

3 Things God Provides

Introduction: A heartless and cold world

- America experiencing history
- COVID bringing historical 4% unemployment to 10% same as Great Recession
- People clamoring for government aid, some looting
- On the other hand record breaking sales in outdoor goods and especially electronics to curb boredom
- Others looking for next stimulus check
- People suffering while others casually spending like nothing is going on
- Crisis usually means people save for disaster and even help each other
- Instead people suffering with lost jobs and COVID and apathy from those prospering
- When people look to government etc. people do evil
- Nothing more important than today's topic: God provides
- Not government, not job, God alone provides

Transition: Introducing outline

- Today, 3 things God provides from historical events in the book of Job
- Mailman from post office, kuya merbin knocking
- Package delivery, sender: Jesus Christ 777 Heaven's Lane
- What's inside?

T.S.: The first is an unlikely one. A surprise.

- a. The necessity to recap who Job is
 - i. Job's wealth = Arabian kings
 - ii. Job's large family – 10 kids
 - iii. Job's righteousness – loved and feared God, prayed and offered burnt offerings for his children every day
 - iv. Satan's reporting of his rapid search 'to and fro' to destroy believers to God
 - v. God mentions Job
 - vi. Satan claims Job will curse God upon taking away his wealth and family
 - vii. God allows Satan to do this but with a limit – not allowed to touch Job
 - viii. Satan destroys Job's wealth and family
 - ix. The persistence of Job's worship amongst disaster 'Yahweh gave and Yahweh has taken away. Blessed be the name of Yahweh.'
 - x. Satan approaches God again to report his search of believers to destroy
 - xi. God rebukes Satan as he was wrong – Job still worships God
 - xii. Satan's counter- Job still has health
 - xiii. God allows Satan to touch Job's health – but not his life
 - xiv. Satan inflicts Job with sores
 - xv. Job persists in worshipping God despite the destruction of his health
- b. Text: Job 2:9-10

Transition: From this text, we see the first thing that God provides. And this may be a bit surprising.

1. God provides trials
 - a. The strange idea that God provides trials – doesn't God only provide physical and spiritual blessings?
 - b. Where exactly does it say here that God provides trials?
 - c. Proof: text analysis
 - i. Sinful response – tragic situation for Job's wife
 1. 'Believe in God? Curse God and die.'
 - ii. Job's gentle rebuke
 1. 'You speak as the foolish women'
 - iii. Job's profound statement
 1. 'Accept good from God and not adversity?'
 - iv. The sinlessness of Job's statement
 1. 'Job did not sin with his lips'
 - d. Observation of text
 - i. Job says adversity from God not Satan
 - ii. The Hebrew word 'ra' translation
 1. tree of good and evil
 2. ESV- evil, NIV- trouble, NAS- adversity
 3. No doubt that Job say God provides trials
 4. ESV makes us think deeper about God allowing evil
 - e. Major theme of Job: Why is there suffering in this world?
 - i. Established truth: Job said God provides trials
 - ii. Logically: Is God is sovereign and has the ultimate decision is God evil for allowing suffering?
 - f. Text Gen 50:20
 - i. Joseph enslaved by brothers, wanted to kill him
 - ii. Joseph reunited, ask for forgiveness Joseph says, 'you meant it for evil, God meant it for good'
 - iii. Who harmed Job: Chaldeans/Sabeans, Satan? Answer: All of them
 - iv. Evil intent: chaldeans- thieves and muderers, Satan- humiliate God by turning Job on God
 - v. Reminder: God is the one who allowed Satan to take away Job's possessions/family in the first place
 - vi. God's purpose of suffering/trials: God allowed it for Job's good
 - vii. 3 ways God uses trials/suffering for good:
 1. God allows trials to show you your faith is real (1 Peter 1:6-7) (how would you know your faith is real unless it was tested?)
 2. God allows trials to strengthen your faith (James 1:1-4)
 3. God allows trials for your good (Romans 8:28)
 - viii. So God uses trials for a good purpose. Trials have meaning
 - g. Illustration: YouTube prank
 - i. Dog disguised as lion and fake safari man
 - ii. Funny for the us, the viewer, horrifying for those getting prank

