

THEME: KNOWING GOD

TEXT: JEREMIAH 9:23-24

PROPOSITION: *Never boast of your wisdom or your strength or your wealth, but boast that you know the lord who is kind, who is faithful and just.*

OBJECTIVE:

1. To develop a right relationship with God and have proper fellowship with God.
2. To honor God, Exalt and worship Him in adoration as God our creator and preserver of all mankind and creation.
3. To be rewarded by God. Hebrews 11:6

Jeremiah 9:23-24 This is what the LORD says: “Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the LORD.

INTRODUCTION

Jeremiah was born around 645 BC.

Was commissioned by God around 627 BC, when a young man of 18 years (1:6). During King Josiah’s reign.

Book does not follow chronological order of life or events but a collection of oracles and encounters with God.

Jeremiah has a message of Renewal, Rebuilding and Restoration which requires a radical removal of Idolatry that existed. (Jeremiah 1:10).

How many of us know God? What do you know about God? How much do you know about God? How can you say you know God yet you have never seen Him with your eyes? How would you describe God?

When I was young I used to think God was an old man sitting somewhere above the clouds who had grey hair and a long beard with a big stick or cane looking very serious and angry ready to punish anyone who did anything wrong. Perhaps you may have had the same misconceived mentality.

I. HOW DO WE KNOW THERE IS GOD?

a. GOD HAS REVEALED HIMSELF TO US THROUGH HIS CREATION.

Romans 1:19-20 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Traditionally people everywhere have a deep inner sense that there is divine higher power that exists. According to Psalm 14:1 and 53:1 its only a fool who would say in his heart there is no God.

When you look at things that people use in their daily activities like computers, watches vehicles, they did not just happen, there was a mind behind their construction.

When you look at creation, seeing the plants, seeing the animals, the insects the birds of the air, the honeybee and its intelligence, they did not just happen. There must have been an intelligent creative mind behind everything that you see. When you look at a human being and the intricate ways in which a human body operates, how blood circulates in the body being pumped by the heart supplying oxygen to every organ every cell in the body is an indication there was a great

mind behind the human body, it did not just happen by accident. Actually accidents end in chaos.

b. GOD HAS REVEALED HIMSELF TO US THROUGH HIS WORD.

The evidence that God exists is found throughout the Bible. The first verse of scripture in Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Psalm 19:1-2 reads, The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech night after night they display knowledge. Everything in Scripture and everything in nature proves that God exists.

c. GOD HAS REVEALED HIMSELF TO US THROUGH HIS SON JESUS CHRIST.

Jesus Christ said in John 14:9 “Anyone who has seen me has seen the father”

John 1:18 reads No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known

Hebrews 1:3 shows Jesus Christ is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

II. DOES GOD REVEAL HIMSELF DURING DIFFICULT TIMES OF CRISIS?

a. TO THE ISRAELITES WHEN FREEING THEM FROM SLAVERY IN EGYPT AND TAKING THEM TO CANAAN.

Of late in our country there has been a political talk on taking the people of Kenya to Canaan. It took the Israelites forty years to enter Canaan from the time they left Egypt.

According to Exodus 3:7-9. The people of Israel had been subjected to harsh conditions of being made slaves and being oppressed by Pharaoh in Egypt. They were in great crisis and they cried out from their oppression and suffering. God heard their cry and revealed Himself to the Israelites because they were his people at such a time of crisis. With an outstretched hand God through Moses did miracles and brought plagues to the Egyptians including death of all the firstborns of Egyptians until they were freed by Pharaoh to go. Many times it is during a time of crisis that people experience the power of God. It is during such a time that people experience the grace and loving kindness of God.

As the Israelites were at the Red Sea it was another time of Crisis and difficult time. From behind they were being pursued by Pharaoh and his army to bring them back to slavery again by force. Have you ever been pursued by an authority you know very well is above you and has more power than you? You may sometimes feel like a small insect and would be very much afraid.

In front of the Israelites was the Red Sea, they could neither go ahead because they would drown in the sea. Behind the mighty Egyptian army is pursuing them.

God revealed himself to them when he told Moses to raise his staff over the red sea which divided and the Israelites could cross (Exodus 14:15).

God makes a way where there seems to be no way. I may not know what type of difficulty or crisis you may be going through, but God will reveal himself to you and make a way where there seems to be no way.

When the Egyptians decided to pursue the Israelites right at the Red Sea, God let the waters of the sea return back and drowned the

Egyptian army just after the Israelites had crossed. The Israelites were able to see the dead bodies of the Egyptian Army that was pursuing them on the shores. The Lord God will reveal Himself to you and rescue you from those powerful authorities that may be pursuing you. But you have to have to be a child of God, you have to have Faith in God and in His servants whom he has sent.

b. TO THE MAN OF GOD JOB.

Job says in Job 42:5-6 “My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.” Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes”.

What did Job see when he says my eyes have seen you? What did job experience to speak like that? Job a righteous man underwent a very serious and humbling experience when Satan sought permission to torment the man of God Job.

