The bread of adversity and water of affliction (Quality: Average)

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Date: 01 January 2001 Preacher: Pont, Philip

[0:00] I ask your attention to chapter 30 of Isaiah's prophecy, verses 20 and 21.

Prophecy of Isaiah, chapter 30 and verses 20 and 21. And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more.

Thine eyes shall see thy teachers, and thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way. Walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand.

And when ye turn to the left. And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more.

But thine eyes shall see thy teachers, and thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way.

[1:29] Walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand. And when ye turn to the left. It is a chapter full of mercy to the people of God.

This is a chapter where the blessed spirit of truth warns the people of God. This is again a chapter where the Lord, through his mercy and kindness, compassion and faithfulness, will appear for them.

We began the chapter with that solemn warning and word. Woe to the rebellious children, saith the Lord, that take counsel, but not of me, and that cover with a covering, and not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin.

The warnings of going down to Egypt for help. To turning away from the covenant God, who has always been the support and strength, and shall always appear for his needy people.

Then we have the warning of those rebellious people, lying children. Children that will not hear the law of the Lord. May there ever be in your time, in this sanctuary, a ministry that's faithful.

But then we find too what happens to those who trust in Egypt. Trust in self. Because ye despise this word.

And trust in oppression and perverseness. And stay thereon. Therefore this iniquity shall be to you. As a breach ready to fall. Swelling out into a high wall.

Whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instance. For may you and I be those characters, though poor in themselves and needy.

Yet may Israel's God be our God. Then we have those sweet covenant promises. And therefore will the Lord wait that he may be gracious unto you.

And therefore will he be exalted that he may have mercy upon you. For the Lord is a God of judgment. Blessed are all they that wait for him.

[4:33] For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem. They shall weep no more. He will be very gracious unto thee. The voice of thy cry when he shall hear it.

He will answer thee. Oh may we be in that blessed people. Of whom God is an unchangeable God too. Then we have this word which I hope and believe was laid on my spirit in the night.

And I've been thinking of the times during the day, especially in the evening. I've been thinking of those words in the 15th of Matthew.

Where that poor woman from that Syrophoenician woman whose daughter was afflicted. And where that lovely three words are found, Lord help me.

She said of the Gentiles. And really she spoke for the whole church of Christ. Where she's had the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table.

[5:50] Then my mind went to the Proverbs. Where the promises, where the word is there written. For the people of God. Concerning the feeding of their souls.

And what shall be the food of their soul. My mind as you can understand. Rove here and there through the word of God. Feed me with food.

Convenient for me. My thoughts went here and there. Therefore in this. With that view in my mind. And that exercise upon my spirit.

Especially as the Lord's day drew nearer and nearer. And I thought of those words. And it's in. Again this was in the early hours. Or in the morning.

Where the. In the 33rd chapter. Of this prophecy. We read. He shall dwell on high. His place of defense.

[6:56] Shall be the munition of rocks. Bread shall be given thee. His water. Shall be sure. But then it came down to this. The bread of adversity.

And the water of affliction. And though the Lord give you. The bread of adversity. And the water of affliction. And that must be what we must try.

As the Lord will help us. To make a few. Remarks on now. And through this service. The bread of adversity.

The Lord. Gives it to his people. He brings them into those times. When they shall be fed. With the bread of adversity.

And the water of affliction. Or as the margin says. Oppression. And my thoughts went. To in this direction.

[7:56] There is. I was going to say. A guarantee. The word of God. And there is this. To every child of grace. We read it yesterday.

In the 37th Psalm. That. There David speaks about. The righteous not being forsaken. Nor his seed.

Begging bread. And. This commodity. Of bread and water. In a certain sense. Is all we're promised. But it is promised.

And it has continued. And you and I. Can truly say. To the honour and glory. Of his great. And holy name. Though we may have.

So many things. We're not allowed to have. And we can look back. On the years. Of our life. But still. The bread. Has been given. And the water. Has been sure.

[8:55] Providentially so. But then. Have we not proved to. What the. Prophet of old. Was able to tell the woman. And that the barrel of meal.