- iii. Better prank: Pastor Rolly sermon intro
- iv. Huge weight off shoulder, smile and laughter
- h. Application
 - i. A matter of perspective
 - ii. In a trial all we see is the trial and the pain and the ones causing it
 - iii. When we realize God is the one allowing it, testing us, strengthens us, for our overall good
 - iv. We can relax, smile even laugh
 - v. Text: 2 Samuel 16:11-12: David being Cursed
 - 1. David recognized God allowing him to be cursed and have stones thrown
 - 2. Allowed David to move on
 - vi. Recognize trials come from God like David and Job
 - vii. Ask yourself, "Who caused COVID? Was it China? Was it Satan? Was it God?"
 - viii. Don't know for certain, but certain God allowed COVID
 - ix. God's good use of COVID:
 - 1. Bring non-Christians to humility and Christ
 - 2. Bring Christians to focus on him
 - 3. Test us, strengthen us, for our good
 - 4. We can smile and laugh when we see God as the one providing the trial
 - x. Remember those not in trial, (trials are coming like it or not, James) remember God provides trial and uses it for good

T.S.: Moving on to #2

- 2. God provides our physical needs
 - a. Proof: Job 42:10-17
 - b. Miraculous restoration and doubling of Job's wealth
 - c. Job = Bill Gates
 - d. Illustration: Jeff Bezos
 - i. Imagine: Worth \$185 billion but loses everything:
 - 1. Luxury cars, mansions, private jets, Amazon
 - ii. Recovers and doubles wealth to \$370 billion
 - 1. Creating a company double the value of Amazon
 - iii. Never been done before, only Job
 - e. Miraculous restoration of amount of children
 - i. 20 kids
 - ii. Filipinos only 7-12 kids
 - f. Long age: 140
 - i. Moses only 120
 - ii. Seeing 4 Generations: Traditionalists, baby boomer, gen X, millennial
 - iii. That's 60 years of offspring
 - g. God restored Job = understatement. God restored Job to new heights never seen before

- h. Application: If God can restore Job, you think God can't provide you with job/opportunity?
 - i. Text: Matt 6:25-26: God takes care of animals
 - 1. Jesus says don't worry, God promises to provide our needs
 - 2. God provide for animal, what about more valuable image of God?
 - ii. Trust God he will provide your physical needs
 - iii. Ask ourself 'God my provider or job, bank, current situation?'
 - iv. Easy to forget God when prospering or in poverty
 - v. Prosperous: God can take away everything instantly like Job
 - vi. What do you think of 9/11 person?
 - vii. Only appreciative when we lose what we have?
 - viii. Prospering: Ask God who provides my security? Bank, full closet, full fridge? If God took away shirt on back and wife and kids would I still love God?
 - ix. Look to God as provider nothing else!

Transition

- 3. God provides worship
 - a. Events before God restored Job's wealth:
 - i. Most important before restoring goods, God restored worship
 - ii. The debate between Job and his friends: sin vs. no sin
 - iii. Scripture says Job did not sin
 - iv. Yet Job began to question God: why? Where are you?
 - b. God responds: Text: Job 38:1-4
 - i. Job who wanted interrogate God ironically ended up being the one interrogated by God
 - ii. 'Who are you to question? Did you create everything? Exist eternally?'
 - iii. God says answer me: Job 40, Job humbled shuts his mouth
 - iv. God doesn't stop there but continues to tell Job of his awesome creative power
 - c. Proof: God provides worship
 - i. Text: Job 42:1-6
 - 1. Job realized God all powerful
 - 2. God never even explained to Job what was happening in haven with Satan
 - 3. Job was in such awe of God's power and presence that he didn't care for an answer; too busy worshipping God
 - 4. God provided Job with worship
 - d. Why worship is important: greatest hunger in the human soul
 - i. Greatest longing in every person to exist
 - ii. Even unbelievers, Allah, Buddha try to worship though falsely
 - iii. Reason: God created people to worship him; that is man's ultimate purpose in life

