

## God Restores and God Brings Low...

Every adult human being has wrestled with two connected problems: the existence of sin and the existence of pain. We see both problems wrestled with throughout Scripture. God's answer is not focused on suddenly removing those struggles. God's answer is that He is still working and redeeming us through those struggles.

Scripture(s): 2 Kings 8:1-15

Remember this - Our God works in both the \_\_\_\_\_ of lives and the largest of world events.

Observations from this passage:

1. The Shunammite woman has not been \_\_\_\_\_ by God.
2. During the seven year famine, the Shunammite woman's land has been \_\_\_\_\_ by someone.
3. Jehoram asks Gehazi to tell him all the \_\_\_\_\_ things Elisha had done.
4. The story-telling of Gehazi coincides with the woman's appeal to the king for \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Elisha's presence in Damascus is also a very \_\_\_\_\_ opportunity.
6. Hazael brought Elisha a gift much \_\_\_\_\_ than Naaman brought.
7. Elisha stares at Hazael for so long that Hazael becomes uncomfortable, maybe even \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Elisha's prophecy is not \_\_\_\_\_, but a declaration of who Hazael will become.
9. Hazael's act is a fulfillment of a prophecy God gave Elijah and Elisha \_\_\_\_\_ earlier.
- I. The first type of event that we see God work in unexpected ways is the life of the \_\_\_\_\_ person. God surprises us in both how He works through our struggles and how He \_\_\_\_\_ us in our struggles. James 1:2-4 2

What God says about His use of hard things in our life...

1. Humans have broken the world, and I am redeeming what is broken. Redeeming often \_\_\_\_\_ . Trust Me. (Joel 2:23-27)
2. Pain draws you to Me in ways that comfort and pleasure simply \_\_\_\_\_. Trust Me as I remove your comfort to call you to Me. (James 4:1-10)
3. All humans need to grow. \_\_\_\_\_ and discipline are the most effective means to bring that growth about. Trust Me as I prune you and call you to the discipline of growth. (John 15:1-6; Hebrews 12:4-13)
4. How faithful Christians struggle encourages, comforts, and teaches younger Christians that struggling with God is \_\_\_\_\_ it. Trust Me as I use you to help the next generation of believers. (2 Corinthians 1:3-7; 2 Corinthians 4:7-18)
5. Ultimately, Heaven and your eternal home will more than make this short time of struggle worth the \_\_\_\_\_ you now face. Trust Me that I keep all My promises to you. (Revelation 21:1-7)

II. The second type of event that we see God work in unexpected ways is the large event of the \_\_\_\_\_. God's work in world events brings about the larger steps of \_\_\_\_\_. Galatians 4:4-5

Our challenge: Live a life that runs to God when our life or world events seem to be out of \_\_\_\_\_.

Questions to consider with God...

1. Do I run to You, Lord, when I am struggling, hurting, or afraid?
2. Does my trust of You waver based upon my circumstances? Can I honestly say I trust or depend on You more when my life is easy?
3. Do I need to change how I see my place in Your plan? Do I need to live more in trust? Do I act like I am trusting You when the world seems out of control?

June 23, 2024

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Worship"

"He Hideth My Soul" 340

"How Deep the Father's  
Love for Us"

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