those who live wickedly. In fact, Job knew of very few people who God had poured out His wrath upon as a result of their sin. Job had observed that there were wicked people and righteous people who both prospered greatly and then died, and there were wicked people and righteous people who lived a life of poverty and died (vs 17-26).

Job closed this portion of his speaking by telling his friends that they had been no help to him because they were wrong. Even a traveler who was passing by could testify of the fact that those who were wicked prosper on this earth. His friends stated that this wasn't so, but they had no ground to stand on. Job told them that they had no right confronting him and declaring him wicked because they were wrong (vs 27-34).

How Does this Apply to Me?

It is easy to think that when you choose to follow Christ, everything will go well for you and things will go just like you want them to. Though you may think that, the Bible is full of examples where the opposite happens. There are many examples in Scripture where the wicked prosper and those who do what is right suffer. This is why it is so vital for you as a believer to realize that you are not of this world. You need to understand that you are a pilgrim and a stranger who is just passing through this earthly life and that your real home is beyond this life. Let today's study be a reminder to you about the importance of living for eternity.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for giving you an eternal hope.*
- * *Ask God to show you today how He wants you to live for eternity.*
- * *Praise God because He is an eternal God.*

Thought for the day

What did Job ask his friends to do (vs 2)?

Why is listening such a vital part of an understanding?

What did Job say his friends could continue to do after they listened to him (vs 3)?

What did Job ask in verse 4?

How did people respond when they saw Job?

What does verse 7 reveal about wicked men?

What are many wicked men able to see (vs 8)?

What point was Job making in verses 9-13?

What is their attitude towards God (vs 14)?

How is God often viewed (vs 15)?

What did Job say about the prosperity of the wicked (vs 16)?

What was the point of the question Job asked in verse 17?

What had Job's friends declared about the wicked (vs 19-21)?

What did Job say about the death of one person over another (vs 22-26)?

What point was he making?

What did Job declare about those who live apart from God (vs 29-30)?

What had Job seen happen to evil men (vs 31-33)?

What question did Job ask them in verse 34?

What do you think was the purpose of this chapter?

“Seeking After Us”

Study: Job 22:1-30

Reading: I John 4:1-13

Memory: Matthew 5:35

Shortly after I first met the woman who would eventually become my wife, I knew she was someone I wanted to pursue a relationship with. Though there were times that I pursued too hard at first, she was too wonderful for me to let her go. I didn't just want a distant relationship with her, but I wanted a close intimate relationship that we could share together. I haven't regretted that choice one bit, but am constantly thrilled with the love that we share for each other.

Today, we are going to see how God isn't a distant God, but a God who pursues us and wants to have a relationship with us.

What Does the Bible Say?

The tension among the group was rising as the contradictions between Job and his friends became greater. This is evident in the final speech of Eliphaz as he began to try to bring Job to his knees by declaring how unrighteous he was. Eliphaz started his speech by declaring how God didn't really care about individuals. According to him, God didn't care if Job was righteous or unrighteous because God was an insensitive, impersonal God who dealt fairly, handing out punishment for evil and rewarding people for righteousness. He basically told Job that God was not a personal God (vs 1-4).

Eliphaz then hurled many accusations at Job, accusing him of things that he wasn't guilty of. He accused Job of taking advantage of those who owed him money or animals by wrongfully taking more than he Elphaz declared that Job did not help to feed the poor even though he had great wealth. Eliphaz said that Job only let the wealthy and the rich who could help him, live in his land, but would make those less fortunate move on. This neglect of the poor and desire to be wealthier is what caused all this tragedy to come upon the life of Job. According to Eliphaz, that was why Job was suffering (vs 5-11).

Job was then accused of thinking that God was too far away to punish him or hurt him for his evil. Again, Eliphaz appealed to history and

described how the people in the past who thought God couldn't see what they did found out the hard way. God brought judgment on those who thought this way and those who are righteous rejoiced in the fact that God had hurt the wicked. This must have deeply cut Job because Eliphaz was saying that he was righteous and he would rejoice in the fact that God brought someone as evil as Job to judgement (vs 12-20).

