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prayer meeting address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer" Clapham  
on Saturday evening 24th. March, 1972

Hymns 727, 247

Reading: Job 23 and 42.1-10

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GOSPEL STANDARD BAPTISTS

These are some of the words of Job, whose extraordinary experiences you have possibly often read, and sometimes found some consolation, although not in the same circumstances. Yet possibly you have felt the same longing that Job felt here, realising that it was the only place where he could find relief. This was his prayer, his longing, his intense desire, as we heard last Wednesday evening, not how he could recover his possessions, his camels, oxen, sheep, and even his sons, but where he might find God! It may be that some of you have felt something of this, when there was a turning away from everything material, troubled circumstances, trials, that may have been very heavy; yet even at such a time the one desire of your heart was "Oh that I knew where I might find Him!", and as Job said, "I would order my cause before Him and fill my mouth with arguments" - not in the sense that men argue with another to no purpose, but in the exercise of faith, approaching God in the strength of His own promise, His own word, His willingness to regard one in such a case as this, and conscious of His understanding of the matter when perhaps it has been something no one else could understand, and when it has been something you had to walk alone in, as Job did. But it was not a matter that God could not understand, it was not something that God could not understand, it was not something that He had to make enquiries about, What a mercy this is! However intricate or complicated some things may be, and however much we may be misunderstood by others, He understands the whole matter perfectly. What a relief sometimes there has been when one has been able to lay the case before God in some confidence. Job evidently had this confidence for he says "Will He plead against me with His great power? No, but He would put strength in me." Yet there seemed to be darkness upon everything, which ever way he looked. So it may have been with you sometimes. I do not know if this has been exactly, but perhaps some dark providence, a providence

which no-one seemed to understand, and which you could not understand yourself, and which has made you say like Job that whichever way you looked yet you could not see Him so to speak, but He could see you. There is no place where God cannot see a coming sinner, although such a one may find that he himself is enveloped in darkness. So, in the case of Job, he could seem to look forward, dark as it was, and it is a sweet word, however dark things are, "He knoweth the way that I take, and when He hath tried me I shall come forth as gold". This was like a confidence that there would be an ultimate deliverance, a performing of His word, as in verse 14 "For He performeth the thing that is appointed for me, and many such things are with Him." There are many things in our lives, trials and difficulties, hard things they may be, but He can perform the thing He has appointed for you, take it in hand as it were, carry you through it, and reveal His own purpose in it. Job must have felt something like this. There can be a resting-place for a living soul in the midst of difficult things, when we can realise that in His divine providence God holds them all in His hand, and that He will not fail in anything, but will perform it. "He performeth the thing that is appointed for me, and many such things are with Him." In our lives, our circumstances and our souls' exercises there are many things we could not tell everybody about, if anybody, but we can tell the Lord about them and He will perform them. Here is a resting-place for a troubled one, enabling them, when this is really felt, to cast their care upon Him.