Should not waste. Neither shall the cruise of oil. Fail. But here we have. A different bread. And here we have. A different water.

The bread. Of adversity. And the water. Of affliction. And as sure as. You and I. Must needs.

Have the natural. Bread and water. For our growth. For our well being. For our strength. For our body. And mind.

Be sure of that. My friends. Without these two. Commodities. Even a natural sense. Your faculties. And your body. Would be deficient.

[9:48] But so sure also. Your spiritual life. Your very soul. Will grow. And benefit.

And will be to the means of. Knowledge and understanding. When the Lord gives you. The bread of adversity. And the water of affliction.

Oh as natural food. Is God's. Provision for his. For the people. Lord of the earth. And such is their health. Maintained by a balanced diet.

As we might. So use the words. My friends. So for your soul. And mine. It pleases the Lord. It is according to his purposes.

And though the Lord. Give you. The bread of adversity. And the water of affliction. It isn't come. Haphazardly. It's not by chance.

[10:49] It's in the purposes of God. That it is given. And it's not given in anger either. It is given in covenant love. The bread of adversity.

And the water of affliction. It's not given in anger. But that you and I shall grow thereby. That you and I shall profit through them. And by these means.

It's a word which. A false. Professor wouldn't understand. Or a mere professor wouldn't understand. Because the natural man doesn't see the need of the bread of adversity.

Or the water of affliction. Doesn't see any need of it. Praise against it. And us. Indeed. If he's. Of that nature.

Would seek. That we should be avoiding such things. As the bread of adversity. That the Lord's people. Have no choice. That the Lord.

[11:45] Though the Lord. Give you. The bread of adversity. And the water of affliction. That there is mercy in this giving.

Whatever the Lord gives you know. To his people. It is. Because he loves them. It is. In mercy to their soul.

It is. In benefit to their spirit. And walk. And pathway. It brings. That knowledge. Which they shall not learn. In any other way.

The bread of adversity. But they shall grow thereby. My friends. Not. Not by chance. Do these things happen. And not by.

Any means of man. Shall they happen. There is an overruling. Hand. In the bread of adversity. In the water of affliction. The distribution of it. Shall be in that sufficient quantity.

[12:46] And quality. That shall be. For your profit. And benefit. The. We shall look at one or two of those things. In a moment. But. Hezekiah.

In this same book. Was. The subject. Of the bread of adversity. And. The water of affliction. It began.

With those two evil men. Shaker. And. Sennacherib. Writing. Against. Hezekiah. And.

Speaking. To the people of Judah. And. Jerusalem. And. That. The strength of Israel. Shall not be their support. And that they shall be overthrown.

And overrun. By such evil armies. And. It grieved. Hezekiah. And. Took. The communication of.

[13:40] Of. His enemies. Into the house of God. And spread it before the Lord. And then if you read. Chapter 38. As.

We read it recently. Somewhere. In those days. In the midst of all this. In those days. At the same time. Was. Hezekiah.

Sick unto death. Death. You know. It is almost. Sometimes. To the people of God. It seems to be. When one trouble all. The next one doth a seed.

And then sometimes. It's otherwise. There is a continuation. But what did a good man say? It caused him to cry. He turned his face.

Toward the wall. And wept. And he prayed. The Lord heard his prayer. And to his days. Fifteen years. Then he said this. By these things.

[14:37] Men live. And in all these things. Is the life of my spirit. The bread of adversity. The water of affliction. I sometimes wondered.

Where we shall get to. If it weren't for these two things. Where would we get to? What sort of religion would we have?

What sort of prayers would we offer? What a dreadful state. Is the Laodicean church. And that's the last church.

This is mentioned of those seven. In the first. Second. And third. Chapters of the revelation. We live in the days. And we live in the days.

In these latter days. Before time shall be concluded. We live in the days. And in the exercise. Or the lack of it. Of the Laodicean church. And there are many.

[15:36] That fall under the category. And the description. As those who. Worshipped at Laodicean. They were rich. And in need of nothing.

But blessed be God. And I really mean it. My friends. Blessed be God. If you've got a religion. That keeps stirring up. If you've got an exercise.