The message that Eliphaz was giving to Job was to repent and turn back to God. Eliphaz promised Job that if he turned back to God that God would restore his wealth and remove his hand of oppression. God would also restore Job to a position of prominence and a position of favor before Him, but all this was dependent upon Job and his willingness to repent and turn back to God (vs 21-30).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you view God as a God who is in the distance, or do you view Him as a God whose presence is with you right now. Though the believers in the Old Testament didn't have the Holy Spirit indwelling inside of them, God's presence was very near to them. From the description of Job at the beginning of the book, we know that Job had spent much personal time with God and he knew that God was more than just a God who was distant. Eliphaz was completely wrong in his view of God when he tried to paint God as one who doesn't care about us as individuals. There are many places in the Scripture where God describes His great love for us and it is far from an impersonal love. It is an intimate love. In fact, God seeks after us, and pursues us wanting to have a relationship with us. You and I have a wonderful, personal God.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Thank God for seeking after you.
- * Ask God to help you develop a right view of Him.
- * Praise God because He is love.

Thought for the day

What point do you think Eliphaz was making in verses 2-3?

Why did Eliphaz say that God brought judgement to Job (vs 4-5)?

What was Job accused of in verse 6?

What was Job accused of in verse 7?

Who did Job favor and who did he reject according to Eliphaz (vs 8-9)?

What happened to Job as a result of his evil (vs 10-11)?

What did Eliphaz say Job thought about the judgement of God (vs 12-14)?

What question did Eliphaz ask in verse 15?

What did Eliphaz say happens to wicked men (vs 16)?

What did Eliphaz say was in the heart of Job (vs 17)?

What do you think Eliphaz meant in verse 18?

What do the righteous men observe (vs 19-20)?

What did Eliphaz encourage Job to do (vs 21-22)?

What did Eliphaz say would happen (vs 23)?

What do you think verses 24-25 meant?

What would happen if Job repented (vs 26)?

What did Eliphaz promise (vs 27)? Was this true? Explain.

What would happen if Job did what was right (vs 28)?

What did Eliphaz want Job to realize (vs 29-30)?

“Always Watching”

Study: Job 23:1-17

Reading: --

Memory: Matthew 5:35

Technology is something that I have always been interested in. Things that were in science fiction movies a handful of years ago have now become reality and are part of our everyday lives. One of the things I enjoy most in the technological era is the ability to see the people you are talking with. I still am in awe of the fact that we can talk face to face with friends or relatives who are halfway around the world.

Though the thought of that amazes me, it thrills me even more when I think about the fact that God is watching us. His watch over us isn't limited to technical marvels, but He sees us all the time. What a comforting and assuring fact to know that God is always there, always watching and caring for us. We can rest assured that He will never abandon us.

What Does the Bible Say?

Though Eliphaz had just finished describing God as an impersonal judge, Job knew otherwise. Job had walked with God for years and had developed an intimate relationship with Him. Though Job knew God was a personal and loving God, He didn't sense and feel the presence of God now as he had before. Job longed to stand before the judgement seat of God to argue the case for his innocence. There was no doubt in Job's mind that God would hear his case and as a result would declare him innocent of all the charges that were laid against him. Since Job was an upright man, he was certain that God wouldn't argue against him, but that God would pay attention to him, and as a result of his defense, God would side with him (vs 1-7).

Though Job knew the character of God and understood that God was always there, we see that he was human just as you and I are human. He was unable to fully comprehend why God had seemed to leave him. He was battling with his emotions that had been brought about by all the circumstances in life. Though he knew that God would not abandon him, the choice to believe in the truth over emotions and feelings was just as

difficult back then as it is today (vs 8-9).

While wrestling with his feelings he declared that God did know exactly what was going on in his life and that God was allowing Job to be put to the test to help purify him and make him a more usable servant. Job hadn't turned from God and was determined to keep the course, standing strong in faith even though circumstances seemed to dictate otherwise (vs 10-12).

Job understood full well that there was nothing that he in his flesh could do to change the plans of the Lord and that God had a plan for him. It was this knowledge that enabled him to stand firm in trusting God, though God allowed great pain and affliction to come into his life. He was determined not to let the hard difficult circumstances in life deter him from living as he knew God wanted him to live (vs 13-17)

How Does this Apply to Me?

Does the truth that you know and have learned about God win out over what you feel when things don't go the way that you want them to? When you face trials and difficulties do you abandon God because you feel abandoned by Him or do you trust that He is there though you can't seem to be able to feel His presence. God wants you to rest assured of the fact that He is there and will always be there. God never abandoned Job for one second, but had been closely monitoring everything that had been going on in his life. This should be a great comfort to you as a believer. God is closely and carefully monitoring all the things that are happening in your life and the lives of those around you. Sometimes He allows great trials and difficulties to strengthen you and purify you to make you a greater servant for Him. When you go through trials and difficulties you can rest assured that God is there.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Thank God because He always cares for you and will never abandon you.*

Thought for the day

What did Job say about his complaint (vs 2)?

