

"Hang on! Help Is Coming!"

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Psalms 27:13, "I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. 14. Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD."

Are you going through a difficult time right now? Sometimes it seems that troubles come one right after another. When this happens we get weary of everything and long for rest. The strongest of us cry out unto the Lord, wondering why these things happen to us. It is especially hard to see those who don't care about living for God going about their lives in peace and prosperity while we suffer. It is in these times that we really take a look at what we believe.

Job was one who went through such a time in his life. He loved the Lord and lived as close to the Lord as a man can. Then one day his world fell apart and he was left wondering what had happened. As we know it is hard to deal with one item of bad news. Job was hit with several things, one right after the other, each of them terrible in their own right, but the last was the worst. It was the

death of all ten of his children.

First it was the loss of herds of his animals. These were very important and were a portion of his wealth. If he had lost only a few head of them it would have been a loss, but to lose them all was a tragedy. From Job chapter one we can see that he had eleven thousand animals in his herds, and he lost them all. While he was dealing with this another servant came and brought him the worst news of all - his ten children were dead. You think you have had a bad day? I dare say that few, if any, have ever had a day like Job.

What would you do if you were faced with such a hurtful situation? I don't know how I'd react, do you? I want to think that I would have the faith like Job and worship the Lord. That's what this man of faith did and he held on to his faith even when his wife told him to give up on God and die. In the end he was blessed by the Lord.

Joseph was a slave in Egypt for years and was lonely, betrayed, and forsaken by man, even his own family. Many would have given up and turned into a bitter and hate filled person, thinking that even God had deserted him. As he kept the commands of God he suffered more and more. Don't you think that Satan whispered to him time and time again, "Where is thy God?" My tears have

been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?

Psalms 42:3, "My tears have been my food day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is your God?" and "As with a sword in my bones, mine enemies reproach me; while they say daily unto me, Where is thy God?" **Psalms 42:10**. This was David writing of his trials, but it would not have been different for Job, or for any that followed the Lord.

Joseph held on to his faith in God throughout the years and one day while he was in prison deliverance came. The Lord had not forgotten Joseph, just like he had not forgotten Job, David, or any saint, and he blessed them. Think of the change in a day's time for Joseph. He started the day as a prisoner and finished the day as the second ruler of Egypt. His faith and obedience had been rewarded.

It had been a long, rough test of his faith but it came to an end and he was blessed. There are trials that we all go through and some are longer, harder and more painful than others, but they all come to an end. We only come through and win by faith and obedience to the Lord. So when we are in times of hardship hang on to the faith of Jesus for help, he, is coming.

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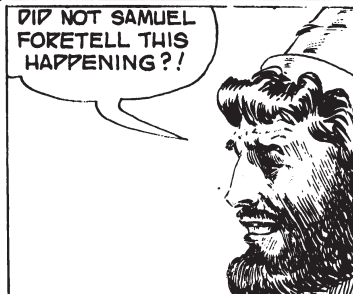
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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of I Samuel intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

SAMUEL AND SAUL

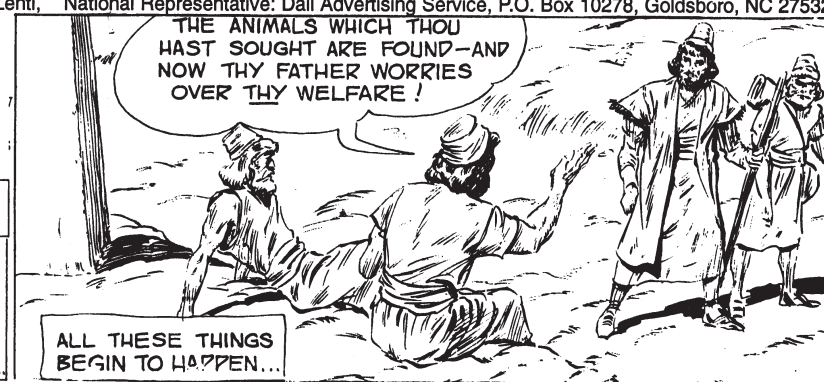
SAMUEL HAS ANOINTED SAUL AND FORETOLD ALL THOSE THINGS WHICH WILL HAPPEN ON HIS JOURNEY HOME AS A SIGN THAT THE LORD HAS PICKED SAUL TO RULE ISRAEL. NOW...



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