Which he keeps. Lays burdens upon. Blessed be God. If he calls you. With many errands. To his footstool of mercy. Oh.

Bless God. If he hears your voice. In anguish. And prayer. And sorrow. And repentance. And confession. The bread of adversity.

And the water of affliction. Because my friends. He'll send it for that purpose. To stir up his own work. Otherwise. We just go on.

[16:34] Go on. In a lethargic condition. We bless God. With our lips. And not with our hearts. We worship God. With our mind.

But not with our spirit. The word of God. Becomes strange to us. The experiences. Of the Lord's people. Became. Become. As it were. Dead.

They grow. Into a sort of. Contented. And that's a wrong. Contented. Contented. Spirit. But the Lord. Will not leave. His real people. And.

He will not leave. His blood washed people. Into that dreadful state. Of continuing. He will apply. This word. And though.

The Lord. Give you. The bread of adversity. And the water. Of affliction. And it is to that end. We have often noted.

[17:30] In Psalm 91. With the. That very beautiful psalm. It speaks of the safety. Of the people of God. But it concludes.

With these words. He shall call. And I will answer. There's an eternal shell. That is. That's it. Eternal shell.

My friends. When you are. If you. By grace. Are in the way everlasting. Be not surprised. For the bread of adversity.

And the water. Of affliction. Because the Lord. Will send it. Out of love. And he will send it. Out of mercy. To your soul. And he will.

Cause you. To wake. And lament. Before him. At the deadness. And the hardness. Of your heart. You must remember. Go back. To those.

[18:26] Examples. Of the word. Of God. The way you. Have such a man. As the prodigal. Who turned away. From his father's house. He must have been. A very hard hearted son.

At that time. Indifferent. To the love. And the comfort. And the provision. Of his father's house. He turned away.

From it. And he spent his substance. In riotous living. The dead affliction. And the adversity. Came upon him. And it came upon him.

In this form. And in this way. He began. To be in want. Oh. And thou. The Lord. Give you. The bread of adversity.

And the water. Of affliction. My friends. What is the means. Which he will use. Well it is in his hands. To use.

[19:22] Whatever means. He may. But what is this. Bread of adversity. This which will be. Not for the retarding. Of your growth.

But of the increasing. Of your growth. In spiritual things. It will be. For the strength. Of your soul. And for the benefit.

Of your spirit. And it will do. Your pathway. Good. And it will be. Profitable. In those times. And I have to confess.

To you know. These times. Of adversity. These waters. Of affliction. They've been to me. Much more profitable times.

Than when the way. Seems to be. But smooth. And comfortable. And everything. Drops into place. Or when you wonder. My friends. I'm talking only now.

[20:16] About spiritual things. When you really do feel. What it is to be. A poor sinner. Not. Not giving lip service. To such descriptions.

But feeling it within. When you do go up. To the sanctuary. In abject poverty. In absolute need. When you go.

To the house of God. As empty. As if he was dead. In trespasses and sins. But instead of being. Dead in trespasses and sins. And empty. You're empty. But with the knowledge.

Of that emptiness. And poverty. And destitution. When you go to listen. To see. Whether there is a word. From the Lord. Which will. Recover you. Or restore you.

Or comfort you. Or give you some gleam. Of hope. When he applies. The holy law. To your. To your. Poor heart.

[21:10] And you fall down. Convince. Of your. Iniquity. When he smites. Your conscience. As you look back. On the day.

Or the week. Or the month. Or the year. When he smites. Your conscience. The bread of adversity. And the water. Of affliction. My friends.

These things. Are not palatable. Oh. Preach unto us. Smooth things. They don't want to hear. They don't want to hear. Such things as this. In the generalization.

Of religious ways. And words. But it's the pathway. Of the Lord's people. And blessed be. Those people. That fall under. Such a word.

As this. And who shall indeed. Profit by it. And indeed. Shall rejoice in it. Rejoice in adversity. And though the Lord.

[22:04] Give you the bread of adversity. And the water of affliction. Whether they might be rejoicing. In such a place. Oh. Indeed they will. Indeed they will.

We have examples. In the word of God. But we have. Surely. The people of God. As examples. In their spiritual pathway.