What did Job wish he could do (vs 3)?

What would Job do if he could find God (vs 4)?

What was Job convinced God would do (vs 5-6)?

What was Job confident of (vs 7)?

What was Job struggling with (vs 8-9)?

Why do you think Job felt abandoned by God?

Have you ever experienced a time in your life where you have felt abandoned by God? Explain.

What did Job declare about God (vs 10)?

Why is this a powerful verse for you to cling to when you are going through difficult times?

What had Job done for God (vs 11)?

What did Job treasure (vs 12)? Why was that important?

What did Job declare about God (vs 13)?

What will God complete (vs 14)?

What did Job feel about God (vs 15)? Why do you think he felt this way?

What did Job say God had done for him (vs 16)?

What did Job feel was everywhere (vs 17)?

Have you ever felt this way? Explain.

How can you trust that God is there even in the darkest of times?

“Trusting God”

Study: Job 24:1-25

Reading: Hebrews 11:32-40

Memory: Matthew 5:35

What Does the Bible Say?

One of the main contentions that Job’s friends had against him was that God always chooses to punish those who are evil and always allows those who are doing what is right to prosper. Though Job clearly knew that this wasn’t right thinking, his friends insisted on it. To argue his case and declare that the Lord does allow the wicked to prosper, he took some time to describe what was going on everyday around them (vs 1).

Job began this list of what evil men do by describing how some men would move landmarks. Landmarks would be used to define property lines and sometimes they could be moved, allowing a person to gain more property. This would be similar to poles driven in the ground today that divide people’s property. A dishonest man could move the landmark little by little without anyone noticing, gaining several acres of land over time. This type of person often did all he could to steal the animals that stray from other peoples’ flocks and made them his own (vs 2).

There were men all around in Job’s day who treated the poor very dishonestly and with great disrespect. There were men who had so much wealth that they didn’t know what to do with it all, yet the poor people all around them were starving and had very little clothing. The rich men allowed the poor to go without houses and many of the basic needs of life by oppressing them and taking everything they had. They made the poor men do hard work and barely gave them enough to eat and drink. Some of these men would even take newborn children from the poor so that they could raise the children to be their servants (vs 3-12).

There were others that would sneak around at night stealing and committing terrible acts of rape and murder. They sought only what was best for them and cared nothing about the good and well-being of others. They would do all these things and nothing evil would happen to them (vs 13-17).

Job repeated some of the words that his friends used to describe God’s judgement on those who were wicked. His friends said that terrible things would happen to those who turn from God, but Job had

just described how many people weren’t followers of God, but had lived for years with great earthly success. Wicked people weren’t soon and quickly forgotten as his friends had stated, but were often looked to as heroes and respected for their great wealth (vs 18-20).

Though these men do all these evil things, it seemed that God would give them help when they were in difficult circumstances and that he would cause them to prosper even when they were doing evil. Though on earth they are exalted and prosper, their eternal status will not have the same results. Those who lived without that relationship with God would be added to the number of those, poor or rich, who rejected God and trusted in themselves. Job knew this to be true and could probably start naming many names if he had to. He wanted his friends to know that the God that they described was not the God that he knew.

How Does this Apply to Me?

Have you ever become discouraged when you see someone else being successful by doing things the wrong way, while you are failing yet doing it the right way? If so, you are not alone. Often the right way, the way that God wants, isn’t always visibly successful in the eyes of men. As a believer you are not on this earth to please men, but to please God. This is why the need for faith is so important because you can’t see what God sees and knows. You have to choose to trust Him over your feelings and rely upon Him to take care of things. Trust that He will do what is right and best of you. You may not feel the presence of God during this time and you might not think that He is not being fair to you, but these thoughts will often lead to doubt which in turn could lead to sin. Choose today to trust God no matter what comes your way in life.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for being a God who you can trust.*
- * *Ask God to help you to trust Him in the good times and the bad.*
- * *Praise God because He knows everything that goes on around you.*

Thought for the day

What question did Job ask in verse 1?

What do you think he meant with this question?

What did he say some people did (vs 2)?

What did some wicked people do (vs 3)?

What did rich men make poor men do (vs 4-5)?

What did Job describe about the plight of poor people (vs 6-8)?

What would they do to the children of the poor (vs 9)?

What would the poor of the world experience (vs 10-11)?