- iv. When people can't satiate hunger, starvation. When people can't worship, they die.
- v. Why do you think rich suicide? Money, wealth, pleasure cannot replace worship
- vi. Prime example: Ecclesiastes. Life is vanity without worship
- vii. Solomon the author had more wealth and pleasure than anyone and said life without fearing/worshipping God is meaningless
- viii. What if God restored Job's wealth without his worship? Suicide
- ix. God took care of Job's greatest need first
- e. Transition: Didn't Job worship God? (Worship is hard during trial suffering)
 - i. Job worshipped God during his suffering Job 1:20 but Job began to question God's goodness?
 - ii. Worshipping God becomes hard when we suffer
 - iii. Relate to audience: 'Where's God when my brother died? Where's God now that I'm bankrupt? Where's God when I just got diagnosed with cancer?'
 - iv. Job wife said curse God and die
 - v. How can you worship God when you have 2 months to live? How can you worship God when you have COVID?
 - vi. We try to naturally try to avoid making the same mistake: trusting a stranger for help when lost, but robs us
 - vii. 'If worshipping God brings pain then I will stop worshipping God'.
 - viii. Even for Christians who want to continue worshipping during trials it's easy to take eyes off God and eyes on troubles.
 - ix. Prayer, bible reading, but heart feels cold: feel like giving up
- f. Truth: You don't provide worship, God does.
 - i. Proof: Gen 22:7-14: Abraham sacrifice Isaac
 - 1. Abraham knew God would provide worship
 - 2. If God didn't provide = Isaac dead
 - 3. God provided the ram so Abraham can worship God
 - 4. Abraham named the place- Yahweh-jireh
 - ii. What happens when you worship God without God providing?
 - 1. Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Roman Catholic, Jehovah's Witness, Mormon
 - 2. Working/earning way to heaven w/ good works
 - 3. Trying to provide their own worship by providing their good works
 - iii. Counter: John 3:16
 - 1. God provided scripture, prophecies, virgin birth, perfect life, the cross, the blood, the church, Jesus, heaven
 - 2. God gave/provided his son so that whoever believes has their sins wiped away and can approach God and worship
 - iv. John 4:23: Worship in spirit and truth
 - 1. Through Jesus we can finally worship God not in mere location, but in spirit/truth
 - v. No Jesus, no salvation: John 14:6

1. God provides worship not us. Not our actions or deeds. It's the Father giving us the son.
2. Unless you accept the Father's provision of his son Jesus you cannot come to God.
3. GOSPEL

Transition: So there are two ways to apply the knowing of God providing worship.

- vi. Application: 2 ways to apply
 1. Approach bible attitude worship
 - a. God did not come to Job to comfort him with tenderness
 - b. God comforted Job with his awesome power
 - c. What does dinosaurs have to do with my children dying?
 - d. Seems unrelated but Job connected the dots
 - e. Job realized, 'I know you can do all things no purpose of yours can be thwarted.'
 - f. Summary, 'If God has the power to do everything, he could have stopped me from losing my home and family'
 - g. 'God did not = what God is allowing now is what's best for me'
 - h. 'Keeping my wealth and family in God's plan is not best'
 - i. 'Without this trial I would not grow'
 - j. God always works what's best for us whether we feel his decision is best or not
 - k. Summary: Job connected unrelated topic: God's power and was the best for his situation
 - l. Action: we should do the same
 - m. Instead of always trying to find a bible verse that matches our problem
 - n. Just hear whatever God wants to hear
 - o. Focusing on our own problems instead of coming to bible to worship God's glory
 - p. All scripture is profitable
 - q. Don't treat bible like buffet: no one selects healthy dishes at buffet
 - r. Verses, chapters, books skipped = what you needed to hear, but instead you skipped
 - s. Parent how would you feel? text example: 'after you take out trash, dinner'
 - t. Child ignores the take out trash part
 - u. Let's not miss out. Read entire paragraphs, chapters, books, read through entire bible

2. Trust God to provide worship when heart feeling cold
 - a. Trial: hard to worship God, fire losing heart
 - b. Take heart God will provide worship
 - c. Trust God, wait on God for rekindle the flame/zea;
 - d. Prosperity: easy to forget God and go cold
 - e. Jesus, said rich man hard to go to heaven
 - f. Prosperity: Ask ourselves, 'do I worship God like I used to, pray, read used to?'
 - g. 'Skipping church/fellowship? Is my heart for God not so hot anymore?'
 - h. If yes, ask God to help you reprioritize him so you an worship
 - i. Christian distracted by prosperity, worship shifting from God to his wealth and security

4. Conclusion: When William Carey established his pioneer missionary work in India, he set up a printing house for the printing of Bible portions. But on the evening of March 11, 1812, the printing house was destroyed by fire. Two thousand reams of paper and many volumes of Scripture fed the flames. Fonts of type in thirteen languages and manuscripts in seven languages were consumed, along with Carey's manuscript dictionary of Sanskrit, the work of many years and nearly ready for the press. The next morning Carey walked over to the smoking ruins with a friend. With tears in his eyes he said, "In one short evening, the labors of many years are consumed. How unsearchable are the ways of God! The Lord has laid me low that I may look more simply to him."⁴⁷⁹ But the Lord had good in mind with this disaster. Little did Carey dream that this fire would prove to be the means of making them and their work famous all over Europe and America, as well as India. Men of every Christian school, and men interested only in the literary and secular side of their enterprise, had their active sympathy called out. The mere money loss, at the exchange of the day, was not under ten thousand pounds. In fifty days this was raised in England and Scotland alone, till Andrew Fuller, the leader of his mission in England, declared, "We must stop the contributions."

God provides everything. He provides the trials, he provides the physical needs, and he provides worship. He provides it all. Let's pray.