When the Lord. Is pleased. By his spirit. To turn. The book of remembrance. The page of remembrance. Is over. You will find. Some of those seasons. Of adversity.

You wouldn't change. For anything. And though. The Lord. Give you. Well. The word. Speaks. Through the chapter.

Of this. Rebellious people. That this. Is a rebellious people. And as it begun. Woe to the rebellious people. The Lord.

[22:59] Knows how to take. That rebellious spirit. Away from his people. And he loads. Their shoulders. Well with woe. The bread of adversity.

It is described. Like this. I believe. Because it must be. And I use. The right word. Here I hope. My friends. It is. Therefore. For your health.

And strength. Your spiritual health. And your spiritual. Strength. And though the Lord. Give you. The bread of adversity. And the water. Of affliction.

Yet. Shall not. Thy teachers. Be removed. Into a corner. Anymore. But thine eyes. Shall see. Thy teachers. And the Lord.

Is pleased. To use. The ministry. Of the word. As. Teachers. To his people. People. But on the other hand. My friends. Sometimes.

[23:55] We. It is. Blessed. To the people. Of God. When. They have. Revealed. To them. The purpose. Of these things. Yet.

Shall not. Thy teachers. Be removed. Into a corner. Anymore. In other words. To this moment. Of time. Or it may be. That. You cannot. See the.

Reason. You cannot. See the reason. Or the purpose. In such. Pathways. That you are. Walking. The teachers. Are removed. It seems. To be.

That though. There is no profit. It seems. As though. The Lord's. Justice. Is poured out. Upon you. Without measure. It would seem. To the natural.

Mind. Of man. That he is. Going to destroy. You. With this. Bread of adversity. And the water. Of affliction. But when he. Brings to light. And to your.

[24:47] Understanding. The truth. Of these words. Yet shall not. Thy teachers. Be removed. Into a corner. Anymore. Than thy. And thine eyes. Shall see. Thy teachers.

And you will see. How profitable. Then. And how beneficial. It is. To your poor soul. And that these things. Are for the profit. And good.

Of your pathway. Present. And future. The bread. Of adversity. The. Servant of God. Moses. Was.

Forty years. In the wilderness. Looking after. A few sheep. God. Ordained. Appointed.

That place. You. Was to raise up. A man. To lead. Israel. From Egypt. To. The daughters.

[25:42] Of Canyon. Would you put him. In a desert place. Would you not. Send him. To a college. Would you not. Send him. To places.

Where he shall. Gain. Knowledge. Of. What is before him. That in that. Instruction. And teaching. Of man. That he might find. Wisdom.

Given him. And direction. And patience. And all those things. Not so. Not with the Lord. Not with the Lord. My friends.

He had. Divine purposes. Of mercy. Towards Israel. And Moses. Was raised up. Of God. To be the. Leader of Israel.

And to bring them. To the. Borders. Of Canyon. But he took him. From. The. Forty years. In the wilderness. Can't.

[26 : 40] Consider. What that truly. Means. Forty years. He dwelt. In Egypt. In Pharaoh's. Palace. Brought up. Under the. Education. And wisdom.

Of Egypt. Could offer him. But then he was put. Into another school. And if God. Has purposes. Of grace. To you. And mercy.

To your poor soul. My friends. You will learn. By this teaching. And profit. As you walk. Out. In that path. Of adversity.

And affliction. Which you wouldn't learn. In any other school. Yet shall not. Thy teachers. Be removed. In the corner. Anymore. And thine eyes.

Shall see. Thy teachers. When he convinces. His people. Of their iniquity. It is to them. Adversity. It is affliction.

[27:35] When he brings them. Into those places. Where. All hope. In self. Shall indeed. Be removed. We have.

An incident. In the. Life. Of the apostle. Of which. Has its. Spiritual counterpart.

Chapter 27. Of the acts. You remember. That they were. In that boat. Under those. Most trying. Circumstances.

We read. There. That. They were exceedingly. Tossed with a tempest. And then. This. And when neither sun. Nor stars. In many days. Appeared.

And no small tempest. Lay on us. All hope. That we should be saved. Was then taken away. It was a place. Of teaching. It was a place. Of profit.