What would God not do to the rich, wicked men even though the poor were treated this way (vs 12)?

What do many on earth rebel against (vs 13)?

What do verses 14-15 picture?

What do thieves do (vs 16-17)?

What did Job's friends say happen to wicked people (vs 18-20)?

What did Job say happened to wicked men (vs 22)?

Why do you think Job thought that God sometimes supported the wicked men (vs 23)?

What did Job realize would happen to these wicked men (vs 24)?

How was Job convinced about what he was saying?

What point do you think Job was trying to make in this chapter?

“The Magnificence of God”

Study: Job 25:1-26:16

Reading: Psalm 19:1-6

Memory: Matthew 5:35

At the Christian school where I attended all of my school years, we had a teacher that caused fear in the hearts of many young children. This teacher wasn't real big or strong, but he was strict and somewhat impersonal. In the elementary years, the only time many of us would see him is when he was punishing us for something. When we first had him in junior high as a teacher, he never let us get away with anything, but as the years progressed, we began to get to know him personally. By the time our senior year came around, we saw through the hard exterior that terrified elementary students, and developed a great respect and love for this teacher. By our senior year, he was the favorite teacher for me and many of my classmates.

Today, we are going to see how God might appear to be mean and strict, but as we get to know Him, His love comes shining through.

What Does the Bible Say?

Bildad spoke up once again repeating a theme that he had already talked about. He wanted to remind Job that God was an impersonal, majestic God who held dominion over the earth and did as He pleased. God's control was not only over the earth, but over a great host of angelic beings who receive their great power from Him. There was no way that any man could be right and pure before God as Job had claimed. Even the moon just reflects the light of the sun and the stars are quite dim in the heavens. They are nothing compared to the brightness and glory of God. In the sight of God, man is like a maggot and a worm that isn't worthy of a relationship with Him.

Once again, Bildad was half correct in what he was saying, but a half truth is still a lie. God is a majestic, powerful God who is far greater than men and we are all sinners before Him. What Bildad failed to realize was the great mercy of God which He extends to all men and God pours this mercy out on those who follow Him. God was and is a personal God who wants a relationship with all men (vs 1-6)

Job responded to this by asking Bildad and the others how they were helping him? All they could think about was what happens to evil men, but Job didn't need that. When Job was defeated and hurt, they just hurt him more rather than providing comfort and encouragement. They were so concerned about what they saw in the outward appearance of Job that they didn't realize how much he was hurting on the inside (vs 1-4).

Job didn't need their help in understanding who God was because Job knew more about God than they did. He understood the supremacy and majesty of God in a greater way than most men ever will. In verses 5-6, Job described how God knew about those who had died without trusting in Him and he saw their eternal torment. In verses 7-9, Job described God's magnificent power over the universe in which we live. He told how God was in control of the placement of the earth and the weather patterns that surround the earth. He also understood how God controlled the changes of the moon which magnificently cycles on a regular basis.

In verses 10-14, Job described how God is God over the earth. He put the mountains in place which appear as pillars which hold up the sky. He causes the sea to rage and then calms it down again. He causes the winds to rise up and then slows them to a stand still. These things were just a small description of God. Even the slightest whisper of God could be heard by men because of His greatness, and much more can be heard when he raises his voice. (Job is not referring to actual words, but noises brought about around the earth).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Once again we are confronted with our view of God. Do you view God like Bildad did as a distant, powerful, impersonal God who had nothing to do with the affairs of men except to judge and reward them, or do you view God as a God of love and care who wants you to walk with Him? The majesty and power of God can be a negative thing or a positive thing depending on how you view Him. To me, it thrills me to hear about my powerful, almighty God. It is this power that strengthens me during difficult times and gives me the ability to do great and mighty things for Him. On the other hand, those who view Him as a judgmental, uncaring God will often not like the majesty and power of God because they are fearing constant judgment from Him. Take time today, to reflect on His majesty and power and let those thoughts thrill you as you grow in your relationship with Him.

What did Bildad say about God (vs 2)? Was he correct? Explain.

What do you think the questions in verse 3 meant?

What question did Bildad ask in verse 4? Why do you think he asked this?

How did Bildad describe man (vs 6)?

Do you think this is a proper description of man?

Chapter 26

What did Job reveal about the way his friends had helped him (vs 2)?

What did Job mockingly say about his friends' wisdom (vs 3)?

What do you think Job was asking in verse 4?

****He appears to be mocking them, asking them where their great wisdom came from.*

What do you think Job meant in verses 5-6?

