

--the seasons of life

--the course of nature: sometimes it just rains and the same rain that may be good for you may be trouble for someone else.

4. The assurance of the Lord for His presence with them is balanced with the statements of the persecutions that will follow them (Jon 16:33; Acts 14:20-22)
5. The enrichment of God by way of chastisement and training shows us that the "bad" things are not necessarily harmful after all. Hebrews 12; Romans 5:3; James 1:2; 2 Corinthians 2:4

C. How Do We Rise Above Hard Circumstances?

Job 9:1-11, et al

Circumstances are the things that surround us or involve us. They can be pleasant or unpleasant depending on a lot of things. Job's circumstances were definitely troublesome but he will rise above them and what is true in his experience may also be true in ours. The following points seem to be helpful;

1. Face your situation honestly. Be positive about the Lord and His protective power. Do not argue with God and, when possible, don't get into a word fight with men (people.) 9:1-19
2. Do not get down on yourself. Job is guilty at this point of self-commiseration 9:20-35
 - a. Note his introspection 20-24
 - b. See the lament 25-35
 - c. The dismal conclusion 34-35
(at this point the circumstances are winning)
3. Cast yourself wholly on the Lord 10:1-22
 - a. Recognize His authority 1-7
 - b. Accept His ownership 8-13
 - c. Trust His judgment 14ffvs 17 is a transition:
Job accepts and gains a little comfort

Conclusion: Facing the circumstances, be honest, patient (enduring) active and thankful. The Lord will provide the strength and the victory. And at this point we will look at 1 Corinthians 10:13