

## LESSON 27

### RIZPAH, THE LOSS OF A CHILD

There is probably no pain so great in all the earth as that known by a woman whose child has traveled through the valley of the shadow of death. In this lesson will seek to find Biblical counsel to help one bear such a burden.

1. Read carefully Job 1. Had Job sinned against the Lord? Was the death of his children a form of punishment for some iniquity?
2. Read carefully Job 3. Now consider Job 1:22 and 2:10. Does God fault a parent for grieving the loss of child? Is God merciful, even when words are spoken in bitterness?
3. Read and contrast Matthew 2:16-18 and John 14:17-18. What do born again believers have that the unsaved do not have? Describe how this would affect the manner of sorrow experienced by each in times of loss.
4. When Jesus gives the promise of the Comforter in John 14, what is the reason for giving His disciples this promise? How does this setting add weight to the Lord's words?
5. According to 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 what is the ground of comfort for the Christian?
6. In light of Isaiah 57:1-2 answer the following:
  - Do the good die young?
  - Does the world really care about our sorrow?
  - What comforting truth would God have us consider about the death of our child?
  - What have the righteous departed experienced?

Please read 2 Samuel 21:8-12. From this unpleasant passage there is much worthy of consideration. While this woman could not restore her sons to life, she could protect and preserve their memory.

7. What does this passage reveal about the heart of a mother?
8. What type of testimony did she have as a result of her actions?
9. Who was stirred to action because of her deeds?
10. How may a mother's preservation of a deceased child's memory motivate the King of Kings?
  
11. David lost a child in infancy. How did he respond to the trial (2 Samuel 12:19-23)?
12. In light of the fact that David's sins were forgiven, what do you make of his words in verse 23?
13. How does his hope relate to Romans 5:13, 20.
14. What do David's words indicate regarding the term "lost a child?"
  
15. Read carefully 2 Corinthians 1:3-5. Do these verses teach that God will remove our tribulation? Why does He allow the trouble? How are we to use our heartaches? Is there any suffering so great that God's comfort cannot meet our need?