[28:32] Not for the apostles. Only. The apostles. Were on that boat. By divine appointment. It was determined. Of God. That Paul.

Should go to Rome. And they were on that boat. It was perilous. It was dangerous. And all hope. Of being saved. Was then taken away.

Neither sun. Nor stars. How dark. It must have been. But there was one man there. And that was Paul. Who was. Convinced of his safety.

And he goes on. To say to them. Now I exhort you. To be of good cheer. There shall be no loss. Of any man's life. Among you. But of the ship. For there stood by me.

This night. The angel of God. Whose I am. And whom I serve. Saying. Fear not all. Thou must be brought. Before Caesar.

[29:31] And lo. God hath given thee. All them. That sail with thee. Wherefore. Sirs. Be of good cheer. I believe God. That it shall be even. As he hath told me.

Oh. In the midst of that place. Where sun nor stars. Didn't appear. And all hope. Of being saved. Was removed. The Lord spoke. The Lord spoke.

And he spoke. Into the heart. Of the dear apostle. He was to convey. That message. To those on that boat. They were saved. And though the Lord.

Give you the bread of adversity. And the water of affliction. Shall not thy teachers. Be removed. Into a corner anymore. But thine eyes. Shall see thy teachers. Oh.

My friends. In this. Affliction. And adversity. This oppression. This oppression. As the margin says. Does not the Lord speak?

[30:27] Has he not spoken? Is not this the comfort? Of your poor soul. As you travel through. These times and seasons. In your experiences.

Where you are brought into. Well almost astound. As wondering. Where it will end. And the Lord speaks. And he speaks in comfort. And I told you many a time.

How sweet that word was to me once. In a time of great trouble. I went to the Lord's house. In anticipation of nothing.

Of nothing. And I would never have been surprised. If there wasn't anything. Such was my. Lack of. Faith. Or trust. I was.

Bound up in deep trouble. And then the poor man. And that's his description. Not mine. He was a servant of God to me. He lacked anything and everything.

[31:25] That ministers ought to have. Which people think ministers ought to have. Like gifts and graces. But the Lord was with him. For the oppression of the poor.

For the sighing of the needy. Now will I arise. Seth the Lord. Set him in safety. From him that puffeth at him. Oh he is in. The glories of heaven.

He is that servant of God. But he was the mouthpiece of God. To my soul that day. And though the Lord give you. The bread of adversity. And the water of affliction.

Yet shall not thy teachers be removed. Into a corner anymore. And I shall see thy teachers. Oh be sure of this dear friends. The Lord won't leave you in that bread of adversity.

Or in that water of affliction. It's for your profit and good. For your benefit. It's for your soul's. Building and strengthening.

[32:25] It will bring experience. It will bring comfort. And you look back on those days. Of adversity and oppression. It will bring your poor soul. And you'll see.

How benefit it was. And how blessed it was. And what mercy it was. What indeed my friends. Is the opposite.

Sometimes it might be more profitable to you. That you might view. What the opposite will have. If the Lord had not. Given you the bread of adversity.

Or the water of affliction. If he had not led you into these deep paths. If he had not shined into your heart. And showed you what a wretched sinner you was.

If he didn't put you in a pathway. Which has got deep places. And hard. Spots to walk. And there were a lot of crooked things. In those pathways.

[33:22] If he had not brought you there. My friends. You would have had one of those contented religions. That you would sail along. And blown along on the wind of pride.

And supported by self. And your lack of knowledge of God. You would not have known. You would not have known. The extent of your own ignorance.

Of spiritual things. And you would have sailed along. Till you dropped into the pit. Oh I feel so solemnly aware. My friends. What it must be.

To be deceived. And millions in religion. Are deceived. They know not this path. This is the way of God. This is the appointment of God. And it is the pathway.

Which he will teach his people. And thousands go along. In this contented. Religious situation. And circumstance. Oh it is so solemn.

[34:18] My friends. Bless God. That he stirs up your spirit. We don't want the adversity. We don't want the affliction. But they are profitable. Old nature cries against it.