What does God do (vs 7)?

How do the clouds reveal the glory of God (vs 8)?

What did God create (vs 10)?

What does God have the power to do (vs 11)?

What does God have power over (vs 12)?

What point do you think verse 13 meant to get across?

What did Job point out about the things he mentioned (vs 14)?

What point was Job making (vs 14)?

“The Right Measurement”

Study: Job 27:1-23

Reading: Luke 12:13-21

Memory: Matthew 5:35

Several years ago, I saw a digital tape measure on clearance and I couldn't resist, so I bought it. I was very excited to use it when we were building some rooms in our basement, but I soon found out that it wasn't as accurate as I hoped it would be. Much of it depended on the angle that it was used at, and no matter how straight I tried to hold it, I didn't always get the same reading. The readings were normally close to each other, but when I needed an exact measurement, I pulled out the trusty manual tape measure which would give me a completely accurate assessment.

Today, we are going to see how important it is to have the right view of God in our spiritual lives. We need to make sure we are using the proper measuring tool so that we get an accurate assessment of what this life is truly about.

What Does the Bible Say?

Though Job had faced great trials and tests, often questioning where God was in the whole situation, Job was not going to waver on his position of living in righteousness. Job had determined many years before that he was going to follow after righteous living no matter what came his way. All of the things that happened to Job had put that thought and decision to the test, yet Job knew he had been righteous and desired to continue to live in a position of righteousness (vs 1-6).

One of the reasons that Job chose not to waver from his stance was because he had an understanding that there was more to this life than just and earthly existence. He knew that all men would stand before God and give an account of their lives to Him. He knew that the unrighteous had no hope and that they had no one to call on when they faced the difficulties in life. Job was deeply saddened and concerned that his friends didn't understand this. He wanted those listening to have their view of God changed so they could understand the truth the way God wanted it understood (vs 7-12).

Job looked forward to what he had in the future beyond this life, but wanted to remind his friends that the unrighteous had nothing to look to. When the unrighteous person is blessed with many kids, it sets him up for great disappointment as they turn from him or if they are killed. Though they might experience short success, they will face the same difficulties of everyone else, yet without hope. The unrighteous may be able to pile up great wealth and take advantage of that wealth, but someday they will no longer be able to use that wealth. Someday, that wealth will be divided, often it will be used by God to reward the righteous. Though it may appear that the unrighteous person is successful, inside they are full of emptiness and have no hope (vs 13-23).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you find yourself equating earthly success with spiritual success? Though you probably know that they aren't equal, our natural minds wants us to think that. We all want to think that we will be blessed for doing what is right, but Scripture clearly indicates that those blessings are often disguised in heartaches. It is easy to attempt to rate success by the things that you see on the outside. This could apply to things like church growth or a person's financial position in life. From a young age, we are often taught to evaluate much in life by outward results, but faith can't fall in the same category as everything else. A successful business is determined by whether or not it is making a profit, but a successful church or spiritual life can't be compared by that measure. The measure of true godly success can be measured by your willingness to be faithfully obedient to God regardless of the outcome that He brings your way. It is following the example of Job and determining to stand up for righteousness no matter what. This is true success and it may never be rewarded on this earth in a tangible way, but it is being recorded in heaven.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for giving you something to live for.*
- * *Ask God to help you continue your resolve to live for Him.*

Thought for the day

What did Job say God had done (vs 2)?

What did Job vow (vs 3-4)?

Why do you think he vowed this even though he felt at times like God had abandoned him?

What would Job not concede (vs 5)?

What did Job say about his life (vs 6)?

Why do you think he felt he needed to declare this?

What did Job ask to be done to his enemies (vs 7)?

What did verse 8 declare about the end of life?

What will God not do for the ungodly (vs 9)?

What great advantage do believers have (vs 10)?

What did Job want to share with others (vs 11)?

What did Job say his friends had done (vs 12)?

What happens to the wicked (vs 13-15)?

What does God do at times with the wealth of the wicked (vs 16-17)?

What do verses 18-19 reveal about wealth?

What can God do to the ungodly man (vs 20)?

What imagery is presented in verses 21-22?

What other problems does an ungodly man face (vs 23-24)?

What point do you think Job was making in this chapter?

MEMORY VERSES

Matthew 5:20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. 23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. 26 Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. 27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. 31 "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' 32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. 33 "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' 34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 And do not say, 'By the earth!' because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, 'By Jerusalem!' for Jerusalem is the city of the great King.