

THE MEASURE OF ADVERSITY

I. THE REALITY OF ADVERSITY

- a. Poor Job - Job 14:1
- b. Young and old - Matthew 2:16; Psalm 90:9,10
- c. Personal, societal and universal

II. THE CAUSES OF ADVERSITY

- a. Look in the mirror - Genesis 3:16-19
- b. Second causes
 - i. Natural disasters - weather, earthquakes, fires, floods, etc.
 - ii. Man-made calamity - war, greed, murder, immorality, etc.
 - iii. Personal affliction, adversity and tribulation - poor choices, poor DNA, 'poor' timing, etc.
 - iv. Satanic involvement - Genesis 3; Job 1; I Peter 5:8,9
- c. First cause
 - i. Sovereignty of God - Psalm 135:5,6
 - 1. Jeremiah 6:19; Isaiah 45:7
 - 2. Amos 3:6; Ruth 1:21
 - 3. Hosea 10:10; I Samuel 2:6,7
 - 4. At your leisure: I Kings 11:14; Job 12:9,10; Psalm 22:28; 105:7; 115:3; Zephaniah 3:5; Nehemiah 9:33; Mark 4:41; Proverbs 3:11,12; Psalm 118:18;

- ii. Will of God - Ephesians 1:11; Acts 2:23 (see LBCF pg. 15:2) with Proverbs 16:33
- iii. Purpose of God

III. THE USES OF ADVERSITY

- a. Repentance - Romans 2:4 by implication; II Chronicles 7:13,14
- b. Joseph sold into slavery - Genesis 37:23-28
- c. The Psalmist afflicted - Psalm 119:71, 75
- d. Prayer - all of Psalm 88; Matthew 6:13
- e. Paul's thorn in the flesh - 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
- f. Chastening for believers - Hebrews 12:3-11 (see LBCF pg. 15:5)
- g. Both tribulation and hope promised - John 16:33; Romans 8:35-39
- h. Adorns a believer's ministry - 2 Corinthians 1:3-5; 6:4-10
- i. God's glory manifested - John 9:2,3; John 11:4
- j. We will be rewarded - I Peter 1:6,7; Revelation 2:10