And a child of God. Will sometimes fear. That it is for his. Eternal woe. But it cannot be so. If God has ordered it. God will decree it.

And God will balance those. Adversities and afflictions. With his grace. And he will cause you to know. That it is of his mercy. And if he does it.

My friends. Out of chastening. Oh may you ever remember. His own holy word. As many as I love. I rebuke and chasten. These others therefore.

And repent. If he does it. My friends. It is because he loves your soul. And he will keep you from evil. And he will do it by this means. Of adversity. And oppression.

[35:16] And time and time again. He makes his people know. That they are only kept. Unless he keeps them. And so they will cast on him.

Their very soul. And its life. And its experience. And its profit. And its benefit. Thus they'll know. The balancing of the clouds. Do you not know.

What Paul wrote. When he said this. And we know that all things. Work together for good. And there was a lot of all things. In his life. There was oppression. There was adversity.

There was religious hate. And there was times of imprisonment. And there was times when he was hunted and hated. For the gospel sake.

But over it all. Comes these blessed words. So we know that all things. Work together for good. To them that love God.

[36:13] To them. Who are the called. According to his purpose. I remember too. In times of trouble. Desperate for some comfort.

And I believe. My friends. It is a state of. Absolute desperation. That we might find some comfort. That might relieve.

The burden of the spirit. In its deep paths. That it's walking. And I look through the hymn book. And I look through the Bible. And I came across this word.

And this was the comfort. That if our dearest comforts fall. Before his sovereign will. He never takes away at all.

Himself. He gives a steal. My friends. If you have that. With the bread of adversity. In the water of affliction. It will make it sweet.

[37:11] It will make it profitable. And you rejoice in the day of trouble. And you'll be. You'll find this. The faithfulness of your God. And the mercy of his word.

In the day of trouble. And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity. And the water of affliction. Shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner anymore.

But thine eyes shall see thy teachers. You know. The world. The world. The world. The world. And even the professor. Question.

Question. I'll say. Now why. Why was it? That the Lord should so. Do this or that? Why should he give?

Why can't we go on without this adversity and affliction? Well. My friends. That's the state of the natural heart. But this is the mercy.

[38:10] My friends. Is when he opens your eyes. And when he does. He'll touch your heart. Yet shall not thy teachers be removed anymore. I thought just then for a moment.

Of that dear man. In John's gospel. Who was born blind. And the Lord Jesus Christ. He was brought to Christ. And they tried to.

As it were. Find a reason for his blindness. Did this man sin. Or his parents. They said. That was not the reason.

That was not the purpose. What was the purpose? For the glory of God. That was the purpose. Christ. So I came to this in my thoughts.

In a split second. As it were. What that dear man said to the Pharisees. When they were trying to find out the cause. Of his blessing. And the fact that he could see.

[39:11] He said. He had to come to this place. And that place only. Whether he was a good man or no. I do not know. He said. But one thing I know. That whereas I was blind.

Now I see. Amen. God willing. We're meeting here Wednesday. I hope to be here next Lord's day.

Shall we close the morning service. With him. 1016. To the tune number 354. Amen. Am

Amen. Amen.

Amen. God of my life.

[40:13] Thy gracious power through varied deaths my soul has led. Oft turned aside the fatal hour. Or lifted up my sinking head.

Whither, O whither shall I fly But to the loving Saviour's breast Secure within thy arms to lie And safe Beneath thy wings to rest Hymn 1016 Thy cherus have come Through myizen Thy

in Jesus' name. One still, one no in zac vale, in Jesus' name.

Take away with the lost dream mind The lost dream mid Lotus' dream day ■■ wait And that heAD Vancouver Falls blew she up ward ...

Right I tell you what I'm going to do I tell you what I'm going to do

[44:22] I tell you what I'm going to do CB-Are not the outless of reminder.

Amen. We say, O Lord, thy blessing on thy word, and thy forgiveness for all that has been amiss in thy sight.

Lord, be with us, be mindful of us. O Lord, as we indeed need thee throughout this day, O may thy presence be felt, thy spirit given, and gather us later in this house of God.

Now may the grace of the Lord Jesus, the love of God the Father, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, remain with us each.

Amen. Amen.