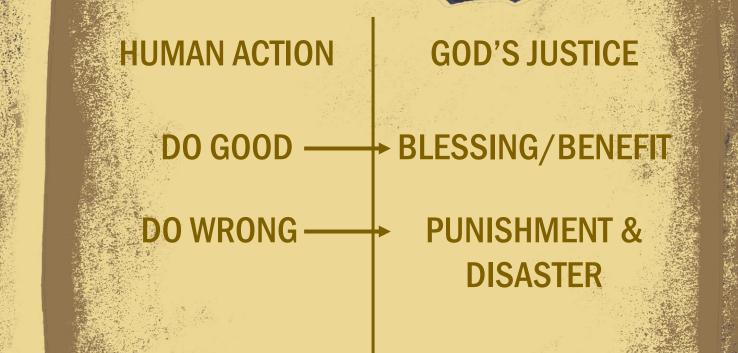
THE BOOK OF

Ch 4-7 A Dried-up Brook of Advice



THE RECIPROCITY PRINCIPLE (A DEEPLY INGRAINED ASSUMPTION)



¹Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied to Job: ² "Will you be patient and let me say a word? For who could keep from speaking out? ³ "In the past you" have encouraged many people; you have strengthened those who were weak. ⁴ Your words have supported those who were falling; you encouraged those with shaky knees. ⁵ But now when trouble strikes, you lose heart. You are terrified when it touches you. ⁶ Doesn't your reverence for God give you confidence? Doesn't your life of integrity give you hope?

⁷ "Stop and think! Do the innocent die? When have the upright been destroyed? ⁸ My experience shows that those who plant trouble and cultivate evil will harvest the same. ⁹ A breath from God destroys them. They vanish in a blast of his anger.

¹ "Cry for help, but will anyone answer you? Which of the angels will help you? ² Surely resentment destroys the fool, and jealousy kills the simple.
 ³ I have seen that fools may be successful for the moment, but then comes sudden disaster.

⁶ But evil does not spring from the soil, and trouble does not sprout from the earth. ⁷ People are born for trouble as readily as sparks fly up from a fire. ⁸ "If I were you, I would go to God and present my case to him. ¹⁷ "But consider the joy of those corrected by God! Do not despise the discipline of the Almighty when you sin. ¹⁸ For though he wounds, he also bandages. He strikes, but his hands also heal. ²⁴ You will know that your home is safe. When you survey your possessions, nothing will be missing.
²⁵ You will have many children; your descendants will be as plentiful as grass! ²⁶ You will go to the grave at a ripe old age, like a sheaf of grain harvested at the proper time! ²⁷ "We have studied life and found all this to be true. Listen to my counsel, and apply it to yourself."

WHEN I SUFFER, DO I ASSUME GOD IS PUNISHING ME TO GET MY ATTENTION?

Hebrews 12

⁵ "My child, don't make light of the LORD 's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you.
⁶ For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child."
... ¹⁰ For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness.

John 9

¹ As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth.
² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³
"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

WHEN I SUFFER, DO I ASSUME GOD IS PUNISHING ME TO GET MY ATTENTION?

¹Then Job spoke again: ² "If my misery could be weighed and my troubles be put on the scales, ³ they would outweigh all the sands of the sea. That is why I spoke impulsively. ⁴ For the Almighty has struck me down with his arrows. Their poison infects my spirit. God's terrors are lined up against me.⁵ Don't I have a right to complain? Don't wild donkeys bray when they find no grass, and oxen bellow when they have no food?

¹⁴ "One should be kind to a fainting friend, but you accuse me without any fear of the Almighty. ¹⁵ My brothers, you have proved as unreliable as a seasonal brook that overflows its banks in the spring ¹⁶ when it is swollen with ice and melting snow. ¹⁷ But when the hot weather arrives, the water disappears. The brook vanishes in the heat.

²¹ You, too, have given no help. You have seen my calamity, and you are afraid. ²² But why? Have I ever asked you for a gift? Have I begged for anything of yours for myself? ²³ Have I asked you to rescue me from my enemies, or to save me from ruthless?"

AM I WILLING TO FOREGO MY OWN COMFORT IN ORDER TO STAND BY A SUFFERING FRIEND?

⁷ Remember, O God, that my life is but a breath; my eyes will never see happiness again. ⁸ The eye that now sees me will see me no longer; you will look for me, but I will be no more. ⁹ As a cloud vanishes and is gone, so one who goes down to the grave does not return.

...¹⁷ "What is mankind that you make so much of them, that you give them so much attention, ¹⁸ that you examine them every morning and test them every moment? ¹⁹ Will you never look away from me, or let me alone even for an instant? ²⁰ If I have sinned, what have I done to you, you who see everything we do? Why have you made me your target? Have I become a burden to you? ²¹ Why do you not pardon my offenses and forgive my sins? For I will soon lie down in the dust; you will search for me, but I will be no more."

GOD'S JUSTICE

TENSION

RECIPROCITY PRINCIPLE JOB'S INNOCENCE

DO I STILL BELIEVE IN GOD'S GRACE WHEN I'M SUFFERING?

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