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Job was a wealthy and healthy righteous man of integrity who stayed away from evil. (Job 1:1). Job was known by God and also by Satan to be the most righteous person in the whole Earth at the time (Job 1:8). God was proud of Job and could brag to Satan that He has someone who loves God. But Satan attributed Job’s righteousness and loyalty to God as a result of the protection and blessings Job had received from God. *When you fear God and live righteously Satan knows you and your property are protected by God and you are blessed. Satan can do nothing to you because of God’s protection.*

Satan got permission from God to put Job to the Test through what Job had. *Unless God permits it Satan has no power over your property or your body.*

Job lost all his 500 donkeys and 500 Yoke Oxen when the Sabeans attacked and carried them away and killed his servants. *Robbery incidents and thieves stealing from people of God may just be the direct work of Satan who sent those robbers or thieves.*

Job lost all the 7,000 sheep he had through fire which also killed his servants. *Some catastrophes like fires or floods may just be the direct work of the devil.*

Job lost all his 3,000 camels when the Chaldeans raided them and took them away and killed his servants. *Robbery incidents upon righteous people of God may just be a direct work of the devil who sent the robbers.*

All Job's seven sons and three daughters died in one day as their elder brother's house collapsed on them.

In one day Job was stripped of all his wealth and children. He no longer had any property or any children.

People could say he has been cursed or has been bewitched.

Maybe you may have lost your property or land or work through unclear circumstances, maybe you may have been laid off, and maybe you may have lost your business. People could be saying and you may be thinking the same that you are bewitched. You may be asking if God is there why did this happen to me? This is the work of Satan that you may fall away from Faith in God. No matter your loss God still loves you.

As we read in Jeremiah 9:23-24 Job could not boast of his riches or of his wisdom or of his strength.

In all this loss Job did not charge God with wrong doing (Job 1:22). He continued to worship God even as a poor and childless man.

Once again in Job chapter 2: Satan who was still not satisfied of Job's integrity was permitted to test Job through his health. There is nothing as bad as you become sick and are already poor. You have no money to pay for good treatment. And yet this was Job's situation. He had sores all

over his body and sat among ashes scrapping himself with a piece of broken pottery (Job 2:8). His wife even asked him to curse God and die, why continue living a life of integrity and fear of God when all these bad things are happening to you. But Job did not sin in what he said (Job 2:10).

You may be very sick and losing hope and wondering if there is any God why is all this happening to me. But I assure you God still loves you. It is interesting to note that only three friends are mentioned to have turned up to sympathize with him. Wealthy and healthy men have very many friends. I believe Job as a wealthy man he had many friends not three. But do you know many are not real friends they are friends of the status and the wallet. The moment your status changes and you are out of business, with no money, with no employment, your wallet has no money they disappear. Some who used to call you no longer call you. Your phone goes silent. If you meet them accidentally they claim to have lost your number. Others when you call them they refuse to pick your phone or simply block you. They were not your real friends but friends of status. This must have been Job's situation.

Job was in agony, having lost his wealth and strength. *Jeremiah 9:23 24* "This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches. Job could not boast of his riches nor his strength because he had no health.

In the subsequent chapters in the book of Job, Job wished he was never born because of the suffering he was undergoing. Have you ever reached a situation where you wished you were dead because of the suffering and agony? Someone may be considering to commit suicide, but I assure you God who is Faithful still loves you, May you know Him as he reveals himself to you.

Job asked God many questions. His three friends attributed his loss of wealth and health to sin. But this was not the case. Job answered Job's questions with other questions from Job chapter 38 to chapter 41. It is like God was asking Job if you cannot clearly understand the things that happen in the world where you live in, how will you understand the things that are divine and happen in the supernatural world?

When God answered Job from the storm Job could say 42:5-6 "My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have **seen you**." Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes".

Jeremiah 9:23-24 This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.

God revealed Himself to Job in the midst of this crisis. In this last chapter we are told Job's health was restored. My prayer for you who is sick is that God will reveal Himself to you and restore your health.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

James 1:2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

God restored Job's property in that he got twice as much wealth as he had before. Instead of 500 yoke Oxen he got 1,000. Instead of 500 donkeys he had 1,000. Instead of 3,000 camels that he lost he had 6,000. God gave him children also, seven sons as before and three daughters, Jemmimah, Kezziah and Karen who were the most beautiful in that land. Job lived many years to also see his great grandchildren. My prayer to you is that God may reveal himself to you even in the midst of crisis. That your work may be restored, your employment may be restored. That your business may be restored and that you will have a blessed family.

You must hold on to your integrity and Faith for without faith no one can please God (Hebrews 11:6).

III. WHAT MUST ONE DO?

Never boast of your wisdom (Your education, Phd's, Masters, degrees, Diploma, Certificate, KCSE, KCPE performance etc). Never boast of your strength or health. Never boast of your riches which can end in one day. Boast that you know the Lord God. That you have experienced His saving grace. That you know God who is Faithful, who is just and who is merciful and full of love. ***Jeremiah 9:23-24.***

a. Repent and ask God to forgive you all your sins.

b. Accept Jesus Christ the son of God as your savior so as to be related to God as His child.